

Youth – Actor of Social Change

“Family card”

This document is part of a larger collection of examples of current policies for young people in Europe. The collection is an outcome of a European research project called “UP2YOUTH – Youth: actor of social change?”

The basic idea of the “current practice” collection is to see how current practices and policies relate to young people as active agents in shaping their lives. Therefore, our intention is not a collection of “good” or “best” practices. Rather, it includes also practices, which are interesting because of their relation to young people’s agency but which involve problematic aspects, such as restricted financial resources, a very thin spread, or no clear evaluation criteria. We have applied a searching pattern which asked for “strengths” and “weaknesses”. This explicitly opens space for your own evaluation, because also policies are included, which definitely do have weaknesses, but are highly interesting for specific reasons. Therefore we have to stress that the researchers did not evaluate these practices themselves.

The whole collection can be found at

<http://www.up2youth.org/content/view/192/60/>

Section	Indications of contents
Title of programme/ practice	“Family card”
Location	Italy; Centre; Modena
Main theme	Young parenthood
Practice/Programme-related keywords	Economic help; large families
Summary of programme/ practice	The city council, together with a private bank, organises this plan, providing the subscription of conventions with some big stores for price reductions and facilities. The project is funded by private companies (banks and stores). The families who meet the requirements get a card and can benefit from this economic help.
Target	The target group are families with 3 or more children under the age of eighteen. The principle applied to decide which families can benefit from this project is the residential one. This means that it is extended also to non married couples, which is particular for Italy, where the only legally recognised family is the married one.
Objectives of programme/ practice	Economic support for families with at least three children.
Content of programme/ practice	The city council, together with a private bank, organises this plan, providing the subscription of conventions with some big stores for price reductions and facilities. The project is funded by private companies (banks and stores).
Time scale	Duration/Sustainability: The practice started in 2006, and it is an

	ongoing project. The sustainability is high as the direct costs are very low. This is due 1) to the accessibility of the economic operators which joined the plan; 2) to the presence of a sponsor (a private bank).
Programme/ practice design	Decision-making actors and process: This project is organised by the city council of Modena, Councillorship of Economic policies.
	Management and leadership of programme: City Council of Modena, Councillorship of Economic policies
	Implementation: City Council of Modena, Councillorship of Economic policies
	Legal framework: Partnership between a City Council and private actors like banks and stores.
Resources involved	The City Council, together with a private bank, organises this plan, providing the subscription of conventions with some big stores for price reductions and facilities. The project is funded by private companies (banks and stores).
Evaluation	1) Evaluation process: No
	2) Results / impact of programme: The number of families that could benefit from this economic help in the Municipality of Modena is around 1000 – 1200. In 2006 500 families made use of it. Since information about the project was published on the web site of the National Family Observatory (an official site of the Ministry for Family Policies) many other Municipalities (for example Bergamo, Bologna, Trieste, Parma, Milan etc.) begun to experiment such an economic help for families with three or more children. There is also a proposal by the Ministry for Family Policies to fund a national family card.
Lessons to be drawn from programme or practice implemented	Your own judgement: strengths, weaknesses, sceptical comments, transferability, prerequisites, which aspects are good practice?, etc. Even if this is a very traditional practice, it is still important to stress that it is extended also to non married couples. This aspect is ground-breaking for Italy.
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