Closing Event YSAM, Planken

Summary (Elias and Michaela, Dreiklang Kollektivgesellschaft)
9.-10. October 2015

Friday the 9th of October - project work and developing youth participation

YSAM stands for “Youth Shaping Alpine Municipalities”. The goals of the YSAM closing event were to develop the projects suggested by the youth, formulate recommendations on youth participation, share the results of the project with a wider public and gather further input on participation. The other important goals were to evaluate the whole project and design next steps.

Here is a short summary of the closing event.

Welcome
The day started with welcoming words and a short introduction of the program and the goals. After that, we formed a map of the Alp region representing the different places people came from and sharing some facts about those places. Young people and representatives from municipalities of the following places took part: Idrija and Kranjska Gora (Slovenia), Bolzano and Trento (Italy) and Planken and Balzers (Liechtenstein).

Workshops
After the introduction and the warm-up, two workshops took place. The young people worked on their local projects, which they developed as part of the YSAM project. The representatives of the communities worked on the topic of youth participation at communal level and reflected on the experience of being part of the project.
Workshop 1A - YSAM Youth

The workshop started with an ice-breaker to get to know each other better. In a playful way, we discovered the similarities and differences within the group.

Each country group initiated one (or a couple of) projects within their community. The projects are in different development phases. Some groups are still in the idea-phase and some already implemented their ideas. The goals of the workshop were to share the project ideas with each other, to help each other further in the development of the projects and to prepare a project presentation for the public event.

Project presentation
After a short preparation time, each municipality-group presented their project to each other. Next to sharing what they had done, they also shared what they still need. The project ideas are:

Bolzano - developing a recycling add
Idrija - new impulses for a park
Kranjska Gora - providing alternatives for plastic bags
Planken - a regional market in the village
Trento - cleaning a city park after a yearly youth event and founding a student council

Sustainability criteria
The sustainability criteria defined for the YSAM project are:
Project development - Project Café

Each project assigned one person to be the project representative; all the other participants chose a project of their preference. During two sessions of group work, participants helped each other further with their projects. The focus was both on providing inputs to the needs of the project team as well as on integrating the sustainability criteria. The news insights gained were presented to each other at the end of the project session.

Here are the different project sheets:

Project Bolzano - developing a recycling app

- Problems of information how to recycle ➔ create an app
- Easy explanation for everyone
- Collaboration with SEAR
- Awareness campaign
Project Bolzano: What do we have: / what do we need:

- The idea of the project
- The contacts to do it
- Time to improve
- Good intentions
- Money
- Web-designer
- Meetings with responsible
- Some professional help
- Publicity support
- A programmer

Project Idrija - new impulses for a park

Same park, different shape

Already done

- Renovate the fence
- Promotion of local products (food, beverages)
- Playground equipment
- "Knjigovirica"
- Bicycle stand
- Wooden chair
- Cinema under the sky
- Workshops
- Picnics with local products
- Tournaments, concert
- Recycling time
**Kranjska Gora - replacing plastic bags:**

IDEA:
- reduce usage of plastic bags
- making environmentally-friendly and locally produced bags

HOW?
- promoting (making a trend, social media, schools, souvenirs, gifts, facing people with facts)

ABOUT THE BAGS
- Material: made in Slovenia, ecologically produced, fair-trade concept
- Production: made in Slovenia by people with fewer opportunities

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**Kranjska Gora II: what do we have, what do we still need?**

- we still need:
  - the producer (local/Slovenian)
  - material (nature-friendly)
  - to connect with sponsors and local shops
  - to choose a design (with etnographical meaning)

ABOUT OUR IDEA:
- replacing plastic bags with reusable ones
- trying to find nature-friendly, sustainable reusable bags
- trying to make a trend among the inhabitants of municipality
- trying to make fair-trade and local-produced bags
- making reusable bags as souvenirs
Kranjska Gora III: sustainability criteria

1. Ecological
   - Energy efficient production
   - Ecological materials
   - Less waste
2. Adaptable
   - Gifts
   - Souvenirs
   - Trendy
   - Practical
3. Transferable
   - Global

