

SOCIAL INCLUSION IN YOUTH CENTRES – STUDY VISIT

INFO PACK

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Study visit

In order to present good social inclusion practices in the regular program part of youth centres (implementation of a program for young people or young people at risk of social exclusion or who are socially excluded) we will organize a study visit of the youth center. During the analysis, we will conduct a study visit of the youth center Jugendkulturundarbeit e.V. in Oldenburg. Based on the organization's references, past collaborations and active participation of our external associates, we defined the organization as suitable for conducting a study visit. In addition to a study visit to the aforementioned youth center, our time will be dedicated to the visit of the Ibis organization (which is successful in the field of integration of migrants), Blauschimmel (dealing with youth with brain damage), the local street youth center in Bremen (which deals with young offenders and homeless people). During the visit, we will also visit the local youth office (Oldenburg municipality has 160,000 inhabitants) and learn about their ways of involving young people and preventive programs in youth clubs. Participants in the study visit will be program youth workers and leaders / directors of youth centres with a view to acquainting themselves with the way how to program the field of social inclusion in the centres. Good practice and the steps that were needed for social inclusion to become one of the foundations of the Center's work will be presented. The study visit will provide an insight into good practice. With the implementation of trainings, programmers will be trained to develop, from small project activities in the field of social inclusion, the regular program content of the center, which will serve as the basis for the development of Strategic orientations in youth centres, and consequently the products will respond to the needs of the youth sector after the design and implementation better quality project activities.

For a study visit to the Youth Center in Oldenburg (Germany), we target youth centres for youngsters who are socially excluded or threatened with social exclusion. The study visit will provide insight into the identified good practice of developing and implementing programming in the field of social inclusion. As part of the study visit, we will focus on involving relevant stakeholders in addressing the challenges of social inclusion.

Dates: 9.4. – 14.4.2018

Each partner organisation participates with 8 participants.

We are truly convinced that inclusion should be promoted as a two way street – one has to demand it, but also provide it to others. All of the participants of this project should be youth workers, youth leaders, volunteers in NGO's or multipliers, that encounter in their professional or voluntary work with youngsters that are facing issues of exclusion, discrimination or marginalization on any ground. Since they have to constantly enhance their working performance, as well as develop according to society's needs, we believe that it is highly important to provide them knowledge, skills and methods needed for their personal and professional development. There is no age limit for participants.

Detailed program of study visit will be provided to participants in March 2018.

Details for travel, accommodation and participants' data are annexed to this document.

Venue and accommodation: Oldenburg, Germany; JKA Oldenburg

(<http://www.jugendkulturarbeit.eu/>)

Travel Tips

- Make sure you have a valid (not expired) ID card or a valid Passport.
- Make sure to have your European Health Card in your wallet.
- Pack in your hand luggage some “back-up” clothes and underwear in case your suitcase gets lost in the airport.
- Keep all your boarding passes and travelling tickets otherwise we will not be able to make any reimbursements (reimbursements are done to the partner organisation in each country in package for all participants, as network MaMa receives travel report with all proofs).
- Only public transportation can be reimbursed.



More information

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Summary of the project SOCIAL INCLUSION IN YOUTH CENTRES

