

# Working Group 5 “Generation dialogue: active living together of old and young”

June 25 2007 from 14h – 16h30

June 26, 2007 from 9h – 11h

Devise of the working group:

**“A new “local contract between the generations” should support the interaction between old and young with new networks of mutual assistance and aid in a structured way”.**

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## Agenda:

1. Getting to know
2. Aim(s) of the meeting
3. “Jump into the topic”
4. Important definitions
5. Best practices
6. Plans for the next year
  - a. The aims
  - b. Action plan
  - c. Technical details

### **1. Getting to know**

Participants shortly introduce themselves, their professional background, and their relation to the topic

### **2. Aims**

Since most of the participants are practitioners, but often in different fields (youngsters/ old people), the WG represents a unique opportunity to share experiences. Purpose of the WG should be the exchange of ideas of how to diminish “conflicts” between different age groups and to better integrate families in our societies.

### **3. “Jump into the topic”**

The demographic change in Europe and the decreasing birth rates raise the importance of an inter-generational dialogue. For a cohesive community and a better quality of life, we have to create a connection between different generations and to avoid the discrimination of old and young.

#### 4. Important “definitions”

- Instead of (inter-generational) *dialogue* we should use the term *relationship*. *Relationship* includes *contact, communication, tolerance, and doing*.
- Young/ old
  - o Where is the line between young and old? -> Age is a relative concept, for that reason, or we should not draw a line or we have to answer the question of how we can handle the line between different age groups.
  - o The separation of young and old ignores the fact that a middle age group exists that also has to be integrated into a societal dialogue.
  - o However, every age group has its special needs.

#### 5. Best practices

- Participants suggest that instead of just talking, it is better to do something together. Ideas:
  - o How to mediate between the young and the old? How to react in a conflict?
  - o How can we create a public space of living together as a model for a city?
  - o We have to trust each other
  - o We must not forget the every old person has been young
- What can cities do?
  - o There are tow ways:
    1. cities can focus on concrete age groups
    2. cities can act according to the principle “age is a relative concept”
- knowledge transfer is important, but we have to create it, it is not natural
  - o we cannot force children, we have to create opportunities/ models/ offers to communicate; communication is based on liberty
- Best practices: each participant presents examples for good practice projects:
  - o An “intergenerational house”/ public living rooms for all generations
  - o Young city councillors: young people take part in a meeting of the city council
  - o Children parliament
  - o Extra grandma/ grandpa: old people are “nurses” for children
  - o Retirees are mentors for youngsters looking for a job or just having started their working life
  - o Old people help immigrant children reading books
  - o Ombudsman/woman for children
  - o Old people as city guides for children
  - o Young people help old people in their daily life and collect thereby points, with a certain amount of points they receive a voucher for the cinema, ...

#### 6. Plans for the next year?

##### a. Aims: What results do we want to present for the network in a year?

Discussion about the sustainability of WG 5:

1. Are we already a working group?
2. Who will be the leading person of WG 5 until/ for the next year?

3. How can we guarantee the regularity of the activities and communication between WG members?
  4. Most of the participants are interested in ideas, but not in being a permanent group member (no more extra work) or are not decision makers to really develop/ set up common strategies in their home cities.
- The topic and continuity of the WG is more important than the membership itself.
  - WG 5 is not a working group yet due to the lack of time and opportunities to develop common projects.

**b. Action plan**

WG 5 has to find a way of formal sharing. Ideas:

1. Common internet forum where WG 5 can share its ideas as well as project descriptions and that observes how social change happens.
2. Collaborative projects on a certain topic
3. Establishment of common values
4. A whole conference on that topic
5. We also have to discuss bad practices since we can learn from them. -> better “challenges”, “unintended results”, “side effects” instead of “bad practices”
6. suggestion for a coordinator: colleague of Rozalia Biro, Oradea, Romania
7. idea: collecting all information about intergenerational dialogue in a publication
8. Deadline for sending information about projects: 1 week

**c. Technical details**

- Cities for children should find the opportunities to come to provide an internet based platform of exchange
- Participants should provide their good practices in the internet forum including:
  - Name of the project
  - Description (who, what, why, where, with whom, how)
  - 2-5 photos
  - What is innovative?
  - Obstacles to solve
  - Contact person
- What about finances? How long is the network going to last financially?