

**VALENCIAN FEDERATION  
OF YOUTH CLUBS**



Schools Of Democracy

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Schools of democracy  
and the "FVCJ" use non-  
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# Editorial

"At a time when neo-Nazi movements threaten to seize much of the youth population, when many young people remain asleep, passive, and the educational system has proven to have few resources to deal with the problem of the increasingly younger regular consumers of drugs "... So the first introductory text the Federation issued 20 years ago in its first Youth Homes said. At that time no one imagined that twenty years later the neo-Nazi movements would be thriving in the context of social and labour rights cutbacks, which then seemed untouchable.

It is mainly the youth who will eventually suffer the nefarious effects of their administrative invisibility. But young people, with their spare time, are also who have more capacity of organization and collective confrontation. New approaches are needed. It is necessary that the administration sets out to try new ways, as citizen co-management, which are true gestation matrices of active citizens, vaccinated against the diseases of the system.

Young people are ready to manage the public spaces they use. But they seem to be the only ones to see it. This publication is intended as a guide that calls on youth groups to finally embark on networking and that solves doubts about the history of youth movements, the current reality and, especially, the reasons of everything we do.



# Intro- duction

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The goal of Federation has always been creating meeting places for young people who, in an active and critical way, want to change their reality. It seems that our world needs a change now more than ever, and Youth Clubs give us the chance of generate the change by ourselves through little actions; and also create a network with many youth people who has the same concerns.

Youth Clubs let us the world know young people are critical with their reality and they want to get involved to change it; that we fight for getting a more supportive community, concerned about the environment, that recognizes and respects every culture and, especially, a critical society that takes part in their development. And hope, and strength to do it is proved in every youth club in which groups of young people spend their leisure on this, became themselves in agents of change. This is what makes possible that Federacion exists.

**Cristina Martínez García**  
(President of The Federation)

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Twenty years ago you were twenty years old, and Serrat's verse defines you twice: Two decades building citizenship and twenty year old citizens decided, basically to assemble from civic conscience essential at this time.

'Poet asks his lover to write him', Lorca requested his lover in one of his sonnets about dark love . That's how it's always have been between your Federation and the extinct Aragonese Youth Clubs, and that's how it's always have been between your action and our lay and progressive action, people who write themselves and recognize themselves in their desire to rewrite the world. People who do not wait in vain for the written word, people capable to rip their veins implementing projects, activities, goals, dreams...People that bites a world we can't accept. Where 'suffering is law and where love must be the hope of a happiness we deserve'

How Garcia Marquez's colonel deserves someone to write to him, how the recruits of this tenacious, joyful, enraged army we form deserves the words with which we fill our essential madness.

**José Luis Palacios, "Palas"**

## The origin of youth clubs

**1980**

We come from charity times and leisure time programs

**1985**

International Year of Youth  
Inauguration of the Cultura and Youth Center of Manises

Magazine Impherdivle

**1986**

Youth Center En Marcha is created

**1987**

New headquarters of Radio Lluna is settle down

**1989**

IVAJ is created

Youth Center Peña is created

**1990**

Albatros, Proyecto Joven and Entretiempo Youth Centers are settle down

**1991**

Valencian Youth Plan

Youth Center Onda Joven is settled down

Manises's Rock Bands Association is created

Youth Center ACM is settle down

**1992**

Manises's Youth Clubs Federation is created

Sargantana Tripper Club is settle down

**1993**

Trajecte Associates Entertainment School is created

**1994**

Nau and Alvent Manises Youth Clubs are settled down

Dissolution of Youth Centers and rock bands associations. These are integrated into Youth Clubs

**1995**

The decreed that regulates youth information centers is approved

**1996**

Federation of Youth Clubs's Entertainment School is approved by IVAJ

**1997**

17 youth clubs throughout the Valencian Country bring together thousands of young people in Pren la teua ciutat in Túria River

# The european youth associativity

The Youth Clubs movement in Europe arose some years after the end of World War II in different countries and with different names, Youth Clubs, the Homes of Youth and Culture, youth associations... that had been completing, since its inception, the European youth association scene that, so far, had been characterized as mainly by a religious and political nature.

