



Manuel for users –

UNITED IN DIVERSITY

NGOs visited during
Study visit in Bremen - Germany
27th March-1st April 2017

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Elisabeth Schindler

ServiceBureau Youth Information - Youth Education Centre LidiceHaus

Is an organization that represents the central structure of non-formal education in Bremen to provide seminars and qualification trainings in the field of Democratic Education (what is simply called in other countries Politic Education) Their target groups are youth people and youth work professionals in Germany. Their main activities are Youth Exchanges, Work Camps, Exchange of Education Professionals, Conferences and Study Visits.

Although the last few years they have specialized their work on Participation, Gender-sensitive education and International Peace work's topics; now a days they are mainly focusing on Post-colonial Memory Culture and Migration & Education field topics.

Also they are aiming to pursue within the next few years Anti-Bias trainings to fight against Right-wing populism in cooperation with local schools.

Regarding the **Service bureau** itself, they have 3 areas of expertise: International Youth Work, Media pedagogy and Daniel Schnakenberg Foundation.

The 1st department is in charge of counselling of stakeholders regarding International Youth Exchanges under the Erasmus+ European Division. As well they provide individual mobility opportunities abroad and general counselling of youngsters (EURODESK)

Under the Media pedagogy department, they focus on No Hate Speech International Movement, Media Literacy and to provide *eLearning* courses for youth workers and teachers.

And the third area of expertise aim to create traveling opportunities like for example vacation grants for children with fewer opportunities.

They mentioned the last 2 successful projects on Inclusion of marginalized youth topic. Both of the projects took place in their centre and among the participants included also local refugees. **The International Youth Exchange- At The Doorstep called YourVoiceLand** – was a Multilingual training with easy access for every one where they used creative methods to lead team-building activities.

On the second youth exchange called **History Makers; the** main idea was to develop Historical-political Education with German and Refugee Youth using Comparative learning & Empowering role models to talk about racism and resistance over time in participants' countries of origin and analyse their migration background.

Nazareth





BAHNHOFSMISSION

**Antje Eilers
Jürgen Stein**

The power of an idea

On a sunny Thursday in March 2016, We had visited the Bahnhof mission of Bremen . They are situated in the central part of Bremen. The organisation is sponsored and supported through the main railway company along with two other organisations as they believe the work is valuable and is necessary. The community works as an unity to tackle community problems.

Upon arrival we were greeting by two volunteers. Who have been working for the organisation for some period of time. These volunteers belong to a group of ten people who are eager to help with the daily practices of the organisation. They have a structured timetable which is worked around all staff. The team is fantastic in sharing responsibilities and working as a team to support the public needs. After observation, I can conclude that people are very dedicated and passionate supporting the local residents although they receive no income. Besides this, these volunteers are working with different culture background. As stated by the organiser one fifth of German population of Bremen city is homeless. which clearly states there are many other ethnicity who also require support.

The main purpose of the organisation is to support vulnerable, homeless and drug addicts - no matter what diversity background they from. On a day to day basis their main focus is to guide and assist passengers getting on and of the train. Also adding to this, they provide formal information regards to journey times. Often they are faced with many challenges which can be resolved within the organisation. They support homeless people by providing hot drinks and trying to understand their needs. Approximately within 15 minutes slot, due to the high demand. This does not stop them for remaining slightly longer as the organisation has an small room designated.

How does the organisation works with other service providers? Well, they have over twenty six different referral agencies. The list of referral agencies is printed and given a copy to individuals for further support. Also, They have good relationship with the local authorities and the railway police. This is because many of the clientele that comes every day are having single or multilevel problems within the psychiatric spectrum.

Further to this it was identified that young people are also spotted in the central station where they require special assistance concerning their travels. Most of these youngsters come from broken (such as divorced) families or often from a care environment. The organisation monitors and works closely to ensure welfare and safety of the young people.

Overall, it was a pleasant experience understanding the needs of the local residents. This information has given an insight to ways how other countries including UK can incorporate such ideas to assist and support vulnerable people. The world needs more accountable, open-minded and good organisations as an pathway to succeed.



