

Project description youth-participation

*Youth-participation is the active involvement of children and youth in public life
(decision- making and social activities)*

Project name: not named because actions are permanent

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Executive organization:

Name organization: City of Tampere
The type of organization: municipality/city
Website: www.tampere.fi
Extra information: city of 207 847 inhabitants (31.1.2008)

Project description:

The project gives an answer to the following question/problem:
Promoting participation of children and young people in Tampere.

Project-idea-owner: -

Start date: Started in 2003

Finish date: permanent action

Aims: Promote it that children and young people are heard, they can participate to decision-making process and influence on issues concerning child and youth on different levels (unit, area, city and region)

Target group: mainly people under 20 years, especially under 18 years who have not right to vote

The project reachedyoung people:

There are many children and young persons within actions in every year. There are hundreds persons (children and young persons) in students unions, in Children's Parliament and in Youth Forum. We have student unions in every school (comprehensive schools, upper secondary schools, vocational schools etc.).

Method of working: (for example: *make an inventory of the needs of youth an the community about communication of the policy, organize an workshop, the drawing of youth and senior officials for the workshop, do the workshop, link youth and senior officials for future plans, etc..*)

Student unions have been founded in schools. Their decision-making body consists of a board where the students consider issues that are connected to their school. The board has representatives from different classes. One of the most important tasks of the student unions is to make the school a more enjoyable place. The things that the student unions deal with are very concrete, such as organising events and parties at schools and plans for schoolyard use.

Young people's participation has also been developed in city districts. The idea of a district forum (called "Nuoriso-Alvari") is that the young of a certain district gather to discuss matters that are important to them, and they can also discuss issues with policymakers. It is planned to extend this district forum activity to all the five administrative districts of Tampere.

On the city level the voices of the young can be heard via the Children's Parliament and the Youth Forum. They both have their own boards and subcommittees that are concentrated on different themes (such as issues of town planning, school and free time). Both the Children's Parliament and the Youth Forum have a general meeting twice a year, where representatives of different schools are invited. The Children's Parliament represents primary schools (grades 1-6) and the Youth Forum represents grades 7-10 as well as upper secondary schools and vocational schools). The Children's Parliament and the Youth Forum grant scholarships, organise events, and represent the young of the city in different working groups, for example.

The city has taken young people along in committee and board work. The young have been entitled to take part and speak on issues concerning young people at the meetings of the committees on Day Care and Education, Business and Knowledge, Culture and Leisure, and the boards of Day Care and Education, and of Upper Secondary Education.

How is the youth involved?

Answer is included into other answers.

What is the role of youth?

Youth themselves are doers as much as possible and the role of adults is to support the background.

How many young people participated?

Participation is possible to every child and young person living in Tampere (around 30 000).

How many young people were also organizers in the project?:

Young people are developers of actions and they organize different kind of affairs (for example participation happenings in the areas). Everyone can participate in developing in different ways.

What was the role of the executive organization?:

To give outward circumstances and possibilities for participation and to allocate resources needed.

What other organizations were involved?

The whole city is involved to participation of citizens including children and young people.

Finance:

How much budget is available?:

For example: 3 youth workers, 10 000€ for Children's Parliament, 10 000€ for Youth Forum, compensations for teachers who work with students unions.

Who were the financiers?: City of Tampere

Outcome:

Has the aims been achieved?: yes

What were the success-factors?:

Education of children's and young people's participation for adults; participation of children and young people in to developing of actions (they will be really for children and young people when they are involved since beginning); certain workers are responsible for participation of children and young people, they are responsible for developing and guaranteeing actions' continuity.

What were the pitfalls?:

There is a danger that adults make things ready and they don't let children and young people act truly. Hearing can be also apparent and fake.

Future-plans:

Participation will be developed further together with children and young people, especially developing participation in the areas of the city (we have five areas).

Quote/ opinion of youth:

Youth are in active role, they develop things according to their own opinions.

Further remarks:

Nuorten Tampere (Youth's Tampere) web pages, including participation, will be published in spring. New models for participate and influence on by internet will be developed.

A new concrete thing in this issue is a youth worker who works in internet in HabboHotel. There is a virtual place for young people who can meet an adult (youth worker) and discuss with him/her in confidence. This virtual youth club is cooperated with few cities in Finland.