Youth Clubs became, since then, coexistence centers, places to develop initiatives, with a secular and pluralistic character from the political point of view, especially in some countries with a clear commitment to social and community work. With great support from the different administrations but with an independent management in the hands of young people (as it could not be otherwise in Europe), the movement called Youth Clubs definitely covers a space in the youth associative world that traditional entities don't reach. In Europe, Youth Clubs contributed to leave a scene of youth participation with a high rate of associativity and a large plurality of tendencies.

European Youth Clubs and selfmanaged ones in all their sorts are confederated at the ECYC (European Confederation of Youth Clubs – [www.ecyc.org](http://www.ecyc.org) ).



## #1

## HOW DO THEY PARTICIPATE IN THE REST OF EUROPE?

In all countries of the European Union, the rate of youth associativity among 15 and 24 years old people is 48%. As in the case of Spain, this rate decreases as the age of young people rises; from 15 to 19 years old is 52% and from 20 to 24, 45%. This decrease is related primarily to the finishing of the studies and leaving the education system from 19 years old onwards.

**More pronounced differences appear when comparing countries of northern and southern Europe. Associativity rates are systematically higher in countries such as Denmark, Luxembourg, the UK and the Netherlands than in Mediterranean countries: Greece, Italy, Portugal, France and Spain.**

\*Eurostat 2012

## Youth organizations in Spain

In Spain, in the early 80s, the democratic councils set out to carry out projects of Youth Clubs and in a few years hundreds of these spread throughout the country.

A few years later, most of them closed for lack of a clear model of operation and for other reasons that require a thorough and extensive analysis hard to do in these pages... The truth is that the few that remained, contacted the European Confederation of Youth Clubs in an attempt to find an established reference that would allow advancing in the projects with youth. The effective integration in the European Confederation never took place. The Management model of Youth Clubs in Spain, directly in the hands of councils, wasn't accepted as valid by the European Confederation.

The model was wrong on many things, even on a basic one; youngsters will not feel leaders of a project if not entirely theirs, even concerning management.

Moreover, most studies of youth agree that there is a potential of young people who do not belong to any kind of associations but they would like to. This figures range from 10 to 30% of the young population, and it varies according to the studies and zones.

If put in a clearer way: we find that, while in almost all European countries if a young person wants to associate he or she does it, in our country they don't (according to some studies, only half of those who wish to do it end up doing it).

# #2

## A COUNTRY WITH LOW YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Quotas of youth association in our country remain, after almost four decades of democracy, far lower than European's. While the European association rate stands at 48%, studies place it, in the best of cases at around 30% in Spain. Only a third of the youth are associated. More pronounced differences appear when comparing countries of northern and southern Europe. Associativity rates are systematically higher in countries such as Denmark, Luxembourg, the UK and the Netherlands than in Mediterranean countries: Greece, Italy, Portugal, France and Spain.

**A low rate of youth association contrasts with a high percentage of non-associated who would like to be. / Youth association in Europe is around 50%. / Nearly 30% of urban youth would be interested in participating in an associative process, but they are not doing it.**

**\*Eurostat 2012**

# Youth in figure

ASSOCIATION TYPE 1995 2012

Sports | 38,9 | 27

Religious or apostolic | 17,6 | 11,6

Cultural | 13,7 | 12,9

Musical | 0 | 9,7

Recreational | 6,4 | 19,7

Hiking | 5,4 | 7,4

Benefit-assistance | 2,6 | 7

Civic: neighbours or consumer | 0,6 | 2,8

Pacifist | 0 | 1,9

Humans rights defence (former conscientious objectors) | 0,8 | 2,6

Ecologist/Environment defence | 1,4 | 5,7

Students | 0,6 | 9,6

Professional association | 4,1 | 3,2

Political part | 4,7 | 2,8

Union | 0,9 | 2,3

Feminist | 0,6 | 0,6

Other categories | 1,5 | -----

## Partners

Not partners who want to be partner

"Youth associativity. Spain data, youths between 15 and 29 years old (%)." Source: Youth in Spain Report, (Informe Juventud en España), INJUVE 2012.

