

Our team

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Presenting the Steunpunt Jeugd Team

Evelyne Blancke

- Production co-ordinator. All the products made by *Steunpunt Jeugd* each year go through her hands. They range from books, brochures and digital invitations to stickers and cool gadgets... Evelyne organises the technical process that turns a good idea to an end product.
- Chief editor of *Krax*, the bimonthly specialist journal of *Steunpunt Jeugd*. The magazine is aimed at **youth workers** working (professionally or voluntarily) for or with children and young people or who are in training for it, as well as at a wider field of **policymakers**, associated researchers and other agents in society.

Krax aspires to:

- inform and enthuse about developments in the youth work sector and the living environment of children and young people.
 - promote innovation and quality in youth work, including by promulgating field experiences and examples of good practice.
 - provide reflection on the theory and practice of the youth worker.
 - stimulate exchanges between youth work and adjoining sectors.
 - highlight ongoing trends in youth policy and youth work.
 - throw the spotlight on youth work and the living environment of children.
 - stimulate discussion within the youth work sector and with other sectors, across various levels of policymaking.
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Matti Vandemaele

- Follow-up to demand-driven projects. Nationally accredited youth organisations can suggest two themes a year, which *Steunpunt Jeugd* takes up for one year. In 2009, the themes were 'Cultural Education' and 'New Media'. Matti looks after the overall co-ordination and is responsible for developing one of the key themes.
- Local youth policy. He organises a platform for local and provincial youth policy. This is where national youth work organisations meet up with local branches to collaborate on the content of a stronger, local youth policy. In that context, he is also responsible for developing all local products and services of *Steunpunt Jeugd*. The structural consultation with the Flemish government on local and provincial youth policy is also part of his job.

Nancy De Backer

- Diversity/welfare
Organisation of the Diversity platform, a consultation forum for all youth organisations with a specific interest in diversity. In the context of this platform, Nancy also develops products and services in relation to diversity (including training courses, study days, intervision, etc.)
Furthermore, Nancy keeps a close eye on policy trends in relation to diversity and welfare.
- *Steunpunt Jeugd* is organising a conference on young people, the youth sector and youth policy, to be held on 8 and 9 February 2010. Machteld and Nancy are jointly responsible for organising the two-day conference, which will be called 'JET'.
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Sebastiaan De Coninck

Sebastiaan is responsible for information management at Steunpunt Jeugd, hangs out with the communications officers and in 2009 worked on the 'NuGames' project.

- Information management: the internal collection and safekeeping of knowledge in the organisation. Sebastiaan is compiling a quality manual, is responsible for the documentation centre and is always in search of new ways to improve the centre's information management and to give it a fitting place within the organisation.
- Communication: He contributes to the development of a digital policy, especially for digital communication.
- The **NuGames Project** concerns activities that use media and technology as a tool to create new, refreshing experiences. They can be used when out camping, during holidays, in the weekend, during workshops, or simply in between. They are specifically designed for youth work and attuned to the world of young people in the 21st century. Some of those may be old games that have been given a makeover, or others may introduce an entirely new way of playing. They do not need to be expensive nor complicated. But they do need to be **innovative and most definitely fun**. Because they are meant to be enjoyable.

The project brought a few organisations together for the purpose of designing NuGames.

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Bram Vermeiren

- Training and Formation in the Flemish youth sector: Bram hosts the **platform training** which gathers all the training responsables of the Flemish youth organizations with a focus on exchange of training methods and developing tools that increase the quality of training methods. Together with Bert he is evaluating the recognition of non-formal education in youth work and will start research on the personal motivation of young people to participate in non-formal formation processes.
- International youth policy officer: Bram is tracking the European policy developments in relation to children and young people. In addition, Bram also encourages other staff members to integrate European initiatives and subjects to their own sphere of activity. Further on, Bram is preparing a European exchange seminar of good practices with similar national youth support centres on their role and function in the youth sector of their country. The result of this exchange could also be to form a new exchange network of national expertise centres in Europe.

Visiting international delegations in the context of cultural agreements can always count on receiving an 'Introduction to *Steunpunt Jeugd*' from Bram.