4. Awareness raising
   - Facing people with facts
   - Putting more impact on a problem
5. Innovative
   - People know about the problem, but haven't changed their habits
6. Social
   - Common goal
   - Good for non-homo sapiens and also homo sapiens

Planken: market in the village

Regionaler Dorfmarkt
- regionale Produkte
- nachhaltigkeit fördern
- Treffpunkt für die Bevölkerung
- eine örtliche Einkaufsmöglichkeit bieten
- Zusammenarbeit mit Planken Vereine
- regionales Kochen für die Bevölkerung
- verschiedene Aktivitäten für Kinder
Trento - Student Council

Cooperation between generations
- No connection between students & municipality (bilateral)
- No cooperation between the schools
- Regular meetings of the student's representatives
- To improve the creation of events
- Long-term action

Trento II: Respect the environment

Puliamo il Santa
Respect the environment having fun
- Student's 'party' the last day of school
- Respect public spaces
- Recycling
- Responsibility
- Improve the reputation of young people between the inhabitants
**Self confidence exercise**
This exercise guided the participants to walk through the room, increase their body awareness and social awareness. The participants were invited at certain moments to stop, interact with the person closest to them, give each other a compliment, thank each other and move on. It was fun to do and it put the participants in the mood for the next step.

**Preparation presentations public event**
Each group got time to prepare for their presentation in the afternoon. The participants were encouraged to go outside/for a walk for their preparation.

**Workshop 1B - Representatives of the communities**
The facilitator introduced himself and talked about his background: Association Symbiose Gemeinschaft and Dreiklang Collective that fosters a connected and sustainable society in the region and does project in that direction.

**Speed dating**
To warm up with all the representatives of the municipalities we used a method called “speed dating”. Two people were standing opposite of each other. Each had one minute to answer the question that was given from the facilitator. After both answered the question we found another partner.
Questions were:
What did you like about the project?
What impress you the most?
What was the biggest step forward in the project?
Why do you think it is important to work with the youth?
Evaluation
As a next step the municipal representatives looked into their work with the youngsters on two levels.

Municipal level / Work with the youth

Everybody had to write for him/herself for each level three positive aspects and three things that could have been better. As a second step the participants formed two groups and compared their points. At the end every participant could make some ✓ to indicate how important one topic is.

The result:
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Exchange amongst youngsters and municipal representatives (✓✓✓✓✓✓).
Youngsters made new friendships, travelled in different countries and saw best practices.
Youngsters and adults get information from each other
Good experience
Support (Planken)
New ideas and new ways of thinking (✓✓)

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Lack of time of youngsters. Therefore it is difficult to involve them into projects
Approach from some politician side is different than from the youngsters. They (politicians) use the project for their own publicity.
Motivation (✓✓✓)
Projects made adults for youngsters (✓✓✓✓✓)
Contact with youngsters - participants (✓✓✓✓✓)
Holding contact (Facebook)

Next steps, future collaboration
Inspired by each other we came together and looked what next steps could be. All in all the municipal representatives appreciated and liked the experience and talked about future collaboration and how it could take place (there should be another exchange):
The main two questions that came out of this exercise were to keep the process going: 

**What kind of founding exists to keep the exchange alive?** and

**How can the contact between politicians and youngsters be improved?**

We could find a first approach for the second question:
Theoretical Input: Wheel of engagement
To finish the morning the facilitator presented the result of his Master’s thesis about “Public Participation in Municipalities” and the Wheel of Engagement. The wheel is a step by step guide that helps the municipality to engaging with the public for collective solution seeking.

Here you can download the A3 version with additional questions that lead through the process: http://www.communitymomentum.org/wheel-of-engagement.html
Lunch break

We had a nice lunch with organic and local products at the "Dreischwesterhaus" in Planken.

