

Working Group 1 „Education“

June 25 2007 from 14h – 16h30

June 26, 2007 from 9h – 11h

Devise of the working group:

Each child should be supported according to its talents and receive an education providing him/her fair chances for the future.

Monday, June 25, 2007:

Presentation by Mrs Hör and Mrs Chambers of the program flow;

- The working group will be divided into 3 small working groups
- They are categorised according to children age groups:
 - o 0 to 6 year olds,
 - o 6/7 to 15/16 year olds
 - o 15/16 to 18 year olds/young adults
- Each group will try to answer the structure of questions prepared by the moderators
- Each group will then present the results of their working session through key words and statements written on a paper-board (time planned for this point: 30 min)
- After a short discussion, Mr Chapple, expert for this working group, will do a Power Point presentation about his experience in the OECD (time planned for this point: 30 min)

Structure Questions for both Monday and Tuesday:

- Clarification of the subject
 - o How children educate themselves – short exchange about basics (knowledge as something filled in or explaining the world)
- Education – subtopics (roughly sorted out)
- Which priorities do we want to set up in the next 2 years?
- Priorities, first ideas about aims or possible indicators?
- Best-Practice – does our city offer an interesting project? (what, who, where, point of contact on moderation cards)

Results of Group 0 to 6 year olds, “early education”

- Support of parents; instruction of parents (eg. Language)
- Cooperation between parents, day-care centres, schools partnerships
- Access to immigrants, very young families/children (in some countries, school before 6 is not obligatory, that is what makes it difficult to implement)
- One institution, one education system
- Neighbourhood centres
- Avoiding poverty of children

- Underestimated importance of learning the language and of teaching music and sport in the early years,
- Equal education (family, day-care centre, school) for every child is important
- Education is not only a private matter but also a public task (children must be supported individually)
- Integration of minorities in order to provide equal opportunities for every child
- "How to": free kindergarten, free meals, best teachers for young children

Results of group 6/7 to 15/16 year olds

- Education does not take place everywhere
- Education should be part of City Planning
- Subtopics:
 - 1- Transition from pre-school
 - 2- School: variety of subjects/ how far does it intervene?
 - 3- Educational environment
 - 4- Transition to training
 - 5- Family
 - 6- Youth participation (link to the other working group)
- Aims:
 - 1- All children should start school from the same level (able to speak + understand the language of the country they live in)
 - 2- Possibility to chose whole day- school, increase the number of day-schools vs whole day- schools
Supporting not only academic speeches
Free of charge
Individual learning (teaching)
Enough well-educated teachers
The same level of education for all
 - 3- Museum and other educational institutions (besides school) should be free for children
Each museum should have special offers for children / work together with schools:
Close cooperation with university and companies
 - 4- All children should be able to start a further education training

Results of the group 15/16 to 18 year olds and young adults

- Most difficult age to engage in education?
- P.I. generation
- Not encouraged to find own solutions
- Importance of parental time
- Adolescents and excluded socially
- Physical absence
- Presence and participation
- Teacher quality for children at a "hard-to-teach-age" (question of salary)

- Mentoring for transitions to higher education
- Academies for learning/work transitions
- Employer/school connections
- Links with sporting clubs (Manchester United for example)
- Mental Health
- Drug and Alcohol tests 3 times per year, counselling
- Teen pregnancy
- Computer Games competition for attention (technology college)

Remarks about the results of the small working sessions: those ideas and considerations must not be taken too seriously by the participants. It is just a start for the discussion. The most important thing is to set up priorities and then discuss them.

Presentation of Mr Simon Chapple, Early Child Education (see Power Point Presentation)

Tuesday 26.06.2007:

Aims announced of the working session:

- Defining structures for the up-coming cooperation
- Agreement on policies for cooperation (when, who, how, where in the next 2 years?); possibility to set up a more concrete structure (time planned for these 2 points: 1:00 hour)
- Plenary discussion: collection of/and decision on results
- 10 best practice examples to exchange (time planned for these 2 points: 45 min)

Presentation of means and possibilities for the next steps of the collaboration:

- There will be a Internet platform in order to carry on the discussions
- Other meetings (not necessarily in Stuttgart) are possible
- A pilot for the group should volunteer or be chosen, in order to manage the information exchange; this person would stay in charge for the next 2 years

Questioning and doubts of the participants

More details about the whole functioning of the network are to be explained, before anyone can take the responsibility of piloting the group

- Intervention of Mrs Freter, Coordinator of the project;
 - o Mr Schuster, Lord Mayor of Stuttgart, will invite all participants and members of this congress once again in May 2008
 - o Each working group will be reorganized the same way aiming at discussing what has been reached during the past year (through the internet forum, by email, by phone...)
 - o The participants are not forced to stay in the same group next time, new participants can join in also

- Participants are not obliged to join in officially the network, but they are encouraged to do it

Question to all the participants: how will they organize their own work in their own cities within the network Cities for Children?

- Some will choose experts in their town focusing on the most important theme for them
- As the work will be done electronically, every available expert will work on its speciality topic (all topics if possible)
- The present NGOs will ask their members to express their opinion about the topics, and then share it with the group (Mother Centre of Stuttgart will ask all mothers)
- Some express their interest in finding partners in other European cities within specific themes
- A main way of working and method must be defined, but each city will have its own way of functioning
- The most important things to some other participants is to work on solutions, and stop discussing about aims: everybody agrees on aims (a better life for our children), now let us talk about solutions! For this, it is interesting to compare the methods of different cities

Decisions

To the question who (will get involved in the work and next conference)?

- Will the next meetings be only with experts or also with politicians?
 - Although politicians only often make speeches with no true contents or consequences, they are the ones who decide in the end, and it is better to have them involved into the procedure since the beginning.
- Can the NGOs be included?
 - It is not realistic to have NGOs from every city. But in Germany, the NGO culture is very present, and it is found important to have them also involved into the network, especially if they work a lot in the childhood thematic.
- Who will pilot the group?
 - It is a great responsibility. The representative of the city of Zurich may take over this role. He first has to ask the leaders of his administration.

To the question how (will the cooperation go further)?

- It is difficult to keep a work done electronically: the cities must be very committed to have something concrete until May 2008...
- Most important is to exchange ideas, concepts, methods, this through the Internet platform
- Best Practice examples will be electronically presented and discussed: 3 or 4 could be then chosen and presented in May 2008.
- A translation (at least from German to English) will be asked to the city of Stuttgart for the whole meeting. But during the whole year of work, everyone agrees on the fact that each cities will take over the translation from English to their local language.

The contents of next year's presentation for the next meeting:

- Suggestion from Mr Simon Chapple: perhaps keeping the idea of the age categories, presenting a topic and best practice in each of them
- Some issues are cross cutting the age groups though: it has to be taken into consideration

Final summarizing by the moderators:

3 main topics that will be dealt with

- **Integration of minorities in order to provide equal opportunities for every child (for all groups of ages)**
- **Individual learning**
- **Transitions between scholar stages**

The aim is to gather and exchange on the internet platform. The pilot may be the city of Zurich (to be determined). But for a start, the city of Stuttgart should take the initiative to lead the group, as the project is just starting. More cities may volunteer later, when concrete work will be achieved.

All participants are willing to stay in this working group in the future.

Point that still must be discussed: Financial means?

Protocol by Aline Schwoob, City of Stuttgart