

Mobilising Youth for Mission

There are about 1 million children and youth in the evangelical community across European churches. How can we challenge them to get involved in missions? In this session we will particularly look at youth (16-30 years of age) and how we can not only mobilise them for missions but also partner with them in doing missions. What are some of the tools used for mobilisation and how can youth be integrated in the mobilisation process? Among other things, mission conferences play a vital role and the more they are embedded into a local context, the more profound the results. Together we will explore what helps and hinders the mobilisation process and what makes a partnership so worthwhile and at the same time so challenging.

Evi Rodemann has been involved in creating and organising events for young people and churches locally, nationally, and on the European level since she was a teenager. Events have always played a vital part in her own walk with God, but she has also seen how they bring Christians together and mobilise them for a missional lifestyle. As well as receiving training in event management, Evi also earned an MA in European mission with a focus on the impact of conferences. She studied missions in the Netherland and has worked in India, Africa, and Hong Kong, but her strongest passion remains Europe and helping its young people to find their kingdom role and live missionally wherever God has called them. Until 2016 she directed Mission-Net for nine years and organized four European youth mission congresses. In addition to being engaged in various European networks such as Lausanne and the European Youth Ministry Network, Evi also works part-time in an aluminium company.

I. Youth and Missions

A. The Need

- 1,8 billion young people worldwide between age 10-24 years (UNFPA state of the world 2014)

- The spiritual need

“50% of UK churches only offer youth work today and of these 50% say their youth work is ineffective” (study Losing Heart)

The Bible has become one truth only

B. What does it need from us (and the young people)?

- Dedication
- Will
- Commitment

II. Mobilising and partnering

A. Mobilising

B. Partnering

Young people are not passive recipients of investment. Young people can and must be indispensable partners in development.

- they can be the problem solvers and innovators who can break the mould
- find new ways of doing things or doing them better
- understand what they and their peers need

III. Youth needs people to journey with them – missions mentoring

1 Tim 4:12 – don't despise because of youth

Jeremiah 1:7

- Examples of youth leaders
- Mission-Net evaluation

IV. Where do mission agencies need to change today?

- reverse Bible poverty

Suggested Readings:

Rodemann, E. (MA dissertation), *An exploration of the impact of the Mission-Net Congress on young people's missional lifestyle*

UNFPA State of the World Population 2014

Vista Issue 04 2011, <https://europeanmission.files.wordpress.com/2011/01/vista-2011-01-issue-04.pdf>

Youtscape Study Dec 2016. *Losing heart.*

<https://youthscape.co.uk/research/publications/losing-heart>