

Utopia

What is it about?

The project Utopia is one big simulation game in which youngsters in a youth exchange create their perfect world.

The exchange will last for 16 working days in which all elements of society are implemented and in which youngsters are involved in different tasks. Like cooking, shopping, maintaining the daily budget, leadership, conflict management, judge, police, rules, law, etc. etc.

The starting point is in which youngsters arrive without any personal belongings (only clothing), no telephone, no internet, no water, no electricity, no beds, no blankets, no money, etc. Through different assignments throughout the days youngsters can unlock a reward, for instance if they create rules to which everyone comply they unlock the reward: water. Next assignment: choose the leader and what competences, role, etc. he has and through which process choices will be made (e.g. democracy or dictatorship), they manage, they unlock the next reward: heating.

The youngsters get a daily budget (e.g. 4 euro per person per day) in which they need to make choices on what to buy from it, for instance if they want to spend it all on alcohol they have less money for food.

In general, the entire exchange is one big confrontation, reflection and real-life simulation game connected to the real world and what influence youngsters have in this.

How will it look like?

We will have a preparation meeting with the group leaders two months prior to the exchange in order to make a clear context, selection procedure of the participants and establish the ground rules.

During the exchange there will be a team of facilitators to guide the process and enhance the learning of youngsters. The youngsters fill in the content of all assignments, tasks and the programme. The facilitators are there to create the context in which learning will take place and take action when the process is disturbed or needs adjustment.

When and for who?

The APV is planned to take place in February, 2018, we invite one group leader.

The exchange will take place in April, 2019 for 16 working days. We invite the group leader who took part in the APV and 4 youngsters (age 16 – 20) who are up for this challenge to disconnect for 16 days from the real world and create a perfect world in 16 days. We ask youngsters to agree and accept the ground rules which will be set in the APV and to commit to the full 16 days of participation in which for sure conflicts & challenges will be faced.

What we do ask of you as partner for now is to comply to the fact that youngsters need to give all personal belongings (phone, laptop, money, etc.) before start of the programme in

order to create a beautiful process. During the week when some assignments are achieved they can unlock the chance to receive personal belongings back.

We invite 10 partners to this project, in the end we aim to have a group of 50 persons. There is a participation fee of 50,- euro to arrange all practical aspects regarding the facilitation of the different daily assignments.

The exact dates will be set after approval of the project.

Outcomes

Out of the exchange and the project and general we let youngsters make a video diary (made by one fixed team throughout the exchange) + written report on how they can contribute in creating a perfect society in which everyone is involved. This will be an example project on what each community can do to include everyone in society regardless their opinion, thoughts, values, etc.

Something for you?

Contact us at contactcherrygroup@gmail.com with the subject: Utopia