The results of this sample reinforce the conclusion reached in a previous study done between 2009 and 2014 in the councils where the FVCJ operates. The associative life of the youth takes place outside formal organizations and the established channels for participation, with no existing alternative associations that funnel youth participation. This does not mean that the youths are isolated, but they participate in social networks based on personal and cultural affinities [several authors]. And above all, new channels of participation and communication with new technologies have been consolidated, which youth considers easier and more democratic [Youth basic indicators, Centre Reina Sofia in 2014].



## #3

## THE YOUTHS: A DIFFICULT SOCIAL INTEGRATION

The difficult situation faced by young people has led to a resurgence of racist attitudes and ideas, the increase in drug abuse and the consolidation of the I-dont-give-a-damn pose and lack of solidarity. / According to the Reina Sofia Center on Adolescence and Youth, 1.7% of young people between 15 and 34 years old have consumed cocaine at least once within 30 days prior to the study, ecstasy, amphetamines and hallucinogens the 5,5% and a 12.5% cannabis. / Unemployment among young people aged 16 to 25 was 46.6% in the third quarter of 2015. / Between 25% and 40% of the youth, depending on studies, show racist manifestations.

Both in crisis periods and in times of economic prosperity, youths always suffer the consequences of problems which are becoming eternal: unemployment, housing, drugs, lack of activity... An sometimes excessively paternalistic attitude, taken by all, joins all this, what makes youths little protagonists of their reality.

# What defines a youth club?

Due to its organizational structure, its commitment to public service, its secular and independent character and what Youth Clubs mean regarding the direct role of youth in their management, these have become a good instrument that makes it possible to young people with new concerns, entrepreneurs, those with social projects, to develop their initiatives. Our Federation has as an objective that spaces in towns are occupied, which (in reference to youth movements) are already occupied for decades in Europe. And this is done by finding inspiration in the different models of Youth Centers - Houses - Associations - Clubs established in some European countries, and on the basis that the COUNCIL MUST PROMOTE THE MANAGEMENT OF ITS OWN RESOURCES AND SPACES BY YOUTHS THEMSELVES, that is, it is young people themselves who manage those spaces. This has been demonstrated by the decline of all poorly named Youth Clubs directed by public servants in recent years.

## **Youth Clubs within the “organized civil society”.**

Only the direct involvement of citizens in solidarity actions can face the problems of social exclusion, unemployment, environment, corruption, cuts..., affecting today's society.

One of the most important manifestations of this commitment are voluntarism actions (activism, as we like to call it) in nonprofit

organizations. We live in a country where only 1 out of 5 people does volunteer work (in some European countries, such as England, this figure is one out of two).

Youth Clubs pretend to be an instrument that increases social commitment among young people, to be schools of social participation in which learning teamwork, assuming responsibility, making decisions, making agreements... and all this by developing a social commitment with the immediate reality.

Youth Clubs are intended to be introductory platforms that generate supportive citizens in the society of the future.

## **In short, Youth Clubs...**

They are a public service, an essential instrument to introduce youth to participation habits, to generate in them a conscience of social commitment, as for example, attitudes of solidarity and exercising entrepreneurship. They are the key to prevent antisocial behaviour and demenor and at the same time they are a tool to confront the drug problem.

Managed by the youths and with an open, pluralistic and independent model they guarantee the leading role of the young ones, which is essential so that everything we have just said turns true.

These Clubs have to be empowered by the administration where there's no group with dedication to

commitment and initiatives, and especially promoted where the youths have less resources and development opportunities.

Youth Clubs here, mirroring those in Europe, are federated. The Federation of Youth Clubs performs, among other things, tasks of coordination between institutions, it fosters the creation of new offices, trains their volunteers and gives fiscal and administrative support.

Youth Clubs are currently in a rebuilding process, with a new model devoid of errors of the past and woven with a more European fabric, more appropriate to the challenges of today's society. Many youngsters may be being seduced by a project of future, a project of a Youth Club in their town, in their neighborhood, and many others already are. That we all can take advantage of this human potential of future commitment depends largely on whether the different governments are able to facilitate and support the process of creation and development of Youth Clubs in neighborhoods, towns and villages.



