



Trova te stesso
 Trouve-toi
 Find yourself
 اکتشف ذاتك
 Hitta dig själv
 2018
 2021

SUPPORTING YOUTH VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT



PUBLISHING



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WHAT IS FINDYOURSELF ?

Findyourself's journey started in 2018, with the shared ambition of 4 organizations working with young people in Italy, Morocco, France and Sweden, **to promote and foster youth empowerment and youth active participation in our society.**

Throughout the project, the aim was to strengthen the capacities of the members of this partnership to support the dynamics of engagement and strengthen the capacity of young people to act in a Euro-Mediterranean dimension. The development of civic engagement and the power to act of young people is a major focus of work, shared by the four networks and which translates into different engagement pedagogies but with complementary approaches.

The objective of the project, through the exchange of tools and good practices, is to bring together and open a space between the different actors **to reflect on forms of engagement, to arouse and encourage the desire to act by young people and to create conditions conducive to the development of citizen initiatives** which contribute to general interest, to social cohesion as well as to the collective construction of a more just, united, responsible and ecological society.



The Findyourself project, to support the engagement of young people, was born in a context of changing societal challenges such as intolerance, community withdrawal, discrimination, the rise of radicalism and xenophobic parties in the euro Mediterranean area, the migration crisis and social inequalities. But also the weakening of civil engagement and citizen mobilization.

For this reason, the Federation of Social and Sociocultural Centers of France, Fritidsforum - Swedish federation for Youth centers and Settlements, Organization Alternatives for Childhood and Youth in Morocco and ARCS - Arci culture solidali of Italy, have proposed and have carried out this project together.

And with what ? With their experiences, and their expertise in youth work. And why ? Because they have a common point of view, they consider that strengthening the engagement of young people is one of the priority issues for solving those challenges!

The Erasmus + program and in particular the Key Action 2 concerning strategic partnerships, has been a great opportunity to realize during almost three years, a program of transnational activities of exchange of practices on youth engagement work.

Our ambition was to organize two seminars, the first one to launch the project and the second one to adjust it, and eight face-to-face and virtual observation sessions. This allowed us, even in a pandemic context, to discover a diversity of methods and practices in a social, cultural and economic environment specific to each organization. The final Euro-Mediterranean Youth forum in hybrid format (virtual and face-to-face) allowed us to share lessons learned, among the stakeholders of the project but also with other youth workers and partners of our respective networks.

And even if the development of the Findyourself project was disturbed and weakened at times by Covid-19,

we can congratulate all the participants, host organizations, sending organizations, volunteer or salaried youth workers, national pilots, for having adapted their daily youth work during this pandemic situation, and for having readjusted the project to bring it to a successful conclusion.

The ambition of this document is to modestly share the way our four organizations work on the stake of youth engagement, through practices and methods of non-formal learning that have a real impact on the path and power to act of young people, but also in the sustainable development of the territories of life concerned.



ARCS
FRITIDSFORUM
FCSF
OAEJ

3

OUR 4 ORGANIZATIONS





WHO ARE WE ?

ORGANIZATION ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH

Organization Alternatives for Childhood and Youth is a national association, with branches in the different regions, provinces, cities and villages of the Kingdom of Morocco. It is an educational and cultural organization adopting the following four principles: **Democracy, Volunteering, Independence and Governance.**

The organization operates with all the means at its disposal, to improve and develop the situation of children and youth in Morocco. The objectives of the organization are:

- Increase the level and awareness of the educational, cultural and social rights of children and youth and their awareness of their duties towards their society.
- Make the participation of young people effective in the process of building a democratic society where social justice, modernity, solidarity and human rights reign.
- Develop the capacities and talents of children, adolescents and young people and their integration into the process of sustainable development in Morocco.
- Immune and defend the historical achievements of the associative movement and constitute a force of proposal for the improvement and strengthening of the services offered to children and Moroccan youth.





WHO ARE WE ?

ARCS

ARCS is a non-governmental organization established in Rome in 1985 by the will of ARCI (born in the 50'), one of the biggest associations of social and cultural promotion in the Italian Third Sector world and spread throughout the national territory.

The mission of Arci, which ARCS spread worldwide, is to foster the active participation of people, as individuals and as communities, to social and political life. It promotes processes of social change that guarantee every person, especially those who belong to vulnerable groups, full social inclusion and active citizenship path, complete enjoyment of civil rights, gender equality, access to education, professional training and decent work. ARCS acts to achieve a world of global rights, peace and democracy, fair and sustainable.



ARCS' activities are divided into international cooperation, humanitarian aid and education to global citizenship actions. ARCS supports the processes of affirmation of equal opportunities and gender empowerment rights, according to the principles of the International Convention on the elimination of all form of discrimination against the women adopted by the United Nations Assembly (CEDAW 1979). ARCS recognises and supports the right to autonomy and social integration of disabled people, ensures compliance with the rules on their protection and undertakes to ensure accessibility to working environments. Each person in ARCS strives to support freedom of expression, the right to health, dignity, safety, gender equality and education of children.