Social exclusion and inclusiveness are especially important nowadays for modern society. Factors that make young people more difficult for integration and active involvement in society are: social barriers, economic barriers, disability, learning difficulties, cultural differences, health problems, geographical barriers. The consequence of social exclusion in the individual is prevented from fully participating in the economic, social and political life of the society in which the person lives. Social exclusion of young people can therefore cause unemployment, disability, negative attitude of the environment and the individual to migration, discrimination, physical and / or mental problems, addiction, abuse, domestic violence and anticipation. The EU Youth Strategy 2010-2018 highlights, in its objectives, the role and potential of youth work and youth centres as an integration area. Youth centres respond quickly to these challenges through various activities, projects. Some are successful in project activities (and follow the Integration Strategy and Diversity); others are still looking for suitable mechanisms, which, in terms of the environment and its specifics, and depending on the type of social exclusion or the potential for its emergence, can respond successfully to the challenge. Nevertheless, we often speak only of project activities of youth centres, but not of program activities. It is essential that social inclusion becomes part of the program (implementation of a program with and for young people who are socially excluded or threatened by social exclusion) and which is included in the content of the centres strategically. In the framework of the Social Inclusion and Youth Centres project, we will conduct a study visit with the purpose of viewing good practices, international training for youth workers who are responsible for the development of programs in youth centres, where they will develop programs, national trainings where trained youth workers will receive knowledge transfer to other youth workers. The set of ideas, activities, methods and insight into concrete content and successful program content of youth centres will enable us to prepare a long-term plan in the form of strategic program orientations of youth centres in the field of social inclusion to train youth centres and their programmers youth workers and youth centres leaders, how to deal with the challenges of social exclusion in the local community and how to effectively respond to them. To this end, we will develop strategic guidelines that will enabled youth centres to gain insight into program development in the field of social inclusion, more precisely how to develop program content from the project content, which relate both to the regular contents of the program and to the management of the centres. Strategic guidelines will enable the development of youth centres and more effective work in addressing contemporary challenges. Consequently, the role of youth centres in the field of social inclusion will be strengthened and, as such, will establish youth centres as a competent interlocutor in this field, other stakeholders (various organizations working in the field of young people with fewer opportunities, decision-makers, etc.) and encourage local communities and also broader to a more proactive approach to the development of social inclusion policies and programs, which would lead to a more

inclusive society. Through the project and project activities, we will co-shape part of the European dimension of social inclusion, since we will develop concrete programs based on the analysis carried out, analysing all the key documents in the field of social inclusion at the national and European level (EU Youth Strategy 2010-2018, Erasmus + Strategy: Youth in Action in the field of Integration and Diversity, SALTO Inclusion Center Publications, Analysis of European Union Data Files on Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion Policy, etc.), which will be especially evident during the development of strategic orientations and in carrying out international mobility and national training), with the involvement of experts. We will develop guidelines that will be used wider in addition to the participating partner countries and guide the development of social inclusion in the youth sector.

Social exclusion is a modern challenge by which youth centres meet on a daily basis, but there are no concrete policies and strategies to deal with social inclusion in practice and in the field. It is a fact that there is no concrete strategies or guidelines that would provide support or help the youth centres in effective dealing with social inclusion in the long term. To this end, within the framework of the project Social Inclusion in Youth Centres, we will analyse the situation on the ground of all partner countries in local environments. In doing so, we will define the criteria for the effective program functioning of youth centres in the field of social inclusion and develop concrete and innovative solutions at the level of the program action to integrate social inclusion activities into the strategic program activities of youth centres, since youth work offers one of the basic spaces for social inclusion and youth participation. In doing so, the creation of project products will lead to the strengthening and empowerment of the youth sector in working with young people with fewer opportunities. We will provide for the quality preparation of programs and projects, as well as informing and raising public awareness on the importance of social inclusion of young people in organizational and program documents of organizations, in our case, youth centres operating in local environments.

The project will involve all relevant stakeholders and actors on the topic of social inclusion at the national levels of partner countries, which will also be reflected in the analysis of the situation, followed by an action plan for cooperation and involvement of national and local stakeholders in the process of preparing the program in youth centres. In this context, we will connect all relevant stakeholders that are important in the social inclusion of young people at the horizontal level, both at national and local level.

Description of the situation of social inclusion

Slovenia

In the area of social inclusion, the youth sector in Slovenia is primarily active in project activities. Youth centres, with their project activities, address the problem of social exclusion; nevertheless, it is perceived that there are no concrete program contents that would be regularly implemented in the centres. How to develop regular programming and how to direct the development of centres into a larger space of integration, which would not be based just on projects, but would integrate fully into the space of integration, are the challenges that youth centres in Slovenia face and the project will, with the established model responded to this challenge.

Estonia, Latvia

Both partner organizations perceive the need to create concrete strategic orientations for youth centres in the field of social inclusion. Above all, it is necessary to override and analyze the area with the intention of being on the basis clearly defined criteria, what are those programs that enable social inclusion, which youth centres in the participating countries can offer opportunities for such development, prepare a concrete set of strategic orientations and models that will enable programmers and content providers in the youth centres in the participating countries development, not only at the program level, but also at a wider scale, at the level of the mission of youth centres.

Duration

24 months

October 2017 - September 2019

Partnership

Youth Network MaMa is the initiator of the project, which gives youth centres programming directions and opens new horizons in the areas that youth centres need and miss due to lack of strategic orientation. To this end, we invited the cooperation of related international partners, which are also network organizations or umbrella organizations that assist local units in strategic development in the area of specific issues. We collectively cover as many as 386 local units of youth centres.

International cooperation will provide different views on issues, experiences in strategy development, knowledge transfer and approaches to strategy development, co-shaping policies in the international field, development of youth content, support to the local level, as well as politicians at the European level.

Two criteria were crucial for the selection of project partners:

- the organization acts as a national network of youth centres,*
- at the national level, the need for placing the field of social inclusion in a more sustainable way, and not just as part of project activities (both at national and local level).*

Youth Network MaMa has an existing database of partner organizations from the EU and beyond. This was the basis for finding an appropriate profile of participating partner organizations. In the set of potential partner organizations, we have identified partner organizations from France, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia and Croatia. Based on conversations with representatives of organizations and the presentation of national realities in the field of active social inclusion, we have come to the final version and form a partnership. Most of the similarities in this area were detected with partners from Latvia, Estonia and Croatia. In the final partnership, we enter the organizations from Latvia and Estonia, since these countries are geographically speaking (the number of inhabitants) and from the point of view of the form of the youth center in Slovenia are most similar. We believe that this is a good concept for a quality partnership that will undoubtedly bring long-term effects.

We have already cooperated with a partner organization from Estonia in the strategic partnership, where both of us have been a partner organization. We did not cooperate with the organization from Latvia in the E+ program, but the youth workers of the partner organization from Latvia and Youth Network MaMa have been connecting since 2013 through other programs and jointly co-create methods for working with young people.

In addition to trained youth workers, all three organizations contribute to the project as well:

- good knowledge of national policies on social inclusion,*
- well-developed network of youth centres (total of 386 youth centres),*
- consequent access to local environments,*

- *knowledge of local realities with the possibility of identifying good practices of social inclusion,*
- *ability and knowledge to prepare a quality analysis of the situation,*
- *past experience in the area covered by the project and advocacy roles.*

In order to select a third partner organization, we have taken into account and searched especially those who have already introduced the good practice of social inclusion into their work. As such, we recognized the youth centre in Oldenburg, Germany, where we will go on a study visit during the course of the project. In addition, this partner organization will bring benefit to the partnership through its knowledge and experience. During the preparation of the strategy, the organization will actively participate and help to co-shape our work and prepare for the strategy in three national environments.

<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>Network MaMa</i>	<i>info@mreza-mama.si, laura.kerancan@mreza-mama.si</i>	<i>www.mreza-mama.si</i>
<i>Estonia</i>	<i>ANK (Eesti Avatud Noortekeskuste Ühendus)</i>	<i>ank@ank.ee, stiina.kutti@ank.ee</i>	<i>www.ank.ee</i>
<i>Latvia</i>	<i>Youth Leaders Coalition (Jaunties literkoalition)</i>	<i>proj@inbox.lv</i>	
<i>Germany</i>	<i>JUGENDKULTURARBEIT EV</i>	<i>karmen.murn@mreza-mama.si</i>	<i>www.jugendkulturarbeit.eu</i>

Youth Network MaMa

Youth Network MaMa (hereinafter referred to as the Network MaMa) brings together and represents organizations that carry out activities of youth centres in Slovenia. It is a non-governmental organization organized as a private institution. Its biggest advantage is that the network organization and the integration of members (youth centres) currently numbering 47 covers the whole of Slovenia.

What does the Network MaMa do?

- It connects youth centres and provides them with substantive support in carrying out their activities,*
- Represents the common interest of the members,*
- Provides regular information to members and other interested public on activities concerning young people and work with them,*
- Organizes meetings and promotes communication and interaction among members,*
- Provides expert assistance to members,*
- Provides non-formal education and training for members,*
- Encourages and promotes the activities of youth centres in the general public,*
- It enforces the principles of tolerance, good cooperation and social criticism.*

Network MaMa is an inclusive national networking organization for the youth work in Slovenia and takes care of and advocates the interests and needs of youth centres throughout Slovenia. It is a learning organization that, with a professional approach to work and social responsibility and proactive content-oriented activities, contributes to the development of the whole community, especially for the young person.