## Youth clubs objectives

All youth organizations of the Federation, have, in a way or another, the following objectives:

1. Promote active inclusion processes of young people in a society. In this way youth associations are configured as a School of Citizenship.
2. Increase participatory, cultural, associative and creative practices of young people.
3. Encourage the development and social and personal autonomy of young people.
4. Provide resources, support and promote participation in active sociocultural initiatives of the environment or the community where they are located.
5. Involve youth in solving social, environmental or economical problems in their environment from prior knowledge of their surrounding reality
6. Prevent drug abuse and addictive behaviours.
7. Encourage the integration of disadvantaged young people and minority groups and promote coexistence and diversity in all its forms and expressions. A Youth Club is a place of coexistence and integration in solidarity, a true "100% discrimination free place."
8. Promote either common or exceptional supportive and committed attitudes, denouncing social injustice wherever it takes place.
9. Support and promote existing youth associations which will be able to take advantage of the material goods in the Youth Club.
10. Participate in the coordination with institutions, public and private associations, groups, networks and other social entities.

### #4

## PARTICIPATION LEVELS IN A YOUTH CLUB

Youth Clubs are places committed to promoting the participation and therefore they favour progressive involvement processes among young people. For this reason they respect the different potentials existing and perform activities that allow the integration of the youths in their structures of participation.

At Youth Clubs all young people can participate whatever their commitment and involvement are. Its structure is opened and formed by different levels of participation:

**ENTERTAINERS**

**MILITANTS**

**GROUP MEMBERS**

**USERS**

**CONSUMERS**

1. The volunteer entertainers, consciously involved in the management of Youth Clubs and the Global Project.

2. The activists of stable groups, committed to give dynamism to their groups and to the members of the Board of the Youth Club.

3. The members of stable groups, taking part in everyday activities of their group.

4. The participants in courses and services of the Youth Club.

5. The consumers of activities for the masses organized by the Youth Club and addressed to the youths of the neighbourhood or town. The Youth Club establishes the mechanisms needed so that the youth knows about their existence, and it has a range of activities open basically to all youngsters between 14 and 28 years old.



# The need to promote a new associative and citizen model

A democracy does not have a strong health if its civil society is not organized, that is, if a high percentage of citizens does not belong to social institutions through which they commit, from action, to cooperate in solving the problems that affect them, assuming the role of resolving those.

Based on this principle, governments are obliged to promoting the growth of civil society, and more specifically, to encourage citizen participation via associations. Regarding the field of youth, this basically means two things: firstly, to provide resources to historical youth organizations so that they can continue maintaining and developing themselves, and moreover to set a strategy to clearly support new associative initiatives, especially those with more chances of continuity, trying to power this new association potential among youth.

This means that while support to programs and intervention models that foster youth and traditional movements continues to expand (Youth organizations subsidies, for example), there is a need to come up with new intervention models which are able to make new youth initiatives development, that require new spaces and structures, possible and, moreover, while in other European countries they have already been a fact for decades.



**#5**

## **THE MOST DYNAMIC YOUTH SECTOR**

Youth Clubs group the most dynamic sector of youth and allow the realization and coordination of diverse and plural activities: young people interested in the varied performing arts, in different sports, in the most diverse musical disciplines, in different sensitivities as ecology and pacifism. All together, diverse and plural, to give dynamism in neighborhoods and cities.

**From Rock to Folk music. / From ecology to solidarity. / From indoor soccer to caving. / From traditional dances to theatre**

# Organizational structure of youth organizations

## **TEAM OF VOLUNTEER ENTERTAINERS**

About 5 to 15 members over 17 years old, each one in charge of a program. They are chosen.

## **PROGRAMS**

Each one of the volunteer entertainers manages a Program or Area. The most common are: Internal Management, Advertising and Promotion, Internal Action program, Projects between associations. Services, courses and specific activities. Cultural area. Sports Area. Music Area. Social Area. 14-17 Area. Stable Groups creation and maintenance.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

One or two representatives chosen by each Stable Group of the Youth Club.  
Head of Directorate of the Youth Club.

