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Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Liisi Noode: "Youth work improved my capacity for empathy"

Introduce yourself and your organisation (incl. the structure in which you operate in the youth field).

I work as a chief expert at the Estonian Youth Work Centre (currently on parental leave), which is a national youth work competence centre under the area of administration of the Ministry of Education and Research. In addition, I consider working as a swimming instructor and creating and developing new opportunities for children and young people with special needs as my work-like hobby.

What makes your job exciting?

What makes my work exiting is that it is diverse and gives me opportunities for self-improvement. On the one hand, I can contribute to creating and developing new opportunities for young people and be an initiator of change; on the other hand, I have direct contact with young people.

What are your dreams as a youth worker?

As a youth worker, I dream that all young people living in Estonia would have equal opportunities to take advantage of the opportunities provided by youth work which match their interests, regardless of where they live, the economic status of their family, their special needs, etc. I also dream that we would all make a joint effort to ensure that every young person in Estonia would feel good and secure to live here and achieve their dreams.

Why did you choose youth work?

I chose youth work because I felt that working with young people is something resonates with me and inspires me. For me, the work has an important purpose and it provides me the opportunity to constantly learn something new.

How has youth work / being a youth worker influenced you? (What have you learned from it?)

Over the years, youth work has broadened my horizons, improved my capacity for empathy, and taught me the true meaning of involvement. Being active in youth work has influenced me to thoroughly analyse myself and my actions and seek self-improvement.