Shahnaz
Sohail



Neurological Rehabilitation Centre Friedehorst

The neurological rehabilitation centre on the „Friedehorst“ campus is an institution of the Diakonia Network that was founded in 1985. Initially the rehabilitation centre was meant to be only for children and youngsters, but as the demand for adults with neurological problems increased, more and more places for adults were opened over the last years as well and a new wing for adults was opened in 2013. At the moment there is space for 130 beds while there are 180 professional staff employed. The work of the neurological rehab center focuses on the rehabilitation of young people and children that had accidents, illnesses that damaged the neurological system, strokes or any other neurological problems and usually stay here from a few days to several months. The idea is to keep the patients as short as possible but as long as needed here in order for them to integrate in their home environment as fast as possible and to one day live a life as close to before as possible. The parents of the patients can stay during the time of the rehabilitation of their children in the nearby parent housing in order to accompany their children and give them support.

The neurological rehabilitation center Friedehorst is probably the most advanced one in Germany. They offer various types of therapies for their patients, such as occupational-, art-, water-, speech, music-, physiotherapy and many more. Doctors, physiotherapists and social workers help the young people to rehabilitate as good as possible after their accident or disease. Consulting services help the families and youngsters to find appropriate occupations or schools after their stay here.

As the Neurological Rehabilitation Centre is under the Diakonie Network, it is closely connected to the protestant church and therefor oriented on Christian fundamental values. Their philosophy is to respect every human's dignity, to provide help and a listening ear, to be innovative out of tradition, to provide help there where it is needed and to create a world where everybody is equal.

Svenja

Dieter Soeker

ALTEN EICHEN (old oaks in English, it takes the name from the area) works in 2 suburbs, 1 Huchting a 1 in East Bremen. Alten Eichen Youth is one of the good realities of how social initiatives can help young people. Nowadays it is harder and harder to find safe spots for youngsters, who basically have everything on their phone and they struggle with other kinds of interactions. Growing up in a suburb, even though it is just 20 minutes from the city center, it often means that you have limited possibilities and most of the times you are forced to abandon your dreams. Even though you can have chances to attend course and go to a youth center, you need much more than that in order to take care of your personal growth, especially when you have trouble at home.

In the heart of Huchting there is this safe place, a social room with the goal of helping the development of youngsters through arts and sport. Numbers can tell the whole story of how important is to have this kind of help: Huchting has 29853 inhabitants, 6413 buildings and 14779 apartments; 6394 children in the age 0-21, of which 962 raised by a single parent, and 12506 have immigration background.

As you can see this kind of fragmentation can create such a difficult environment, but Alten Eichen was able to transform it into a series of opportunities. Alten Eichen currently operates in 3 working areas, such as YOUTH HELP especially at home, DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH with groups of 12+ years and activities for young people like free time activities, COOPERATION WITH OTHER PROJECTS such as schools, cafes, young centers. KINDER RAP PROJECT HELLA KIDS (“One Band, One Sound”) is a rap project, with two groups (one younger and one older), funded by company HELLA – the purpose of the company is to donate cents on the euro to social projects (6.000 per year, 30.000 in total – 5 years).

What do they want to achieve? Take people away from the street? The main point is education. The problems are mixed up, cultural diversity and economic problems. This means that young people can have bad marks at school, they can be violent, have low tolerance, they develop feelings of being left behind. People who have a single parent need to be in groups so they can socialize, that is why they have young groups; sport activities, such as the boxe is made to prevent violence. You can achieve all that with a very close approach with the families, that means talking to parents and involve them in the decision to participate to the courses and activities.

Paolo





Alten Eichen
Perspektiven für Kinder und Jugendliche
gemeinnützige GmbH

ALTEN EICHEN

Dieter Soeker

EVENT IN ROLAND CENTER

In the Roland Center there has been a big farewell party for Ms. Annette Yildirim, a member of the Local Council who has been recognized as a person who was working for the community. In this event, the very word “COMMUNITY” has been the most important, you could feel a strong feeling of the community of Huchting, getting closer in this occasion to recognize how important it was to have a powerful figure that was successful in her commitment for the local area. When you have young people from the suburb that can perform in front of a big crowd in the Roland Center, paying homage to your work, it is a success for the whole city and the local community. You can say that what you give to the Community, it comes back to you ten times bigger.