Same values took place in the youth sector with the same approach based on empowerment. In the last ten years our organization has mobilized about thousand volunteers involving them in the various initiatives activated from time to time in more than 15 countries.



WHO ARE WE ?

FRITIDSFORUM

Fritidsforum is a national federation created in 1937 which affirms the principle of equality regardless of age, sex, beliefs, cultural or ethnic origin. It has a network of 220 youth centers and 16 community centers. Through their work, they reach more than 30,000 young people by working with digital channels, education and self-reinforcing efforts.

Its mission is to support the actions of its members, in support of educational, cultural, training, access to rights, professional orientation and international exchange programs. It organizes events in collaboration with its members, for example thematic days around new technologies, ecology, social exclusion... It represents its members with the ministries and is associated with various public schemes. It brings its expertise to municipalities, foundations and other associative partners.

Within the youth sector, Fritidsforum's aim is to create faith in the future, spark and socially secure contexts in young people.

We work on 3 different levels, one of which is to support young people in their commitment to make their voices heard. We work according to all articles of the children's convention to ensure the right of young people to social security and development. We do this by organizing workshops, projects, local and regional as well as national meetings. We also give young people the opportunity to seek project grants through us.

The second level is about safe adults and providing skills to all adults who enter their profession into contact with young people. By educating adults in attitudes and standards, we enable young people to feel included.

The third level is the formation of opinion in which our work on politics becomes extra important.

WHO ARE WE ?

FEDERATION OF SOCIAL AND SOCIOCULTURAL CENTERS

The Federation of Social and sociocultural Centers of France was founded in 1922, right after World War I, when the generalization of a family policy led to the creation of numerous social centers in order to make accessible to families medico-social and social services.

Our network gather 1300 social centers and 57 local federations, spread across the country, in cities, working-class neighborhoods or countryside.

Social centers are recognized and financed by the Family Allowance Fund and also receive funding from local authorities (mainly cities, but also counties, regions and decentralized state services).

In addition to federating and animating the network, the Federation of Social centers advocates for them towards public authorities, and carries out several national thematic projects such as youth, digital, culture or rural and urban territories.

What are social centers ?

Social centers are local structures which enliven local life and social ties. Through activities, services support for citizen mobilization, social centers, build with inhabitants and local actors better conditions of living and contributes to social cohesion and development of territories. Our network acts for a living democracy in which the inhabitants have a place, can act and influence decisions and develop their empowerment.

Social centers are considered to be “inhabitants’ houses”, supported by and for inhabitants. They provide services, activities and individual support (for young people, it means academic support, mobility aid, support to set up a project, help to develop digital skills, etc.)

They also help people to build a collective project meeting their needs, to debate, to be involved in local instances, to gather around specific local issues, etc.



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YOUTH POLICY IN EACH ORGANIZATION



FRANCE

Social centers welcome toddlers, children, teenagers and more than **130 000 young adults** (18-25 yo) each year. 77% of social centers develop a youth sector or actions targeted to youth, such as help with homework, organization of holiday stays, regular or occasional activities, etc.

To go further than this policy of unconditional welcoming, offering activities and supporting youth projects, and because young people face precariousness and ever-increasing difficulties in accessing training and employment, we need to adapt our work practices so that they can meet their needs and desires. This is why the whole network of social centers decided a few years ago through a political text called the "Youth motion" **to strengthen youth commitment and citizenship and to support youth empowerment.** The driving force behind this : working with them, starting from their issues.

Within this "Youth motion", we created a mutual funding to support youth projects fostering empowerment led by social centers or local federations. We also reinforce youth workers' training in order to develop new skills and experiment new ways of working with young people, and organize peers' meetings for youth workers to share and exchange work practices.

We also promote spaces of meeting, debate and construction of a common political voice between young people, both locally and nationally.

While entering a social center to participate in a leisure activity, young people are offered the possibility to organize their own leisure time, for them and for others. The local federation might then invite them to meetings with board members or locally elected people ; they thus discover that they have a voice, they get confident. **The journey of their commitment in local associations and neighborhoods is growing thanks to these different doors and paths we open, starting from their needs and wishes.**

YOUTH POLICY IN...

SWEDEN

Fritidsforum - The Swedish national federation for Youth centers and Settlements, focus on young peoples self organization and influence in society. And we do think that international exchanges are extremely important for an open society; to see differences and similarities, to adapt good methods and to get a wider perspective on life and society.

