

“Participation of Young People in Youth Information Work”

Vienna, 20-23 April 2006

European Seminar, organised jointly by ERYICA, Eurodesk and EYCA,
in the frame work 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: **06-05**

Organisation: **IN PETTO**

European Affiliation: **ERYICA**

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

05 - BELGIUM (Flanders): Spécial (Ab)normàl

- Magazine with / for young people -

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

In Petto is a “national” (on the Flemish level) youth service for information and prevention. Working philosophy at In Petto includes three steps:

1. youth information research among young people on specific theme
2. producing general information products for young people, and
3. developing working methods for youth workers.

The information products are written with varying degrees of participation by young people. Most of the time young people are involved through research (get their opinions) or evaluations. The magazines are made more lively with quotes from young people.

Spécial (Ab)normàl is a new general information In Petto product, which is mostly written with young people. First there was a research on diversity and bullying, a questionnaire filled in by 1,800 young people. Then young people were found to write or make pictures for the magazine. The contributions of the young people make up more than 50% of the magazine. They also helped to decide what should be the content of the magazine. The magazine will be distributed as part of the campaign “all equal, all different” in Flanders.

There are two basic aims of the project:

- 1) to inform and empower young people about living in the world of diversity, facing the violence and bullying that are a part of it, to provide different views on diversity and to support them with important information.
- 2) to involve young people in the creation of the magazine, accepting them as partners in the editorial team, giving them an opportunity to take responsibility and be creative, motivating them to share their perspectives and ideas with peers and adults.

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: InPetto – Jeugddienst informatie en preventie
Address: Diksmuidelaan 50, B-2600 Berchem, Belgium

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

Name: Anna Demuylder
E-mail Address: anna@inpetto-jeugddienst.be

6. Who Participated in This Initiative ?

21 young people as an editorial team, and 2 people from the In Petto team.

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):*

Youngsters were actively involved in the process from December 2005 to April 2006, though the planning of the project started earlier, in April 2005.

The positive experience with the group of young people as creators of youth information in the form of a magazine inspired us to keep on working with the group, this time on our youth information web-site. From that point of view, the project is not finished yet.

9. What Were the Results Obtained by This Initiative?

The magazine is a result of this initiative. But there are also results, which were obtained in the process of preparing the magazine:

- young people got the experience of participation in an editorial team
- young people got the experience of team work
- young people could express themselves and realise their own ideas (with the help of co-ordinators, if needed)

- young people learnt more about diversity by preparing the articles
- young people took responsibility
- In Petto strengthened its links with young people
- In Petto got a closer view of young people's world
- In Petto got information about what is popular among young people
- In Petto succeeded in publishing the magazine in the language and according to the mind maps of young people.

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: Special Abnormaal (magazine)

Language(s): Dutch

Can be consulted / downloaded at this web-site:

Can be obtained from (address of organisation): InPetto, Diksmuidelaan 50,
B-2600 Berchem, Belgium

11. Additional Information:

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This description form has been completed by:

Name of Person: Anna Demuylder

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Name of Organisation: InPetto, Diksmuidelaan 50, B-2600 Berchem, Belgium