### **CULTURAL AREA**

It is formed by stable groups of a cultural and recreational character. Some of the most common are: photography, video, theater, dance, radio, magazine...

### **MUSICAL AREA**

Composed of groups of musical character: rap, rock, folk, heavy...

### **SPORTS AREA**

It is formed by sports stable groups: indoor soccer, basketball, badminton, hockey, mountain sports...

### **SOCIAL AREA**

Composed of stable groups with a reflecting and study character, and involvement in social issues, solidarity, environment, promotion of work...

### **14-17 AREA**

Formed by education groups in Spare Time of teenagers from 14 to 17 years old. It should have a differentiated and appropriate infrastructure.

## **AREA COORDINATION SECTIONS**

Area Coordination Sections combine all five types of stable groups in Youth Clubs.

#6

## DRAWING OF THE PERSON-CLUB

### DYNAMISTIC ENTITIES

#### ENTERTAINMENT TEAM

responsible of the entertainment plan

#### INTER-ASSOCIATIVE PROJECTS

invigorating the environment

#### COURSES

...ballroom dance,  
African dance,  
tai-chi, guitar,  
monitors,...

#### DIRECTORS BOARD

representative entity  
of the Youth Club

#### RELATIONSHIP COMMISSION

representation  
in administrative  
entities, district  
boards...  
representation  
in entities of  
associations

#### RESOURCES

infrastructure  
equipment  
economy

#### STABLE GROUPS

climbing,  
video, comics,  
magazine,  
mountain sports,  
photo, dance,  
jazz, rap,  
astronomy,  
role playing, indoor  
soccer,  
music,...

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# Youth clubs in relation to other administration's youth intervention models

There are other models of more straightforward intervention by the Administration such as Youth Information Centres or "Municipal Youth Clubs", i.e., directly managed by councils. With an existence on long tradition, and without going into more positive aspects of their action, we must accept the evidence of the little use that this youth intervention models have meant. These had in the youths the effect of creating a mentality of passive consumers of services produced, directed, made and starred exclusively by the Administration.

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However, we must highlight the youth entertainment work done by some of these services which, by the way, in many cases, have encouraged the creation processes of "non-municipal" Youth Clubs (i.e., not managed by the City Council but by the youth themselves).

Furthermore, this policy of supporting existing associations has resulted in the creation of Hotels of Associations, resource centers for associations where these find whatever is difficult that exists in their entity: fax, computer, auditorium, sound system... and sometimes office and phone, WiFi, etc.

These "Hotels of Associations", "Resource Centres for Associations" have been wrongly designated, in many cases, as "Youth Clubs". Sometimes a Municipal Youth Club has been given to the management of associations of the town or to the Local Youth Council. This happened seldom, every time the project fails by the City Council direct management.

## #7

## SEVEN PROPOSALS

"The commitment to a municipal youth policy for emancipation and the role of youth"

1. Councils should not organize leisure time activities. We especially propose that Councils stop organizing trips, concerts, camping and hiking activities for the youth and that they transfer these resources to organizations.
2. Ensure infrastructure for associations' housing, especially for those that perform educational activities in leisure time with and among young people.
3. Give prominence to the agreement as a way of relationship with associations. We trust associations to be able to achieve this, and we will support them in their work.
4. We propose councils to give primacy to the non-profit sector against profit initiatives that do business with municipal services. The money that enters in an association will be invested in the community, so it will generate entrepreneurship and create direct and indirect jobs among youth.
5. Work within a model in which education and action will be the basis of leisure time activities with young people, not to simply use these as hollow entertainment and consumption.
6. We want to strengthen youth participation in the town. Youth voices strengthen a town. We show the value of an active, critical democracy and shared construction.
7. We formally state the importance of councils supporting the creation of committed dynamistic entities and techniques sensitised to youth reality, participation and popular education.