Our agenda is to create faith in the future and socially secure contexts for young people. We work on 3 different levels, one of which is to **support young people in their commitment to make their voices heard.**

We work according to all articles of the children's convention to ensure the right of young people to social security and development.

We do this by organizing, workshops, projects, local and regional as well as national meetings. We also give young people the opportunity to seek project grants through us.

The second level is to **secure the competence of youth workers and provide further education to them.** By educating youth workers in attitudes and standards, we enable young people to feel included.

The third level is **advocacy in which our work on politics becomes extra important.**

MOROCCO

Young people are a force for change and influence which strongly shapes reality, especially in a country like ours where young people represent 40% of the population. They face economic exclusion which is closely linked to exclusion from decision-making processes, hence the voice of young people remains largely ignored.

Therefore, Organization Alternatives for Childhood and Youth considers it necessary to **readjust governance frameworks so that young people have a more important role in the articulation of public policies.** Their absence from decision-making spheres and from civil society reduces their sense of belonging to their community, leads to their marginalization and increases the risks of radicalization.

Based on this assessment, our organization strongly believes that the participation of young people in civic life is a fundamental right. They have a crucial role to play in terms of social change, as future adults, but also as active citizens, by developing or contributing to individual or collective actions.

The engagement of young people must be centered on their motivations and strengths. The knowledge of human rights facilitate their involvement in the process of social change and legitimize their action with state actors.

It is in this context that our organization tries to strengthen the involvement of young volunteers working in several fields of action : protection of women, children, marginalized people and young workers ; cultural and professional integration of immigrant women ; social entrepreneurship and social innovation ; prevention of violence, conflict and peacebuilding ; encouragement of political participation of young people ; and promotion of human rights and intercultural dialogue. We do this through several intervention channels **focused on a participatory and partnership approach and a solid commitment of our young volunteers.**

ITALY

Today, participation and empowerment are one of the most powerful driving forces to change the world. Democracies all over the world have lost their original meaning and practices. The biggest challenge for democratic systems nowadays is how to democratize democracy. We are facing the crisis of political representation and the weakness of international institutions. This means we should widen the public space and strengthen citizenship as a double-faced coin: on one side the access to citizens' rights, on the other side their private and collective responsibilities.

This is the core of any type of education to global citizenship and it means that **our mission should be to involve citizens from a young age**. Indeed youngsters are more reactive and enthusiastic to changes and **we should consider carefully the methods and tools we use with them, in the time of their political and social training and growth**.

One key-word that represents ARCI's philosophy is self-organization. **We let youngsters self-organize and find their own way to achieve a common purpose, without any kind of paternalistic attitude**.

Activities organized by them are then very various, from social campaigns to video making trainings, theatre and photography courses, from arranging meetings with other youngsters, to helping migrants learn the Italian language or supporting mutualistic actions.

When ARCI goes international, it sounds like ARCS. The NGO of ARCS is engaged in **building transversal bridges with communities, associations and civil society of other countries**, overcoming the physical boundaries that constrain people into national identities and supporting the creation of joint struggles on common issues. To achieve it, we organize activities that improve mutual knowledge beyond stereotypes, such as short and long volunteering activities, Peace corps programme, workshop of social photography and video-making, youth exchanges, exchanges of good practices among organizations. Youngsters can then choose to spend two weeks in Palestine or to attend a photo reportage workshop in Cuba and once back in their local "circoli", they put in common what they discovered, learnt and improved, giving back to their communities and peers knowledge and skills.

5

METHODS AND PRACTICES DISCOVERED



MAKING OBJECTS THANKS TO DIGITAL TOOLS TO HELP DISABLED PEOPLE



E-FABRIK brings together school drop-outs youngsters and people with disabilities by creating a link between a youth structure, a disability structure and a digital fablab. Together, they imagine and produce a concrete solution to respond to the discomfort experienced by people with disabilities on a daily basis by learning to use digital manufacturing tools.

For example, during 3 months, Redwan, Maylis and Adnène have created with Cyrille, who is visually impaired, a clip system to hang his cane to his belt very easily.

The local fablab allows the use of its machines and technical referents ; the Cesam association mobilize school dropouts ; and local educational medical institutes mobilize disabled childrens and adults.



I've learnt to use digital tools to design and manufacture signboards to guide visitors to the center. I felt motivated and responsible to complete the project and make it successful because there were people counting on us. With this experience, I've learnt skills and gained confidence. I did an internship in the Fablab and now want to get a degree in digital mediation, which represents a kind of social advancement for me.

ALISON



ADDRESSING THE QUESTION OF DOMINATION RELATIONSHIPS

UNDERSTAND AND ACT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE ON DOMINATION RELATIONS

In the network of social centers, we welcome young people from all social backgrounds. Some experience discrimination or domination which creates situations of anger or violence.

