



Sporting for Equality – Breaking the ice on Human Rights Education ECYC/SETNL Seminar, Finland, 31 March – 6 April, 2008

FINAL REPORT SUMMARY

Event description

The seminar was held in Syötekeskus, in a town called Pudasjärvi, and it had a focus on gender-specific youth work and human rights education, as The Finnish Federation of Settlement Youth Associations (SETNL) has vast experience of both on the national level in Finland. The theme of the seminar was Sporting for equality - Breaking the ice on human rights education. The seminar lasted for five days (excl. travel days).

The idea was to bring together young volunteers, youth workers and youth leaders from all over Europe, to discuss human rights and gender equality issues as well as getting to know the Finnish nature through a variety of winter sports. The aim of the winter sports dimension in the event was to explore how sports education can be a highly efficient way to bring people together in an equal setting to learn things. Health and the importance of sports activities were discussed as well. There were 26 participants from 8 different countries (Finland, United Kingdom, Sweden, Iceland, Belgium, Romania, Cyprus and Germany) and four facilitators/trainers and a support worker who were from Finland, Belgium and Iceland.

During the seminar the participants had discussions about what kind of role open youth work and sports can play in gender equality and human rights issues. The participants learned valuable tools and methods to work on these issues. Through interactive workshops, exchanging views and experiences, simulation games and role plays and both small group work and plenary discussions the participants were able to develop their skills in human rights education and in gender issues in open youth work.

The participants had a great chance to see how things are outside their own country and community, as a study visit to the City of Oulu Youth information Centre Nappi and to the Oulu Tyttöjen Talo (Girls' House) was carried out. They also learned a lot by exchanging experiences.

In addition to this, the Youth in Action - programme of the European Commission was presented to the participants, with a practical outline given on how to apply, eligible projects and ideas and so on. In terms of the Programme's priorities, the main focus was in the discussions around young people with fewer opportunities, as Human Rights and Gender Equality were in the core of the programme. The participants

identified several issues they were also facing in their work in which young people from e.g. immigrant backgrounds faced discrimination.

Working methods

The working methods that we used were based on a range of experiential and non-formal approaches, of which SETNL and ECYC and its member organisations have considerable experience and expertise. This included interactive workshops, small and large group discussion, exchange of experiences, simulation activities, role plays, use of outdoor activities etc.

The seminar aimed to develop the skills and personal development of the participants by exploring a range of issues relevant to their roles as youth leaders and youth workers. The programme started with a look into Human Rights Education and what HR are in general and why are they relevant to youth workers. This was followed by a general introduction to Gender Equality and exploring the importance of gender-sensitivity in youth work. The methodology of gender-sensitive youth work (e.g. Tyttöjen Talo-network, the project "Sinuksi" etc) developed by SETNL was also introduced to the participants.

Evaluation

The evaluation of the seminar was carried out in three different ways, both during the seminar and in the end of the seminar. During the seminar, the participants were divided into Reflection Groups that gathered every evening right after the programme of the day had ended to discuss the day with one of the prep team members.

The final evaluation in the end of the week was done through an action-based evaluation session in which the participants were able to express themselves and give an overview of their feeling and thoughts about a certain topic (e.g. "the atmosphere in the group") by the facilitator of the evaluation. This was followed by filling in the written evaluation forms, in which the emphasis will be slightly different from the action-based evaluation. The written evaluation form is attached.

Intercultural dimension

The group seemed to bond very well in the beginning of the seminar. However, the communication between the participants was not as good as it could have been. Some of the participants were there for the wrong reasons. They only wanted to ski and snowboard. That created a small problem, especially for those participants who were there to learn new things. Because of this, the group of participants was not as united as we would have hoped for. There were a couple of strong characters who tried to lead the whole group. There was quite a lot of work for the facilitators to make sure that all the voices and opinions were heard, and in the end we managed to pull through just fine.

Intercultural learning was a central aspect of the seminar. A number of activities was organised to encourage intercultural learning and sharing, such as an intercultural evening. Participants worked in small groups made up of representatives from various countries in order to make sure that English was the working language throughout the seminar.

There were also two participants who didn't understand and didn't speak English very well. The language barrier was there but it didn't turn out to be such a big

obstacle. We just had to pay attention to that fact and react on it. We tried to explain things as well as we could, speak slowly etc.

Comments from participants:

“Really like the way of working. You can pay more attention. It didn’t feel like learning, but it was after all.”

“Prep team worked well to develop this programme. It was fitting to the outcomes.”

“Some participants were only here to go skiing, and didn’t take part in discussions”

SEMINAR PROGRAMME, as executed

Monday, 31st of March

Arrivals at Helsinki – Vantaa airport

18:30 Departure to Syöte (sandwiches, beverages and fruits available)

22:00 Dinner in ABC Vaajakoski

Stop in Oulu

Arrivals at Syötekeskus, accommodation

Tuesday, 1st of April (April Fools Day ☺)

13:00 BRUNCH

14:00 Welcome to the seminar!

- Introduction to the programme, looking at aims & objectives
- Creating a working agreement
- Introduction to ECYC

14:30 Getting to know each other!

15:30 Coffee break

16:00 Teambuilding – “Mission Impossible”

17:00 Introduction to Human Rights Education

18:00 Coffee break

18:15 Introduction to Reflection groups + groups gather

19:00 DINNER

21:00 Culture Evening (set up from 20:00 onwards)

Wednesday, 2nd of April

08:00 -> **Breakfast**

09:30 Introduction to the day + energisers

10:00 Human Rights Education continued

12:00 LUNCH

(Remember to wear outdoor clothes for the next session!!)

- 13:00** Introduction to Discussion Walk
13:30 Discussion Walk with snowshoes
15:30 Coffee break
16:00 Introduction to Gender and gender-sensitive youth work
18:00 Reflection Groups
18:30 DINNER
20:30 Finnish movie night:

Thursday, 3rd of April

- 08:00-> Breakfast
09:00 Introduction to the day + energisers
09:15 Battle of the sexes (outdoors) + debriefing
11:00 LUNCH
12:00 Bus ride to Oulu
14:00 Visit to the Girls' House in Oulu
15:00 Visit to the Oulu Youth information centre Nappi
16:00 FREE TIME ☺
19:00 DINNER in Sokeri-Jussi
Bus ride back to Syöte

Friday, 4th of April

- 08:00 Breakfast ->
10:00 Outdoor activities – choose your sport!
- Skiing
- Snowboarding
- Sleighing
- Hiking
- Cross-country skiing
13:00 LUNCH
14:00 Role play “Winter Olympics”
16:30 Debriefing the role play
18:00 Reflection groups
18:30 DINNER
20:30 Music, movement and relaxation
21:30 Free evening

Saturday, 5th of April

08:00 Breakfast
09:30 Introduction to the day + energisers
10:00 Introduction to Youth in Action programme – how can I use it in my work?
10:45 Coffee break
11.15 “Sit or stand” + debriefing
13:00 LUNCH
14:00 Conclusions – what have I learned this week?
16:00 Coffee break
16:30 Evaluation of the event
18:00 Free time
19:00 Dinner
21:00 Farewell party
00:00 -> Bus back to Helsinki

Sunday, 6th of April

Departures ☹



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