



Diversity Through Media Education in Open Youth Work.

7-14 October 2007.

Participants' report

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We and two other participants were chosen to write a few words about the “Diversity through media education in open youth work” seminar that was held in Vienna, Austria in October 2007. That committee started in Vienna but soon the group got smaller and smaller and in the end only Magnus from Iceland and Kathrinna from Sweden took part in the writing. We wrote a few thoughts, comments and ideas down and you can read them here. Hopefully this is enough ☺

Sunday – Arrival day

We played games to learn each others names, countries and backgrounds. Alphabetical line was quite good. It was combination of an icebreaker and a group building exercise. Each participant took part and we all helped each other. We had fun and laughed a lot! Since it was our first day some went to bed early because of tiredness but others stayed up socializing. The hotel staff complained for the first time ☺

Monday - “Intercultural / vikingsword day”

We started on a icebreaker called “vikingsword” which is originally from Scandinavia. We were screaming and making big movements that got our energy up. Then Annina told us practical information about ECYC. After that all the participants wrote down their hopes and expectations for the seminar and we hung all the notes up. Then we did a “newspaper frontpage” that included information about us, from our names, background to our interests. The last thing we did before lunch was a game called the “Electric fence”. In that game we worked with communication and trust.

LUNCH

After everybody had lunch we went straight to a game called “applause for identity”. We were supposed to pick three things that are a big part of our identity. If someone shared that identity he or she stood up and the rest applauded. At that time we all had a role for a role-playing game. We had a few minutes to get in to our roles and then the game started. We all got into a straight line and the leader read sentences and if it agreed with our character then we took one step forward. Afterwards we saw the diversity between our characters and discussed them.

Coffee break.

Annina introduced the “All different, All equal” campaign. Then came dinner and the intercultural evening. All of the participants introduced their countries, food and drinks and we had fun.

Tuesday – Ponyday

This day started with breakfast ☺ Then Bo Hansen from Ungdomsringen DK taught us a game called “Big fat pony” and we used that game as an energizer. When everybody had some energy we started with a drawing exercise. 3 participants were together in each

group and painted different parts of 3 typical characters. The characters were: gay, disabled and woman. That exercise was funny and interesting and very challenging. The results of the final pictures were interesting and showed the difference of our imagination.

Bjarni came at that time with a great exercise where we were supposed to write headlines of 5 pictures. In that exercise we gained the knowledge of how powerful headlines can be. We realized how much it affects young people. Annina then introduced the 8 steps of media literacy. Then the reflection groups had a case that they were supposed to talk about and discussed it. We thought that this part of the program was a little bit confusing. It was easy to start a discussion but kind of hard to see where we were heading.

Then the day continued with four media workshops: TV & film, internet, printed media and radio. Each of the workshops presented the outcomes of their work in the end of the day.

Wednesday - Workshop-day.

All of us were in a different workshop. The following workshops were:

1. Visual Art
2. Drama
3. Music and sound

Drama (Kathrina): We did a lot of exercises in improvisation theatre. We tried out to be rejected and to reject others and learned about how to build up an improvisation in a good way. We learned exercises to use in youth work to make people open for others' ideas. We worked with stereotypes and how to become conscious of them.

Music (Magnús): We did learn about sounds and how they surround us every day. We tried out instruments and made sounds. Johanna let us play a lot and we all laughed a lot. Great experience that I can use back home. Made radio play and sound puzzle.

Dinner. Over the dinner the drama workshop made a sketch using invisible theatre. Abed was "playing" a thief that stole Silla's phone. Lots of reactions and emotions were amongst the group. Annina then explained what had really happened. It showed us things that we didn't know about ourselves. Reactions were strong and Abed felt negative energy. But the unity got stronger because no one wanted to believe the theatre at first. It's a lot of trust in this group.

Thursday - Babykissing-day.

Closure on the invisible theatre and deep discussions. The emotions were stray but made our group more united.

The counties represented their organisations and projects. We all got the opportunity to learn from different cultures.

Free afternoon in Vienna. The group spread out and did different things. Some were meeting up later to share dinner in town. And later ending up in a karaoke-bar (more info at the seminar-movie...).

Friday - Open Space-day.

Energy-game. Introduction to Open Space. Following groups were created: Video/Movie, Visual Art/Human Rights, Music, Photo and Gunnar (?). Open Space-workshop continued all day, with reflection groups before dinner.

Visual Art/Human Rights (Kathrina): Our group decided to make a graffiti painting on a legal wall in Vienna. First we discussed in the group what we wanted to paint and started to make sketches on the topic of diversity, human rights or identity. When we had decided about the motive the big quest for cans begun. For more then 2 hours we run around in the city to find the store. We got to know new parts of Vienna and talk to a lot of people. Finally we found it and went to the wall and started to paint. Our time limit were coming to and end but we succeeded in finishing our masterpiece. Even if some of us had the strange feeling of doing something illegal, we were all satisfied and tired when we got back with a lot of new knowledge.

After dinner we visited a youth club in Vienna. Foozeball and dancing!

Saturday: Goodbye-day!

We started with presentations of our Open Space- workshops.

Music-group had put music to photos taken during the week to express the feeling of the picture. Movie-group had made a real emotional movie. Much fun to. Visual Art were making a presentation in cooperation with the photo-group (Edith) who made a slideshow of pictures taken of the Visual Art group during Friday. Gunnar had made a open space-workshop under the topic of feelings that take place in a human at the same time. I think everyone learned a lot about themselves and got new ideas of how to use Open Space in there work.

After lunch we were making the evaluation of the week, in reflection groups, in the big group and on paper. We also wrote positive notes about each other and put in envelopes to take with us home.

Dinner. Then we were gathering on a restaurant to have our Grand Farewell party. Which I think was most appreciated. Everyone was dancing and talking. Most of us stayed until the restaurant closed.

Sunday: Departure-day.

Everyone left. Hopefully some of us will be able to keep in contact!