

Youth – Actor of Social Change

“Rising Projektet - Project Rising”

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	Rising Projektet (Project Rising)
Location	1) Denmark 2) Funen 3) Odense
Main theme	Transition of young people with an ethnic minority or immigrant background.
Practice/Programme-related keywords	Integration of ethnic minority youth through teaching and counselling in everyday life.
Summary of programme/ practice	The Objective in the Programme is to give immigrant youth, who arrives at a higher age or for other reasons do not have a primary school education, a possibility of improving their school qualifications. The Objective is further to make it possible for the young people to take a “youth-education” (secondary school) or to get into the labourmarket. The offer concerns youth, who are lacking school qualifications or do not understand/speak Danish in order to take a secondary education. Besides schooling, Danish culture is being taught. Excursions are made as well as shorter apprenticeship-placements are carried out twice a year. Parents/Families are invited to cooperate regarding the programme, its content and the demands put on the young people.
Target	Odense The 3rd biggest city in Denmark, which contains all kind of socio-economic areas and groupings of citizens.

	Ethnic minority Youth aged 16-25 years – without Primary school education.
Objectives of programme/ practice	The offer concerns youth, who are lacking school qualifications or do not understand/speak Danish in order to take a secondary education. - To develop competencies in Danish - To introduce Danish culture, habits and structure in order to facilitate integration of the individual in the Danish Society - To prepare the individual for ordinary education and work
Content of programme/ practice	Teaching in Danish Language, Societal Issues and Math. As well as English, Physics, IT and Sports. Teaching in “life Skills” as well. Furthermore social and cultural events are held, an annual camp is made and counselling given during all year.
Time scale	The Programme has been running since 1989 (20 years).
Programme/ practice design	Development of programme/practice: The project started in 1989 on the initiative of Odense Commune, as they realised that many ethnic minority youth were caught in an educational flux between language school and primary school. It started as a cooperation of Danish Refugee Institution – The County of Funen and the Commune of Odense. The Youth-school was chosen as having experiences regarding pedagogy working with youth. Decision-making actors and process: Both different bodies of the Commune, that is the department of social politics, School-department etc. are involved in the visitation process along with the administration of the Youth-school. Legal framework consists primarily of the law regarding education in Denmark.
Resources involved (financial, human, others)	Odense Commune and the region of Funen pays for the project. The project Rising is an administrative part of Rising Youthschool, which is a school under Odense Commune.
Evaluation	1) Evaluation process: Odense Commune makes ongoing external evaluation regarding formative evaluation criteria. Numbers of people in further education/employment. 2) Results/ impact of programme: The objective is to qualify ethnic youth to be self-supporting in an ordinary way. Results show that 65% becomes self-supported and either takes further education or begins working. Nearly everyone were still self-supported after 1½ year. 3) Difficulties encountered: There are lots of everyday problems: Great variety in competencies and former training is one, as well as experiences of traumas (separation from family, war, torture etc.). As the project is open and takes in new pupils/youth all year, adjustment problems also arises. 4) Assessment of programme/ action/ practice in terms of sustainability:

	The Rising Project has proven its sustainability over a period of 20 years and is a well integrated part of the Policy of integration in Odense Commune.
Lessons to be drawn from programme or practice implemented	Convincing project, which is limited to contain approximately 70 pupils at the time. It seems a costly but necessary effort, which depends on a very well qualified staff of teachers and counsellors. The good practice except trying to prepare migrant people to be able to live well in Denmark is the orientation of making bridges to ordinary systems: Secondary schooling, work as well as leisure time activities and participation in associations cooperating with the Danish National Association of Sports and Gymnastics.
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