The Rap exhibition was the demonstration of how young people can live in a difficult environment but still, with the help of young role models as the team of Alten Eichen, you can be successful using music, expressing with words all that you have inside.



Paolo



Mobile Betreuung Bremen

On the second day of the study visit, we had the opportunity to meet Necati Baki from M.O.B. He works with youth from 16 to 22 years of age, coming from disadvantaged areas, homeless, in risk of school leaving and who are not aware of their parents love and care. This particular organization is open 24 hours per day, trying to help them and solve their problems and needs. This is Necati's daily work.

The partner and sponsor of "Mobile Betreuung" is Youth Office. Coming back to our disadvantaged youngsters, we found out from Necati that after a discussion with them, MOB can understand that the youngsters can be integrated within the association, otherwise they are guided to other associations or institutions. During their stay in association, they are accommodated in apartments, in groups or couples, also they get pocket money, so they can sustain themselves.

During our visit, we asked if there are cases in which the youngsters use the pocket money for drugs, alcohol or gambling. On our surprise Necati told us that in some cases they are, but very few. Because of the conciliation they can see some improvements. We also asked how many people work within the association and we found out that there are 17 youth workers, each taking care of 3 youngsters. Finally, after our discussion, Necati stated that the goal of MOB is the sustainable, individual and social stabilization as well as the social integration into residential environment. The care providers offer young people the opportunity to enter into reliable and sustainable relationship and thus to extend their experience marked by disruption of relationship(post-socialization). The treatment of the past life history is actively supported by the youth workers.

Perspectives of one's own self-responsible life planning are oriented towards development of the young person and are worked out together in small steps. the mediation is oriented to every day and life-oriented forms of care.

Necati Baki
Jürgen Stein



Alice

Jürgen Stein

Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung. Our Wednesday was dedicated to one of the biggest welfare foundation from Germany. „Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung (which means Evangelical work for diakonie and development) belongs, as the name suggests, to the Protestant Church from Germany. With more than 700.000 volunteers, their work is pretty huge. As they claim, the main mission of their activity is „to practice charity in the model of Jesus Christ“. But despite of this religious affiliation, the volunteers are not trying any kind of religious persuasion.

This organisation provides aid for very different groups of people, basically for everyone who needs care. Diakonie for adults, for seniors citizens, for women and families, for children, for people coping with illness, for terminally ill people, for people in urgent need, for people with disabilities, for people with psychiatric disorders/mental illness, for people struggling with addiction and for people between countries and cultures. Shortly said, Diakonia is for everyone.

With more than 150 years of experience, this organisation helps not just people from Germany, but across the world. In the next articles you can find our impressions after we visited some welfare institutions belonging to EWDW.



Serafim





VASUDEVA

Nils Harwick
Michael Telkmann

“Vasudeva – promoting diversity, democracy, tolerance and participation” is a registered association formed in 2013. by a couple of friends interested in the fields of society, democracy, tolerance and diversity. They are interested in making their local society a better place, and especially helping youngsters with less opportunities to find their path through life. Their office is located in Bahnhofsviertel cultural centre in Oldenburg, that is opened in 1984 and is offering ever since the place for different NGOs and organisations to have their rehearsals and meetings: the centre has two cinemas and theatres, bar, lounges, tango studies etc. which anyone can use, as long as they offer something in return, whether it’s money, material or anything the centre has the use of.

The idea for the name came up from Hermann Hesse’s novel “Siddhartha”, where a young man starts his spiritual journey during the 5th century BC in Nepal, and on his way he meets Vasudeva, the generous ferryman who helps him cross the insurmountable river and becomes his spiritual guide: that is a goal this NGO wants to reach, to help people “cross the river” on their way to success and support them whenever it is needed.

At the beginning, Vasudeva was called “Vasudeva- an association for arts and music without borders”, but they realised the name was blocking them in their future work, and they wanted to refresh their image in order to reflect more serious approach. At the moment, Vasudeva has 3 employees and over 15 active volunteers. Besides they are supported by the local laws, they also get the funding from donors and EU office and they are making promotional campaigns. Besides local, they are working on international projects to strengthen the multicultural relations and teach locals about cultural diversity and tolerance. They have courses in Esperanto and German language, they do diversity trainings in schools, they have special classes for the refugees to blend in in the community and many other projects that make the community life more beautiful.



