

Decentralized Cooperation Belgium - Romania

4th Forum October 25-27, 2013 Leuven

Fostering local governance between Romania and Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels

Workshop Local Youth Work: Children and youngsters are a full member of the local society. That's why municipalities and cities have attention to this section of the population. To give youngsters a place in society, it's needed to give them chances to develop themselves. Youth work offers a lot of possibilities to realise this. In the bilateral cooperation between Romania and Belgium, the method of local youth organisation is a success. Of course other methods are also active, but they are not an issue of bilateral cooperation. Not only because of this bilateral cooperation towards this kind of youth work we focus on this, also because of the feasibility to start up and to keep the things going, we choose for this topic in the workshop. Not only the success stories will be on the agenda, also the needs, wishes and problems.

The past years, youth organisations had an increasing success. In Belgium, the number of membership went up. In Romania you can see that youngsters are willing to take more initiative to start with local youth work in their own municipality or village. A good choice: youngsters will "learn by doing" a lot of skills which family and school can't offer.

In an organised context, children and youngsters will learn a lot of social skills: show consideration for each other, mutual help, sense of public responsibility, taking responsibility, show emotions, etc. In a word: these youngsters will make the society more rich. Moreover, with a clock-like regularity universal examination proves this each time. It is evident that authorities, both local and supra local, have to develop a youth policy plan.

In this workshop the goal is to discuss about the existing good practices, their successes and their problems. We will have plenty of topics for conversation.

1. Presentation of good practices in Romania:

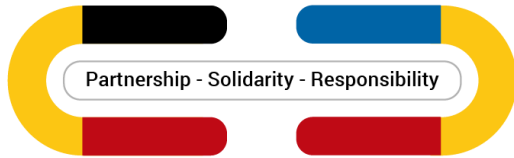
Belgium has a lot of youth organisations and professional support for the local volunteers. Some of them are still active to share their expertise with Romanian youngsters and organisations. In Romania **AGLT** is growing to a big youth organisation with a lot of local youth groups all over the country. Furthermore, AGLT developed also a special service for "children with special needs" (handicap), called **SPEAS**. AGLT knows more than anybody else which kind of needs local volunteers have, which kind of support helps and how volunteers can be stimulated to take initiative.

For both Romania and Belgium, local youth work gives a surplus at society.

2. Panel:

- Belgium:
 - Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles Service de la Jeunesse: **Isabelle Letawe**
 - Les Scouts : **X**
 - Kazou & Jomba: **Jannicke Hurtekant**
 - Chiro & Somepro: **Mieke Dereymaeker** (waiting for answer).
- Romania:
 - Ministry ANT/ provincial service DJT: **X** (name is asked).





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- AGLT: national secretary **Maria Pruteanu**
- Local council/mayor: **X** (waiting for answer).
- Moderator:
 - **Peter Andriessen**

3. Possible outcomes / Points of interest:

- The quantitative offer of courses and education has to increase.
- More support for local volunteers from a professional educative worker.
- Children with special needs have to get more possibilities to participate at activities of local youth groups (playdays).
- Better possibilities for volunteers to organise youth camps with children and youngsters.
- Support to start up local youth work.
- More play area at local level; also during wintertime.
- A local youth policy plan that appreciates and support the commitment of youngsters.