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Youthwork: Dedication – Theory – Experience project

FINAL PUBLICATION

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The objective of Baranya Ifjúságáért Nonprofit Kft. (For the Youth of Baranya Nonprofit Ltd) is enhancing the social, community and labour market activity of the youth living in the county aged 10-35 (adolescents who have dropped out of schools and career starter or unemployed young adults) by providing them informational and advisory help, developing their skills and competences. Since 1999 the organization carried out the child and juvenile tasks allotted by contract with the Baranya County Government and the Pécs City Government. At present the main activities include giving assistance to the youth in their everyday problems, meeting their informational needs and provide effective solutions. One of its main services is the development and operation of a database about the available child and youth services of the region and the other part is forwarding the collected and systematic information to the youth.

Since 2005 the organisation has been participating at the procedure of developing the youth work profession, it is the youth worker students' practical training place of the Adult Training and Human Resource Department of the University of Pécs. The colleagues of the For the Youth of Baranya Nonprofit Ltd. instruct and teach the students from the faculty. Other duties are running professional coordination, youth informational and advisory service, giving community developing programs, international youth programmes, social integration programmes, organizing trainings and conferences.

The For the Youth of Baranya Nonprofit Ltd. assists at the implementation of youth related tasks and services at more than 100 settlements. As the member of the „Eurodesk“ network it provides information about the possibilities and opportunities offered by the European Union. As an accredited EVS sending and hosting organization it does several Europen Volunteers’ service.

As an umbrella network the organization has 7 offices within the city of Pécs and 15 more in the county of Baranya, operated on the base of a common professional-ethical codex. 2 of them are directly owned by the Ltd while the rest of the offices are hosted or owned by educational, cultural and social institutions, clubs etc.

Now the organization is supported neither by the City of Pécs nor by the Baranya County Government therefore it is forced to maintain itself by national and international projects and its own income, owing to them the annual budget is about 100 million Forints.
HOSTING PARTNER

The WBS Training AG is one of the most important German vocational training and service providers. Mostly, the WBS Training AG is delivering professional education promoted by public national and international authorities, business training and consulting for companies. The WBS Training AG can look back to 30 years of experiences in many fields of consulting and vocational training. WBS is offering a broad range of possible trainings from business training to the training of programmable logic modules to health management.

Today, the company is operating in about 60 locations throughout Germany. Their training methods consist of the use of blended learning structures, classroom trainings with specialized multilingual tutors, self-learning programmes and computer- or web-based courses. About 400 employees and more than 1400 external training specialists work throughout Germany for WBS TRAINING AG.

Being member of several important national and international networks, WBS TRAINING has access to large dissemination facilities all over Europe. WBS TRAINING is acting in collaboration with national, regional and local public sector authorities. As for international experiences: Participation in Leonardo pilot and mobility projects, Socrates: Training Courses in Grundtvig 3.3-Catalogue, Projects within EQUAL, Consortional Tender for EU Commission, Bruxelles, Training Programs within the Programs of the European Social Fund. Since 2004 more than 70 Leonardo da Vinci mobility projects have been carried out by WBS TRAINING AG.

The trainings provided by the WBS are mostly supported by the government. According to the statistics, 70% of those who pass a 2-year-long course, and 50% of those who pass a 4-6-month-long course can get back to the labour market, find a proper job. The organization can be said to be very successful.

However it doesn't provide any social and/or youth related trainings since they can be given only by national educational institutions, usually only such colleges and universities which train students on both social and pedagogical fields. On the other hand the WBS maintains contacts with organizations like the JugendInfoService, Treberhilfe and the Diakonie Dresden which are all experts in the field of social and youth work and therefore can provide study visits and exchange of experience for youth initiatives (youth clubs, youth offices, counselling offices, extreme sports parks etc.)

In the Dresden branch, WBS welcomes about 20 Ldv mobility projects every year. With the support of the European Union, vocational students and experts, professionals from different European countries receive trainings, placements and cultural preparation in Dresden. Therefore, WBS is trying hard to keep the contact with sending institutions and cooperating companies in the field of mobility projects from different countries.
THE GOAL OF THE PROJECT

The exchange and comparison of experience of the theoretical and practical implementation of youth worker training of Pécs and Germany, getting acquainted with a different approach, professional background and working method, adaptation of good examples and methods. Developing and improving the competences of the youth worker students, expanding and enriching the existing knowledge and experience, as well as enhancing the cooperation among the participants of the professional trainings. Hereby further aim is the quality improvement of the youth worker training system and within it the theoretical and practical education, supporting innovation. Moreover the exploration of the labour force demand for youth worker profession. We have also aimed to explore the opportunities connected with the employment of youth workers, presentation and adaptation of good examples.