In our approach to Empowerment, we observed that youth workers, like young people, live or witness complex situations without knowing how to approach it or what to do with it. In fact, our goals of social justice and support for dominated populations presuppose that we take into account these situations and mechanisms whenever we work with people.

Yet, the transmission of these contents of sociology and social psychology is often incomplete, even absent. Sometimes because they are seen as too complex, or for fear of not knowing how to popularize them.

It is then necessary to train youth workers on domination relationships, to better understand the functioning of our society and to allow them to act with groups of young people. So we called Sebastien Hovart, ludo-educator, who built a method to discuss these questions with young people.

1- Direct introduction

It is useful, even necessary, to talk about and understand these issues of social inequalities and power dynamics within our society. The subject is complex but we will treat it at our level : everyone has experience, and something to say about it.

Some inequalities we will describe are difficult to hear and to face, but describing them does not mean validating them. Describing these injustices is necessary, if only to agree or disagree, and to find ways to act on them.

2- The initial question

In small groups, with time for discussion: list, in our society today, what makes us more or less well treated socially. In other words : it is better to be what than what ?

ADDRESSING THE QUESTION OF DOMINATION RELATIONS

UNDERSTAND AND ACT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN POPULAR EDUCATION

3- Pooling

Participants group their answers. The facilitator places the three central forms of domination at the top of the page: sex, race, class, and below all others, with no order preference.

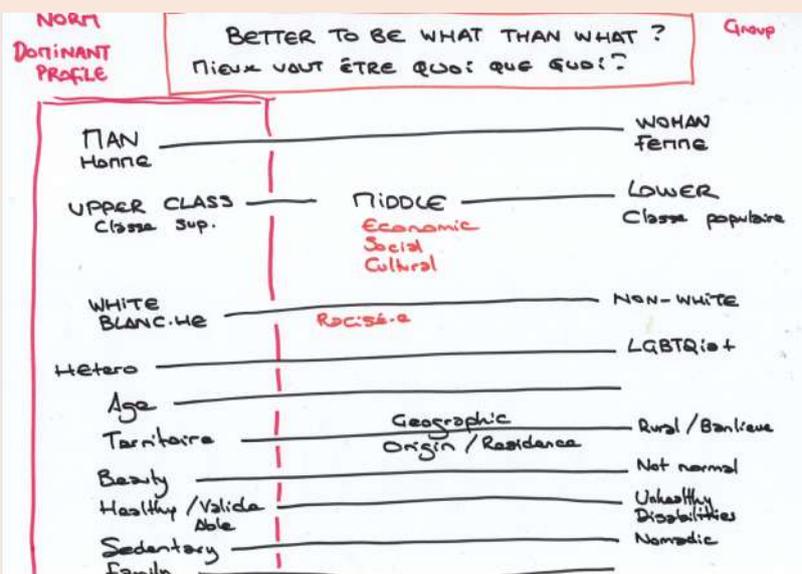
4- Explanations

After setting these categories, the facilitator sheds light and definitions on various notions such as social class, ethno-racial domination, sex and gender, masculinity and symbolic violence.

5 - Discussion around our means of actions

The facilitator opens a discussion around: How do we make this change?

He or she concludes by stating the issues around this: Awareness issue, Collective awareness and collective action issue: we can act to make things happen, Issue in terms of the functioning of society and possible drifts, Issue of hope: yes, there are things that are moving.



Free youth parliament, an example of action where young people try to act on these domination relationships.

We offer an experience of direct democracy to young people who do not have the opportunity to influence political decisions. A free parliament takes place in a free and creative way: it begins with the dreams and anger of young people. This is what determines the topics of discussion in parliament. Then, it is a question of analyzing who can intervene on the issues which have been chosen, to organize a dialogue with decision-makers and to formulate proposals (prejudices to fight, collective actions to be carried out, laws to change). These are voted on by the young people gathered in a free parliament.



AN EDUCATION-TO-WORK CENTER FOR YOUTH BETWEEN 16 AND 20



During the observation course organized in the Region Liguria, participants have the chance to meet Laboratorio Cooperativa Social - Lab 85, which is an association part of the network of Arci Liguria. It is a youth centre, working since 1985 in the historic centre of Genoa on socio-educational activities for minors and youngsters between 15 and 25 years, who have left school for several and different reasons. For and with them, Lab85 organizes manufacturer training with the idea to give them practical tools that they can spend in the labour market, but also to foster their confidence, autonomy and social role in the society.

Once youngsters get in contact with Lab85, they are organized in workgroups, coordinated and supported by trainers. The working methods of the trainers allow them to experiment and increase their manufacturing skills in a positive, rewarding and protected environment.



Lab85 has two coexisting functions: to help young disadvantaged people in a difficult place where drug addictions, prostitution, school leaving and unemployment are rough and persistent realities; to support youngsters with orientation, training and job education paths, designed according to the personal characteristics of each young person.

