

1. Name of organisation, city, country

Dienst Jeugd en Buitenschoolse Kinderopvang, Evergem, België
(service for youth and childcare - for children +3 years)

3. How many interested staff? (if possible names, function)

One member of the staff.

4. What is the staff interested in seeing /learning? (Themes/methods/activities)

- How to involve youth in the elaboration of youth policy?
- How to work with youth in a rather 'scattered' city?
(a large area, a lot of small suburbs, not a real city center)
- How do other cities (countries) 'play' with children? Do they organise activities for children/young people during their free time? Is playing as such an important part of the child-being (and development)?
- Are there youth work organisations, comparable to our own traditional organisations (as Chiro, Scouts, ...)? If so, how does the city support them? (or not?)
- Are there structural (laws, decrees, ...) ways for supporting youth, children?
- How to support creative youngsters? (painting, music, theatre, ...) What possibilities do they have?
- Do schools play an important role concerning the free time of children/youngsters? For activities, education, the use of school infrastructure, ... (the idea of a 'broad school' - brede school)
- Do different cities have (whether or not structural) partnerships concerning youth work?
- How do other cities use public space? In order to play, sport, ...?

5. What type of activity is relevant? (Job shadowing/Study visit)

Both?

6. How long should the activity last?

1 to 2 weeks. More is negotiable, but maybe not preferable.

7. When would be a good time for your organisation to send youth workers?

No preferences. Can be organised according to 'interesting activities' (activities to be interpreted widely...) within the work of the host. The summer holidays (july - august) are possible, but less preferable (due to a lot of activities in Evergem during that period).

8. What can your organisation offer in terms of interesting examples of youth

activities/methods etc?

A long tradition of 'youth policy':

- Support of (voluntary) youth organisations: the more 'traditional' youth work organisations as Chiro, Scouts, ... but also 'houses of youth' (jeugdhuiswerking) and other.
- A lot of experience in (organised) playing such as the 'speelpleinwerking', workshops with children, sports, ...

Ideas involving natural playground, and how to develop them using participative methods (involving children, parents, ...).

Partnerships with other local cities concerning youth work; even a structural partnership with a city in Ecuador (recently we started an exchange program concerning youth).

9. When would be a good time for your organisation to host?

In our case, the summer holidays (or other holidays such as Easter holidays) are very interesting. There's a great deal of 'practical' youth work during that time: workshops for children, youth camps (of Chiro, Scouts, ...), speelpleinwerking at full speed. It offers a lot of possibilities for tasting local youth work.

A possible disadvantage of this period, is that there's less work concerning 'youth policy'. The shift is more towards concrete activities (playing) with children.

10. Other relevant information

Evergem is a quite unique city. It's large in surface (75 km²), with a lot of suburbs (an aggregation of 9 villages), but lacks a distinct center. The recent years its populations grew strongly (we are approximately 35.000). It's next to the city of Ghent, which has a direct impact on the lives of people in Evergem: a lot of people have their homes in Evergem, but their (social) lives in Ghent. In such, Evergem delivers a strong 'suburban' feeling.