



Spaces for Young Creation (Spain)

Summary

The idea behind Spaces for Young Creation is to make use of abandoned buildings that have significance for local history by creating areas where young people can undertake creative activity and present it to an audience. The centres function as meeting places, workshops and exhibition centres.

The project

Spaces for Young Creation was created in order to stimulate creativity and imagination in youth and to fulfil the need for a physical space where young people can develop their artistic ideas and show their creations to an audience. Targeting children and young adults between the ages of 14 and 35, these are spaces that can be used in a versatile way for creative activities. The spaces are located in industrial areas or disused buildings, such as slaughterhouses, barns, barracks, and water tanks. These buildings are important milestones in the towns and through the project their historical legacy can be maintained.

Sector(s) covered

Main Sector

Arts and creative industry:
Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Media,
and Music

Other Sectors

Society: Urban regeneration

Approach

Spaces for Young Creation provides different areas for the development of creative activity and facilitates access to high-quality instruments and tools helping to carry out these activities. The spaces include areas for:

- Musical arts, where a group or solo artist finds the necessary tools to compose themes and to record a demo;
- Audio-visual arts, where children and young adults can record video clips and create their own short films and documentaries;
- Plastic arts for painting, sculpture, mosaics, clay, ceramic and other crafts; and,
- Performing arts such as theatre, contemporary, classic and break dance.

In addition to this, there are spaces where visitors can surf the Internet and meet each other as well as an exhibition area where the work done by the users of the space can be displayed. The spaces are also used as Information Points in order to provide information targeting youths and the development of a video-library is ongoing.

Element of innovation – the process

By making use of abandoned buildings, the project has enabled the buildings to be preserved together with the local history they represent and at the same time it has created a space for young people to meet, test, learn and develop their creative ideas. The project applies creative processes through a participatory approach and has



launched initiatives that promote the ability to create. It is the first initiative of this kind taking place at the national level that is publicly funded and that targets the entire youth population.

Key successes

(outcomes, results, impacts)

Spaces has had a high number of visitors (148,930 in 2008 and almost 450,000 since 2003) and cultural activities in the region have increased. It has allowed for the development of new music groups with very personal styles that compose their own music, dance groups with original choreography, theatre groups that create their own shows and so on. Spaces has also provided international events and artists at the local level (see Special Highlights). Spaces works as meeting points as well as enabling the youth to seek solutions together in order to resolve the problems faced in the implementation of a common project.

Challenges

The main challenges have been to promote and attract young people to the space which is located outside town centres. To overcome this, major information campaigns, through youth associations and training centres, have been carried out.

Another problem is the budget. This is solved by cooperating with other institutions and artistic groups, working on common goals and pushing collaborative projects further up the agenda.

Finally, the adaptation of the physical space is often complex since the buildings where the spaces are located are usually not prepared acoustically. These problems are solved step by step, with small improvements being made every year.

Transferability and sustainability

The concept is sustainable and transferable. Extremadura has created 18 young creation spaces in 17 localities and one which is "mobile". The idea is keeps growing.

Special Highlights

One result of the project is that it has supported innovative activities at the local level. A group of young people in the Space for Young Creation in the city of Zafra organized the first break dance, graffiti and beat box festival in the city, inviting international artists. The initiative was inspired by the TOP 30, a festival that is carried out in several cities in the world.



Key characteristics

General purpose of the practice	Stimulating innovative/creative behaviours in people and implementing an innovative/creative solution to society problems
Target group	Children and young adults (ages 14-35)
Type of learning	Informal
Level of implementation	National, Regional and Local
Funding	Public
Time frame	Started 2003 (ongoing)
Leading organisations	Instituto de la Juventud de Extremadura; Consejería de los Jóvenes y del Deporte de la Junta de Extremadura

Further information

Website of the project

www.espaciosparalacreacionjoven.net

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