

Description of youth participation project

Youth participation is the active involvement of children and young people in public life (decision-making and social activities).

Name of project: Contact for request from children and youth

Cities for Children contact person

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Executive organisation

Name of organisation: Youth department of the city of Berne / Jugendamt der Stadt Bern

Type of organisation: Governmental department

Website: www.bern.ch

Additional information: www.part.bern.ch

Project description

The project provides a solution to the following question/problem:

Participation of the children and youth in their district

Project idea conceived by:

Children and youth department looking for different ways to participate in Bern.

Then the parliament of the city of Bern by defining the rules for children and youth participation.

Date started:

July 2006

Date of completion: -

Targets:

Children and youth become aware for questions and requests where they live

Children and youth receive within three months on all questions a response

Children and youth are involved in the development of their living space

Every district have a contact

Target group:

Young people from 8 to 18 years

The project reachedabout 100 aktiv young people, about 400 benefit from the results:

Working method:

Inform directly all of the years 8 to 18 about their contact and the way of reach her/him. Inform the adults around children and youth by different newsletters. Meet children and youth with questions or demands. Looking for an answer if and how they can catch their goal. Meet they again to give the response and to explain the further way.

How are young people involved?

They have the possibility to be activ, to contact the person in their district when they want to change something in publilc life.

What is the role of young people?

They have to get the contact and to describe their problem / question.

How many young people participated?

About 100

How many young people were involved in the organisation of the project?

5

What was the role of the executive organisation?

The office for youth participation developed the conversion of the right for children and youth to paticipate in their district, was looking for a contact in every district and coordinate the five Persons which are elected from the government of the city.

What other organisations were involved?

Organisations which are working with children and youth (open children an youth work, scool, churches).

Finance

What is the budget?

Only district becomes SFr. 2000.- (about 1300.- euro) each year and the youth department have a 20% - working place to coordinate the contacts (product costs in the NPM –budget of the city).

Who provided the finances?

City parliament

Outcome

Have the targets been achieved?

Yes, every district have a contact. Most of the children and youth are informed. Until now, not all district got questions and demands and in most cases they wore children.

What were the success factors?

All received a timely response. Some questions were part of larger planning-transactions and could them accelerate. Many of the proposals could be implmented. Children could refine their place of living.

What were the pitfalls?

It is difficult to explain the function of this contactpersons, becose children and youth have many contacts in different topics and places (teachers, social worker at scool, open youth work,...). It is not easy to find 5 institutions / persons every 2 year. We could not reach many youth.

Future plans:

To contact more youth with new methodes to reach them (at scool). We are looking for a easier way to find contacts, perhaps for a longer period then two years.

Quotes and opinions of young people:

Which could reach their targets are proud and the other children which could profit of the results are content. Sometimes the waiting-time was long for them, especially when they finally didn't have a positiv result.

Any other remarks: -

Photograph:



REGISTRATION FORM

Youth participation workshop

27 – 28 March 2008, The Hague, The Netherlands

Please reply by 28 February 2008

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