# What is The Federation?

The Valencian Federation of Youth Clubs (FVCJ) is an organization with legal, secular and pluralistic entity, ruled by strictly democratic and participatory principles. It was formed in 1994 by five youth organizations: **La Nau i Al vent (Manises), NFR (Polinyà del Xúquer), la Cebollera i l'Amagatall (Quart de Poblet).**

**We are under the umbrella** of the values of common management, which eases the daily lives of youth groups and different kinds of associations of our network of organizations working locally to improve social participation of young valencian people.

**We believe in another way of making public policy.**  
**One way that takes into account that before private companies profit, there are civic organizations which work mainly for the well-being of others, for the common good.**  
**It is time to demand the involvement of citizens in the management of what is public.**  
**So we declare ourselves mature and able to lead all those services affecting us.**  
**It's time to go from "I'll do it for you" to "we'll do it together".**

**How does the Federation work?**  
**How is it organized?**

## Secretariat

It is formed by a team of volunteers chosen in the General Assembly. They take provisional decisions in daily unforeseen events and assume representation and administration of the Federation. They will keep the plenary session informed of all its works. Their exact duties are detailed in the Statutes.

## Plenary session

It is formed by two representatives from each institution and the members of the Secretariat that have the right to vote. It is

responsible for the management and decisions taken between Assembly and Assembly. Its exact functions are detailed in the Statutes.

## General Assembly

Delegates elected by all entities approve, among others, the management report, PAC, memory, economic balance and budget. The Secretariat is chosen in it. The Assembly is open to all members of organizations in the Federation, to professionals that

provide dynamic processes to the entities of the organizations, the other institutions of the Free Time Movement and to the general public. This is better explained by the Statutes and Rules of Procedure.

## Associations members

These are the entities (administratively regulated or not) that form the Federation. On our website ([www.lafederacio.org](http://www.lafederacio.org)) you can find the information.

# #8

## AN ORGANIZATION INTENDED TO PARTICIPATE

The organization of Youth Clubs has a primary objective: to allow maximum participation of the youth in the daily management. The Annual Plan of the Club aims to encourage social participation habits. In order to become active and participative citizens there is nothing better than young people assume the management of their free time.

**A democratic structured organization ensures youth participation in the structures of Youth Clubs. / Volunteer entertainers teams: they direct social action programs of the Youth Club. / Work entities, coordination of areas, study, relationships with the environment. / Boards: Where youth participates representing groups of the Clubs and assuming the Direction.**

# Networking: all at once!

De tot el que hem construït al llarg dels anys de treball activista, estem molt orgullosos d'una cosa: Aconseguir trobar punts en comú entre totes les organitzacions. From all that we have built over the years of activist work, we are very proud of one thing: We managed to find points in common between all organizations.

Each Youth Club, each organization, collective, association or youth group has its own citizenship formula. We recognize diversity in a world that seeks to simplify. We are proud to have organizations with a special inclination to the defense of the environment, or others with a great capacity for local political action. There are groups of local youths who know the importance of the fight against fascist movements and strive to make it visible every day. There are others that educate voluntarily because they believe that there will not be a social change if we do not care to learn together. There are groups who exercise the freedom to say what they think through theater or literature, or art in general. There are musicians who are committed to solidarity causes or demands and turn music into an instrument of transformation.

But we, in all groups, have one thing in mind, and that's why we belong to the network: secularism as a common element in our associative life and progress, because we want to change all that we do not like of what happens around us. The premise is that another world is possible.

Secularism, which with the freshness and sobriety of youth's thought, proposes discussing and questioning our surroundings, with the sole intention of building a world full of happiness. A secularism that does not have an understanding of faith dogmas and stands firm on respect for

diversity of ideas and beliefs on the public side of life, which leaves to the private sphere what can not be universal.

That easy. Secularism does not have a perception of the existence of gods who judge and condemn us, freeing us from any responsibility for our acts. We are secular when facing the tenets of capitalism or the market. Secularism is impossible to be understood without critical and humanist thinking.

In the constant desire for social transformation we grow as a youth leadership school. We teach ourselves to be free from our own mistakes. We learn looking at ourselves and we transform ourselves with each step we take while we transform, our surroundings, being more or less aware.

A secularism and a wish for social transformation that took us to be, inevitably, schools where democracy is taught.

