

Guide of Best Practices

TEMPLATE

Voluntary work

Latvia

Action Personal Card

Name of the best practice:	Voluntary work
Country, region, municipality:	Latvia, Dagda local municipality.
Responsible organization (name and type, e.g. municipality, museum, NGO, etc.):	Dagda municipality Youth Initiative Centre.
Partner organizations (if applicable):	<p>The process of promoting volunteering is followed by the following partners:</p> <p>The Youth Society “Dagne”; The TN of the Dagda municipality; The Education, Culture and Sport department of Dagda municipality; Dagda municipality Dagda municipality Tourism and Information Centre.</p> <p>Strengthening the mental values of young people by following partners:</p> <p>The Roman Catholic Church ; The Oriental Church of the Holy Nicholas Brewer.</p> <p>The following partners are involved in the implementation of peer-to-peer education:</p> <p>Dagda Municipality Youth Centre Dance Group “Nika”; Youth Society “Dagne”.</p> <p>Promoting healthy and active lifestyles are the following partners:</p> <p>Dagda municipality Youth Centers; Youth societies of Dagda municipality; Dagda county sports school.</p> <p>The following partners are involved in the implementation of charitable activities:</p> <p>The Youth Society “Dagne”; Local businessmen; Dagda is run by the old people's headquarters “Ābeļdārzs”.</p>
Period of implementation (start year and end year or if it's ongoing):	1992
Problems it wanted to solve	<p>Volunteer work.</p> <p>To settle good work experience. For young people who graduated from high and technical schools, it is difficult to compete because they have no work experience and the CV remains blank. By engaging in the promotion of volunteering, young people acquire the first working experience, thereby remaining competitive in the labor market.</p> <p>Cooperation with Churches.</p> <p>Living at an intense pace, everyday using new technologies, the public forgets about spiritual values. In order to strengthen mental development in young people, the JIC of Dagda municipality works with local Churches and Priests. Organize meetings and discussions,</p>

	<p>attract young people in processions and in the work of building up sites.</p> <p>Peer education.</p> <p>Faced with many challenges, young people remain locked in themselves, shyly and at other times choose to stay on the sidelines rather than engage in somewhere. Peer education is a very good way to encourage young people to share their knowledge and acquire new skills. Consequently, gradually young people stay safer and are happy to be involved in municipal events.</p> <p>The healthy and active way of life.</p> <p>Today, the vast majority of society is a passive lifestyle, spending a lot of time with the gadgets without noticing how broad and diverse it is to be active and spend their time in useful fresh air when communicating with friends. Passive lifestyles have a bad impact on human health and emotional condition. In order to reinforce interest in sporting activities among young people, the JIC of Dagda municipality regularly organizes a variety of events for young people in line with their interests and modern trends.</p> <p>Charity.</p> <p>It is now very popular to be socially responsible and to organize or engage in different charity shares. Watching big corporations and small entrepreneurs do this makes a good example of it. In order to strengthen this interest among young people, the JIC of the Dagda municipality motivates young people to investigate the surrounding situation in order to find out what exactly needs support and helps to organize charity shares with an appropriate purpose.</p>
Goal:	Meaningful free time activities for youth
Description of the good practice (max 1000 words):	<p>The JIC of the Dagda municipality is an institution coordinating youth centers, associations and conducting non-formal education. Consequently, the JIC of the Dagda municipality has a very extensive field of activities. In order to maximize audience attention, we need to develop intensively and apply today's innovations to work. Non-formal education also attracts more passive young people who continue to engage in different activities, to stay safer and more convincing. During the period of 14 years, a number of activities have been identified in the youth center as examples of good practice among young people. These include: promoting voluntary work, strengthening religious values, developing peer education, promoting healthy and active lifestyles, organising charity events.</p> <p>Every young person in the county can be involved in the youth centre and be assisted on a voluntary basis. In carrying out this work, the young man gains both theoretical and practical knowledge of the various posts, which are mentioned in the CV as a learned experience. When working in the youth centre, volunteers are trained to manage children's birthdays, thereby overcoming fears of the public and can continue to work safely as action leaders. At major international festivals, young people from other countries are attached as guides, so they learn to communicate, study foreign languages. For several years, it has been established in close cooperation with Dagda municipality. In historical places, young people meet visitors with improvisational theatrical performances. Shows plays, notions and involving tourists in collective games. They motivate young people to study Dagda's history and recognize recreational and tourist sites. This kind of young man learns the professions of a tourist worker and actor.</p>

