

The Czech Republic: Volunteer-lead tutorial sessions for children from socially excluded environment

Organization implementing the project

Name: Tady a Ted', o.p.s.
Country: The Czech Republic
Web site: www.tadyated.org
Contact details: Farského 20, 32600 Plzeň, Czech Republic
Telephone number: +420 724 247 191

Context

The “Tady a Ted', o.p.s.” is an NGO that deals with educational deficiency and subsequent socialization of socially excluded children and youths into different socio-cultural environments. Furthermore, “Tady a Ted', o.p.s.”(TaT) aims at promoting public awareness about the problem, as well as supplementing the lack of valid information regarding the issue in institutions dealing with socially excluded population e.g. municipal police, schools, social bureaus etc. The chosen project reacts to the widespread problem of children having difficulties with learning whose parents are not able to provide them with appropriate support or tutorials.

Action

The TaT implemented the terrain approach to educational deprivation of socially excluded children and youths. Basically, skilled social workers cooperate with social excluded families and volunteers who help to prepare children from the families for their school duties and they try to show them “middle class” or mainstream society role model.

The TaT also runs Mentoring Program which aims is informally direct socially-excluded teenagers onto the next degree of education (secondary school) after completing the basic education or to lead them to the legal employment market.

Outcomes and impact

Tens of TaT's volunteers provide services to tens of families where a considerable number of school children have been improving their school results. A very notable outcome of the project is also the fact that some of the first “children” clients are now successfully studying at the secondary vocational schools which is not a common practice among the social group in the framework of the Czech educational system.

Another very important feature of the project is the cooperation with the Faculty of Education of the University of West Bohemia. Some faculty students studying the study

Project No. 510890-LLP-1-2010-1-FR-GRUNDTVIG-GNW

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.

The content of this material reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained herein.

© 2011 - 2013 ENIL project partnership

program “Social work” can complete an obligatory internship participating at the project. We can see a mutual benefit for both participants in the model where a volunteer can act as a model of well- educated “older friend” that can motivate his/her younger “client” to better school performance. Volunteers, on the other hand, can gain primary experience in working with clients from socially excluded environments that can serve as practical basis for their future profession of a social worker.

The project of afterschool learning and mentoring was also awarded a second place in the Czech National Award of Career Counseling in 2009 and 2010.

Quotes:

"It helped me to uncover social stereotypes rooted in me. Working with those children was very enjoyable. Moreover, both I and the children could benefit from the experience and I am convinced that it somehow affected lives of both (Bernard Kalný, aged 23, former volunteer, now a full-time social worker)