Network MaMa is an active organization in the youth sector, according to the needs of its members, thematically upgrades and provides various activities in areas where its members need professional support.

Network MaMa has a Quality standard ISO9001 NGO for three years now, which is renewed annually by an external auditor.



Association of Estonian Open Youth Centres (AEYC or ANK) is a nationwide umbrella organization, which connects youth centres from whole Estonia. AEYC was founded on 9th November 2001. By 2017, the association has 97 members, local authorities and NGO-s, with 154 youth centres. AEYC aim is to create a network of youth centres in Estonia, support the activities on local level and partnership activities between members on national level. AEYC cooperates with state and local governments, youth organizations in Estonia and abroad, and other institutions involved in youth work. The association is supporting new youth centres, analysing current situation and needs of youth centres, supporting youth workers, organizing seminars and trainings, introducing new methods in youth work, arranging information exchange between different actors, sharing ideas and inputs for national youth policy. AEYC develops local and international projects and partnership shaping youth policy at national and local level. AEYC is a trustful partner for Estonian State Government taking part in different commissions in ministries, also partner for other umbrella organizations in Estonia (Estonian Union of Child Welfare, Estonian National Youth Council etc.). AEYC has worked as a partner to Estonian National Agency counselling local regional potential applicants in international projects. Since 2015 AEYC is EVS hosting, sending and coordinating organization and is actively taking part in international collaborations within Erasmus+.

Youth Leaders Coalition

NGO Youth Leaders coalition is working since 1999 within the focus on development of the youth policy and youth work at the local, regional and national level and the capacity building of NGOs are working with youth in different areas of the interest.

YLC are working as resource centre for those who are interested in the development of youth work.

YLC have great experience on NGOs development and cooperation with local governments, youth centres development and capacity building of people are working with youth, research field and expertise in EU Youth issues.

YLC have been implemented more than 200 projects in the past in various fields related to youth. YLC have great expertise in working in EU, Post-Soviet Union countries, Africa, Balkans, South America and Asia.

YLC is one of the leaded expert in Latvia according to local youth work. YLC have been taking part at the establishment of range of youth centres in Latvia, consultations to the local governments on development the youth strategies. YLC have many youth centres in our network we are cooperate regularly. We do have great knowledge on reality of daily work of youth work and clearly understand how deep this project match with the needs of the members of our network.

There are around 185 youth centre in Latvia where around 40 are multi-functional youth centres who have the major focus on activities of non-formal education for youth.

YLC are organizing trainings, consultations, conferences for youth workers and various activities for youth, incl. EU Structural dialogue processes all around Latvia.

There are few main fields of expertise of the persons involved in this application from YLC side:

- youth policy at local, regional, national and international level*
- youth researches*
- youth work importance on minimization of youth radicalization*
- project management*
- networking*
- public relations and communication*
- advocacy*
- youth entrepreneurship / employability*
- outdoor activities*
- art and creativity*
- organization management*
- international cooperation*



and some other expertises.

YLC have great network of experts in Latvia and abroad and can manage the necessary resources according the needs.

Jugendkulturarbeit eV Oldenburg

Jugendkulturarbeit e.V. is a professional association that offers activities and projects of cultural education for children and young people, established in the year 1995 in Oldenburg. Our working methods derive from the concept of Performing arts (movements of their bodies and their voices in relations to the other objects or topics) with the fusion of education for self-reflection, creativity, political and social issues, personal values, and development etc.

Since we noticed the lack of political understanding and declining active participation of young people, we added political and social education to our repertoire of the non-formal education. Jugendkulturarbeit e.V. works in different districts of the city and in cooperation with different educational centres, where our team leads theatre and dance workshops for children and young people.

In 2009, we opened Internationale Jugendprojektehaus (IJP) in former Donnerschwee-Kasernein Oldenburg. The town Oldenburg is the owner of the whole premise, but has given us a long-term lease contract. Since 2009, we are following our mission to make IJP a socio-cultural, communication and educational facility that offers historical ambience, international activities as well as possibilities for accommodation. Therefore, we rented a neighbouring building for the offices and for the apartments for the long-term youth mobility (EVS volunteers). In the last years, we have become a locally known quality organization for sending and hosting EVS volunteers. IJP is quickly developing into a centre for social and cultural education in Donnerschwee and Oldenburg area.

