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Project 1.3 Youth for Democracy of the program Youth in Action

MLADI DANES – JUGEND HEUTE – YOUTH TODAY

Description of the project

July 2011 – February 2012

APPLICANT OF THE PROJECT:
Youth Council Gornja Radgona

PARTNERS IN THE PROJECT:
Municipality Gornja Radgona
Katholische Österreichische Studentenverbindung Laurina
Stadtgemeinde Bad Radkersburg und Radkersburg Umgebung

POVZETEK PROJEKTA (EN)

The project »Youth Today« is embedded by four partners, who are responsible for the active involvement of young people in youth organizations and democratic society. Partner participation results from the border cooperation and integration of young people from Slovenia (Gornja Radgona) and Austria (Bad Radkersburg). In twelve months of the project, 32 young people will be active in four topics: education, organization of youth, employment and role of local authorities. The project is divided into three parts, starting with orientation and presentation weekend, active team work and analysis weekend. The result of project is a publication with all gained results and relevant information gained during the project.

PURPOSE of the project is to encourage young people of both local municipal administrations of partner applicants in better cooperation and in their search for common needs in different areas of youth issues. In the context of the project, analysis of the situation and needs will be carried out in four different subject areas:

- organization of youth,
- formal and informal education,
- youth employment,
- role of local authorities in organization of youth.

Partners taking part in the project are:

- Youth Council Gornja Radgona,
- Katolische Österreichische Studentenverbindung Laurinia,
- Municipality Gornja Radgona,
- Stadtgemeinde Bad Radkersburg in Radkersburg Umgebung.

VITAL OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT:

- Encouraging young people to actively include and create possibilities for expressing their opinion and needs by using all activities of prepared project.
- Connecting youth between partner organizations and local authorities. Participants of the project will regularly cooperate with municipal administration and familiarize themselves with principles of local administration and authority activities.
- Making practice of both local communities, which operate democratically, more familiar. Notion of democracy and democratic processes is quite unknown among the young; therefore it is important to present it. Young people will be given an opportunity to engage and take part in democratic processes of decision-making of local municipal councils and local authorities.
- The goal of project is to get results which will reflect current situation regarding youth activities in the context of four chosen topics. We also want to answer the questions regarding needs of young people.
- Project aims to show the youth that active participation in searching and identifying of needs of young people is the key element in reinforcement of their role.

THEMATIC CONCEPT

Project is based on three sets: two working weekends, working in groups and closing event with press conference. Project begins with introductory weekend (22. – 24. 6. 2011) and will

most likely end in February next year. Although individual sets differ according to methodology and program, they are perceived as a whole, which will reflect current situation and results of research of opportunities for young people in all areas, defined in the project.

On working weekends, young people will actively participate in round table discussions, forum, lectures, workshops for the preparation for topics and evaluations. Field research in regard to four topics will be executed by four working groups consisting of all project participants.

Our aim is to get final results from analyses of topics, according to goals set in the project. Publication will be issued at the end of the project, which will be the basis for the joint formulation of local and international community when establishing common youth policy in the future.

It has to be pointed out, that local authorities are among partner applicants of the project, which is the first step towards a dialogue between young people and those who make decisions on local level. We will try to establish a long lasting partnership between youth and local authorities with this project. This partnership indicates progress in area of youth structures in the context of cooperation with municipal structures.

DESCRIPTION OF INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES

All suggested activities have already been harmonized with all project partners. Both youth organizations (Mladinski svet Gornja Radgona in Studentenverbindung Laurinia) are responsible for coordination and execution of program and selection of participants. Local authorities of both countries have the role of public authority in project, which is responsible for democratic processes, consultations and help with the project.

Activities of the project will be conducted in a sequence as follows:

- **INTRODUCTORY WEEKEND** is the official beginning of the project, which will take place from 22. to 24. 6. 2011 in Slovenia. All registered participants from both countries and individual representatives of local authorities will be present. Concept of the weekend will be based on the presentation of purpose, goals and timing scheme of project activities (introduction of main topics of the project, lectures, workshops for preparation of research and working in groups). Mayors of partner municipalities and representatives of youth organizations will appear in a public forum, which is also planned. The purpose of the forum is introduction of interesting issues and explanation of particular democratic notions, which will benefit participants in further working in groups. Important part of the weekend is also introduction of participants and formation of homogenous and equal working groups for further work.
- **RESEARCH IN WORKING GROUPS** will last three months, namely from August to the end of October 2011. Each group will conduct a research on current situation and needs in both local environments of partner countries regarding one of the topics. The number of participants in individual group is limited to 8.
- **MEETINGS WITH PROJECT LEADERS** will take place once in a month during execution of researches of working groups. Coordinators of project and one of the representatives of each working group will be present at the meetings. The purpose of meetings is leading and monitoring work of groups, technical help and regular evaluation of course of research.
- **CLOSING WEEKEND** will take place in Austria from 18. to 20. 11. 2011. All participants with representatives of local authorities will be present. Results of working groups will be presented under individual topics, which will be incorporated in publication and used for formulation of conclusions of the project. Evaluation of work done in regard to this project will be two-layered. In each working group,

participants will evaluate their own work and results, and joint evaluation will be conducted with the use of surveys. After both evaluations are done, key suggestions will be drawn-up, which will form a basis for further work and guidelines for all project partners.

- PUBLICATION will be drafted during whole process until the official ending of the project (from November 2011 to February 2012).
- PROJECT WILL END with a closing event and press conference in February 2012 in Slovenia. It will be opened for public and there will be a short presentation of the whole project with results regarding the situation of youth and key necessities when executing youth projects in context of these topics in the future. Issue regarding necessity of cooperation of youth organizations and local authorities in decision-making and common formulation of youth policy will be highlighted. Awarding of all participants in project and distribution of publications will take place at the closing event.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR YOUTH

Learning dimension and gaining experience with active participation of youth in project is a key element in regard to our project. Project highlights the process of identification of competences, acquired throughout the duration of project. This process of gaining competences is called “youthpass” (www.youthpass.eu). Key competences, gained by young people, are:

- Communication in **mother tongue**, which is crucial for broadening of vocabulary of young participants.
- Communication in **foreign language**. Main activities of the project will be held in English, and young people from Slovenia and Austria will get the chance to refresh the knowledge of the language. In addition there will be a great possibility to communicate in Slovene and German language.
- Getting to know the **social and cultural awareness**. Constant involvement in connecting and networking during the implementation of program will enable easier communication and enforcement of both cultures.
- Enforcement of **mathematical and digital literacy** with activities of group work when collecting and analysing data, which is very important element in everyday life.
- **Learning process** during different activities, which includes very different learning methods. Strengthening of awareness and experiences regarding learning and teaching others are important.
- **Own-initiative** will be especially present in working groups. This will be reflected in results of research and needs of each group.