

# Young in Prison

We are wired to operate with a positive approach and as a collaborative ally with the judicial system. Our role models work on creative and sportive activities with and for youth deprived of their liberty.

## VISION

Youth (previously) deprived of their liberty is encouraged and intrinsically motivated in contributing positively to society.

## MISSION

Support youth (previously) deprived of their liberty to set free and use their inherent talent with creativity and play.

## BIG CHALLENGE

Young people are re-offending. Feeling unequipped and discouraged, they are unable to transform their lives free from crime. As a result, they harm society, their communities and themselves.

## ASSUMPTIONS TRUTHS THAT FORM THE BASIS OF OUR APPROACH

**BETTER TOGETHER** Resocializing and punitive measures cannot be effectively executed by the same party.

**ALTERNATIVES** Collaborations between civil society (with alternative approaches) and the state are needed to achieve successful resocialization of young people.

**WILLINGNESS** There is no unwillingness to connect, rather a lack of 'translation'-efforts between the professional / formal world vs. the lived world of youth.

**CREATIVITY LIBERATES** creativity and play have the power to liberate potential, skills and talents of youth.

**YOUTH KNOW BEST** the voices of children and youth need to be taken seriously for effective policies and practices and guidelines for justice for children.

**BALANCED GROWTH** (qualifying, social-emotional en identity growth) of young people needs to be stimulated for effective secondary desistance.

**ROLE MODELS** Role models are able to connect with youth in a positive and non-judgemental manner.



**COMPETENCES**  
the need to build achievements and knowledge and develop mastery over (life) skills that are important to one self

**RELATEDNESS**  
the fundamental need to experience belonging and connectedness with other people

**AUTONOMY**  
the need to feel agents of one's own learning and destiny

**IMAGINATION**  
the ability to see yourself and the world around you in a different way than how it currently is or perceived to be

**ENERGY**  
to change a 'numb' or negative energy into one that allows and inspires motivation and positive energy

**COPOSO METHODOLOGY:**  
5 PLAY CARDS TO DESIGN PROGRAMMES



## ADVOCACY

## TRAINING

## PRE-RELEASE

## RELEASE

## POST-RELEASE

## TRAINING

Youth is deprived of their liberty and incarcerated in a closed (detention) centre

Youth is in the last phase of being incarcerated and the first phase in liberty

Youth is fully transforming into a new life and purpose without crime

<b>DECISION MAKERS</b> in the field of justice for children	<b>ORGANISATIONS</b> working with youth
<i>Policies and guidelines reflect the need for alternative resocialising approaches</i>	<i>NGO's with alternative approaches for resocialisation play sustainable role in justice for children</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A collective agenda of justice for children, shared across the justice for children system (both state and non-governmental)</li> <li>Decision-makers are able to tell their own stories about the need for alternative resocialising approaches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NGO's reach youth in conflict with the law with tailor-made Urban Arts and Sports programmes</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased awareness about the need to collaborate with NGOs and their alternative resocialising approaches</li> <li>Action-oriented stories that focus on solutions about alternative resocialising approaches of NGOs are shared</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COPOSO-inspired programmes in different contexts and locations</li> <li>Collaboration between state and non-governmental organisations</li> <li>A shared learning agenda on resocializing and justice for children</li> </ul>
<p><b>STORYTELLING:</b> stories with a youth-centered and solution oriented focus</p> <p><b>PHYSICAL EVENTS:</b> inviting (the voice of) youth on stage to talk about solutions and send invitations to connect and collaborate</p> <p>* See also: <a href="#">Youthlab Advise</a> and <a href="#">Youthlab Advocacy</a></p>	<p><b>TRAINING PROGRAMMES:</b> - to convey (parts of) the COPOSO methodology to NGO's and governmental organisations</p> <p><b>INTERNATIONAL (ONLINE) NETWORK:</b> to share lessons learned and improve alternative resocialising approaches together. Includes physical exchange programmes between NGO and (governmental) organisations too</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on shared pain and ambitions, with a constructive approach</li> <li>Focus on the entire justice system, across phases and mandates</li> <li>An agenda set by the insights and ideas of youth (previously) in conflict with the law</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop open and shareable COPOSO methodology</li> <li>Gather an open justice community of likeminded and unlikely allies</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decision makers lack information and access to value and integrate alternative approaches</li> <li>Child-friendly agenda is not set or influenced by children or youth</li> <li>No shared agenda between NGO's and government about resocializing and punitive measures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organisations and state-actors have to reinvent the wheel as individual lessons learned of NGO's are not shared - lack of available knowledge</li> <li>NGO's and governmental organisations in the justice sector struggle to find common space or form collaborations</li> </ul>