Workshop 2: recommendations for youth participation in municipalities

In the second workshop, the youngsters worked together with the representatives from the municipalities on local recommendations to improve youth participation within municipalities. Here are the guiding questions for the tree dialogue rounds:
The results were summarized in three main suggestions to improve youth participation in the different municipalities:

**Bolzano**

- Responsible Person (Student)
- FB page
- Chat on the website

**Idrija**

- Licence for Driving Youth
- Transportation
- Website
- 1-Day Study Room and Meetings

**Kranjska Gora**

- Social Events
- Improvement of Public Transport
- Promotion: FB and Mouth to Mouth etc.
Public event

Welcoming and introduction
The public event started with three welcoming speeches from Josef Biedermann (Municipality of Planken, CIPRA Board), Hansjörg Büchel (Major of Balzers)

Alexander Jehle (young participant of Planken)

Bettina Hug and Helbert Wischer introduced the program and shared the background of the YSAM Project.
Project presentations

The youth presented their project to the wider public of local youth workers, representatives from municipalities and interested people.

Key Note about participation - Annemarie Felder

Annemarie Felder shared her thoughts and experiences about the importance of youth participation at municipal level. She shared different form of participations and their benefits as well as the common excuses not to design participatory processes and a fitting argument to deal with that.

Bettina Hug - Project Team YSAM (Links) and Annemarie Felder (Key Note speaker)
**Interactive session**

During an interactive session, all participants could explore in small groups what the chances of youth participation are. The key question of the round table conversations „What did we learn about the value of youth participation in municipalities?” The results were presented in the plenary.

**Results from the dialogue rounds**

![Image of handwritten notes]

**Closing and evening program**

After the closing of the public event, the participants could continue their conversations informally during the Apero.
Sunday, 10th October - Evaluation and next steps

Warming-up
We warmed up with a variation of “rock paper scissors” where the loser cheers for the winner and starts a new “battle” with another duo, which forms a group of 4, 8 etc. until the game ends in a duet between two groups with two front persons.

Future flowers
We started the evaluation process by taking some time alone to reflect on the experience of the YSAM, while standing around a table. Everyone wrote some key words in one paddle of a flower. In the second stage, the people who shared stood around the paddles of the same flower and shared their thoughts. In the third stage, they came up with the shared essence of their experience. Here is one example below:

Possibilities to get project funding through Erasmus+ and Youth in Action
Virginie Meusburger of the national agency for the Youth in Action program in Liechtenstein (AHA) provided a general overview of the Erasmus+ and Youth in Action funding possibilities. After that, she went into detail about the specific possibilities for the project ideas that are developed during the YSAM project. Erasmus+: on the left side, common misunderstandings are being explained. On the right side, the different projects and the potential funding possibilities are listed.
A few examples of funding possibilities:
Evaluation

We evaluated the experience of being part of this project on different levels. Each municipality worked together (young people and representatives). In the first round, they looked at the „youth participation puzzle“ as they filled it out in the beginning of the project and they added a challenge for the future. In the second and third rounds the study trips, the elaboration of the projects and the final event were evaluated by filling out a questionnaire together. Simultaneously, people summarized their experiences in the Pizza-Shapes below. (the further in the centre, the better the evaluation)
Study visits

The study visits have caused discussion in the municipality about youth participation.

The preparation and organisation of the study visits were well done.

I felt welcome in the hosting municipality.

The responsibilities were clear to me.

The aims of the study visits were clear to me.

Young people, youth workers and politicians were (equally) included in the preparation of the program.

Because of the visit I want to try out something new.

I am more sensitive to the topic of sustainable mobility.
Final meeting

The preparation and organisation were well done.

The public part of the final meeting fitted the program well.

The atmosphere was good.

The setting (food, mood) was appropriate.

The final meeting was an important part of the project.

I learnt so much during the meeting.

I am now motivated to continue to engage for youth participation.

The participation in the final meeting was important to me.
Publication
One of the project results should be a publication guiding municipalities through youth participation processes. We gathered input on which content should be represented in that publication so that it is valuable for municipalities. The participants talked with their neighbour and collected the most important input. The input was shared in the plenary using the so called "Bingo - Method". Whenever a point was brought up that you agreed with or also wanted to suggest, you could call "Bingo" and hold up your post-it. In this way we could speed the process up.

Check-Out
We closed by sitting in a circle, everybody could share in one word how they felt during the meeting. After that, we made a group picture.