In the past years, our association created and nurtured a very strong network with all local schools as well as with other organizations for children and youth help (leisure centres and group homes) and religious organizations. In addition to these organizations, we made a great cooperation with the other local cultural, educational, youth organizations and Administration for the integration and inclusion of the Oldenburg town.

The partner organization Jugendkulturarbeit Oldenburg will prepare and organize a study visit and prepare for the delivery of expert opinions and advice. They are included in the project as professional support staff, who will provide us with the support in the preparation of the strategy at a distance. They will actively monitor the entire process of both the development of the project and the development of the strategy, and will prepare relevant information and documents in order to provide a better quality of achievement of the given results.

Goals

OBJECTIVE 1: Creating a strategy for a sustainable approach to social inclusion in youth centres programs

Theoretical support for the preparation of strategic models of social inclusion in youth centres will be the EU Strategy for Youth 2010-2018, the Erasmus + Program: Youth in Action in the Area of Integration and Diversity and the SALTO Inclusion Centre / Publications Centre, 2006-2015. In preparing a model for strategic planning of social inclusion, how to develop program content from the projects, the practical examples, such as co-creating a program with young people who are or threatened with social exclusion as well as the management of centres, will help us.

OBJECTIVE 2: To train programmers of youth and youth centre leaders how to deal with the challenges of social exclusion of young people in the local community.

The role of the youth centres in the field of social inclusion will be strengthened and youth centres will become a competent interlocutor to other stakeholders, both at the national, local and European levels. Strategic guidelines and the development of youth centres programs are important in social inclusion, as youth centres are the catalyst of the local community towards a more proactive approach to solving the challenges of modern times. The Development of models for the creation of concrete program content in the youth centres will be based on the analysis and basic documents in the field of social inclusion (which will be especially evident during the development of strategic guidelines and the implementation of international mobility and national training). Together with the experts involved, we will co-shape part of the European dimension of social inclusion. The impact of the project is more inclusive society.

The desired results

The project is designed to give intermediate and immediate results already at the time of implementation; after completion, the goal is to maintain the learning outcomes (effects) of the project; in addition, dissemination measures are planned, which will, upon completion, further strengthen the results. The main result defined in Objectives 1 and 2, while sub-targets show the intermediate steps (i.e. the results during the project) that we want to achieve in the partnership.

C1: Creating a strategy for a sustainable approach to social inclusion in youth centres programs

C1.1: Preparation and implementation of the analysis

- Criteria for the analysis needs to be developed for the formulation of strategic program orientations and models of social inclusion in youth centres.*
- Analysis of the current state of programs and projects of social inclusion in all youth centres, for the creation of a strategic program of social inclusion in local organizations.*

C1.2: Conducting a study visit

- 1 successful study visit in Germany with 24 participants (program youth workers and managers / directors) for the needs of social inclusion analysis;*

C1.3: Review of good practices and meaningful placement in the strategy

- Preparation of a set of good practices, analysis of them, inclusion in models for designing specific program contents*

C2: To train programmers of youth and youth centre leaders how to deal with the challenges of social exclusion of young people in the local community.

C2.1: Preparation, implementation and evaluation of international training

- 24 skilled youth workers to develop social inclusion in the content of the youth centres;*
- 1 successfully completed international training*

C2.2: Preparation, implementation and evaluation of national training (6)

- 90 trained program youth workers to develop social inclusion in the content of the youth centres;*
- the implementation of 6 meetings or training sessions where trained program youth workers will train youth workers in youth centres who are responsible for the program how to develop regular programs in the field of social inclusion. Together they will prepare and propose strategic solutions and options for integration;*

C2.3: Implementation of multiplicative events

- *Implementation of at least 6-program content of youth centres in the field of social inclusion;*
- *3 multiplication meetings with at least 90 participants;*

C2.4: Developed model for designing specific program content

- *at least 12 content programs for social inclusion in youth centres developed by program youth workers on the basis of international training within the project have been developed;*

Other results

- *3 international project partnerships.*
- *A joint program strategic orientation for youth centres in the field of social inclusion of young people.*
- *Monitoring the design of implementation of results and performance testing.*
- *Designed and functioning team for the supervision of project results and placement of the social inclusion program in youth centres after the completion of the project.*

- *Successfully applied dissemination measures.*