

Bring interculture inside



Brief description of the activity

Bring interculture inside offers the possibility to analyse the composition of the local context and consequently adapt the Youth Center's offer. It uses the intercultural dialogue between parties from a variety of cultural contexts, each with their own specific interests. This also allows the examination of beliefs, attitudes, behaviors, procedures and social structures produced through environmental cooperation, from a reflective point of view.

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Topics, objectives and methodology:

Bring intercultural inside is a theoretical suggestion for managers and volunteers of youth centers, who aim at making the center more open and intercultural.

Bring intercultural inside aims to create an deeper mapping of a local contest that leads:

- To the identification of the general 'topography' of cultures - the beliefs, attitudes, behaviours procedures and social structures that shape human interactions;
- To the identification of potential hazards, obstacles and pleasant surprises that a local community has in order to build an intercultural contest;
- To the understanding of how intercultural beliefs, attitudes, behaviours procedures and social structures could be promoted and supported;
- The stimulation of the cooperation with different beliefs, attitudes, behaviours procedures and social structures.

The methodology used for this activity is that of investigation, research on the territory and action-research.

Duration:

The phases in which the activity is divided, described below, have different durations:

- RESEARCH 3 weeks
- ANALYSIS 3 hours
- PLAN 1 week

Location:

For phase 1 your town/local community

For phases 2 and 3 your youth center

Staff needed and eventual specific skills required:

It is useful to have in the team a sociologist or another expert in social analysis.

Steps:

Bring intercultural inside could be divided in 3 main moments:

Research:

Identify principles of good practice in community engagement, participatory urban planning and development. After identifying the possible people, groups and associations of the community, organize a team of people who are able to gather more detailed information on the groups identified and produce a report of the information collected.

Analyze:

After organizing the information in the report, organize a meeting with the managers and volunteers of the youth center, to understand how to establish a participatory planning and development with the local community, involving also the cultures that are not native in that area.

Plan:

After analyzing the data, invite the representatives who participated in the community mapping to a planning meeting that aims to set out the case for a new and dynamic 'intercultural' praxis which seeks out difference and is focused on adding value and values to the community.

In this phase it is important to take into consideration that:

- Cultural diversity means more ideas, more options and more opportunities.
- Acknowledging the advantage of diversity means bringing people of different cultures together so that they can learn from each other and co-operate in an intercultural way.
- Extending and enriching public engagement in the planning and development of neighborhoods is now the norm, not the exception.

- Good community engagement requires techniques but is really about having the right attitudes and skills.
- Good community engagement does more than canvass opinion. Everyone has a story to tell, emotions to express and wisdom to impart and a good practitioner can find and interpret them and turn them into a unifying narrative. This requires a skill which professionals ignore at their own peril – cultural competence.

It is inevitable that all these aspects interact during the planning meeting, for this reason make sure to have a great mediation between the parts in order to come out with some specific objectives to develop in the community and/or in the youth centre.

Put into practice:

After stipulating a plan with the various points to be developed, the youth center's manager takes the re-

sponsibility for coordinating the plan and for dividing tasks among the groups of the community. It is important to introduce people from the community into coordination and responsibility roles, in order to make them participate and show a sense of openness towards them.

Ongoing evaluation:

It is possible that, during implementation, an activity does not work according to plan.

For this reason, it is advisable to monitor continuously the activities in order to reformulate them when necessary.

Innovative aspects for the promotion of interculture

The interaction of different cultures can bring the solution for problems, agreements may be negotiated and disputes may be resolved. This is the start point to think interculturally. Bring interculture inside is an input, motivation for managers and volunteers of a youth center to understand their context and promote the interaction and sharing of different realities.

