

“Participation of Young People in Youth Information Work”

Vienna, 20-23 April 2006

European Seminar, organised jointly by ERYICA, Eurodesk and EYCA,
in the framework of the Austrian Presidency of the European Union

<p>DESCRIPTION OF INITIATIVE OR PROJECT INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE DIRECTLY IN AN ASPECT OF YOUTH INFORMATION WORK included in Compendium of Projects prepared for the European Seminar</p>
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Ref: **06-14**

Organisation: **Helsinki Youth Dept.**

European Affiliation: **ERYICA** (via Allianssi)

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

14 - FINLAND: VIP - Peer Youth Info at Tapulikaupunki Youth Centre
(Helsinki City, Youth Department, Finland)

2. **Description of Initiative or Project:**

VIP – Peer Youth Info at the Tapulikaupunki Youth Centre will be given by young people from the 1 March 2006, on Mondays and Wednesdays at 17:30 – 21:00 and on Thursdays at 13:30 – 16:30. To make this possible, there has been almost one year of training young people on youth information issues. The peer youth information training started on 23 March 2005, and since then there have been 6-10 young people participating in coaching sessions once a week (3 hours per week) and participating in 2 youth information camps on weekends.

14-16 years old young people have different cultural backgrounds and, if needed, there is the possibility to organise discussions with trained peers in Finnish, Swedish, English, Russian, Estonian, French and Turkish. They have been planning the contents for coaching sessions as well as deciding the information topics that interest them, then they collect and classify the information.

During autumn 2005 there has been coaching on following topics: information supply, how to make information folders, listening and counselling /advice skills, how to write a good information letter, team building, and at last but not the least having fun.

Two youth workers of Tapulikaupunki Youth Centre, Mrs. Eija Hautala (responsible of the project) and Mr. Paavo Veikolainen are running the project with young people, with support from Mrs. Päivi Timonen-Verma (planning officer, Youth Department). The peer youth information project has also been a learning session for the youth workers. The project is financed by the project fund of the State Provincial Office of Southern Finland and by the City of Helsinki.

Tapulikaupunki Youth Centre is part of the North-Eastern Youth Work Unit in the Youth Department. The North-eastern Youth Work Unit is responsible for around 5,000 10-18 year old young people within a wider population of around 36,000 persons. The area is socio-economically very diverse.

<p>The mission of the <u>Helsinki City Youth Department</u> is to support young people's life choices and their sense of responsibility as well as to increase their participation. In the first place, this means creating the prerequisites for moral and ideological growth; secondly it means facilitating their skills, motivation and experiences in civic interaction, and thirdly it means shouldering responsibilities for young people's social risks and place in society.</p> <p>General Objectives of the Helsinki City Youth Department</p> <p><u>Promoting participation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To provide the pre-requisites for participation by young people and the opportunities within their own environments and in representational decision-making systems. - To develop new models for participation by using of new technology, cultural expression, as well as national and international co-operation. <p><u>Social reinforcement:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To exert influence in those areas, youth groups and situations where there is the clearest need for social reinforcement. - To focus multi-disciplinary support services on young people with special needs.
<p>3. Form of Youth Participation in Youth Information Addressed by This Initiative :</p> <p>This is:</p> <p>c) An initiative or project that involves young people directly in informing or advising other young people <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>4. Name and Address of Organisation Responsible for This Initiative:</p> <p>Tapulikaupungin nuorisotalo (Tapulikaupunki Youth Centre) - Mrs. Eija Hautala Street Address: Ajurinaukio 5, 00750 Helsinki 75, Finland - Tel. +358 9 3868471 Postal Address: P.O.B Box 5114, 00099 Helsinki City</p> <p>and Helsinki City Youth Department - Mrs. Päivi Timonen-Verma P.O.B Box 5000, 00099 Helsinki City - Tel. +358-41-5121767 paivi.timonen-verma@nk.hel.fi</p>
<p>5. Name and E-mail Address of Person to Contact (for information about this initiative):</p> <p>Päivi Timonen-Verma (English, German, Spanish, Swedish, Finnish) or Eija Hautala (Finnish language) paivi.timonen-verma@nk.hel.fi eija.hautala@nk.hel.fi</p>
<p>6. Who Participated in This Initiative ?</p> <p>14-16 year old young people, who have different cultural backgrounds and who live at the Tapulikaupunki district in Helsinki.</p>
<p>7. What Was the Scope of This Initiative? <i>(please click on / activate the box which corresponds to your answer)</i></p> <p>Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> European <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>8. When Was This Initiative Undertaken:</p> <p>The peer youth information training started on 23.3.2005 at Tapulikaupunki Youth Centre in Helsinki, Finland - and is still continuing. Young people will open the Peer Youth Info on 1 March 2006.</p>

9. What Were the Results Obtained by This Initiative?

- Young people have participated in training / coaching on youth information work (once a week 3 hours, in spring 2005, and autumn 2005).
- There have been 2 youth information weekend training courses (one in Finland and one in Estonia).
- Youth workers have got more information and knowledge about how to work with youth information issues.
- Having fun together.
- There is a lot of material produced by the coaching and training sessions.
- The Tapulikaupunki Peer Youth Info will be open for 15-25-years old on 1 March 2006 run by young people who participated in coaching sessions during spring and autumn 2005.
- Evaluation of the project is done in co-operation of young people. Young people have participated in the project at different levels: they chose the interior design for Peer Youth Info at the youth centre, they influenced the content of coaching sessions, they collected information, etc.

10. Report – Publication – Other Product:

Not yet any official reports.

11. Additional Information:

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This description form has been completed by:

Name of Person: Mrs. Päivi Timonen-Verma
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Name of Organisation: Helsinki City Youth Department