Study visit ‘Talent development of young people in disadvantaged urban areas’

12 to 16th of December 2011 – The Netherlands

*Introduction*

Current youth work is more and more focused on talent development to stimulate social participation, empowerment and active citizenship among young people with less opportunities.. Youth in Action projects offers young people and youth workers plenty of opportunities to acquire new competences and to develop their talents.

But.. does talent development has a positive effect on young people. Does it contribute to inclusion and participation in society? What’s the value of talent development? How can it look like and how does it work? What are the challenges? What do young people gain? Under which conditions?

In this study visit we will gather 25 youth workers from all around Europe to exchange practices in talent development and to give an insight in how talent development is being used in the Netherlands. We will visit several organizations that work with talent development in disadvantaged urban areas. Various methods for developing talent and its value for youth work will be shown.

*Aim*

To give European youth workers insight in how talent development is implemented in

Dutch youth work.

*Objectives*

* To exchange good (and bad) practices of using talent development in Europe.
* To get insight in various methods of talent development with young people in disadvantaged urban areas
* To visit and meet diverse organizations that work in this field.
* To get introduced in the theory of talent development
* To explore the possible results of talent development
* To inspire and stimulate further (international) cooperation within the framework of Youth in Action.
* To contribute to the development of talent development in your local work with young people

*Target group*

* Youth workers involved in talent development with young people in disadvantaged urban areas or those who want to start working on talent development.
* Youth workers should be directly working with young people
* Both professional and voluntary youth workers are welcome (nonprofit organizations)
* Committed and in the position to implement the results of the study visit in their own organization or work field.
* Willing to share the outcomes and information with their colleagues.
* Youth workers that want to involve Youth in Action or are making plans to do so have preference.
* We aim to gather a diverse group of participants to increase the learning dimension.
* Participants must be 18+ and able to work in English.
* Maximum number of participants is 25. During the study visit we will stay in [Fort aan de Klop](http://www.fortaandeklop.com/herberg_voor_groepen.htm%20) in Utrecht . Lodging in shared rooms.

**Program Study Visit**

Monday December 12, 2011 (arrival day)

In the afternoon participants arrive in [Fort aan de Klop](http://www.fortaandeklop.com/%20). After diner, the program will be presented. Where are we, why, what will we do and where will we go. Getting to know each other and breaking the ice.

Tuesday December 13, 2011 (Central Holland)

The morning will be used to find out further about each other’s background. Participants will have a picture of each other, their origin and reasons for participation. This will stimulate exchange. A guest speaker from [Netherlands Youth Institute](the%20http%3A/www.nji.nl/eCache/DEF/1/05/642.html%20) will present the results of a literature research about talent development of young people at risk. Emphasis will be on goals for developing talent and its value for youth work. With this input participants can start with developing a personal plan for their visit. Why am I here, what do I want to learn and what do I want to take home. In an interactive session we will find answers to these questions. We will also explore what talent development is, how it can be used and for what purpose. This forms the start of discovering various examples of talent development in the Netherlands.

We will travel to Leiden to visit [Jeugd- en Jongerenwerk Midden-Holland](http://www.stjjmh.nl/%20). In the afternoon talent development through sports will be emphasized. The organization will present their vision of talent development of young people and how and with what purpose this is implemented in the city of Leiden. Emphasis today is on developing talent as starting point, accompanied by methods to use this for social participation and change of behavior.

During diner young people will join the youth workers exchange experiences .

Wednesday December 14, 2011 (Noord Brabant)

Today it is all about projects that use talent development to achieve positive change of behavior and an increase of participation. [Divers](http://www.divers.nl/%20) in Den Bosch will present their vision and the origin of the projects. Youth workers will give a short training about the method they use with young people in combination with talent development. In the afternoon the group will split up and visit two projects. One project shows how soccer is used in the community and the second one is an art & culture project . Interactive feedback will help both groups to get to know both methods. On our way back to Utrecht there is time to reflect on the day. We will have diner in [The Colour Kitchen](http://utrecht.thecolourkitchen.com/nl/home), a restaurant which gives young unemployed and under-qualified people the chance to get trained on the job.

Thursday December 15, 2011 (East Netherlands)

The final day in Arnhem is about developing talent as goal in itself with its positive side effects. [New Arts](http://www.newarts.nl/site/%20) stimulates youth participation in the art & culture sector, offers possibilities for development of talent and if possible personal development. The stud yisit will be evaluated and afterwards participants will make short films about the conclusions and results of the visit.

The final evening is used for a network meeting with several organizations working with talent development. The results will be presented (short films) , but networking and exchanging experiences will be the main ingredients of the evening.

Friday December 16, 2011 (departure day)

Departure of the participants after breakfast.