The activities young people carry out in the center are: carpentry, metal carpentry, restoration, objects, ceramics, basic and advanced IT.

Over the years, Lab85 has also consolidated collaborative relationships with some local entities, to which it provides services such as maintenance and logistical support. This activity is now a peculiarity of our center and a valuable training opportunity for young people, who can experience work in an external and less "protected" context than Lab85.

START A PATH OF ACTIVE EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP



Promemoria Auschwitz is a practice of active citizenship for youngsters implemented by Memoratu, an ARCI association created in 2017 by a group of youngsters. Memoratu involves Sardinian youngsters (mainly students). By organising conferences and seminars, in collaboration with other local associations and institutions, Memoratu aims at empowering youngsters and tries to encourage them to become central and active figures in their cities and communities.

Promemoria Auschwitz is a way to let youngsters discover and understand the complexity of the world that surrounds us, starting from the past and its narratives, so that they can acquire the critical spirit necessary to take a leading role as citizens in the present.

The main goal of Promemoria Auschwitz is to educate youngsters to a free, critical and aware participation, offering a structured path able to foster a continuous relation between history, memory and citizenship.

It is a space where youngsters between 18 and 25 years old can meet and deepen historical and social issues, in a time when real testimonies from that time - II World War - start to disappear. The most important and intense stage of the project is the trip to Krakow.

The experience lived by the participants, once returned from the trip, is shared with the citizens in order to widen as much as possible the relapse on the territory and to enrich the reflection. The materials collected and processed by the participants (photographs, written productions, creation of a theatrical performance) are proposed to the citizens through the preparation of temporary exhibitions and debates. The participants share their testimony to the local institutions and to their schools, organizing workshops starting from the reflections and proposals that emerged from the students during the course.

A FORUM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO DISCUSS TOPICS THEY CARE ABOUT



The Youth parliament is a forum which is open for everyone between the ages of 12-25 in the municipality of Lund. The forum is planned and completed by a group of youth (the coordination group) and the specific theme of each forum is determined by the requests of the targeted group. During the forum lectures, workshops and the possibility to meet relevant organisations, politicians, decision-makers, civil servants is offered. The Youth parliament is the oldest Youth Forum in Sweden, established 2003, and there are 200 to 500 participants on each forum. They occur twice a year, thus one each semester.

“Lund Youth Politics”, a division in the public municipality. is the owner of the Youth parliament in the sense that they finance it. However, it is the “Youth Coordination group”, a group of 15 youngsters, that plan, organize and complete the parliament events, with some assistance from the “Youth Coaches” when acquired.

They do everything from inviting lecturers and associations, planning workshops, solving the practical challenges and ensure that everything goes on smoothly.

The requested themes of each forum varies according to ongoing trends. For example, since Greta Thunberg got recognized, youth wants to discuss climate. However, all our 63 Youth parliaments has touched various social questions, for example racism, LGBTQ+, mental illness and discrimination.

In order to adapt this concept, as a municipality, one has to have the politicians on board. They have to be ready to invest and give the full capacity in order for the project to succeed. Moreover, one has to be consistent and remember the reason behind the project.



YOUTH PARLIAMENT

A FORUM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO DISCUSS TOPICS THEY CARE ABOUT

Background

It all started 2002 when a group of politicians, civil servants and youth had a “Future-Workshop” on an island called Ven in Sweden. The aim of the Workshop was to discuss how Lund municipality could improve their work with youth influence. During this trip, the idea of Youth parliament was born and once it was established, there was no going back. The need for increased influence and participation within the municipality was outspoken by the youth, whilst the politicians and civil servants were the ones recognizing it.

Objectives

The objective of the action was primarily to create a bridge between politicians and youths in Lund where a functional dialogue takes place. The main core of youth politics are influence, dialogue and participation and these structures are permeated in the Youth parliament. Another objective was to eliminate the traditional hierarchies and have a forum that is flat in the sense that everyone’s voice is equally worth.



I had gone to these political events in connection to school couple of times and really enjoyed it. Then one of my closest friends joined the corporation group and invited me to join, telling me about how much fun it was, which was also the chance for me to go every time since we were the organizers.

The most important thing for me with this activity is the community you get from it. It has really helped me through a lot of tough times in my life.

I’ve really learned a lot about democracy, event organization and pushing political issues. We also get a real chance to change things for the better and make a difference. We have had the opportunity to be a part of the official process of making the plans and goals for the work done by our municipality.

For example, we have recently been able to get the salaries raised for the youth doing summer jobs within the municipality and to held free activities for children during summer break. We get to educate people, get them to think about and talk about politics both from a local and global perspective. We get the possibility to create dialogue between young people and local politicians.



