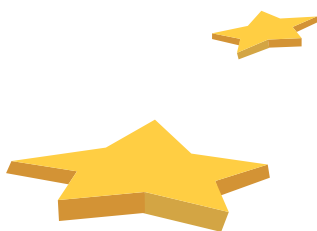


EUROPEAN ACADEMY ON YOUTH WORK - WORKSHOP REPORT

Community Building through Youth Work in Rural, Post-Communist Romania

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TOPIC DISCUSSED



The session aimed at presenting the intervention model used in Curba de Cultura association and youth centre to help build youth supportive communities in Izvoarele commune and its surrounding area in Prahova County, Romania. Romania has a cultural background as a post-communist country, and this aspect was fully taken into consideration while developing the intervention model and the methodology of addressing locally identified issues and interests of young people.

The project is mainly local, with a very strong European dimension. Most of the projects are done in European partnerships; about 80 international projects have been implemented so far in the community, or with the participation of youngsters from the community.

Being a fully private youth centre, most of funding comes through EU projects – the Centre was started by young people in the community through a Youth Initiative project funded by Youth in Action.

METHODOLOGY

Objectives:

1. Keep an open mind about Romanians
2. Rural youth work intervention model. The tools and practice of combining internationalisation with very local needs, interests and issues in order to work on community building
3. Presentation of our youth centre and its activities

Programme:

1. Short introduction

Videos running in the background while the participants entered the session space, teasers to the Discover Izvoarele documentary (<https://youtu.be/xMx8MVh4FTw>; <https://youtu.be/CgsZcv3Dnkw>)

Brief presentation on the session content, objectives, the background and myself

Due to the fact that seven participants were late for the session, I started almost 10 minutes late, with the approval of the participants that were on time. There were participants that had registered but did not show up, as well participants that showed up without registering.

2. Short individual presentation of each participant

3. Project presentation (40')

Short Mentimeter quiz about youth statistics in Romania including young people, youth centres, rural vs. urban, youth services, available funding (see annex 1)

Presentation of the history and background of the Centre, the methods used and the response of the community. Brief statistics of involvement in the community and involving young people, results and impact (PPT & Pictures – attached as separate document). Lecture, presentation and facilitated conversation.

A video of the activities in the Centre done by young people was supposed to be presented. Due to the large number of questions during the presentation and the late start, I sent an email with a link to the video to the participants following the session. Video here: https://youtu.be/H_Oy_IwJMaU

4. Short questionnaire to be filled in by the participants (5')

- Participants filled in a Mentimeter feedback form, answering the following questions
 - Did you get any ideas for your work? Which ones?
 - Do you have any suggestions for the presenter or for Curba de Cultura?(Feedback see below)
- Participants reflected on the zoom out questions and filled in the app with the answers.

**KEY ISSUES
RAISED SUCH AS
CHALLENGES**

- Slow & low response of the local authorities
- Lack of support from the local, regional and central government
- Insufficient space
- Low response & involvement from young people over 19
- Low response from the local community due to the communist history
 - *volunteering is mistaken for patriotic work, a mandatory form of free labour asked for by the communist party;*
 - *lack of trust in private initiatives – people are used still to having initiatives guaranteed by the authorities*
 - *lack of culture of co-creation and co-management*
- Dealing with unreliable international partners

**INNOVATIVE
RESPONSE(S)
TO THOSE
CHALLENGES**

- Organising young people and coming up with public policy proposals on a local level
- Working mainly with the help of European funding and running the centre as a business, with a business model centred on bringing sustainability to the youth activities and programmes
- Reaching out to university centres and developing long-term programmes for young people
- Promoting youth work and NFL as a complementary system to the formal education system
- Creating and developing initiatives based solely on consultations with young people; involving parents in getting to know each other activities and supporting the programme of the centre.

KEY TRENDS IDENTIFIED (COMMONALITIES BETWEEN COMMENTS/ PARTICIPANTS)

- Migration of young people from rural to urban areas due to lack of opportunities
- Opportunities centred / focused on urban areas, as a possible cause for migration of young people
- For countries belonging to Eastern Europe and the Balkans – lack of funding and resources
- Good results and impact require impressive amounts of working hours

FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS

Did you get any ideas for your youth work?

Absolutely yes. Start working with youth from rural areas and ask them "What do you want to do?" And start supporting them. One of long term goals can be opening a youth centre in their village.

Needs analysis - the first stone to building every project or activity with young people To focus on local community needs in youth work

Do you have suggestions for the presenter or for Curba de Cultura?

Add "meta level" activities, build product from your experience, brand it and "sell" around.

Make a study visit with Bulgarian youth workers from rural areas

LINKS TO FURTHER RESOURCES OR INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT AVAILABLE ONLINE



www.curbadecultura.ro
<http://evs.curbadecultura.ro>
www.discoverizvoarele.ro

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5byqaiyJdDo>:

The full documentary of the commune with a brief intervention on the youth centre as a part of the commune.

<https://bit.ly/2F9vdg5>:

Link to the cultural monograph of the commune (not necessarily relevant to the youth topic, yet a down-to-earth marketing instrument developed by young people with young people. Worth mentioning)



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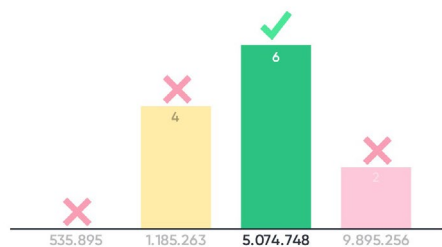
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www.eayw.net

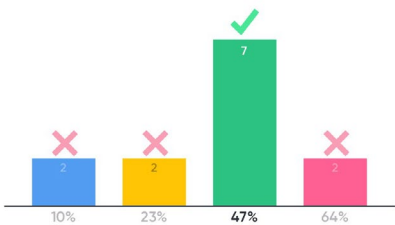
ANNEX 1: MENTIMETER QUIZ ABOUT YOUTH STATISTICS IN ROMANIA

How many young people live in Romania?



12

How many young people live in rural areas in Romania?



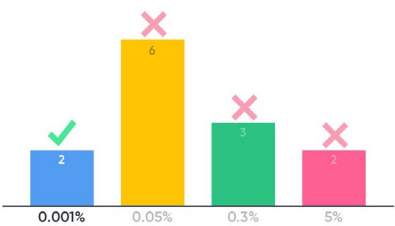
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How many young centers are there in Romania?



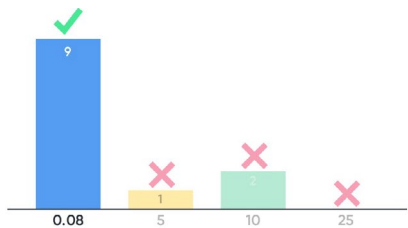
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How much of the GDP does the government allocate to the youth sector?



13

What is the budget allocation for young people's projects and initiatives in 2019 (per young person, in EUR)?



12

Leaderboard



13

ANNEX 2: A SHORT TIMELINE OF CURBA DI CULTURA

