

PARTNERS

Holland

Rotterdam is the second largest City in the Netherlands one of the largest ports in the world. The population of the city was 616,250 in 2012. Rotterdam is one of Europe's most vibrant and multicultural cities. Almost half of the population is foreign-born citizens. Rotterdam is a major actor within the Greater Rijnmond area and plays a significant role in both the regional and local youth policy. The city has a lot of expertise in the prevention of young people falling out of the established systems. In this partnership Rotterdam can significantly contribute to the development of skills and learning programmes in this field.

Belgium

The organisation Riso brings the perspective of social vulnerable groups to the surface and influences policy based on this perspective. Together with these groups, Riso initiates projects concerning accommodation, isolation, education etc. via community work. An important target group of the organisation is youth at risk. The project "Never mind" works with young people with past experiences

of care. Their perspective is not systematically taken into consideration. Never mind like to change this by participating in this project.

Sweden

The city of Västerås is habitat of 140 000 and is situated west of Stockholm. The services for Leisure and Preventative work together with Upper secondary schools are active in this project.

The project Voices of youth would allow the city of Västerås and all activities it provides the support to develop work around participation and communication with young people. It is of specific interest as the project focus on young people that are not involved in traditional ways of working with for example student councils. The city of Västerås has a lot of exciting and innovative projects to show but also a lot to learn from others.

Voices of youth

SMS-Skills, Methods and Structures to support that the voices of young people are considered in policy and decision making

2013-2015

Voices of Youth

sm's

Leonardo Da Vinci

Lifelong learning

Partnership between

Sweden, Holland and Belgium



Summary of the planned partnership

The overall objective of this project is to address the issues concerning the difficulties that the European countries and institutions have in finding ways for political and social involvement of young people at risk of exclusion, as well as young people who are already socially excluded through for example drop-out from school or apprenticeships and employments, housing and relation problems. We intend to identify skills, methods and structures needed to boost true participation and inclusion of the voices of vulnerable youngsters in democratic processes, in policy making, care planning and in daily life decisions. In doing so we want to improve our own skills to work in a democratic and inclusive way. Increasing participation of vulnerable youngsters at all levels may also hopefully be a small contribution towards combating poverty and decreasing drop-outs from schools in accordance with the Europe 2020 agenda.

The partners intend to gather "best practice" ways of approaching the issues through exchange of experiences, in study visits and discussions, in and between meetings. We also intend to learn from young people and take into consideration their input from their life experiences and from their participation in the

study visits and discussions. We intend to evaluate the data that is gathered and identify the skills, methods and structures that lead to the desired outcomes and set out criteria's for elements needed in the non-formal training of professionals who work in the different institutions designed to work with young people, such as social workers, teachers, trainers and youth workers, and also the training of youngsters themselves. This will be published on our respective web-pages and also on the ENSA (European Network of Social Authorities) web-page.

Timetable for travelling and meetings

Host	Time
Holland-Rotterdam	2014 23-27 April
Sweden - Västerås	2014 27-30 October
Belgium Leuven	2015 Easter holiday

Voices of youth in the City of Västerås

During 2013 the city of Västerås was working actively with finding ways to involve young people in decision making. The aim of the work was to find a better lasting structure for communication between young people and politicians. The city of Västerås like to find a

way that is of such character that it can be maintained and last over time. This has been discussed for the last year and implementation started in January 2014

A smaller group of young people will be able to apply for summer work to develop new ways of working with citizenship.

Mission of this method development project is

- Together with young people in Västerås develop a structure and method for citizenship especially for the politician within the Board of education

- The main group for this work of citizenship is young people from 12 to 19 year old.

The project Voices of youth would allow the city of Västerås and all activities there within the support with the developing work around participation and communication for and with young people. It is of specific interest as the project focus on young people that are not involved in working with empowerment and democracy.

Contacts

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