In connection with the practical part, we highlighted the street social-, youth work. Our organization has been dealing with this field of social work since October 2012, it’s a special new field even on national level and we feel the high need of it. We have gained experience at many fields (youth community places, community development etc.) and during that time we realized that there is an increasing need for exploring youth activity, street youth work within our profession. That’s one of the reasons why we’ve started to deal with it and apply this method in practice and during the practical training. However we need to get to know and learn similar activities from organizations and professionals who have also been doing it in practice and have gained much more experience so far (such as the JugendInfoService Dresden and Treberhilfe etc.).

As for the outcome of the project to be expected is making a comparative analysis of youth helper/worker trainings, in special consideration of the adaptable contents, needs and methods. Then the propagation of the gained experience at professional forums as well. As for the street social work, a much-needed service will be developed and improved by adapting the good examples and methods of the highly-experienced organizations, and at the same time a further future cooperation with them. The main aim of the exchange of experience would be crime prevention. Further results will be publishing on-line publications and giving regular seminars on the given topics.
THE PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENT
OF THE PROJECT

YOUTH AFFAIRS AND YOUTH HELP IN EUROPE

The European Union – though places more and more issues under the jurisdiction of the common politics – doesn't give binding policies in certain social policy issues, it only draws up principles and recommendations. It marks the social – not compulsory – objectives but leaves the procedures, methods and the ways leading to them on the authority of the member states since their social development might bring distinct solutions. As for youth politics, each member state has its own responsibility which concerns the youth worker training, too. International experiences show that usually secondary or higher education as well as various trainings for professionals and volunteers can be found. Most of these courses are less formal and don't provide nationally recognized qualification. The nationally recognized training institutions (governmental or private) are operated in wide range of constructions (the form of trainings, period of time and the share of theory-practice).

- Scandinavian model (universal-paternalist model): it is typical of the Scandinavian countries (Denmark, Finnland, Norway and Sweden), the domination of higher education trainings is typical in the youth worker training model, recognizing the non-formal ways, too.

- Liberal – community centred model: in the European Anglo-Saxon states (The United Kingdom, Ireland) youth work and community work are in focus in the youth worker training, mostly higher education is typical.

- Conservative – community model: in the continental European states (Austria, Blgium, France, Germany, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, The Netherlands) in the education of youth work the frames of social work and animation are specific.

- Mediterranean – local institutional model: in the Mediterranean countries (Greece, Spain, Portugal and Italy) the local authorities have an important role in the educational model. There is continuous development of vocational trainings and the higher education as well as of volunteer trainings.

However, in particular countries not even the concept system of youth work has evolved (e.g. in Romania), in many countries it is still a marginal factor (e.g. in The Netherlands) or they lack the (central) concept of youth work (e.g. in Spain).

YOUTH AFFAIRS AND YOUTH WORK IN GERMANY

The attitudinal difference among countries primarily means whether a country considers its youngsters an age group to be protected or resources. In the former case the main aim is to enhance participation, adapting to society and integration to the social institutions. In the latter case the main goals are prevention and protection which try to prevent such social problems like marginalization, poverty etc.

In Germany both horizontal and vertical tools are available for the youth case. With self-sufficient youth sector, youth and voluntary organizations in close cooperation with state bodies are responsible for the implementation of the national youth policy. The structure of the implementation has had three levels since 1990: local governmental, regional and national. The collaboration between the national and voluntary organizations is realized at all three levels.

In terms of the youth worker training, it is part of the social worker training. On secondary level, there is a 2-year-long school-based training on social assistant course, 1 year practice on social pedagogy course and 3 years on social training. On higher level, social pedagogy degree can be received after 4 years (with a 6-month-long practice).
YOUH AFFAIRS AND YOUTH WORK IN HUNGARY

Youth affairs – just like the social sector two decades ago – has become an independent profession by now. It is a priority to reach the „critical mass”, the concentration of resources which would help the youth case to be taken seriously by the related professions, decision makers and the society since youth issues mean much more, more responsibility, require more actions from the community, the society – the state than how much has been realized so far. As a socialization agent, the special feature of the tertiary socialization agent is the autonomous decision – freedom of choice (it appears in a totally different way in the family) and the positions of power which are not pre-existing.

