



INNEMAS IP

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IP- course evaluation and implimentation of our new concept for the youth work in the town Achim

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1.Preparation Phase

1.1 Introduction

In our project “Youth and Cultural work” at the University Lüneburg, we prepared our case for the Innemas Program in a team of eight social work students, our teacher and the responsible of youth work in the town Achim near Bremen. The need for a new concept was given by the low effectiveness of the old concept, low number of members in youth associations and the organization and the offers of youth work were not up to date and rarely used. Nowadays young people often meet in their own cliques or are like a subculture in society, who are not reached by the associations and the youth work. The challenge for the new strategy of youth work in Achim is the support and integration of these groups in the social life of the city and the society.

For these reason the new concept includes as a main aspect self-organization and participation by the young people to involve, reach and support youngsters in the town.

The main task of the social workers or the professionals are to organize the structure, guide and help during the activities and to motivate young people to be a part of the public social work. This kind of concept is a new way to work in youth work. To develop a concept or strategy how to arrange the young-people-based-work – the voluntary work, we decided to take this topic to the Innemas Program to Slovenia. All the members of our team are youth leader trainer and have knowledge about leading youth groups and organizing voluntary work.

For the case preparation we had the new concept as basic. Furthermore we studied literature about voluntary work in Germany in general, voluntary work and youth associations in Achim, methods and knowledge for volunteers, education for volunteers, gratification for volunteers, motivation of young people to participate and the arrangement of structure between volunteers and professionals.

1.2 Voluntary work in Germany

Voluntary work is unpaid work. It can be done regularly over a long time or for a certain duration of time, for example in short projects. Possible fields for volunteers are associations, unions and institutions. In Germany 23 million people over the age of 14 are active in associations, initiatives or the church. Voluntary work has an important role for the economy and society, many areas of public and social life would not exist without the volunteers.

The mostly named motive for voluntary engagement is the wish to participate and to be an active part of the society. In addition there is the wish for social contact, social integration, get contact to other people with the same interests and to have fun. Furthermore it is a possibility to extend knowledge, competences and experiences.

1.3 Voluntary work in youth associations and in Achim

Young people between 14 and 24 years are the most active group of voluntary workers of the population. They are involved in areas like politics, sports, church, culture, social facilities, music and theater groups and the school.

In Achim the following associations have activities for young people and young volunteers: the fire brigade, the technical charitable organization, the youth red cross, the scouts and the churches.

Most associations are organized in local groups and part of a regional and federal head organization with regularly meetings. In Achim most of the associations, groups and initiatives are united in the “town-youth-ring” to organize and develop the youth work and their offers together. The “town-youth-ring” is a lobbyist of the young people and acts for them in front of the politics, the public and the authorities. The work is carried by older voluntary workers in cooperation with the youth.

1.4 Tasks of the volunteers in the new concept

In the new concept are two main parts where young people are working as volunteers. But maybe it sounds to big to talk about volunteers here, because it should be seen as “space” where young people can organize themselves, in their own cliques and groups as well as activities which are open for all young people. First there are the projects. Young people who have an idea for a project like making a break dance workshop, building a fireplace or making a video about young people and drugs, can initialise these project afters allowance by the youth council and some financial help as well as the help of a social worker. At the end the result of the project has to be presented in public. The second area are the youth club rooms. Rooms all over the town of Achim which belong to associations and organisation should be opened by young people themselves. They take the responsibility for the room and the activities inside. There has to be a cooperation with the association and the social worker guides them during the begining.

For these kind of special responsibility by young people in the new concept of youth work in Achim, young people should attend a youth leader course. Further there should be a qualification course for the youth in Achim to teach them the challenges about their role and responsibilities in the new concept.

In the basic course (Juleica) they learn about: social competencies, basic information about the law, public relations etc. In addition the need knowledge about methods (games, conflict solving etc.), self-administration, planning and arranging projects or workshops, networking, communication structure, motivation of others and tolerance against frustration

To honour the volunteers a gratification system should be implemented. There should be interesting activities, discount on entries or the public transportation etc.

Our ambition for the IP course is to find out more about voluntary youth work in other country and to discuss about how work between volunteers and professionals can be organized, how to honour volunteers and what kind of qualification they really need, as well as the developing of an implementation plan.

2. IP-Course: What was learned and how it was used

2.1 In general

Beside the purpose of learning at the university we were able to learn further aspects in term of the holistic consideration.

We learned a lot about the life and culture in the other countries which took part at the IP-Course in Novo Mesto / Slovenia. Also an understanding about the social cases and the accompanying problems in Slovenia and Finland was advanced. We were gathering a lot of impressions in and besides the time in the university.

2.2 In particular (based on the project)

Project-advancement

To specify our project advancements we decided to write down the ideas we were gatering from the international group work (IGW). Due to reasons of survey our social case is separated into five category groups, which are described below:

1. Promotion

- Concerts, sports events
- Public releations
- Advertising (radio, flyer, etc.)
- Parents evening (parents have to be informed)

- Promotion in schools
- Youthcenter promotion (clubs, festivals, etc.)
- Internet media (WEB 2.0)
 - Internet site wich includes news, blogs and activities

2. After volunteer work started

- Weekly meetings (special needs of young people, what thex need / want)
- Informaion and workshops all the time
- A room for volunteers
- Showing „what are the reasons for beeing volunteer“
- Gathering of the involved people (parents, teachers, volunteers, etc.)
- Weekly reports
- Schedule: a plan for the next week, time table, organisation
- Processplan, statistics, evaluation

3. Tasks of volunteer workers

- Youth group leading
- Political supporting
- Pracital helping
- Organisation

4. Motivation / benifits

- Tokensystem
- Certification
- Vote of the best volunteer of the month / year
- Discouts (cinema, swimming, public transport, etc.)
- JuLeiCa - youh group leader card
- Education travel, sponsored weekend camp
- Tickets for festivals, concerts, art exhibitions, etc.