Maja





EUROPE DIRECT

Nils Harwick

Europe Direct organisation is directly linked to the European Union. They aim to give Information about Europe Opportunities for youth especially and also for organisations

The Commission representation offices act as the Commission's voice and monitor public opinion in the host country, Germany. They provide information on the EU through events and the distribution of brochures, leaflets and other materials to schools or youth that visit them.

Europe Direct does not comment on EU policy issues or positions, or handle or forward complaints (though it can tell you who to contact).

Active in every EU country, they Link national politics and the public with the European Commission. Publicise the Commission's policies and inform the Commission about their host country's current affairs.

Nils & Telke the representatives, gave us plenty of tips about how to act as an organisation, when writing a Project (Telke is now an official reader of the National agency of Germany):

- Read the manual carefully
- Redact a good & clear project
- Mention every point that are related to your project
- Do not mention points that are not related to your project.
- Have clear goals (quantitative & qualitative)
- Be sure of which KA you are applying for.



Sam





IBIS I.A. E.V.

Constanze Schnepf

IBIS Interkulturelle Arbeitsstelle e.V.

IBIS is an NGO located in Oldenburg in Lower Saxony. They started their work as an Intercultural Centre for research, documentation and education in 1994. Ms. Constanza Schnepf, a social worker who works with the organization for the past 15 years, and is the head of the antidiscrimination department, was kind enough to show us how IBIS functions from the inside. Their aim is to work towards peaceful coexistence of people of different backgrounds. They view integration as a respectful and equal co-existence of all people with their individual and cultural differences, but also similarities. In the first years of existence they only had seven employees, but in the recent years that number has gone up to 50, and besides that, they always have approximately ten volunteers from different ethnic backgrounds working with them. Their work started with theatre, music shows and language education, but 11 years ago they felt the need to also offer a place where people could get counseling. Now, especially with the recent refugees crisis, counseling is a big part of their work, since the people who seek help through IBIS suffered serious traumatic experiences in their journey to safety.

They also offer a place for people to meet in a nonformal environment, drink coffee, receive a warm meal or simply socialize. While the parents are at a language course, learning German, the organization offers to take care of their children. The workers and volunteers speak a wide number of languages - Arabic, Kurdish, French, English, Spanish, etc, so they can offer a more complete service to those who need their help. Besides helping people who arrive to Germany in search for a better and safer existence, they also work hard to change the minds of German population for the better. For an example, they often give lectures and start discussions against discrimination and prejudice in schools and companies in the region.

Usually they receive funding from the government, region and the city, but they also apply for different project fundings and cooperate with other NGOs in the region. As they say, the basis of their work is protection of Human rights, as this is crucial for a successful integration of migrants and other disadvantaged groups. This includes the inviolability of human dignity, the right to asylum, protection from discrimination, the right to a human rights-oriented education and the right to political participation.

Marija





AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Claus Walischewski

Amnesty international is the world's largest grassroots, over 50 years old, Nobel Peace Prize winning human rights organisation. As a global movement it includes over seven million people across the world standing for humanity and human rights. The organisation has its offices all around the world. Our group from the "United In Diversity" Study visit has been honored to visit one of them, in Bremen.

Amnesty International office in Bremen welcomed the participants of the Study Visit with information about the organisations, it's activities and also introduces several human rights violations which the organisation is currently tackling.

It was very interesting to get to know the story behind the Amnesty International. In October 1960 a young barrister got on the London Underground, opened his paper and read a short article about a couple of students in Portugal who had been imprisoned for seven years after raising their glasses in a toast to freedom. Sounds uneventful, but this was to become one of the most significant moments in the global movement for human rights. That barrister was called Peter Benenson, and his outrage at the imprisonment of the two men led to the birth of Amnesty International.

Amnesty International in Bremen educates and mobilises the public through various activities Among them are: writing letters to governments which has been violating human rights, initiating human rights campaigns, human rights education at local schools. Through this and other activities Amnesty International contributes to transformation of the society and creation of a safer and more just world.

"Amnesty International campaigns for justice where ever it has been denied. We protect people, defending their right to freedom, to truth, and to dignity. We do this by investigating and exposing abuses where they happen." - Told the representative of the Amnesty International in Bremen.

