

Example of good practice

Title : Place Publique Junior

1. Description

Place Publique Junior is a yearly festival gathering around 200 participants and enabling young people to express themselves while being heard by adults and institutions representatives.

Young people reflect about, talk about, illustrate - using whichever mean they chose- topics relevant to society and more specifically to their cities' development policy.

Examples of themes that took place:

- Dialogue between young people, policy makers and politicians,
- Gender equality
- Living in a city: moving from conflict to dialog,
- Europe: opening to new members

The festival itself is "built around" a pedagogical process". It is free and opened to all; it lasts for three days. It mixes serious "thinking and talking" to art and creativity. For instance, TV and radio broadcasts (organized by young people with the help of professionals) are frequently used to keep a record of the event and add to its livelihood.

Who can take part?

Associations or other structures wishing to present projects either ready to be implemented or still being elaborated, (all projects- whichever their phase of development – being related to active citizenship).

Each association gathers young people and educators; both parties work together on getting their intervention ready.

Organisation:

Inscriptions are taken from July and the event itself occurs at the end of October/beginning of November.

What takes place during the festival?

- Debates
- Shows,
- Exhibitions
- TV, Radio broadcasts

2. Target group

- Young people aged between 15 and 18;
- Associations' representatives, educators, parents...
- Policy makers

3. Aims and objectives

Enable young people to become actors of their citizenship, knowing that that "type" of citizenship will be critical and active.

It illustrates active learning of citizenship and enables young people, adults, institutions, policy makers, to meet and listen to each other.

4. Recommendations for use

This type of event requires a lot of organization and a very heavy phase of preparation; a steering committee is necessary.

It also expensive to prepare and implement and needs the support of cities and policy makers (food, housing, a place to hold the festival).

In order for it to be a success, only organized groups and organisations can take part and present their project or productions during the meeting.

However, it is totally possible to organize the same type of event on a smaller scale, keeping the idea of a steering committee involving representatives of young people, associations, and policy makers.

Example: On a school open day, from 9 am till 5 pm, in order to illustrate a theme previously selected by the steering committee, associations of young people could present their project, (speech but also, video, web site, play...), discover other groups' initiatives, prepare and take part in a debate at the end of the afternoon along with adults and (adult) policy makers.

What will be said during the debate could be put recorded by a school technician, put on the school website... In order to get a wide range of people involved in the event, inter generational games could also take place at lunch time or before the debate.

5. Availability:

On the web:

<http://www.placepubliquejunior.com/>