By today the situation of the youth profession has become totally unviable, its control by the state has disintegrated. (It cannot be compared to the situation of the more fortunate Western-European states.) The professional networks of the youth field – because of the high number of career changers – adventitious, contingent (the civil governments are continuously abolishing youth offices and community places), the field has remained without any moral and financial support.

At present there are no professions or trades that require youth worker qualification therefore finding a suitable job for the 3000 youthworkers, graduated in the last 10 years, is accidental.

FITTING INTO THE LEONARDO DA VINCI PROGRAM

The frames of the project, the boundary conditions of the preparation are composed of the priorities of the Leonardo Program and the National Youth Strategy.

This project satisfies the followings of the general objectives of the Leonardo Da Vinci program:

1. Supporting participants of trainings and advanced studies to gain more knowledge, skills and qualifications in order to reach personal development and have better employability and chance for a good career at the European labour market.

2. Quality development of vocational education and training systems, institutions and practices, supporting innovation realized in this field.

The program serves the following objectives of the National Youth Strategy – as a landmark for the youth work:

1. fostering the work of the youth profession and the civil youth organizations

2. facilitating the enforcement of youth age groups and their communities.

PREPARATORY VISIT

Firstly, the sending partner defined its objectives fitting into the framework of the program. After finding a hosting partner, WBS Training AG, (with the help of the partner search page of the Hungarian National Agency) and a successful preparatory application, the two partners organized a preparatory visit in Dresden, Germany in January 2013. The partners had the chance to narrow the program by discussing the possibilities in Germany and visiting the competent and experienced organizations which would be interested in exchanging experience and meet one another’s scope of activities and programs. Having met several of these institutions – which have been working in the given fields for more than 15 years - and their leaders and employees, they got open for a common work. Furthermore the aim was to find out the difficulties in both countries, to get an insight of their work, duties, responsibilities in order to reach quality and professional development of their activities. As the result of the fruitful visits, the partners involved organizations such as the JugendInfoService Dresden, the Arbeiterwohlfahrt-Jobladen, the Diakonisches Werk and the Treberhilfe Dresden.
**THE STUDY VISIT**

**Preparation of the team**
After successfully applying for the Mobility program, the sending partner selected the 14 participants for the study visit who are youth workers, youth experts, social workers, university teachers, trainers and a textbook writer. Before the study visit the project coordinator organized two preparatory meetings for the participants to introduce the Leonardo Da Vinci – Mobility program within the Life Long Learning program, meet its general objectives and primarily the purpose of the study visit and the whole project. The German organizations, activities, duties and their running projects were also introduced, as well as a brief description of the social worker – youth worker training was given. In terms of the cultural preparation, a detailed guide was also sent by the hosting partner which was available for everyone via email. The participants were given certain tasks to prepare for the visit such as giving a comprehensive description of the youth worker training at the University of Pécs, the national legal environment, experiences of street work in Pécs etc. The study visit to Dresden, Germany took place from 16th to 23rd October 2013. The group spent two days with travelling. During the visit the following organizations were met thoroughly.

**WBS TRAINING AG (hosting partner)**
WBS TRAINING AG is one of the most important vocational training and service providers in Germany. Since 2004 WBS also cooperates as hosting institution in the scope of the Lifelong Learning Programme (LdV, VETPRO, PLM, Transfer of Innovation and Grundtvig). Over the years the WBS has completed about 70 of these mobility projects. The main topics of these mobility projects were technical, such as: Webdesign, AutoCAD, PLC-programming (Simatic S7) and renewable energies. Other training project topics were the German education system or Business-related topics.

The trainings provided by the WBS are mostly supported by the government. According to the employees, 70% of those who can pass a 2-year-long course and 50% of those who can pass 4-6-month-long course can get back to the labour market, find a proper job. The organization can be said to be very successful.

