

Working group 5

Generation dialogue: active living together of old and young

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During the meeting the participants of WG 5 (1) specified the field of the WG, (2) the role of a city, (3) set the aims for the networking WG, (4) planned the ways for the further co-operation, (5) started with sharing the practices, and (6) discussed briefly the general roles of the network for the thematic working groups.

1. The specified field

Important definitions

‘Dialogue’

What is a dialogue and what is not a dialogue? Sometimes the dialogue starts with a wordless smile, touch or sharing a common space (watching TV together). It is as important as having a verbal dialogue. It is a precondition for a verbal dialogue. We can talk about dialogue using words like *‘roots of communication’*, *‘contact’*, *‘sharing’*, *‘doing together’*, etc. – an umbrella term for this is *‘relationship’*.

There are different types of relationships that are described by different levels of activity. Dialogue is a relationship that is voluntary.

‘Age groups’

The process of perception gives to the concept of age a relative value. At the same time, we can surely talk about certain age groups that are based on the biological age, and representatives of which experience specific age-related developmental challenges.

Talking about the intergenerational dialogue we mostly bear in mind the oldest and the youngest generations, and we often exclude the bounding group – middle aged people.

The questions arisen:

- ❖ Do we understand a generation that is different from ours?
- ❖ Is it the interest of the middle aged group to promote the dialogue between the older and younger generation?
- ❖ What is the benefit for all the age groups?

Conclusion: Dialogue or relationship should be promoted between all the age groups, not only between the youngest and oldest.

2. The role of a city in promotion of an intergenerational dialogue

The knowledge transfer is of importance to insure the continuity in the community. Nowadays there is a lack of so-called traditional ways of transfer, and therefore, the artificial ways of knowledge transfer between generations should be promoted.

As far as the relationship and further dialogue are considered to be voluntary the role of a city is to create and provide public (“living”) spaces where different generations, i.e. age groups could meet, find a contact, share, and do things together. The cities can provide practical models how old and young generations live together.

3. The aims of the WG ‘Generation dialogue’

- ❖ To share and analyse good practices and challenges
- ❖ To observe and analyse the social changes in the cities
- ❖ To design collaborative and innovative projects in the field of intergenerational dialogue (including creation of public “living rooms” and other public spaces)
- ❖ To elaborate the indicators of ‘good’ practices in future if necessary

4. The ways for the further co-operation

Instead of a group member based WG the participants preferred a topic-based WG where the members of the group are not rigidly fixed.

The forms for sharing practices:

- ❖ Internet forum for sharing practices
- ❖ Idea of follow-up conference (to be specified)
- ❖ Study visits (to be specified)
- ❖ Collaborative projects (calls for collaboration in internet forum)
- ❖ A book on so-called good practices of two-year-long period to be published

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5. Sharing ‘good’ practices

The participants of the WG decided that bad practices do not exist. We could use terms like ‘challenges’, ‘unintended results’, ‘side-effects’, ‘problems that have to be attended’, etc. instead of ‘bad’ practices or ‘failures’. All practices can reveal something valuable for further implementation.

The suggested form for presenting a practical example:

- 1) *Title of the project*
- 2) *Description (maximum one page, 2-3 photos)*
 - a) *Who?*
 - b) *What?*
 - c) *Where?*
 - d) *For whom?*
 - e) *Why?*
 - f) *How?*
 - g) *With whom?*
- 3) *Results*
- 4) *Innovative aspect*

5) *Obstacles to solve*

6) *Contact*

6. The role of the network “Cities for Children”

The participants of the WG discussed the possible roles of the network “Cities for Children”
The suggested tasks for the general network:

- ❖ Management of topic-related internet forums beside the webpage of the network
- ❖ Provision of general network related finances for annual meetings, etc.
- ❖ Provision of translation for examples of ‘good’ and ‘challenging’ practices in different fields
- ❖ Provision of publications on ‘good’ and ‘challenging’ practices in different fields