



## The project POP

### 1) The project POP

The "POP! Paths of participation ", organized in collaboration with the Euregio Tirolo-Alto Adige / Südtirol-Trentino, turned to 45 young people aged between 18 and 30 residing in the three provinces. During some meetings that took place during the period from May to November 2013 in Bolzano, Trento and Innsbruck young people were trained as "pioneers of participation".

During some workshops the students were given the tools and notions to design new forms and new models of democratic involvement and to give life to a participatory process. It was the young people themselves who chose what to deal with; the ideas were very many.

For example, they could decide to apply the participatory method to promote a suburban area of the city, organizing meetings with the inhabitants of the neighborhood or contacting the owners of bars and restaurants in the area. The idea was to put to good use the innate creativity that young people have to find innovative and shared solutions. The initiative was open to 45 young people between the ages of 18 and 30. There were no special requirements as far as training was concerned, while the residence in the Euregio Tirolo-Alto Adige / Südtirol-Trentino was necessary.

The project, funded by the European Youth in Action program and the Euregio Tirolo-Alto Adige / Südtirol-Trentino, was carried out in collaboration with: Social Preparation School (Trento), Institut für Föderalismus and Mitbestimmung.cc association (Innsbruck).

### 2) 72 hours without compromise

The project "72 hours without compromise" is an international project for young people encouraging volunteerism while promoting solidarity, unity and creativity. In Southtyrol the project is organized in collaboration between the "Suedtiroler Jugending", youngCaritas and SKJ Southtyrol.

**Project idea:**

It is as easy as it is fascinating: for 72 hours, young people are engaged, with other young people, in carrying out a task of common interest, which is communicated only at the beginning of this experience. This means rolling up your sleeves, being creative, improvising and engaging with all your energy until the last second.

**Homework:**

These are challenges, but not impossible to achieve. Young people learn to know their limits, they experiment in new things, they learn to know each other, they reduce prejudices and the fear of relating to what is new. With their free and voluntary commitment they help people who are on the margins of society: homeless, refugees, elderly and mentally ill. They do not help out of compassion but for personal satisfaction in supporting others.

Examples of concrete initiatives: place a playground, visit the elderly in a retirement home, organize a multi-ethnic party for a parish, clear a basement to create a space for the Jovians, renovation works for social structures, conduct painting workshops for people differently ab

**Mini BZ - The City of the Boys of Bolzano**

A gigantic live role-playing game inspired by the Mini München game, which inspired all those in Europe and the world who organize similar role-playing games (<http://www.mini-muenchen.info>; projects included "Kinderspielstadt" or "playful city" in a search engine). The game takes place within an already prepared setting that reproduces a real miniature city. It is a city where the word and the action belong to the boys and where the adults have limited access. Mini BZ – City of the boys has de mayor, the city council, the artisan laboratories, the labor office, the bank and its money (the Ghelli), the games, the theater, the daily newspaper, the TV, the restaurant and many other activities. It is a unique experience for everyone, girls and boys, and a school of life

**Youth Parliament Eupen (<http://www.rdj.be/de/rdj-1>)**

The Council of the German-Speaking Youth (RdJ) from Eupen represents every young person of the German-speaking Community (DG), at home and abroad.

Who can become a member?

The RdJ addresses itself to every recognised youth organisation within the DG. They are open to every interested organisation and individual young people under the age of 30 years. Every member is expected to accept the democratic rules and principles of our society and the European Convention on Human Rights.

What do they do?

The Rdj represents youth people by all matters affecting them by writing advices and statements. In order to incorporate as many different opinions as possible, they cooperate with numerous organisations, institutions and groups. Their projects and initiatives give youth people the possibility to actively participate, to realise and to further develop themselves.

**How is it organized?****1. General Assembly**

The General Assembly forms the basis for the work of the RdJ. It consists of ordinary and free members. Ordinary members are youth organizations, the organizers of open youth

work, youth councils, young parties, youth information centers and other youth movements. Free members are young people under 30 years. They are elected by the General Assembly and remind the RdJ that there are also young people who are not active in youth work. In addition, all young people of the DG have the opportunity to express their opinion and to contribute. However, only the members have the right to vote.

## 2. The Mandate Plan

The Mandate Plan has been published under the name "in the near future!" and deals with 12 topics:

Also have a say in the future: participation and political education

Future dialogue: inter-community dialogue, intergenerational dialogue, intercultural dialogue

Future prospects/ perspectives: volunteering, role of young people in society

Future needs youth: employment, media, human rights, sustainable development, place of youth in society

### **The board of directors**

The board of directors is, so to speak, the board of the RdJ. It consists of the chairperson, the two vice chairmen and up to a further 4 members. In addition, the coordinator has an advisory vote. The VWR meets every three weeks to make decisions, write reports, work out projects and coordinate working groups. He will take care of the work under the mandate plan and take new initiatives of interest to DG youth and young people.

## **4. Working groups**

Much of the RdJ's work takes place in its topic-specific working groups.

### 4.1. Youth organizations

The representatives of the various youth organizations of the DG work together on projects from which they can all benefit: tent rental, warehouse database, day of the youth organizations, recognition of the honorary office, songbooks, bowls everywhere

### 4.2. Coordination

### 4.3. Political education

Anyone who wants to have a say should also know how he can influence things. Why am I going to vote? What does a parliament do? What do the parties stand for? These are not just questions that interest young people.

### 4.4. Media

Media play an important role in the lives of the young people. Medien spielen eine wichtige Rolle im Leben der Jugendlichen. But they should not determine their life. With a media survey, the film about internet security "Strip you on the internet" and the blog Euro-faq.eu.

### 4.5. Mindfulness

nach der Erstellung des "Strategieplans Jugend" haben sich einige Interessierte zusammengeschlossen um sich näher mit dem Thema "Umgang mit negativen Gefühlen" zu beschäftigen und ein Pilotprojekt in der DG zu starten.

## 5. Representations

The RdJ works together with numerous partners and represents the interests of the youth

and youth institutions of the DG there. To this end, the RdJ has numerous representatives who take care of the representation, the content preparation and coordination of this cooperation and thus relieve the Bureau. These representations are re-tendered at irregular intervals or renamed by the responsible AG or the Presidium. The RdJ also has the opportunity to send participants to conferences and other events.

#### 6. Youth policy

The RdJ is a youth policy body. It does not sound particularly exciting, but it is: In addition to the implementation of numerous projects, their main task is the representation of the interests of German-speaking youth. And not only in the DG but also in Belgium, Europe and the world!