#9

## LET'S BE US, LET US BE FREER

In recent years, local projects have progressed and improved their ability to do things by themselves. From each reality, creative ways to obtain resources are continuously explored, researched and promoted.

**All associations are self-managed, since it's the youths who govern them. We take a special care on one thing: that our income have various origins, independent of each other and that most of them (at least half of them) are our own.**

**Despite all this we need the cooperation of everyone. Governments must take care of associations and respect the autonomy of the institutions. We want a more European associative model, capable of managing services, along with the administration.**

# Ideology of youth clubs

We are the Homes of the Youth. We have opened our arms and the doors of many towns, neighbourhoods, cities. We are managed by a creative beat, by a young project. Today we celebrate our inauguration. Today we unlock a thousand pluralistic ideas towards a participatory cloud. A forecast of potential renewal invades our space, winds with a rebel consciousness, voices of youth raised to regenerate society, commitment made project, the critic flame of the new air currents. Our youth have opened the way to the future with a backpack full of alternatives: a citizenship school, a school of democracy, a school of freedom and rights, a school of participation. A great content that we will enjoy. The mechanisms, instruments and procedures to use the rights to deepen democracy will be learned in our rooms.

Rebellion is winning the battle. It wants to exercise its freedoms, it wants to take its responsibilities, it wants to collaborate... and it will demand.

This is the manifesto that requires a renovation soon. These will be its initial rules, open to progress and the creative imagination.

## **FIRST POINT. DENOMINATION.**

Youth Clubs have traditionally had its own legal personality. We've been subjects of rights. We have, among others, the right to an own name. So we chose that everyone....

## **SECOND POINT. GENDER EQUALITY.**

We, speaking in the feminine gender as befits the voice of the Clubs, demand respect for the equal rights of the people without the slightest discrimination, this is, women and men will have the right to full equality, to natural respect and to the wonderful differences that embellish them. We will defend the principle of coeducation.

## **THIRD POINT. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.**

From tomorrow it's the time to clean the universe up. We will work together with environmental organizations, defenders of nature and conservation groups. We all will find our doors open and our landscapes repairing tools at their service, and we will do whatever it is needed not to mess up, not to destroy the nature anymore.

## **FOURTH POINT. DEMOCRACY AS A VALUE.**

Youth Clubs were born independent, we have a vocation of independence, we will always remain independent. We will relentlessly reject partisan manipulations, sectarian or interested and will enact the principle of self-tutoring.

The only way to fight the evils of our society without going into oppression and violence is Democracy. We will do direct democracy. We will promote forums, meetings of opinion, empowering all the ways of free political participation.

## **FIFTH POINT. PLURALITY.**

We defend the variety and diversity, inside the unity of youth. There is room for all races, cultures, civilizations, ideas, ways to feel and to express and for new air currents. We only close at closing.

## **SIXTH POINT. VIOLENCE AS AN ANTI-VALUE.**

We prefer reason over force. To achieve personal, social or political goals, we will always move alongside pacifism.

## **SEVENTH POINT. REJECTION TO DRUGS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO LEISURE.**

We refuse any danger of addiction that could limit freedom. We condemn drug abuse as an entertainment to pass the time. We crave clarity, natural and creative, of mental capabilities... and we start our foundation as an alternative project for leisure time promoting cultural and sporting habits.

## **EIGHTH POINT. SOLIDARITY.**

Only twinning in solidarity can guarantee us peace. A young

commitment of love and harmony must be taken to integrate all cultures in a global embrace. We must take urgently large steps towards better distribution of wealth in the world, and reduce inequality between North and South, between rich and poor.

## **NINTH POINT. DEFENSE OF THE MOST DISADVANTAGED YOUTHS.**

There will be no barriers for the unfortunate youths. Youth Clubs are inclusive places. Against exclusion, social injustice and situations of inequality we prefer respect for social and functional diversity.

## **TENTH POINT. AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT.**

There is no worse company for a youngster, or for anyone, than unemployment and inactivity. We at the Clubs accept the challenge of becoming actively committed in the fight against unemployment, but from the strongest position, against the exploitation of workers and job insecurity.