5. The function of Social Workers

- Coordinating
- Organising
- Connecting
- Cooperation with other instituts, schools, clubs, organisations, etc.

The gathered infromation will leave its mark on the implementation of the concept and will

hopefully account for a sustainable development in Achim. We consider this as very inspiring and noticed the IGWs as pretty productive.

3. Implementation

3.1 Pre-conditions

To ensure a trouble - free beginning of our project following conditions have to be existend.

First step to gather young people is to construct an internet platform to be able to reach them. Thus we have to prepare some arrangements:

- Acquired are: Webserver with for example PHP, MYSQL and an internetaddress (Domain).
- Also a Software is needed to construct a communitysite.
- These computer knowledges have to be brought by a socialworker or a professional computer expert. Worktime ca. 3-6 h. (ca.300 €)
- Another person will have to put up the content and take care of the updates.
- Advertisements with Flyers, verbally and in Institutions are necessary (ca.50€)

In order to gain all the needed capacity our cooperations with clubs and schools have to be successful. Support is needed for rooms in schools, sport clubs, youth centres and social clubs like scouts etc. Furthermore we also need help for advertisement and informations that's why we will have to find out which materials are available. Due to institutional boundaries it will be unavoidable to cooperate with external persons which have special skills (such as a dance trainer).

The regional politics of Achim have already approved our financial plan by the municipality and the timeframe is already fixed.

To improve the efficiency of our work it is necessary for us to gather information about our clients like social belongings and their living quarters. For this task we will ask an university for help. They can make an analysis of the young people's social environment. Further it seems like a good idea to organise a city festival with a variety of offers and the possibility to get information about their needs and interests. Because we only have bordered capabilities and financial background it will be reasonable to divide the different time and space areas into the workers responsibilities.

3.2 Project Implementation - Schedule

Items to complete	Work completed To date	Milestone date	Budget costs	Responsibility
Invitation of all young people	Sending letters	15.6.10	50	Coordinator
Contact to young people + informations	Youth forum + BBQ	1.7.10	400	Coordinator + street worker
Present concept + informations	Meeting of all youth-group-leaders	1.7.10		Coordinator
Establishing groups in club rooms	Regular meetings	15.7.10		Coordinator + street worker
Involve young people/cityfestival	Meeting of preparation for the festival	1.8.10		Coordinator
Promotion of the new concept + give appreciations	Cityfestivals for all young people	1.10.10	4000 *Social funding	Coordinator
Qualifying young people	Youth leadership course	1.11.10	1500	Coordinator
Work out a concept for youth conference	Meeting of preparation with volunteers and professionals	1.12.10		Coordinator
Participation of young people	Youth conference	1.2.11		Coordinator
Special offers to young people/workshops etc.	Implementation of 3 youth workers	1.3.11		
Self-organised activities for young people	Youth projects	1.3.11	25.000/ year	Youth worker
Project is working	Ending of implementation phase	1.5.11		

3.3 Conditions of a permanent Motivation

To keep the young peoples motivation on a permanent high during the project it is important to give them support by a professional social worker who is reachable and who gives help when needed. This point leads us directly to building up and supporting structures of communications for the young people.

For a permanent use of those structures they have to be designed in an attractive layout and have to be regularly updated.

To grant a continuity of offers it is necessary to make sure that the ideas and the working process will never stop and a selection of exiting offers for the youngsters is given at any time. Furthermore the young people have to be kept motivated.

To gain the attention of potential new members and also to present the achievements of the youth project it is important not to neglect public relations. That contains always being visual, promoting permanently and to advertise in commercials and other medias in teamwork with the young people.

Last but not least it is absolutely necessary to show our appreciation to the youngsters. This can be shown in forms of awards or certificates for good engagement and special offers like discounts for trips ect.

4. Reflection

Finally we want to evaluate the whole IP program in Slovenia Novo Mesto. At first we have to mention that the program has been very successful for us and we have got a lot of new experiences.

Now we will separate our reflection in 4 different areas: content, methods, presentation and hospitality. The IP program implied many models i.e lectures, creative work, IGW, NGW and field-trips. We appreciated the variety of models and it was a good balance of different learning forms. Most of the lectures were very interesting for us. We liked the creative work very much. Because of the creative work we got a good group bonding between us i.e. the warm-up games which helped us to get to know each other. At this point special thanks to Daria and Marina for their engagement.

We thought it was a good way to have separated time for the national cases in IGW. Furthermore we had enough time for the NGW, so we could prepare our presentations.

The field- trips were very interesting and so we were able to compare the social work system in Slovenia to our social work system. The guides in the institutions were very friendly and answered our questions.

The methods were very effective and they supported our work very well. We used methods like learning café, creative group work and brainstorming. All these methods promoted our work and gave us new ideas for our project.

We had two huge presentations in the two weeks. They helped us to understand the national cases better. Besides we could improve and clarify our national case. In the end we had a scheduled implementation plan, which we can use for the practice of our project.

We felt very comfortable in Slovenia because of the great hospitality of the university members, the teacher and our tutors. It was a pleasure that Slovenian students spent so much time with us at the lunch and also after school. They cared about our needs and wishes.

The university members offered a lot of activities for us and we could join a lot of school activities. Especially we liked the schools day with the rock concert and sports activities and our excursion to Ljubljana, Koper and the Sea - coast. Overall we had great fun in Slovenia, we learned a lot and made new friends. It was a very successful students meeting and we want to thank all people who realized the IP program for us.