

Engaging Young Males
Exploring Masculinity &
Building Healthy Identities

**Youth Work Conference/Study
Visit**

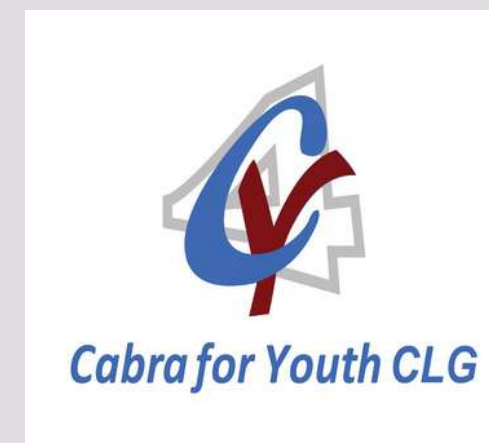
April 20th – 24th 2026
Dublin, Ireland



Who we are?

We are a network of six youth services based on the north side of Dublin city, working collectively with young people aged 10–24. Through our collaboration under Dublin Northside Youth Services, we have spent the past number of years partnering with neighboring communities to respond to issues that impact young people's lives. Most recently, our work has focused on exploring the question: *What does it mean to be a young man in today's society?* Through this collaboration, we have developed learning and practical approaches to meaningfully engage young men in conversations about identity, masculinity, and wellbeing.

We are now seeking to share this learning more widely by bringing together youth workers from across Europe to exchange ideas, reflect on practice, and explore effective ways to support young men in a changing world.



Project Overview

This project will consist of a transnational study visit followed by a one-day conference, creating space for immersive learning, exchange of practice, and strategic reflection.

During the first two days, participants will take part in guided visits to each of the six youth services involved in the project. These visits will provide firsthand insight into the approaches, programmes, and methodologies used to engage young men. Participants will meet youth workers, observe practice, and explore how services respond to issues relating to masculinity, identity, mental health, and wellbeing within their local communities. This experiential element will allow for meaningful peer learning grounded in real life practice.

The third day will consist of a conference bringing together study visit participants, national stakeholders, and practitioners. The conference will present a broader national perspective on young men's wellbeing and gender dynamics in Ireland, alongside key learning from our collaborative project,

“What does it mean to be a young man in today's society?”

Through keynote inputs, panel discussions, and interactive workshops, the conference will:

- Share research, insights, and practical tools developed through the project
- Facilitate dialogue between local, national, and European practitioners
- Encourage reflection on how learning can be adapted and implemented in different cultural contexts

Together, the study visit and conference will create a structured progression from local practice observation to wider strategic dialogue, ensuring both practical skill development and broader sectoral impact.

Objectives of this Project

This project supports the professional development of youth workers and thereby the development of quality youth work at local , regional, national and European level through non-formal and informal learning experiences in mobility activities.

This project aims to:

- Develop participants understanding of masculinity and its impact on young men's mental health, relationships, and behaviour.
- Explore the societal and cultural roots of harmful gender norms and expectations.
- Share effective, youth-centered methods for creating safe spaces for boys and young men to express vulnerability, build empathy, and question stereotypes.
- Encourage the development of proactive, gender aware practices in youth work.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased awareness and understanding of gender dynamics and masculinity issues.
- Practical strategies and confidence to lead constructive conversations with young males.
- Strengthened professional networks around gender sensitive youth engagement.
- A shared resource pack or action plan for follow-up implementation.

Timetable

Time	Mon 20 April	Tue 21 April	Wed 22 April	Thu 23 April	Fri 24 April
	Arrival Day				
09:30–11:30		Poppintree Youth Project	Kilmore Youth Service	Conference – Communications Workers Union	Closing Session
11:30–13:30		BRYR Youth Service	Sphere 17 Youth Project	Conference	Closing Session
13:00–14:30		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:30–15:00		Finglas Youth Resource Centre	Bradóg Youth Service	Conference	
15:00–17:00		Cabra For Youth		Conference	Departure 14:30
17:00–18:00		Reflection	Reflection	Reflection	
18:30–20:30	Welcome Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	

Travel costs

Travel costs to Dublin will be covered. Accommodation and meals will be provided.

Participants are required to calculate the distance between their place of origin and the activity venue using the European Commission's official distance calculator. The distance band selected should correspond to the total distance travelled.

Each organisation is responsible for arranging and paying for travel in advance. Reimbursement will be made upon submission of the appropriate invoice and supporting documentation.

[Distance calculator for organisations - Erasmus+](#)

CONTACT

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