## **LAST BASIC POINT.**

The manifesto is open to development. Our young people have, and will always have, a say.

## **ELEVENTH POINT LAICITY AND CRITICAL AWARENESS.**

We are a secular organization, and it means you can believe in what you decide. Actually you can't believe in anything. It doesn't matter to us, because we think religious beliefs are private topics. We think in a critical way because we don't trust things as they say. We want to decide for ourselves, and we won't do it without meditation. We recognize critical thinking as the only way to improve society.

## **TWELFTH POINT DEFENSE OF POPULAR CULTURE.**

We defend a different culture, a free culture, created by ourselves. A neighborhood culture, in small groups, not mass culture, not consumer culture, not elitist culture. We work for a transformative, liberating and Valencian culture.

# To enter the Federation of Valencian Youth Clubs

1. Your Youth Association, Youth Club, Group, Collective or entity must write a letter **explaining the reasons** why you want to be part of the **Federation**, applying to **formalize the entry** in Federation and applying to a meeting (proposing a date) at least two weeks ahead, with a representative of the Federation to explain specific details. You must attach a copy of:

- statutes,
- founding act,
- the update document of the registry of the last meeting.

2. All associations have an ideology. Along with the letter of reasons you have to attach the **manifesto** or the ideology of your organization. We have a manifesto at The Federation and we are part of a leisure time associative movement called "**secular and progressive**". You can check about our entity on the site [www.lafederacio.org](http://www.lafederacio.org).

3. **If you are not legally established as an association**, and you want to, you can ask for help at the Federation or at other of the member entities. If you don't want to be legally constituted, explain it to us and we will find a solution, it is possible to work under the umbrella of other entities as a youth group.

When you enter the **Federation** you must assume a yearly economic fee for the expenses that are common to all entities belonging to it. Take into account that the **Federation** offers a legal umbrella that, if you assume it only by yourselves, turns unassumable in most cases. On our site [www.lafederacio.org](http://www.lafederacio.org) you can find a document summarizing the rights and duties of all members of the Federation, they are very simple.

## Summing up

If you've recently integrated into a Youth Club, group, association or Youth Group, you might have some doubts about what exactly you are into.

### **What is a Youth Club?**

It is a place where young people meet, start working on their concerns and organize their activities independently. That is, a space governed by young people, where all the decisions are taken by the youths who are part of it in one way or another.

The Youth Club is **a public service managed independently by the youths themselves**.

There are Youth Clubs located in places which are property of the public administration (that is, of us all), and there are Youth Clubs that even manage their own space, always open to the public.

### **How does a Youth Club work?**

A Youth Club is designed to accommodate young people over 14 years old, although they contain activity groups as Esplais, which also teach children to participate and are a part of it too. There are **stable groups** in it that do different activities (Role-playing, board games, theater, Ecology, Cinema, Education, Solidarity, Blogging,...) and a **team of volunteer entertainers** responsible for organizing tasks and the dynamics of the Youth Club.

The board is formed by one representative from each stable group which is **responsible for managing** the Youth Club. The Board also has a president, a vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer who are elected by **Assembly** (A meeting of all

members of the groups and members of the Club).

### **What are Youth Clubs about?**

There's a **Manifesto of the Youth Clubs** that has 12 points and tells what are the Clubs about:

- They are youth coexistence places.
- Plurality: each one of the youth can participate in a Club.
- Equality: defense and fight for the effective equality between men and women.
- Alternative use of free time to drug abuse and other addictions.
- Rejection of violence as a way to get things.
- With a sensitivity to defend and promote the use of valencian language.
- Nature defense, protection and conservation.
- North-South solidarity and social justice.
- Against racism and xenophobia.
- Against unemployment by fighting exploitation and job insecurity.
- For the inclusion of diversities.

We like that every Club makes its own manifesto and that they continuously make improvement proposals to these basic points.

### **What is the Federation of Youth Clubs?**

It is the union of every Club and serves to:

- A. Coordinate joint activities between the different Clubs and make exchanges between them.
- B. Help Clubs in the bureaucratic aspects: accounting, subsidies, papers...