<b>IMPACT THROUGH THE EYES OF</b>	<b>YOUTH</b>	<b>YOUTH</b>	<b>YOUTH</b>	<b>PROFESSIONALS</b> in the field of justice for children
	<i>"I feel intrinsically motivated to find my best path."</i>	<i>"I am capable of staying on my best path."</i>	<i>"I am worthy of staying on my best path and support other youth to find theirs too."</i>	<i>"I communicate and work systematically in a childfriendly manner."</i>
<b>LONG TERM OUTCOME</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth desire to refrain from crime because of a positive or alternative outlook on the future.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth desire and experience a capacity to refrain from crime because of a changing and positive alternative of how their lives will unfold.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth experience a sense of agency and purpose whilst (re-)building their lives in liberty.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professionals use increased insights and skills to establish better contact and working relationships with youth.</li> </ul>
<b>OUTCOME</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth express alternative stories and images of how life outside prison could be different than what it is and was like before</li> <li>Positive energy: youth experience a momentum for change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small - or big success experiences in social and / or professional capacities</li> <li>Alternative stories and good intentions are partly or slowly proving to be within reach.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased leadership skills, such as self-confidence, presentation and time management</li> <li>Increased sense of dignity</li> <li>Healing of traumatic experiences by 'giving back' to other youth and intervening in the professional world.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased child-friendly communication skills</li> <li>New insights in lived world and experiences of youth</li> <li>Healing or processing of traumatic or uncomfortable professional experiences</li> </ul>
<b>PROGRAMMATIC INTERVENTION</b>	<p><b>URBAN ARTS AND SPORTS WORKSHOPS</b> Role models interact in short and high-energy activities with youth in detention</p> <p><b>ALTERNATIVE LIFE STORIES</b> Youth are invited to add a personal story to their official case files: what is something people should also know about you?</p> <p><b>Most active COPOSO Play Card:</b> ▶ ENERGY</p> <p><b>Main implementing actor:</b> ▶ CREATIVE ROLEMODELS</p>	<p><b>VOLUNTEERING MENTOR PROGRAMME:</b> Mentors interact as buddies or coach with youth who is (about to be) released</p> <p><b>YiPPAINT:</b> A mini enterprise in tailored (indoor) street art run by ex-detained youth, focus on income generation</p> <p><b>YiPMADE</b> - vocational training of creative and artistic products for income generation</p> <p><b>Most active COPOSO Play Card:</b> ▶ RELATEDNESS</p> <p><b>Main implementing actor:</b> ▶ VOLUNTEERING MENTORS</p>	<p><b>YOUTHLAB CLUBHOUSE</b> The leadership capacities of ex-detained youth are build for their work as experience experts</p> <p><b>YOUTHLAB TRAINING</b> Young experience experts train justice professionals on empathic and communication skills, using creative methods</p> <p><b>YOUTHLAB ADVISE</b> Young experience experts advise and assist in research for policy papers and justice topics.*</p> <p><b>YOUTHLAB ADVOCACY</b> Young experience experts set their own agenda and speak up about issues that matter to them.*</p> <p><b>Most active COPOSO Play Card:</b> ▶ AUTONOMY</p> <p><b>Main implementing actor:</b> ▶ EXPERIENCE EXPERTS</p>	
<b>APPROACH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design creative learning experiences</li> <li>Focus on personal development and socialising growth of youth</li> <li>Access closed spaces as a collaborative ally</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce new social capital in life of youth that transcends the transition from inside to outside world</li> <li>Mix of social and practical or tactical support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish safe space for interaction between young experience experts and justice professionals</li> <li>Creative methods for serious youth participation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Translation between formal, professional world and lived world of youth</li> </ul>
<b>CHALLENGE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive energy fades in closed spaces (such as prisons and detention centers)</li> <li>Growth in qualification, socialization and subjectification is out of balance when youth are deprived of their liberty</li> <li>Actions and motivation of youth deprived of their liberty are primarily externally triggered</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Institutional capacity is limited to 'inside' or 'outside world', lack of transitional mandates or programmes</li> <li>Youth experience stigma and lack of success experiences after release</li> <li>Good intentions are hard to stick to when social or financial situation remain unchanged</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth is frustrated or traumatized about experiences in judiciary system</li> <li>Youth lack new skills to really transform into new phase with new positive role or purpose</li> <li>No access to interact with professionals outside their past role of 'criminal'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No access to interact with young people outside role of 'justice professional'</li> <li>Learning from the books, not from the lived world and real experiences of young people</li> </ul>