

# “Quality Matters in Information for Young People”

Paris, 15-18 September 2005

European Seminar, organised jointly by ERYICA, Eurodesk and EYCA

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DESCRIPTION OF QUALITY INITIATIVE OR PROJECT CONCERNING INFORMATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE</b> <i>included in Compendium of Quality Initiatives/Projects prepared for the European Seminar</i></p>
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Organisation: **Helsinki Youth Department**      European Affiliation: **ERYICA** (via Allianssi)

1. **Name of Initiative** (project, activity, service or product):

**FINLAND: “Verne” - Training Course to Develop Peer Youth Information Work**

2. **Description of Initiative or Project** (*please give a short but complete description, including the aim of the initiative or project*):

Aims:

- To develop peer youth information and counselling in Helsinki City Youth Dept
- To find out proper way to involve young people in passing information and counselling to their peers
- To coach youth information workers to use method of peer youth information in their daily work in youth information centres
- To develop a training course content for peer youth information and counselling, which can be adapted to other Verne courses (shorter or longer)
- To learn about the quality process in peer youth information and counselling work
- To identify mistakes to avoid in future and success stories to continue with
- To transfer some of the Verne experience to Estonian youth information workers and young people (through the E.U. Youth Programme)
- Continuation of Verne : to develop peer youth information in Helsinki City, 2004 - 2006 (peer youth information project in the youth activity house Tapulikaupunki; participation of young people in peer youth information and counselling: 6-day training course for youth workers from Helsinki City and Tallinn City Youth Departments)

3. **Aspect of Quality relating to Youth Information Addressed by This Initiative :**

(*please click on / activate the box which corresponds to your answer*)

This is:

- a) an initiative that **identifies one or more quality factors as a basis for analysing / evaluating the quality / impact** of a youth information activity or service
- b) an initiative or project that **assesses the quality of the information provided**
- c) an initiative or project that seeks **to maximise the distribution / impact of the information provided**

d) an initiative / project that addresses **another aspect of quality** (specify the aspect):

*Peer youth information process*

**4. Name and Address of Organisation Responsible for This Initiative:**

Name: Helsinki City Youth Department: Kompassi Youth Information Centre,  
Dooris Counselling Centre, in co-operation with local Finnish Red  
Cross Haavi project  
Address: PL 5000, 00099 Helsinki City

**5. Name and E-mail Address of Person to Contact** (for information about this initiative):

Name: Päivi Timonen-Verma  
E-mail Address: timoska@lasipalatsi.fi

**6. Who Participated in This Initiative ?**

2002-2004: 6 youth information and counselling workers, 11 young people  
2004-2005:  
- Tapulikaupunki Verne 2005: 11 young people, 2 youth workers,  
- Participation of young people in peer youth information and counselling – 6-day  
training course for youth workers of Helsinki City and Tallinn City Youth  
Departments: 20 participants, 2 trainers from Helsinki City Youth Department,  
1 trainer from Tallinn, 2 students of youth and social work studies  
- Survey of the need for peer youth information and counselling as part of the daily  
work in the youth activity centres and youth work locations (51 answers from  
youth workers from the Youth Department of the Helsinki City).

**7. What Was the Scope of This Initiative?**

*(please click on / activate the box which corresponds to your answer)*

Local  Regional  National  European

**8. When Was This Initiative Undertaken** *(please state the date when the activity was started, when it finished, or if it is still continuing):*

First phase in 2002-2004; second phase in 2004-2005 = still continuing.

**9. What Were the Results Obtained by This Initiative?**

Youth information workers got a very good experience in organising peer youth information and counselling for young people:

- to develop internal network between local counselling professionals
- to measure the possibilities for using this method in the future
- to discover the differences in terms of quality between using the peer information method and so-called traditional youth information work.

Young people gave a very positive evaluation about the Verne course, they felt that they are getting skills needed that they can support their peers. During the Verne course they started to see their role differently in their discussions with their friends and peers so that they felt that they could transmit information during these discussions.

A single Verne course :

- gave experience of participating in a project which is supported (50%) by the Youth Programme of the European Union
- 50% of the young people participating came from an immigrant background

**10. Report – Publication – Other Product** (if there is a report, publication or other “product” relating to this initiative, please state where it can be obtained or consulted, and in which language):

The following material is available concerning this initiative:

(please click on / activate the box **which corresponds to your answer**)

Report  Publication  Other Product (specify) .....

Title: “Verne” - Peer youth information and counselling

Language(s): Finnish

Can be consulted / downloaded at this web-site: <http://www.kompassi.info>

Can be obtained from (address of organisation): See below

**11. Additional Information:**

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This description form has been completed by:

Name of Person: Päivi Timonen-Verma  
Planning Officer, peer youth information and counselling

E-mail Address: [timoska@lasipalatsi.fi](mailto:timoska@lasipalatsi.fi)

Name of Organisation: Helsinki City Youth Department