YOUTH PARLIAMENT PARTICIPANT



SUPPORT AND FUNDING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROJECTS

“Youth leads Youth” is about empowerment and active citizenship. Young people between the ages of 13 and 25 can apply for funding for events, excursions or other projects that target other youth. Also possible to apply for running an Youth organization.

Background

The idea to create a fund where Youth can apply for means to carry through small scale projects was born in a municipality in northern Sweden about ten years ago. The idea has spread all over the country in organizations and municipalities and arrived in Lund about 5 years ago.

Objectives

The most important objective is to empower Youth to take responsibility and to support their engagement and interests. Another, subordinated, objective is to give youngsters skills and knowledge about how to apply for funding.

How it works

Lund municipality has a website where youngsters can apply for projects online. The document is simplified and easy to use. The following criteria needs to be fulfilled:

- Applicant(s) shall be between 13-25 yo
- The project shall be initiated, planned and carried through by youngsters
- The project shall be open for all other youngsters in the city
- The project theme should be about either culture, sports or/and active citizenship



Cornelia Karlsson is a young girl who compose and sings. She has participated in many different groups, projects and activities. As a member of Gipomusic, she wrote an application to “Young leads Young” and has been leading a group of girls that ended up with a performance in a local concert hall. A project that helped them raise their self esteem and sense of community.



There was already activities but they were run by adults. I found Young leads Young on Internet. After #metoo, it felt good to give young girls a chance to stand on their own two feet, to let young women grow and learn how to express themselves through music. Through this project, I have become more patient, learned to take responsibility and to deal with surprises. I have also made contacts with youngsters from different backgrounds.



CORNELIA



INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS IN SOCIOCULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Context

The integration of migrants in Morocco faces a number of issues, including language barrier, different education, employment, political system and cultural concepts.

The integration process takes place when the cultural identity of the country of origin is retained. At the same time, the adoption of the cultural norms of the country of residence and the fusion between the two components identities does not mean that the immigrant has merged completely. Integration can carry several connotations (cultural integration, integration with the legislative environment, labor market, social relations, education, health and housing). In this regard, this issue does not only belong to immigrants but also to the Moroccan society. It must play an important and active role in the integration of immigrants, as well as the connection and consolidation of relations between the different human groups present in our country.

Negative representations are a justification for exclusion and marginalization. Therefore, integration policy cannot be successful in light of the continued dominance of these false beliefs which directly and indirectly affect political and legal decisions. Identity is a complex dynamic in which various factors interact, in response to criteria imposed on groups and individuals.

Establishing values of tolerance is a culture that transcends political or legal procedures, despite the importance of legal and institutional development in preventing discrimination and hatred. The process of integrating immigrants is complex and requires concerted efforts on the part of all political, cultural, media and educational actors to disseminate, deepen and apply the principles of tolerance, recognition and acceptance.

Alternative Organization for Childhood and Youth, through a network of branches located in different regions and actors, participate in supporting national efforts aimed at activating the new national migration policy.

Program objectives :

- Affirming the possibility of a peaceful coexistence between the different cultures of immigrants, for a plural and diverse citizenship;
- Building bridges between Moroccans and immigrants in order to exclude stereotypes and address more than our historical and geographic roots;
- Contributing to the prosperity and development of cultures to bring people together
- Promoting cultural and linguistic diversity as a "common heritage of humanity", as a mean of strengthening cooperation and preserving cultural heritage;



MEET REMOTE VILLAGES AND ISOLATED PEOPLE

From November to January of each year, Alternative Organization for Childhood and Youth organizes solidarity caravans in isolated villages in various regions of Morocco, to share with their inhabitants their suffering and to sensitize them. They are not alone in coping with the difficult conditions in their regions.

The young people of the association volunteer to organize these convoys. They work to coordinate their efforts both during the preparation and in the areas to which they are moving, according to their own capacities, suggestions, and the donations of citizens and families, trying to fill a void for the participation of residents of areas that the state has not yet been able to get out of.

These challenges are launched in simple steps: the young people post advertisements on social media months before the convoy ; they explain the convoy's objectives, what it needs, and the groups they are targeting.

These caravans highlight Moroccan's solidarity : by spreading the word, young people can collect food, blankets, clothes, children's toys, books...