However it doesn’t provide any social and/or youth related trainings since they can be given only by national educational institutions, usually such colleges and universities which train students on both social and pedagogical fields. On the other hand the WBS maintains contacts with organizations which are all experts in the field of social and youth work and therefore can provide study visits and exchange of experience for youth initiatives (youth clubs, youth offices, counselling offices, extreme sports parks etc.) The WBS has two Hungarian contacts, a vocational school from Békéscsaba and the Baranya Ifjúságáért Nonprofit Kft.

**JUGENDINFOSERVICE**
This organization was established by a French model in 2000. They run their office with 4 employees who are paid by the self-government. They don’t have any youth clubs but deal with e-counselling on a kind of internet page which is neither only a chat nor only a webpage. Those who want to get in touch with the office and ask some questions do not need to register, email address isn't needed either so the client can remain totally anonym. According to the employees they get 20-30 questions a day via email, phone or sometimes in person. They offer information and counselling services for children, youth, parents and
multiplicators. The objective is e.g. promoting their target groups’ competences in conflict management and self-responsibility. The hosts presented their other types of services which include among others media education, especially in the field of digital media and online communities, social networks, furthermore voluntary services and internships abroad. Their services are advertised at schools, city events and in their newsletter published/sent biweekly. We got to know that the social sphere is divided into 4 sectors in Germany. They deal separately with the children under the age of 4, under the age of 14, there are youth clubs for the adolescents of 14-27 where mostly youth workers/social workers are employed. Families with small children have got different activities, and in addition to it „generation houses“ are also run to overcome the difficulties of generation gaps. There are about 40-50 of these clubs and specialized houses within Dresden which are supported by e.g. the local self-government or by EU projects

**DIAKONIE DRESDEN – MOBILE COOKING PROJECT**

The objectives of the mobile cooking project is to educate children and their families about their nutrition, to enforce and promote a healthy diet and also to entertain kids by e.g. making arts and crafts. The project is implemented in cooperation with schools, kindergartens and other social institutions. A mobile kitchen (in a converted camper) makes it possible to flexibly adapt to the target groups’ needs. They also run different projects e.g. the one called „The World in a pot“ which is about making different regional food together (e.g. Turkish, Italian etc.) and to promote acceptance and respect of other nations and cultures. We had the chance to visit the camper during work, this time it was stopped at a playground, in an area where a lot of immigrants, from about 10 countries, live together. The social workers and the families were preparing pumpkin soup (the specific vegetable of that season) while other kids were making candles and drawing inside the camper. The bus has been operated for two years, the salaries of three employees are paid by the civil government and the materials of the creative activities are usually donated. The number of visitors depend on the weather, usually 15-20 people (kids, parents) turn up.

**TREBERHILFE DRESDEN**

Treberhilfe is one of the youth clubs working in Gorbitz-Dresden. The main work takes place both in their office and on the streets. In terms of the office, apart from the ordinary services (photocopying, printing, using the internet), the youngsters can get mental and crisis intervention help as well. The club was made and furnished by the employees, youngsters and volunteers. The office itself has a community, public part with table soccer, armchairs, where dogs are also allowed to go in, a room with a small kitchen, sofas, tables, chairs and in the back of the place the employees work in their own separated rooms. They also provide washing facilities and a toilet is also open for the public. The Treberhilfe is situated on the ground floor of a block of flats. The workers help the youth mediate with and accompany them to public institutions. The most exciting part of our visit was to meet the Jumbo bus of Treberhilfe. It’s a huge, old double decker converted to a mobile youth club. The bus itself was presented by the Mercedes factory and the repairs are continuously done by donations. The workers of the organization do street work with it by parking at particular disadvantaged areas of the city and meet the
youngsters in need. The bus carries a lot of sports equipments, games, chairs and benches as well as it has a small kitchen and a separated part for talking and playing. The number of visitors depend on the weather, just like in most cases, 5-40 youngsters visit the bus which can be used twice a week, sometimes three times. The age of the youngsters is between 12-27. The youth club is in touch with organizations from the other social spheres, they also deal with homeless and immigrant people. Their own magazine is published twice a year. There are 13 full time workers, most of them are social workers. Apart from them they have 17 volunteers who are mainly students doing their practice from the social worker department of either the university or the college. Some of them might remain for 2 or 3 years as well. The workers got really interested in the sending partner’s activities since they overlap. We took a subtitled short film of our activities and programs so they could also get an insight into our everyday work. We agreed to work together somehow in the future, to write common applications and to exchange our experiences in order to develop and improve our own skills and services.

