



The Participation Metro Map (Estonia)

Summary

Children and young people sometimes experience difficulties in finding effective channels to express their opinions. They may have the impression that they have no voice in society and do not make the most of opportunities offered by a democratic system. The Estonian National Youth Council, which promotes local democracy, has developed an innovative tool called the Participation Metro Map which helps young people to identify different ways of playing an active role in society and making their voice heard.

The project

Young people are not aware of the opportunities available to play an active role in society and they perceived these activities as complicated and with little added value for their life. To challenge this attitude, the Estonian National Youth Council (ENL) carried out a nationwide Youth Participation project in 2007-2008. The Participation Metro Map has been developed as part of this project with the aim of making youth participation easier and more available.

Sector(s) covered

Main sectors

Society: Youth participation in the society and the decision making process

Other Sector

Education and Training

Approach

The Participation Metro Map maps out in an attractive and easy way to comprehend the opportunities

available for children and young people to get involved in social life and influence the decisions being made. The Participation Metro Map identifies different types of participation, from simply asking questions to voting and standing in the election, including for the European Parliament.

Estonian National Youth Council (ENL) has continued to develop different materials and activities related to the Participation Metro Map:

- The Map itself was presented on a postcard and on posters;
- Participation Treasure Hunt games have been used in youth information fairs and other youth events. The goal of the games is to locate different places on the metro map and collect stamps by completing small tasks or finding answers to questions related to that "station". For instance, in the station of the European Parliament, the task was to put together a puzzle with the map of Europe and find out how the minimum age to run for European Elections;
- ENL produced a well illustrated book with inspiring examples of youth participation in society;
- ENL developed a game based on the Participation Metro Map to be used in schools for simulating the co-operation between the different interest groups in solving problems at local level. The game has been run in 30 different schools in Estonia.



- In February 2009, ENL held a information campaign at public transportation stops in Tallinn and fun activities were conducted for young people.

The ENL is also in the process of creating an interactive website and a board game based on the Participation Metro Map.

Element of innovation – the process

innovative practices carried out by young people to make their voice heard.

The Participation Metro Map is a highly creative way of encouraging young people to engage in society. The project displays the interesting and

The map was created by youth workers with the aim of finding an easy model for illustrating the opportunities that young people in Estonia have for participating in society. Different models (tree, staircase etc) were considered, but the working group found the metro map to be the most attractive way to present the participation opportunities (from voting to volunteer work, from creating your own business to running for the parliament).

Key successes

(outcomes, results, impacts)

The project has been well received by young people who are now more likely to engage in society and are even coming up with new suggestions on how to improve participation in decision making.

The Participation Metro Map has been presented at many public events and the demand for it has been increasing especially from teachers, youth workers and young people.

As a spin-off of the project, other stakeholders have also started to use innovative methods of encouraging young people to play an active role in society.

Transferability and sustainability

participation. New activities are planned for 2009.

The Estonian National Youth Council plans to continue working with the Participation Metro Map to implement innovative methods of supporting youth

Participation Metro Map is also easily transferable: for example the Finnish Youth Council "Allianssi" has already adopted the map.

Special Highlights

Participation Metro Map helps children and young people to identify and put into practice different ways to have an impact on society and on decisions that are made. The Participation Metro Map illustrates that there are many ways of engaging and that everyone should be offered opportunities that are suitable for them.



Key characteristics

General purpose of the practice

Target group

Type of learning

Level of implementation

Funding

Time frame To promote and encourage youth participation through an innovative approach

Young people from 12 to 18

Informal and non-formal

National and Local

State Funding

The Participation Metro Map will run for approximately 24 months

Leading organisations The Estonian National Youth Council

Further information

Website of the project

osale.enl.ee

<http://osale.enl.ee/kogumik.pdf>

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