	<p>Social services are also popular among young people, helping to make up the jobs of young people, and the volunteers learn the profession of economic professionals. As a volunteer, the young man develops his/her skills, later (s)he also remains a peer-to-peer education teacher, as well as a group of guitarists and a “Nika” dance group. During the summer, a group of bicycle riders work in the JIC of Dagda county, when young people train children for road safety rules and prepare them for the cycling court exam. During the school year, every pupil can turn to the JIC of Dagda with a request to help explain a subject, and here comes the help of the older young and explain the topics that the pupil does not understand.</p> <p>Charity events are also among the more popular ones being carried out by young people. Every Christmas, young people attract entrepreneurs and give children sweet gifts. There is also no attention to Dagda's old people's house “Ābeļdārzs”, and young people regularly visit it with performances, plays and table-game tournaments. The very popular are also charity discos organized by young people with the aim of collecting donations for ill children. All these charity shares are popular and have been transformed into a good tradition.</p> <p>Meetings with Priests are often organized in the youth center. In this kind of informal atmosphere, young people have the opportunity to ask interesting questions and learn more about religious life. As the Church Festival approaches, young people make compositions and embellish Churches together with the employees of the Youth Centre, and clean up the nearby area.</p> <p>Young people are happy to support and help organize sporting events. There are activities when youth societies and centers gather. The most popular: “World Snow Day”, winter football and volleyball competitions outside, bicycle marathons, orientation, hiking, running, “Youth Sports Day”, etc.</p> <p>The JIC of Dagda county is always open to cooperation, young people here feel safe and supported.</p>
Impact (short term and long term if applicable):	<p>Short-term impacts: Enable EU funding for youth ideas. Long-term impacts: creating a socially safe and modern environment for the development of young people, which will also have a positive impact on society.</p>
How citizens participated in developing and implementing the action (please stress if the vulnerable groups were involved):	<p>By organizing various events, the JIC of Dagda municipality works with youth associations, together draws up plans, scenarios, organizes discussions and discusses all the details.</p>
For those who want to know more (insert link where more information on the action can be found):	<p>http://www.dagda.lv/jauniesiem.html https://www.facebook.com/JICDagda/ http://www.dagda.lv/jauniesiem/bernu-un-jauniesu-centri/dagdas-novada-jauniesu-iniciativu-centrs.html</p>
Please identify qualities that make this action a good practice and/or social innovation (max 300 words)?	<p>Youth support and team work are needed to strengthen good working practices. Young people should be motivated to act, to invest in their voluntary activities, to develop themselves and to attract their peers. Innovative devices are also needed to implement young people's ideas, because young people are the ones that motivate development and understand modern innovation. Consequently, they is a good basis for applying different projects with a reason to obtaining funding. For example, the latest project</p>

	<p>has been written to implement charity discos, which includes the purchase of new sound hardware, a DJ console and a contemporary laser.</p> <p>There is also a project involving a specialist who draws up a route for young people with special electronic devices that track the route and show the time and points at which young people had to be tagged.</p>
<p>Please identify success factors in implementation of action (max 300 words)</p>	<p>Successful youth work requires creative ideas, support for civil society youth centers and associations, support from the municipality and motivation for young people to work.</p>
<p>Local development: How has the action contributed to local development? (max 300 words)</p>	<p>Any movement is a step forward. The JIC of Dagda municipality has established a good network of youth centers and associations in the parish. Any measure does not take place without the involvement of civil parish youth. The same conditions have been ensured for both civil parish and urban youth.</p> <p>This kind of activity also makes youth movements strong and active in parishes, as well as a good example for other organizations and society.</p>
<p>Sharing is Caring: what would you advise to some other organization that would like to implement similar action in their local community?</p>	<p>Dare to work and not be afraid of errors, because it's not just the one who doesn't do anything.</p>
<p>Attach photos of the action (as a separate document)</p>	
<p>Optional: other material relevant for good practice (links to publications or video material)</p>	<p>http://www.dagda.lv/jauniesiem.html https://www.facebook.com/JICDagda/</p>