

“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: **06-33**

Organisation: **InformaGiovani, Torino**

European Affiliation: **ERYICA**

<p>1. Name of Initiative (project, activity, service or product):</p>
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<p>33 - ITALY: “InfoTraPari” (peer information)</p>
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<p>2. Description of Initiative or Project (<i>please give a short but complete description, including the aim of the initiative or project</i>):</p>
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The aim of the project is to make young people themselves act as “information operators” for their peers and to increase their capacity to use information resources. Although in Turin there are many information services, the percentage of young people who attend them is really small and those who are missing the call are precisely the categories of young people that most need information and guidance. Specifically, they are the residents of suburban areas and marginalised young people (foreigners, minors at risk, etc.). So we worked on the idea of reaching young people where they live, play, spend their time: above all, in the schools. Moreover, we wanted to support their participation in information processes, along the lines of the recommendations of the European Commission about the involvement and participation of young people in the conception and realisation of projects designed for them.

During the school year 2004-2005, we began with 6 high schools: 2 “liceo”, 2 technical institutes and 2 centres of vocational education. I worked there with another colleague, who is an educator, and in collaboration with one teacher in every school.

In each situation we constituted a group of teenagers who worked with us around an information topic that was chosen by them on the basis of their opinion about the information needs of their peers inside the school. We developed with each group all the steps typical of our job: research and selection of the information, its elaboration, and communicating it to their peers.

During this school year, we are working with 9 high schools and 3 youth clubs: instead of municipal staff, we use young educators from the 3 youth clubs who follow the peer groups in the schools. They are working particularly on the needs of young people and are experimenting with new ways and tools to spread information to all the schools. With this project, we want in particular to train young people to:

- Spread among their peers information on opportunities and services that the city offers
- Organise information activities using adequate tools and methods.

3. Form of Youth Participation in Youth Information Addressed by This Initiative :

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

This is:

- a) An initiative or project that **involves young people directly in the identification of the information needs of young people in their locality or field of interest**
- b) An initiative or project that **involves young people directly in the designing and preparation of information magazines and materials** (for a young public)
- c) An initiative or project that **involves young people directly in informing or advising other young people**
- d) An initiative or project that **involves young people directly in managing or evaluating youth information centres or other services** (such as a youth card)
- e) An initiative or project that addresses **another aspect of youth participation in youth information work** (please specify the aspect):

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

Name: Centro InformaGiovani – Municipality of Turin
Address: Via delle Orfane 22, Torino, Italy

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

Name: Maria Grazia Gay
E-mail Address: grazia.gay@comune.torino.it

6. Who Participated in This Initiative ? (see point n.8)

- 1) 6 high schools (1 teacher and a group of peers in each school) and 2 staff from the city Youth Policy Department
2) 9 high schools with their peer groups and 3 youth clubs

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):*

- 1) We experimented with this new initiative during the school year 2004-2005
2) The activity is still continuing during this school year

9. What Were the Results Obtained by This Initiative?

SWOT analysis of the project

Strong points

Methodological model that can be repeated in other situations
Responsibility of young people towards their peers
Greater knowledge of the opportunities offered by the city
Possibility to get new ideas from young people

Weak points

Project limited in scope: it is not possible to extend the same methodological process to all the high schools in Turin, because of the cost

How to keep alive the assuming of responsibility by young people in the long-term

Opportunities

Effective collaboration between different organisations

Learning new ways and tools to do information work

Development of some parts of this methodological process

Threats

Rigidity of the school organisation

Difficulty of the school and the city to recognize the efforts of the young people involved.

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:

Language(s):

Can be consulted / downloaded at this web-site:

Can be obtained from (address of organisation):

11. Additional Information:

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This description form has been completed by:

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Name of Organisation: Centro InformaGiovani, Municipality of Turin, Italy