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Pieter Van Damme

- Spurred on by the management board, Pieter works out the overall policy of *Steunpunt Jeugd*, together with the centre's director.
- As assistant director of *Steunpunt Jeugd*, Pieter is primarily in charge of the business side:
 - Accounts & financial management
 - Staff policy & administration
 - Office management and IT expert
 - Co-ordination and follow-up to the three-yearly policy document
 - Quality management
- Representing the organisation in various forums
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Kris Lamberts

- Director
- Overall co-ordination: Spurred on by the management board, he works out the overall policy of *Steunpunt Jeugd*, with help from the assistant director.
 - Day-to-day management of *Steunpunt Jeugd*
 - Substantive management of staff members
 - Co-ordination and follow-up to the three-yearly policy document
 - Implementing finance policy, staff policy and quality policy
- Represents the organisation in various forums
- Spokesperson

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Kurt Jacobs

- Staff member for communication at *Steunpunt Jeugd*
 - Responsible for the organisation's overall communication policy
 - Providing continued professional development and updating of the communication plan: press strategy, brand strategy, house style, etc.
 - Maintenance and layout of various newsletters and digital channels of communication
 - Maintenance, design and final editing of various web applications
 - Promotion of activities and initiatives of *Steunpunt Jeugd*
 - Developing and maintaining press contacts
 - Representing *Steunpunt Jeugd* at events and fairs

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Mieke Dereymaeker

- Responsible for the delivery of support services

Steunpunt Jeugd has an extensive range of services on offer: preparing a general range of training courses, provide customised training, support, intervision, Nitrox study days. Mieke co-ordinates the range of services and is considering an overarching policy for these services (in relation to freelancers, competences, appraisal, administration, etc.).
- Organisation management

Steunpunt Jeugd supports (youth) organisations based on various themes. Mieke helps organisations examine how they can develop their internal activities comprehensively for optimal quality, through training, support and product development. It involves working on various themes, ranging from policy planning and competence management to time management.

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Laurent Grandgaignage

- Laurent is responsible for everything related to ICT in the buildings in which *Steunpunt Jeugd* is based. It ranges from system and network management, and providing support and a helpdesk to developing administrative applications. He ensures that all hardware and software works properly, which means that his colleagues can use the existing ICT resources without a hitch.

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Chantal Verlinden

- Managing the contact database, entering and editing data, printing off address lists and address labels



- Registration for training courses and study days: send confirmation letters to participants, compile participants' lists, compile attendance certificates, completing training records, entering appraisal forms
- Responsible for stationery supplies
- Switchboard
- General secretarial work
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Joke Laukens

- Joke is responsible for supporting youth work by promulgating information, supporting policy and forming networks. She is responsible for developing ongoing field work and for supporting youth work on the ground in relation to two themes, namely space and youth infrastructure.
 - In practical terms, it means that Joke provides substantive support for the work group *Locomotief* on the theme of youth work infrastructure. *Locomotief* is a work group in which experts exchange and record their expertise on the infrastructure of youth work. Based at the office of Steunpunt Jeugd, *Locomotief* develops leaflets, training courses, a website and other products about the infrastructure of youth work.
Joke also provides a helpdesk role for questions on the infrastructure of youth work.
 - For the 'Space' theme, Joke supports the Space Platform, a platform made up of experts from the youth sector. Platform Space focuses on the accessibility of space to children, young people and youth work.
Furthermore, Joke develops training courses and products concerning space in general and environmental planning in particular, in consultation with the Space Platform.
Joke provides information and communication in connection with more space, and more readily accessible space.
In addition, Joke looks after the contacts with the Flemish government and other parties involved in child-friendly environmental policies.
Lastly, Joke mans a helpdesk for questions concerning space-related themes.
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Katrijn Gijssels

- Katrijn follows everything about the ins and outs about woodlands and nature that is relevant to children and young people involved in youth work. Woodland-based games, campfires, sustainable and low-energy camping, providing more green play areas in the neighbourhood or near lodges, inspiration for play areas that are greater fun and more adventurous, etc. Young people need green areas for all sorts of activities, preferably with as little red tape as possible. Katrijn develops supporting products (for example, '*Jeugd bij Bosjes*', i.e. Kids of the Wood, an inspirational book on green play areas, or the Magda quiz on rules to be observed when playing outside in nature), training courses (for example, green tours, doing the rounds of local play areas and discussing them) and maintaining contact with local authorities and organisations in the green sector.
- In addition, Katrijn is also responsible for co-ordinating theme-based work at the centre. Each year, a particular theme that is not already a structural focus of activity for the centre is placed in the spotlight and a number of actions are held around it, resulting in a comprehensive case file on the theme. In 2009, the emphasis is placed on 'parents'. In 2010 on 'young people and social engagement'.
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Karen Mouton

- Organising and nurturing the 'Youth Tourism' platform, and facilitating the associated work groups.



