

**Network of the youth
in small and medium-sized
alpine towns**



**AlpCity Partner
Work Package
WP Coordinator
Subjects involved
and their role**

Provincial Government of Lower Austria (Austria)
Services and quality of life (WP6)

Provincial Government of Lower Austria (Austria)

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Spatial area involved	Municipalities of Ebreichsdorf, Wilhelmsburg, Laa an der Thaya, Horn, Gloggnitz, Brunn am Gebirge
Project budget	€ 38.350,00
Project purpose	In Lower Austria several activities and efforts to integrate young people in the social life of towns have been carried out; especially the program of urban regeneration has started few projects on this topic. There are important experiences from previous projects concerning implementation, challenges and results. A network among local authorities, associations and other bodies is necessary to create new ideas, impulse and standpoints. The set up of infrastructure for networking and know-how transfer allows to carry out projects using financial and human resources in a more efficient way. For what regards the future by encouraging new forms of development in small and medium-sized alpine towns.
Project methodology	The methods varied according to the local situation. The creation of a network among different stakeholders is the basic idea of this project as well the design of projects involving young people through a participation process. Furthermore the expected exchange of experiences between target groups improved the flow of information and cooperation.
Project activities	March to September 2004: Introduction of the network Information of cities with the call to take part in the project. The information was carried out with information letters, personal calls and personal conversations. January – June 2005 Concretion of goals and project schedule of the network among ten interested cities. Organisation and implementation of educational workshops and network meetings with six partner-cities. Conception of Working Groups including the final identification of Partners (single persons with local groups) in towns (city managers,



youth-coordinators, youth-politicians, councillors, young people, regional-managers, experts).

Workshops prepared and held on the following topics: youth-rooms; drugs and prevention; girls and municipalities.

Creation of a network-youth logogram.

October 2005 so far

Five full-time Symposiums in Brunn am Gebirge, Gloggnitz, Laa an der Thaya, Horn and Wilhelmsburg with all the network partners.

Planning of further steps of the network.

Achieved results

Six cities became real partners in exchanging experiences and know how concerning youth-topics in small towns.

In the participating towns, the role of youth was more and more taken into consideration.

The network has six permanent member-cities, although many more cities and partners in Lower Austria expressed interest in taking part in the network for the future.

Exchange of information, experiences and lessons learned among partners of the work package in Lower Austria.

A youth congress in preparation.

Discrepancies between planned results and results achieved

No discrepancies were found.

Instruments proposed, revised and finalised

Some information papers and journals.

The Network Agreements between participating towns and the Association for Village and Urban Renewal in Lower Austria.

Implementation of a website for dissemination.

Invitation folders for the symposium.

A final resolution as the result of the symposium is in preparation.

Leaflets and a “guide” are in preparation too.

Workshop-tools like Power Point presentations, handouts and posters.

Impact on the local environment, actors and stakeholders

An intensive knowledge transfer between the stakeholders and the involved persons of the network.

Understanding needs and offers for educational programmes to learn more and better skills in the daily work. Also knowledge transfer between “beginners” and people facing a long experience.

Knowledge of the local and regional best practices.

Collaborations among towns, young people and the local authorities. Growing networking and positive dispositions concerning youth agendas in small towns on all levels.

Autonomous and coordinated collaboration between all the concerned and involved persons and groups, public work with local and regional medias, project ideas and further business plans.

Development of new social relationships among local and regional stakeholders.

Critical aspects

There was a late start due to the replacement of the case studies manager.

Few financial resources to meet all the demands; few calculated means for a project idea with very widespread responses, with an important and sustainable impact.

The online-forum on the website was not exploited. The reason seems to be a lack of experience among the libraries users. A training day in that field will be offered during the current year.



Lessons learned	<p>A specific coordinator is necessary in order to be responsible and always available only for that particular project.</p> <p>Long term aims have still to be gained and defined, so the prosecution of the coordination is needed.</p> <p>The participants in the network have to foresee their personal advantages for getting active. This takes time and much work.</p> <p>Especially on the political level, politicians have to be involved too.</p> <p>The youth has a great consideration in the regions (villages, towns) and represents the most important target group for the future.</p>
Transferability	<p>All methodologies of networking, of its design have been widely accepted by all partners.</p> <p>The exchange of information among partners dealing with networks and method sharing is recommended. Since the project is well designed and thanks to the long experience in participatory process, Lower Austria can provide the other Partners with very good suggestions and assistance.</p>
Case study follow-up	<p>The Network will be spread in many other cities and villages. Preparations have already begun.</p> <p>The web page will be kept up.</p> <p>There will be further activities set within the framework of the Urban Regeneration Programme in Lower Austria.</p> <p>In the long run the network will be extended to the whole country.</p> <p>A special handout, a so called “guide” is in preparation.</p>
Common issues with other projects	<p>Networking has become a widespread and important demand in other towns as well as in other regions.</p> <p>There are common topics with the second project submitted by the Partner (multimedia network, cooperation, setting up of infrastructures and know-how transfer) and also a common methodology (meetings with the stakeholders, participation process in networks, virtual platform, best practices exchange).</p> <p>The youth topic concerns also the following case studies on the international mountain school of the Maritime Alps and the problems of young people in Grainau.</p> <p>Networking is a theme shared also with the other AlpCity Work Packages, especially WP8.</p>
SSC Experts’ comments and recommendations	<p>The project is very well structured and the objective and methodology are clear. Like in the previous case study the approach is focused on finding an aggregative element, in order to make the small towns more suitable for young people. The theme of this pilot case, “how to communicate with young people”, can be considered universal and a potential best practice to be exported in other contexts.</p>