Many values are instilled during these challenges :

- Develop collective spirit and teamwork among young people in order to rid them of individual tendencies. Strengthen citizenship by spreading the patriotic spirit, by deepening the spirit of belonging to the challenges

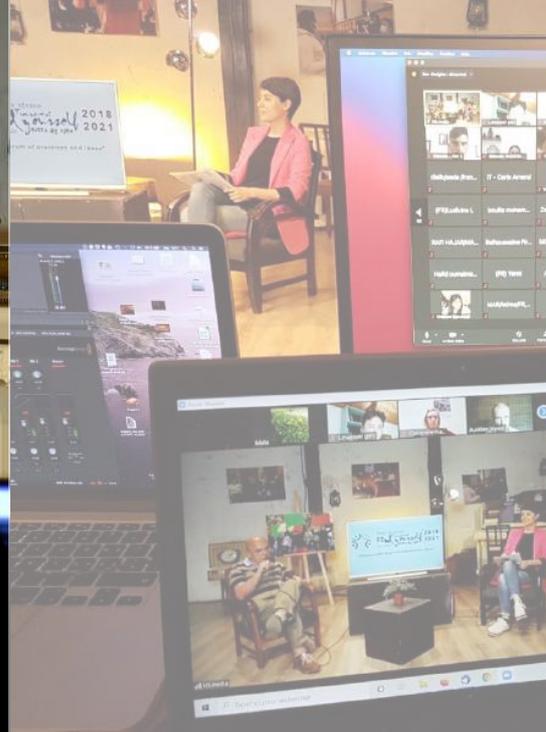
- Gather and unify the energies of the youth towards national and social objectives and priorities at each stage of the development of society, and use these energies in the best possible way towards these objectives and priorities.

- Promote the values of cooperation, solidarity and tolerance among members of society, especially young people, in a way that emphasizes social cohesion and by launching youth initiatives; Offer voluntary services that contribute to the voluntary engagement of young people and their community participation.

These initiatives, although seemingly simple, leave a good impact on the hearts of the residents of these neighborhoods, who have high expectations of the state, while it seems their role has not yet arrived.

Lessons learned from the program

It has placed citizens at the center of the path of the related workshops, allowing them to benefit from the best conditions and to bring together services. The stages of involvement of young people and their civil bodies in advocacy have been determining in order to influence the development of public policies so that the scope of their work does not rest only on filling in the gaps and imbalances.



FINAL EVENT: THE YOUTH FORUM !

For 3 days, more than 100 participants from France, Sweden, Italy and Morocco gathered - online! - for the youth forum. This interactive seminar marked the end of the Erasmus + program "Findyourself".

In addition, about 20 members from our 4 organizations met in Paris to host this event like a real TV show!

"We should consider youth as full citizens and train them to be the leaders of the future"

participant

WEDNESDAY 9 JUNE

WELCOME

9H45 Welcoming and program

PODCAST

10H20

Disengaged? Individualists? Disinterested? Youth engagement, an asset for the transformation of society in the Euro-Mediterranean

with Jocelyn Lachance, socio-anthropologist and searcher in educational sciences
Lama Zeinoïn Tabet, trainer and expert in youth and women empowerment in euro-mediterranean countries
Yacine Bellarab, responsible of International Cooperation for the Youth and Sports ministry of Morocco

10H35 Reactions and exchanges

PLENARY

10H55

Youth and youth work in our organizations, what are we talking about ?

Who are we and why we wanted to cooperate together on Findyourself.

Followed by presentations of our youth work specificities within our organizations

LUNCH - 12H

SHARING

14H

What have we learnt from one another ?

Sharing of lessons learned from 8 observation courses, followed by exchanges in small groups

END OF DAY - 16H

THURSDAY 10 JUNE

PLENARY

10H

Our learnings with regard to the Euro-Mediterranean context

Look of an expert "witness" present the day before, about crossed topics linked to our practices

with Mehdi Amrani Jouti Hassani, expert in euro-mediterranean cooperation and international solidarity

EXCHANGES

10H40

In smaller groups, we do deeper into the discussion, around :

- Identity and interculturality
- Peace and security
- Mobility
- North/South development

LUNCH - 12H



FINAL EVENT: THE YOUTH FORUM !

"It is not just a 'youth' issue, empowering youth needs a structural approach"

participant

The exchanges were rich: feedbacks from the various internships abroad, workshops about North / South cooperation, impact of health crisis on youth actions, exchanges of practices fostering youth empowerment... The forum ended on wishes and perspectives to continue to cooperate on youth empowerment after Findyourself.

WORKSHOPS

14H Sharing our practices : how do they foster youth empowerment, and which conditions to spread them

Work on practices, tools, methods, discoveries of the 8 observation courses

CHOICE OF 2 WORKSHOPS

-  "Youth lead youth", targeted support and funding for young people's projects and associations
-  Digital methods for youth, by youth
-  Understanding domination relationships in order to act with youngsters
-  Engaging youth in community change !
-  "Promemoria Auschwitz", start a path of active European citizenship
-  Lab85, an education to work center to youth between 16 and 20
-  The Solidarity Caravan, organized by youngsters to meet remote villages and isolated people
-  "Living Our Humanity", integration of young migrants into sociocultural activities

END OF DAY - 16H

**WEDNESDAY
9 JUNE**

WELCOME

9H45 Welcoming and program

PODCAST

10H20

Disengaged? Individualists? Disinterested? Youth engagement, an asset for the transformation of society in the Euro-Mediterranean

with Jocelyn Lachance, socio-anthropologist and searcher in educational sciences
Lama Zeinoin Tabet, trainer and expert in youth and women empowerment in euro-mediterranean countries
Yacine Bellarab, responsible of International Cooperation for the Youth and Sports ministry of Morocco

10H35 Reactions and exchanges

PLENARY

10H55

Youth and youth work in our organizations, what are we talking about ?

