



Introduction

This document deals with the results obtained after the implementation or testing phase of the pilot programme of the Push Inclusion Through Youth Work project. This test experience has aimed to show the possibilities of youth work in terms of improving the inclusion of refugees and migrants. This methodology, created after an exhaustive research, showed that in order for these groups to be fully included in society, in addition to the formal aspects, they needed to be involved in more informal activities. By these we mean cultural, language, employability, environmental and sport related activities.

This testing phase of the pilot programme has been led by the organisations High on Life (Italy) and Somos Europa (Spain), both organisations have been in charge of carrying out a total of 65 activities in their local environments, on the above-mentioned themes. All of them have involved local young people, youth workers, refugees and migrants.

The implementation has been a success, showing how youth work can have a direct and transversal influence on the issue of inclusion of these groups with fewer opportunities.

Purpose of the document

This document aims to compile all the annotations and recommendations made by the youth workers who have been in charge of the implementation of this pilot test. All of them, being part of the Italian and Spanish organisations, have been able to work directly with the pilot programme since its inception. Therefore, they have a global vision, and this has facilitated their role as facilitators in the implementation of this part of the project.

Development of the pilot programme

The implementation of the pilot programme was carried out over a period of approximately seven months, with each organisation adapting its own planning according to the resources and means available. The aim was to ensure that at least one activity was carried out every two weeks.

All activities should meet certain minimum standards and try not to repeat the same category of activity, in order to give the opportunity to involve more people with different interests.

The pilot programme has gathered a high number of participants with an average of 15 participants per activity. Generating more interest in one type of activity than another.



The creation of this multicultural environment has allowed young migrants and refugees to have local people of reference, and also because they are of similar ages they share interests, creating bonds of friendship.

It is also noteworthy that during the implementation of the project, and of this pilot programme, the conflict in Ukraine broke out. This led to the movement of millions of Ukrainian citizens to European Union countries in search of asylum. Many of them were granted asylum and were distributed to all European countries. In this case, Italy and Spain were affected, and the project organisation saw the need to include them in the initiative. High on Life and Somos Europa contacted the organisations in charge of the management of these refugees to inform them about our initiative and each of the activities we carried out. Some Ukrainian refugees participated in the development of the pilot programme.

Conclusions reached

The youth workers have considered that the methodology created fulfils all the objectives set, in a very satisfactory way. Fulfilling two main objectives of the project:

- 1) To improve youth work, providing it with the necessary tools to create multicultural environments.
- 2) To create inclusion of refugees and immigrants in local environments.
- 3) To raise awareness among young people about the need for tolerance and the elimination of racism.

The refugees and migrants who have participated have progressively improved their inclusion, as the organisations' own staff saw. At the beginning of the testing, the groups were watertight and did not mix with each other. But thanks to the dynamics of non-formal education, they gradually gained confidence and began to interact with each other. So we saw an evolution in people, improving their way of interacting, and even improving their social skills. The change was very important and the feeling of belonging generated was remarkable. Not only because they participated, they created a community among themselves, but also because people with fewer opportunities were included in the local community.

An important point in setting up an initiative like this is the need to be aware that all activities must be fully funded. This is because any barriers to participation must be removed. It is a complex issue, but it has been seen that, in the absence of any kind of barrier, many participants have been able to continue attending each scheduled activity.

The organisational capacity of the entities that are going to implement it should not be very high, because as it is a weekly activity, there is little monitoring to be done. In this pilot



phase, it has required greater involvement due to the improvements that have been introduced during its development.

The dissemination of each activity will be fundamental so that the target groups continue to be interested in the activities that are implemented, following those that have already been carried out and what the next ones will be.

It is also very important to implement group cohesion dynamics so that all of them can interact with each other and get to know each other.

Points for improvement and recommendations

Following implementation, the following points for improvement or recommendations have been identified:

- Before starting the implementation, it may be good to study what materials will be needed to make the orders and to be ready for the start of the activities, for example the roll up.
- It is advisable that the activities take place once a week and if possible always on the same day. In this way people know that, for example, on Thursdays the project activities take place on a regular basis. We thought that Thursday could be a good day because in this way the first three days can be dedicated to organising resources and launching the activity announcement, on Thursday the activity takes place and on Friday the dissemination.
- It is useful to create an Instagram dedicated to the project where photos of past activities and announcements of future activities are uploaded. This creates a sense of community.
- It is also useful to create Whatsapp groups to foster this sense of community. There can be a group with all participants, with the participants who attend the most activities or organised by areas where participants interested in that particular area (sport, culture, etc.) are included.
- Sports activities are the ones in which most people have participated. We have observed that they are the most interesting for the participants.
- A group of young people has been created naturally and participates in most of the activities. This trusted group can be useful for the implementation because they help with ideas or even in the organisation of the activities. It can also be good to have a whatsapp group with them.
- As far as possible, it is good to adapt the activities to the interests of the participants. In this case we saw that there was a lot of interest in sports activities so we decided to organise them frequently.



Conclusions

As a conclusion of this testing phase, it is important to mention that the target groups of this project have benefited greatly from the result achieved, which has made it possible to have a real impact on the inclusion of the refugees and immigrants who have participated in the project.

This initiative has shown the need to invest and look for other non-formal ways to promote the inclusion of these sectors, which have been socially affected. For as a European society we have a duty to improve and look for ways to include people with different cultural, religious backgrounds, etc... in our society. And we have to look for the most effective way and that is at the root of the problems.

Undoubtedly youth work has shown that it can influence society in a very important way, and that it has a fundamental role to play on the youth, who will be the generation that in a few years time will be part of society and it is these young people who will be the main actors.