Sometimes a letter can change someone's life. That's the premise of Write for Rights, Amnesty's global letter-writing campaign. Today, it's one of the world's biggest human rights events. The participants of the Study Visit have discussed human rights violations currently happening all around the worlds and wrote letters to those whose rights has been violated to support prisoners of conscience, as well to the governments to express concerns about human rights violations.



Kasankatravels



Herr Liebetanz

How many people can you meet and know coming from different countries during a week abroad? How many opportunities and possibilities does EU create? How many competences can you improve only participating in a “Study Visit” of the Erasmus+ Programme? How many?

It’s not a Joan Baez and Bob Dylan parody of the famous song (*Blowin’ in the wind*) but those are the first ideas came up in your mind when you participate in a creative, interesting and unexpected but well-prepared meeting into the official Europe Direct InfoPoint in the Center of Bremen (EuropaPunktBremen).

The climax is so non-formal, exciting and productive that also the introduction of the Chief of the organisation has to wait in order to give to the European youth people he chance to express themselves immediately. “Europe Direct is run by the State government of Bremen but it’s independent” only said Horst Liebetanz in his introduction. “It’s one of the more than 500 EDIC (Europe Direct Information Center) existing in the EU. We’re always ready to get in to the discussion about the European Union and express what EU does for us spreading all among Europe”.

“EU is a good future” continues the chief of the Bremen EDIC, before showing some interesting pictures and slides about the history of the European Union.

The EU history started after the World War II with a great dream : “we must build the United State of Europe” said Winston Churchill in 1946 (*if you think about the Brexit results, it’s strange, isn’t it?*).

The day continues with a show of interesting slides about the “major donors” and the major receivers (*Luxembourg has an enormous difference*) and about Brexit (the 64% of young people 18-24 voted for “remain” and only 24% for “leave the EU” and then young english people have to live with this decision for 69 years in average).

Those are all topics which encourage the young intercultural group to be active and participative and discuss about the most important European issues. “In Belgium and in UK you’ll have a penalty of 6 euros if you don’t vote” said Nathalie from Spain and Shana’az from England.

“There is a constant struggle in Croatia about the neighbouring countries” adds Marija from Croatia, and “Europe is not only Economy” and “we feel perfectly involved in the matter despite what it’s happening in the last few years”.



EUROPAPUNKT BREMEN

(2nd part)

What's happening in the last few years? Anti-Europe feeling, high rate of unemployment, lots of political problems, refugee crisis, difference between wealthy and poor people, Donald Trump election (yep, without "fake politically correct behaviour" and hypocrisys, also the blonde-haired US President could be a problem and represent opposite feelings of what that young European group showed).

"Maybe Europe is too far from young people" this the statement of the European group. "We advise games or situations to understand better the EU and more moments of comparison like this".

"According to me, EU is still belonging from National Government" said Paolo from Italy sinking tje knife in the sore. "Capitalism has self-poisoned itself" adds Sam from Spain.

"Every story has two truths, every truth has two stories", adds Shana'z from UK when we talk about Media with regard to which risk of being bought or handled by someon. "There are difference between traditional media and alternative news, besides the phenomen of on-line communication (pro and contro)".

From 17 of March of this year, thanks to DEINE FRAGE Project and his website the EuropaPunkt has add another clever and important service. "The Project involved young people (14-24 age range), students which wants to change approach of facing the EU for a better understanding" Levi Hepp and Alice Dork. With other perspective and lots of different point of view, they realized an important Survey and other actions.

"In general young people involved has a good idea of the EU but they aren't perfectly integrated and conscious of the problems, the issues and the possibilities they have. The project is still open and it's possible to fullfil the survey with smartphones. There are no social aspects directly but it is strictly related to the education system also because the Project has a non formal and completely different aspect from school.

The conclusion of the Video of the project "Hope for the future" is coherent not only with the aims of the Project "Unite in Diversity" but also with the EuropaPunkt point of view.

The distance between EU-Institutions and the citizens (in particular youth) has to become smaller. This is one of the most important challenge of the EU : for sure with young people like those, the path to the objective is easier.

Emiliano





UNITED IN DIVERSITY

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