



IKISEEDS YOUTH CENTERS

We want the European Union to finance a Youth Center model which promotes active participation and non formal education.

Group Members:

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SUMMARY

The traditional school system does not allow young people to develop their interests, their practical and creative skills. That is the reason why we propose a model of a European Youth Center Network. We want youth to have an active part in decision-making, to express their ideas. Experts and volunteers will work out together in order to create common activities.

PROBLEMS

The educational systems in Europe do not support students to discover their real passions and interests. The school models are too formal and strict and they do not promote creative expression.

One of the biggest problems is the high pressure of having good grades. Students have to focus on their grades instead of developing their passions. The reason for that is that society has high expectations and that it promotes competition instead of cooperation. Another main problem is the lack of practical and creative activities. Because of dealing with a too big number of students, teachers don't have enough time to help them in their personal problems. In addition, youngsters receive too much homework because of the big learning material. As a result they spend their time and their energy on school activities.

We think that it is really important for them to have enough time for leisure time activities in order to develop other important skills. Because of the problems mentioned above, students are not prepared for real life only by formal education.

GOALS

We would like to highlight the importance of non-formal education. The two types of education should complement each other and not to be separated.

In order to facilitate this we propose, first of all, to create a model of YOUTH CENTER: IKISEEDS. "IKI" represents our attention to support the philosophy of the Japanese IKIGAI, which describes the reason for being: Mission, profession, passion and vocation. "Seeds"



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mean in our understanding that every person has a huge potential. Every personal strength can increase. We would like to offer many diverse opportunities to everyone to express themselves. Students, teachers, neighbours, professionals, parents, youth volunteers and different kinds of institutions coming together to work on developing a youth center that everybody can take part in.

We would like to make children and young adults understand that there are more opportunities to develop any skills, passions and interests than what they learn at school. Without them having the pressure of the grade system.

ACTIONS

Our proposal is to create a European Youth Center's model where everyone can be involved no matter the condition. We want the European Union to finance and promote this model in all member states, especially in areas where there is no youth service. There will be 2 ways to implement this model. The youth organisations can apply to the model, or new youth organisations will be created. Those who embrace the model should be financially supported by the EU.

The main values behind this idea would be to create a community network on local level and also on European one. We want youth to follow their passions without the school pressure and to develop at their best. In order to do this some of the activities that we will propose are: practical and creative workshops, periodical community meetings and reflection groups after each activity. The participation in these activities is free of charge. In addition there will be trainings for professionals and volunteers. The schedule, the topics and the methods will be decided by the youngsters.

The work of the Youth Centers is organized in four sectors: community, education, economy and public relations. Each sector will be coordinated by one youth worker or an expert. In the creation of the activities, volunteers and youngsters will be engaged.

FINAL CLAIM

We want to show you that the focus should not only be on traditional school system because there is much more to experience. Give yourself the possibility to make this idea real.