AWO Kinder- und Jugendhilfe GmbH - „JOBLADEN”

At „Jobladen“ the employees mostly deal with youngsters at the age of 15-27 looking for jobs or who need career advice. The walls of the office are full of vacancies and anyone who goes into the office between 2-6 pm on weekdays can search among them. The office is in contact with about 400 companies and two employees continuously look for jobs on the internet as well. These vacancies are displayed on the walls with a code which has to be told the administrator who helps how to get in touch with the company, what requirements they have etc. It’s like a career office, or a recruitment company except that they don’t ask for any fees and the employers of the companies do not give anything for the office. Apart from showing the job advertisement, they also help with the applications for the position, they have a small photo studio to take pictures, help with writing a CV or a cover letter etc. A lot of immigrant people also know about them and visit them daily. All the provided services are free of charge. They have 3 full-time social workers and a psychologist. On an average day 10-15 people visit the office.

PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, SKATE-PARKS

At the weekend we had the time to go and see some outdoor places within the city where from toddlers to young adults can all find entertainment. WBS was asked to collect the addresses of those particular playgrounds, parks and skate-parks where youngsters and families with children spend their free time. Since the sending organization also runs a skate-park, it was interesting to see these places from many points of view. We split into groups and with the help of city maps we set off to find the parks. Apart from having a look at some typical playgrounds, we found a small petting zoo full of children and their parents, a sports park with outdoor workout equipments and a skate park with skateboard ramps, halfpipes, quarterpipes, grind rails etc. We could compare ours to the one there and in case of finding more supporters we would also like to extend our park based on the ideas we got there. Moreover it turned out that a covered indoor skatepark can also be found in Dresden.
EVANGELISCHE HOCHSCHULE DRESDEN
– University of Applied Sciences for Social Work, Education and Care

The University has two campuses providing altogether eight different courses, where about 700 students study. Apart from the education, career tracking and career counselling can be found just like at the University of Pécs. Firstly, we were welcomed by two workers from the University and we were seated in a seminar room. Then we could go around the building, had a look at the well-equipped seminar and lecture halls, the library where a long shelf was full of publications on youth work, youth policies, analysis and their explanations. After that the German education system and structure were introduced to us, especially the education, trainings and courses of social workers. Power point presentations with charts and graphs gave a detailed and clear picture of the system. We got to know that the social workers at the college have to carry out two practice periods, a practical training of 6 weeks and then a half-year-long. After listening to the German practice we also had time to present the Hungarian system, particularly the courses of the University of Pécs, so we immediately had the chance to compare the two structures, possibilities and could discuss questions.

In Germany 1.7 million people work in the social sphere (53% of them in full-time), including doctors, nurses and people who work with youngsters and infants. In Saxony 90 thousand people work in the same field. There have been changes in the distribution of workforce recently: the number of those workers is increasing who deal with children of the age between 0-10 and also those who work with the elderly however the number of social workers dealing with the youth is decreasing.

At this college, 60% of the graduates can find a proper job after 3 months, 72% can find one within 6 months and within a year all of the people are employed.
METHODS

In terms of the methods we were working both with various formal and non-formal ones. We had frontal teamwork, lectures, there were workshops, forums and also round-table discussions. At the premises of WBS we got a room for the whole week where we got together, had presentations, discussions and also a final assessment of the whole week and of the program from professional and cultural aspects.
EDIFICATION, RESULTS

The outcome of the project includes the popularization of the adaptable contents, methods and the gained experiences at a national level. These observations are all processed and elaborated by the sending organization. Based on the street youth work experiences the concept of service development is being prepared (using the methods and good examples of the much more experienced Dresden organizations). The participants got to know what methods and syllabus are applied in Germany that concern both the theoretical and practical education and work. We also got an insight into the work of the organisations dealing with the Dresden youth. We could exchange experience, share our ideas concerning the theoretical and practical part of our work, which new methods and ideas can be adapted to the Hungarian situation and can help develop and improve e.g. the services in our youth clubs. The intercultural and language competences and skills have developed by the daily communication with the employees of the various companies. We all acquired new professional expressions as well as cooperation and mutual support skills. Besides it, the whole field trip made the team of the sending organization more convergent. Considering the future possibilities and mutual work, the leaders of the sending and the foreign organizations would gladly apply for joint international projects supported by the Erasmus + program.
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