- The continuous collection and safekeeping of knowledge and expertise on youth tourism.
- Developing client-oriented products on youth tourism in the form of:
 - websites (www.kampterrein.be, www.kampeercentra.be, www.opkamp.be)
 - Supplying reliable information on camping sites in Wallonia. Keeping a finger on the pulse of burgeoning youth tourism policy in Wallonia.
 - Supply information about tent sites and camping sites in Belgium.
 - Throwing the spotlight on the triptych kampeercentra.be, kampterrein.be and jeugdverblijven.be, through the portal site www.opkamp.be.
 - An electronic newsletter: sporadic contributions to the newsletters of Steunpunt Jeugd. *For example, in September, it includes a reminder to apply for tents, or a request to share addresses of camping sites and centres. Closer to the summer season, some practical issues (not forgetting First Aid) or projects (for example, the food subsidies in Wallonia) tend to be highlighted.*
- Offers of customer-based services on youth tourism in the form of training and a help desk.
- A possibility included in our range of training courses is a session aimed at the primary target group and at the rest of the youth sector themed 'Free-roaming wild animals 1'.
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Bert Pieters

- Responsible for research
 - Once a year, *Steunpunt Jeugd* conducts one field-oriented survey, conducive to improving youth policy and youth work on the ground. Bert and another employee are looking for the most appropriate research methodology and for suitable research partners.
 - Furthermore, Bert collects any interesting research questions that have not yet been dealt with and tries to pass them on to students, research centres and universities.
- Flemish joined up youth policy officer
 - As a member of the reflection group on the rights of Flemish young people and children, Bert is trying to appraise young people's rights and children's rights, to actively strengthen and shape them.
 - In addition, he is keeping track of the trends in relation to several themes (anno 2010: learning outside the youth sector, children's rights and acknowledging competencies acquired (during leisure hours) out of work or school. First of all, he informs youth workers and practice workers to co-operate on good practices, but he also tries to find a solution to the questions that provisionally remain unanswered, offering them tools that may lead to better practice and/or better policy.
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Anna Goovaerts

- Party policy

Steunpunt Jeugd organises *Fuifpunt* ('Party centre') in co-operation with several partners from youth work. Through comprehensive consultation, networking, product development and the services provided, *Fuifpunt* tries to improve local and Flemish party policy, and to support anyone organising parties.
- Anna's tasks:
 - Compiling case files and writing documents
 - Editorial work for the website and newsletter
 - Keeping tabs on local youth policy (legislation, screening local youth policy plans, etc.)
 - Developing training packages and setting up training in co-operation with partners
 - Helpdesk for questions about legislation and party policy, as well as practical questions on the organisation of parties
 - Keeping track of and providing information about relevant legislation



- Organising consultation events: steering group *Fuifpunt*, work groups to develop specific services or products, intervention
- Representation in specific consultative structures (some permanent, others ad hoc)
- Local youth policy and youth work policy (20%)
Matti, Karen and Anna are responsible for various themes concerning local youth policy, aiming to give the Flemish youth work sector optimal support.
 - Help to organise the annual training event for local operators: 'Trip Lokaal'
 - Help to organise, facilitate and provide the follow-up to the monthly platform on local and provincial youth policy
 - Depending on the burning issues of the moment:
 - Participate in the reflection group for local and provincial youth policy of the Youth Section (*Afdeling Jeugd*) (+ ancillary work groups and steering groups)
 - Participate in the Youth Work Commission, organised by the Flemish Youth Council
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Han Van Noten

There are two aspects to Han's role: building and developing the legislative database and contributing to structural development.

- legislative database: Han wants to produce accessible records of every single piece of legislation that may have a direct or indirect impact on organisations for children and young people. *Steunpunt Jeugd* is collecting potential subjects for these records through many different channels. The most interesting topics are investigated and discussed with (external) experts before they are condensed into a record. The objective is to create a concise and comprehensible database of legislation on a range of issues.
- Organisational management: To strengthen organisations of children and young people by optimising their internal operation. As part of the team that is working on this issue, Han is particularly engrossed in the subjects that demand special attention to the related legislation. He familiarises himself with the relevant legislation in order to contribute to training courses, support sessions and products, and to act as a sounding board for questions.
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Sandrine De Cubber

- As the person in charge of the administration and logistics, Sandrine is responsible for taking minutes of platform meetings, team meetings and general meetings. In addition, Sandrine supports staff members with the organisation of open days, study days, training days, etc.
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Chris Persoons

- Accounts: issuing customer invoices, do the accounts, keep the cash book, filing and accounts archives
- Registrations: Issuing invoices to participants
- Publications: Invoicing and sending out publications
- Krax: Subscriptions, invoices, payments, labels, archive
- General secretarial work
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