

European Conference

The Impact of Cultural and Citizenship Education on Social Cohesion

3 - 5 December 2009, Vilnius, Lithuania

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Project Fact Sheet

Workshop 3

“Culture as a Means to Overcome Social Borders and Involve Socially Disadvantaged Groups: Are Cross-Milieu Concepts and Co-operative Projects Essential?”

	Section	Indications of content
1	Title of project	NEXT GENERATION
2	Location (City/Country)	Ruhr-area (Essen, Bochum, Duisburg, Herne), Germany
3	Main topics (select 5 max)	Creating a vision of the future of city life by the inhabitants of the Ruhr-area / meeting of very different social and cultural groups by working together in the project
4	Practice-related keywords (5 max)	Theatre interventions in public space / special working places within local districts / intercultural implications / experience of cultural and social diversity
5	Brief description of project (150 words)	The future of the city and the vision of its young inhabitants are the subjects of NEXT GENERATION. In ten “Zukunftshäusern” (houses of future) located in very different districts in the Ruhr-area towns Essen, Duisburg, Bochum and Herne young people are working together with scientists and artists from theatre, film and music to invent a new idea of the place they live in. For the whole year 2010, when the Ruhr-area is European capital of culture, they show their special idea of how people in this area should live together in the future. They create ten pieces of theatre, film, music or infrastructure projects, they visit each other and tell each other and us about their ideas and what brings them together or apart. In autumn 2010 they meet in one big project on the stage of the theatre in Bochum: For the first time all together, crossing all the borders of the districts and its implications of culture, language and social background. To make the Ruhr-area become a place worth living in depends very much on them: It's the story of the next generation.
6	Objectives of project	See point 5 and 7.
7	Impact of the project on education and social cohesion (250 words)	The area of the Ruhr valley has changed its social and economical structure several times in the last decades. Once a highly industrialized working area with famous steel factories and coal mines, it has become an area with big problems of social and cultural diversity, after closing down these places of industry. The whole area is basically and almost symbolically divided into a more or less poor northern former industrial area with a high rate of unemployment, under-education and a mix of different migrant communities and a traditionally richer southern part where for example several big energy- or merchant companies have their headquarters. There still is a very rare movement of the inhabitants between the districts. The project tries to cross these invisible borders by bringing the young inhabitants of this area into one project, independent from social and cultural implications. Asking them for their special idea of the future of their local place and the whole Ruhr-area, the project tries to develop an example of the panorama of youth of a whole region.
8	Target groups	The young inhabitants of the Ruhr-area in the age of 14 to 24.

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9	Project methods/ Project format	Step one: 10 very locally centred projects in the different districts of the towns. Step two: create a dialogue between the districts with excursions, seminars, discussions and public presentation of the projects results. Step three: Forming one big theatre project in the theatre of Bochum, where members of all the projects join in and meet each other.
10	Project Time scale	The whole year 2010.
11	Project Initiator	Schauspiel Essen / Schauspielhaus Bochum in co-operation with the Federal Agency for Civic Education, Germany and the European Capital of Culture 2010 RUHR.2010. Mediapartner: Deutschlandradio Kultur
12	Resources involved (financial, human, others)	The project is created by the team of the theatre in Essen which in the middle of 2010 moves from Essen to the theatre in Bochum. It is financially supported by the Federal Agency for Civic Education that as a co-producer is also a partner in developing the project and feeding it with experience and manpower. In this way, artists from theatre, dance, music and film are as well part of the projects – as experts of political and cultural education. Next Generation is an official youth project in the program of RUHR.2010, which is the third partner within the project. Parts of it are also shown in the intercultural festival MELEZ, which is also part of RUHR.2010. Other Partners are Deutschlandradio Kultur, and for parts of the project WDR-TV and the Ministry for Intergenerational Affairs, Family, Women and Integration of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW).
13	Evaluation/Materials	
14	Contact information	Thomas Laue Essen City Theatre Thomas.Laue@schauspiel-essen.de www.next-generation-2010.de / www.schauspiel-essen.de (in German only)