

**Working Group 5 "Generation Dialogue"**  
**Meeting in Graz, 15th and 16th of March**  
**Protokol**



**1. Opening**

- opening speech by representative of the city of Graz Detlef Eisel – Eiselsberg (City Councilor)
- welcoming guests by organisers: Bernhard Seidler and Sandra Hasenburger
- presenting the agenda of the meeting
- getting to know other participants and a short introductions of the projects in Graz and Stuttgart (a generation house in Stuttgart- a network involving churches, schools, and different organisations offering a great variety of possibilities to people in Stuttgart; a library project in Graz- a cycle of meetings of elderly with children during which children were read by older people in the city library).

**2. A discussion with Dr. Eveline Hoenigsperger**

- presenting theories of „generation dialogue“ of : Ursula Lehr, Andreas Kruse, Leopold Rosenmayer and Kurt Lüscher
- Generation Report- the first official document from Switzerland
- broaching demographic trends, life expectancy at birth, fertility rates and labour market participation in Europe

- basic parameters of living together in the society
- open questions

(for more information about the subject see the attachment "Is the war of generations a real threat")



### 3. Expectations

- necessities of: elderly and other people in society
- what can we do to create space where young and old people can fulfill their wishes
- new methods to communicate with young and elderly people
- administration and NGO's are a catalyst
- best practice and results
- does it make sense to have a special intergenerational policy and criterias
- children should be educated in the way of active learning ( respect is not a one way ticket)



#### **4. Guidelines**

During the next workshops we were working on guidelines for the topic "Generation Dialogue"

- **definition, background and statistics**

- **target groups**

- **quality standards and criteria**

- **best practice + new ideas**

(see the elaborated guidelines in the attachment "Guidelines Generation Dialogue")

#### **5. Project visits**

##### **Points4action**

Point4action is a project which started in July 2006 involving 13 nursery homes in Graz. It was found by Youth WELFARE and The Senior Department. It's aimed at young people between 14-18 years old who would like to commit into the project through spending their free time with elderly and taking a part in activities such as: playing the instrument, playing the cards, going for walk, doing the shopping for seniors etc. For each hour spent with seniority young people collect one point in the form of a stamp. Having enough points they are allowed to exchange them for prizes such as: books, cinema tickets, pizza, vouchers and much more in many places in Graz. There are plenty of companies involved into the project thus the choice of offered prizes is very diverse. In addition the seniors really like the idea of rewarding youngsters for spending their free time in nursery homes. Since 2006 there have been 451 young people taking part in the project who collected in total over 9200 hours in nursery home. That proves how successful the project is. In case of emergency young people can count on help from other people in charge of the project.



### **Intergenerative Kindergarden (Wiki)**

Wiki Kindergarden opened in September 2009 and placed in a nursery home is the first and only of this kind institution in Austria. The aim is to integrate 0-6 year-old children with elderly people who live in the same building. They all meet once a week and spend few hours talking, playing, reading, going for walks to the park etc. The visits take place always at the same time so that children don't get confused but get used to older people around them. During many celebrations children visit nursery home and perform short plays for seniors. The organizers are really careful with the structure as they don't want none of sides to be forced with intergeneration meetings. The elderly is supposed to have a free will to meet with kids thus the meeting are regular but not that often.



## 6. Feedback

- a successful work with good results
- good atmosphere in the group
- setting many important aims
- good organisation (accommodation, food etc.)
- impressive examples of GD projects in Graz ( points4action and Wiki Kindergarden)
- good moderation in the group
- interesting discussion with Dr. Eveline Hoenigsperger (although there should have been more information about generation conflicts)

