

Good Practice: DE GP3

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"Youth Forum"

Main features of the GP programme:

Type of programme	Type of organisation	Field of practice for organisation	Programme scope	Programme duration	Programme occurrence/frequency	Type of funding for GP
Non-formal	Non-profit organisation	Youth sector, Civic education	Local level	Continuous	Continuous	State funding + local funding

Adult Education as a Means to Active Participatory Citizenship (EduMAP) is a Horizon 2020 research project focusing on adult education among young adults at risk of social exclusion. Particular attention is paid to educational policies and practices needed to foster active citizenship among vulnerable young people.

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1. What – Focus (theme, orientation)

Contextualized in community development activities and developed in the association's interest of offering opportunities to practice democratic thinking and acting, the Youth Forum project promotes the participation of young people in political decision-making processes at district level. Young people become aware that they can help shape their district with their commitment and ideas. The Youth Forum activates the participation of young people aged 14 and over by creating a platform where they can articulate their own needs and interests. Young people can draw attention to themselves with the Youth Forum, get in touch with politicians and learn that a commitment has a positive impact on the living environment.

2. For whom – Target group(s)

The Youth Forum is a project within the framework of the Action Program for More Youth Participation, which is jointly financed by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the Federal Agency for Civic Education and the German Federal Youth Council. It is targeted to young people living in the deprived district of a selected city in North-Western Germany.

3. Requirements and access

No access requirements. The Youth Forum is accessible to all young people living in the district (Main age group 16 – 26). Some of the young people also visit schools to advertise for participating in the Youth Forum. Thanks to its location inside a Youth Centre of the city district, the additional offers of the centre such as cooking initiatives, outings, projects, group's games can also be attractive and motivate young people to come. The Youth Forum though is more focussed on developing motivation and responsibilities towards acting as a change maker and to generate interest for political issues.

4. Elements of good practice

The Youth Forum is created as a platform in which they can articulate their interests, bringing together young people from different cultures, reduce prejudices among each other and provide assistance in conflict resolution, promote identification with the district and self-confidence. The projects in which the Youth Forum engages enable practical learning, give opportunities to travel and experience other locations and work. There are also trainings for disadvantaged young people and the youth centre that hosts the meetings of the Youth Forum offers an additional meeting and learning space.

5. Perceived challenges

Apart from financial challenges, the provider sees specific challenges in the perspective of mainstream society towards the young people and the general 'mistrust' in their abilities to contribute to change and improve their environment. Therefore offering projects that bring people together and having migrants act as 'social' brokers is seen at the same time as the main challenge but also as the main element of empowerment.



6. Testimonials

"It helps to strengthen your character. Before I came here I was too shy to talk to people I did not know. Here I learnt to be more open and communicate with other people"

"I came here and learnt that it is really fun to discuss and be critically. I wanted to be engaged and here I can implement a lot of projects"

"We did a tour to Brussels to the European Parliament. I would not have had this opportunity otherwise"

7. More Information

EduMAP project's publications:

[Books and articles](#)

Academic publications that address key themes of the EduMAP project

[Deliverables and reports](#)

EduMAP's official deliverables, related reports and publications

[Good practice cases](#)

Key features from 40 'good practice' cases from 20 countries

[Working papers](#)

A selection of findings from desk and field research in 20 European countries

[Other resources](#)

Other types of resources made for the project (illustrations, comics etc.)