Who are we and why we wanted to cooperate together on Findyourself.

Followed by presentations of our youth work specificities within our organizations

LUNCH - 12H

SHARING

14H

What have we learnt from one another ?

Sharing of lessons learned from 8 observation courses, followed by exchanges in small groups

END OF DAY - 16H

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND YOUTH WORK

Ever since the beginning of 2020 and until now we have been suffering from the Covid pandemic. This has meant big difficulties for many youngsters since many schools have been closed and also Youth centers have closed down or been open with hard restrictions. This has led to isolation for many youngsters with risk for mental disorders.

But the saying “obstacles is the mother of invention” is valid also in this situation and during the Youth Forum Youth workers from the participating countries witnessed on how they have met the restrictions in innovative ways in order to minimize the negative effects on youngsters.

Tanim Rab, Youth Worker from Culture house Grand in Uppsala in Sweden, told us about how they met the pandemic:

The most affected persons during the Pandemic have been Youth with special needs, LDBG youth and youngsters from socio-economic disadvantaged groups. Our open meeting place and the possibility to meet in safe environments is extra important for these groups.

Already in February 2020 we started to make risk analyses and discuss how we could develop alternative ways to meet the needs from risk groups. So already early we started to educate ourselves how to use Youtube for streaming concerts, Discord for interactive meetings on-line and how to send talk shows to our target groups. We opened up our concert hall for the concerts and let the youngsters expose their creativity worldwide. All this has been very successful and been a way to keep up contact with our youngsters and also to offer safe digital meeting spaces for our targeted groups. These methods is something we will make good use of also after the pandemic.

Other participants at the Youth Forum told us about how they developed outdoor activities like “walk and talk” and “forest bathing”. Some Centers offered study spaces for youngsters when the schools closed down,

especially for those who lives in small apartments with many sieblings and followingly tough study opportunities. Almost all the Youth workers witnessed that they have approved their digital skills and offered on-line activities for their youngsters.

SUCCESS FACTORS AND PERSPECTIVES

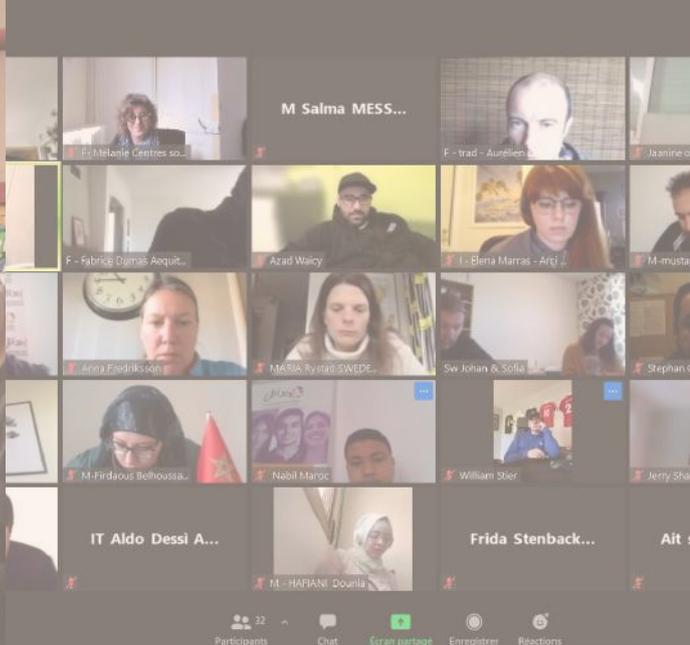
There are some conclusions from the project that can be made about how to promote youth empowerment and youth active participation in society.

Firstly, common to all examples shown in the project, is the **basic outlook on youngsters and how to support them**. They shall be regarded as active subjects and not passive objects. We need to develop activities **with them and not for them**. We need to, as youth workers, support them but not too much and not too little. This means meeting youngsters where they are as we have seen for example in E-Fabrik and Lab 85 practices.

Secondly, we need to support self organization as we have seen for example in the Youth parliament and Young leads Young practices. This gives young people **a space where they together create democratic structures which also give them the possibility to be a voice** in local decision making.

Thirdly, it is important to regard the Youth Centers as **learning arenas that are open to promote learning activities built on young people's interests**.





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