

Curriculum of the Expert Seminar 'Better equipped to work in intercultural contexts'

Workshop on Community Development

Expert Seminar, Berlin, 2008, October 23rd and 24th
Guna Garokalna-Büchel and Jonas Büchel, Riga/Latvia

The metropolis is nowadays the most significant motive force for social changes and thus for various social movements. The renaissance of the city goes hand in hand with the interest of inhabitants to achieve more democratic rights and an increased transparency; the metropolis asks for participation. Social Workers, Cultural Workers and Community Managers in agglomerations are worldwide facing the challenge to react on this trend and to find ways how to work and cope with communities', authorities' and economical interests. Do we wish to create a modern community reasonable, understandable, and successful; thus support its wealth?

Development and communication – development processes are no longer anymore singularly mono-discipline design processes; in today's high developed and emancipated, , divert and critical thinking societies professionals and inhabitants as well as business representatives have to face the fact of pluralistic societies.

The expert-seminar and workshop wants to offer an insight in modern theory and practice of local participation models. The participants are asked to bring in their certain local working experience – on behalf of a practical applied open space model "City Conference" the workshop seeks to deliver an advanced and realistic tool, useful for various participative processes.

1st Day:

Menu of the day:

I - Common warm up activity:

- Preparing and designing the space for *our* interests;
- Personal introduction round.

II - Introduction:

- Methodology and didactical approach;
- Overview of schedule planned inputs as well as expected outputs;
- Retrieve expectations of participants (Mind-mapping).

III - Subject and Aim of the Expert-seminar:

[Methodology: Presentation]

“Community work en route...

Steered communication and participation processes as major tools for the community development in the 21st century”

IV – Communication, “Chaos” and Steering:

[Methodology: Short introducing presentation for all three sections; afterwards the participants are working in groups on given tasks]

Communication

A community is based on communication, thus an animated community asks for a vital and agile social environment; to create a positive atmosphere of communication we need to understand the core of a community.

- a) Dialogue of cultures and languages
- b) Dialogue of symbols and signs
- c) Dialogue of ways, routes and channels
- d) Dialogue of styles and forms

“Chaos”

Our communities are full of divert and all around confusing life. Awareness of these “chaotic” structures is crucial; to use these patterns we have to:

- Activate and motivate;
- Open the space;
- Building trust;
- Support creativity and design;
- Support discussions;
- Act responsible.

Steering

An accepted participation steering body has to follow three principles:

“Sensitivity, sensibility, sustainability”

What is a steered process, how we achieve a supportive and effective structure?

V - Actors and Working Fields:

[Methodology: Trainers and participants are commonly collecting and defining their specific actors and working fields of interest; mind-mapping and discussion]

- a) Defining the actors in community work.
- b) Participation and its various working fields; as for example:
 - Community work within urban development processes;
 - The social dialogue within the labor market;
 - Patient rights and public health;
 - Social movements and civil society;
 - Good governance as a tool of public administration;
 - Peace keeping missions and community development within international development work.

VI - Participation in different societies:

[Methodology: Introducing presentation and discussion]

Societies and their concrete development step – differences even within Europe; which concrete challenges do the conveners of participation processes have to face in their working environment. As an example an introduction in experiences from three different European regions:

- The “Northern dimension”, Scandinavia and Finland;
- Central-Western Europe and the German speaking countries;
- Central-Eastern Europe and the former and actual CIS countries

This chapter is mutual dependent on the specific experiences of the participants.

2nd Day**Menu of the day:****VII – Practical experience:**

[Methodology: Introduction to the methods and tools; get involved – exploration and implementation of the “City Conference” model on behalf of the interests of the participants with the aim of future continuation]

a) Overview:

- Applied Private-Public-Partnership (PPP) models;
- The “Development Agency”;
- The “Porto Alegre model” – transparent community budget-work;
- Neighborhood-management, a tool for participative and activating community work (German “Quartiersmanagement”).

b) The “City Conference” model

VIII - Challenges:

[Methodology: Final result based and evaluative discussion]

a) Financial interests in community work and social movements;

b) Steering a participation process: A collision of different interests.

Intended seminar outcomes

The seminar seeks to contribute to the general discussion of the modernization of community work and participative approaches. As all participants are professionals in the field, the workshop has one overall aim – exchange their experience and knowledge. The trainers as well are fundamentally interested in the working and political environment of all participants and eager to establish the best possible win-win situation. Intended detailed experience and knowledge outcomes:

Define core principles of community work;

Understand the principles of the introduced participation methods;

Discuss the challenges of participation in different societies' structural settings;

Analyze and compare all results in the context of each participant's individual environment;

Explore and apply one method on behalf of these individual interests;

Identify implementation possibilities.

Interesting sources and preparation

As for our best possible preparation, please study the participation methods in your community (if existing) and furthermore concentrate on the following two English language sites:

The City of Vancouver and its sustainable development program:

<http://www.vancouver.ca/commsvcs/wuf/>

The City of Berlin and its “Neighborhood Management” program:

http://www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de/wohnen/quartiersmanagement/index_en.shtml

Experts who conduct the workshop:

Guna and Jonas have a rich experience in NGO-development and Community Development processes. They have worked for numerous institutions such as Ministries, Local Authorities, NGO’s, supranational institutions in Latvia as well as in neighboring countries.

Workshop on Fundraising

Expert Seminar, Berlin, 2008, October 25th

Paul Donahue, Stuttgart/Germany

Fundraising is extremely important for non-profit and non-governmental organizations. And given the competition for philanthropic support, your organization's fundraising has to be well organized and stand out from others. To conduct successful fundraising your organization must convince its constituents that your organization and its programs deserve support. This workshop will address the characteristics that comprise successful fundraising.

The workshop will cover:

Morning session (10 am – 1 pm), focus on input

Intro to fundraising - what is it and why do people give

Different kinds of fundraising

Asking for a gift: cultivation, solicitation and stewardship

Examples of successful fundraising

Afternoon session (2 pm – 6 pm), focus on “learning by doing”

Planning and conducting a fundraising project:

Who to ask

Prospect Research (researching donors)

Writing a fundraising grant proposal

This seminar will be helpful to both the beginning fundraiser as well as the experienced. It will be based on a Power Point presentation, the contents of which will be made available to seminar participants.

Expert who conduct the workshop:

Paul has more than twelve years experience as a fundraiser in the United States. Organizations he has worked for include: Mile Square Heath Center, University of Illinois at Chicago, California Academy of Sciences, and San Francisco State University. He is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). Since moving to Germany in 2006, he has worked as a freelance fundraiser for the Deutsche Stiftung für Menschen mit Down-Syndrom and the Naturkundemuseum am Löwentor.