

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: railway waggon as a youth meeting point

Cities for Children contact person

Name: Sylvia Fiedler
Function: Commissioner for Children's and Family Affairs
Street address: Joachim-Campe-Str. 6 - 8
Postal code: 38226
Town/City: Salzgitter
Country: Germany
E-mail: Kinderbeauftragte@stadt.salzgitter.de
Sylvia.Fiedler@stadt.salzgitter.de

Telephone: +49(0)5341 – 839 33 00

Executive organisation

Name of organisation: City of Salzgitter
Type of organisation: Administration
Website: www.stadt.salzgitter.de
Additional information:

Project description

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

Young people, much of them from Russian repatriates of German origin, had no opportunity to meet in a new-built area. They caused damages to children's playgrounds, schoolyards and Kindergarten surroundings by destroying spring toys etc.

Project idea conceived by:

the young people themselves, the city of Salzgitter supported the idea

Date started:

2003

Date of completion:

2005

Aims:

Erection of a youth centre

Training of and job finding measures for young people from socially deprived families and with partly bad school education
Active participation of young people in designing their youth centre
Training of young people to act as youth group leader and to lead the youth centre on their own.

Target group:

young people from the quarter

The project reached ...20.... young people:

Working method: (for example, making an inventory of the needs of young people in the community, communicating policies, organising a workshop, attracting youth and senior officials to the workshop, conducting the workshop, linking youth and senior officials with future plans, etc.)

Meetings at regular intervals in the workshops of the professional school and help with the construction of wooden furniture as well as with colour design of the interior

At the same time work scheduling according to the ideas of the young people

adventure weekend / weekend in the forest

How are young people involved?

as active participants
as learners
young people do handcraft work
they collected and realized their own ideas

What is the role of young people?

see above

How many young people participated?

approx. 20

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

none

What was the role of the executive organisation?

The city of Salzgitter was the builder and architect of the centre. Part of the construction work as well as financial control was realized by the city building authority.

What other organisations were involved?

quarter school network
city council children's and youth department
Diakonie gGmbH - non-commercial organization
Quarter management in the social city programme

Finance

What is the budget?

Approx. 140,000.00 EUR for the construction (purchase, transportation, accompanying construction work) for the wagon – 16.7 % cost sharing by the city of Salzgitter
10,000 EUR each aid money from the LOS programme for 2 subordinated projects

Who provided the finances?

Controlling and providing was in responsibility of the building office

Outcome

Have the aims been achieved?

The young people now have a self-designed youth centre
2 young people were trained as youth group leaders
The centre is well attended.

What were the success factors?

The young people were allowed to realize their wishes during design.
They even chose the name for the centre and accepted it despite concerns.

What were the pitfalls?

Young people often change their mind and interests.
Mainly young people from socially deprived families participated in the project since it was especially created for this target group.
Immigrants stay apart and remain strangers.
The centre is mainly visited by young people from immigrant families – although all young people from the quarter are invited to come to see the centre.

Future plans:

Participation of young people in additional quarter projects, e.g. in the “international gardens” nearby.

Quotes and opinions of young people:

Any other remarks:

The centre is meant for young people from 12 years on.
A lot of children from the primary school nearby visit the centre at regular intervals during the visiting hours from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm
The centre is an important contact point.
The offers of the employees responsible for youth work are accepted.
There is enough time for leisure.

Photograph:

