

# YOURCE



## the YOURCE network

### Networking for Social Change

"YOURCE" is an open source youth network that aims to develop an international community of people interested in youth work and volunteerism. This community works and connects on a web-based level while interacting through real-life activities and cooperation between members.

### Open Source

The core components of this value-based network are the principles of open source: to share knowledge and ideas, to work together as a community on the further development of a single idea or whole project. This is expressed in YOURCE' code of conduct. The legal framework for the networks' content is defined by alternative copyright licenses.

Network members are asked to contribute with their personal skills and talents, and so every individual member is of great importance for the further development of the community. Every member has the same opportunities to participate in the network development.

### Web-Based

The platform [yource.org](http://yource.org) will be accessible for all and enable the exchange of experiences, ideas, opinions and knowledge while including modern web community features like forums, private/instant messaging, buddy lists, weblogs new media, and personal services relevant to network participation. These features will give members the opportunity to establish and develop contacts; share their voluntary work and life on the web and initiate activities and projects.

All the information will be available for both members and non-members and can be made available in several languages provided by members for members.

### Real-Life

The knowledge shared and the people connected on a web-level hold an enormous potential for multiplying information and hereby qualifies youth. The network can function as a source to develop educational methods and tools. The strengths of YOURCE are the highly motivated young people, as they transform their energy into real-life actions, projects and events.



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## Contact Information



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### Example of Network Activity Development

The community forum discusses problems faced by youth, for example a group of students interested in environmental issues who would like to start a project on recycling plastic bottles and they would like to act upon it in their home city. Various members are engaged in the discussion and come to a point where they have different ideas on how to initiate such projects. The participants of the discussion contribute with their experience, knowledge and ideas.

The community discovers the potential of the discussed problem, explores methods of resolution and concludes to propose a project. Community members form a concrete action such as a seminar on environmental campaigns. The resulting seminar has evolved by using community to create social movement, action and change.

### Partners of Network Development

The current development stage for this project requires that we solicit both internal (existing contacts, members, etc.) and external input. Therefore, the partners of development can also be considered the stakeholders. Input is being sought from multiple perspectives including, but not limited

to: NGO's, other organizations and networks in the field of youth and volunteerism, youth workers, IT related parties, ISCA staff and volunteers, funders and existing databases of 'endusers.'

### Next Steps

You are invited to consider how you might become involved in the development of the Open Source Youth Network. Possible next steps include:

- Contribution to this draft abstract
- Input and participation in the coming YOURCE Networking Conference (October 9-14 2007, Denmark))
- Direct input to ISCA staff on the concept development
- Provide contacts for other interested persons, organizations and companies
- Technical assistance for developing the web platform
- Funding or sponsorship of the YOURCE

Please do not hesitate to contact the ISCA Secretariat with input, questions or requests for more information.

### Our Vision

"Open source" networking is a process connecting young people interested in youth work and volunteerism by sharing information, experiences, inspiration and opportunities. The aspiration of the YOURCE network is to be a dynamic tool, an open community for young volunteers to fulfil their dreams.

YOURCE aims at promoting diversity as a resource, at initiating and supporting projects to empower youth. Based on transparency, equal opportunities for participation and action, YOURCE aims to promote and inspire active involvement in society and volunteerism.