

“Move to Succes”

The significance of physical and psychological mobility

Objectives

The main objective of the workshop is to identify the mobility barriers the target group meets and to elaborate on ideas and opportunities to break through these barriers. In addition, the workshop will serve as a forum for professionals to discuss the issues related to both psychological and physical mobility.

Progress

An introduction is given by Maarten François, who supports social activation initiatives in Kortrijk and runs the successful project Surplus. Karima Bouragba from the French Succes partner, Maison de l'Initiative, assists Maarten in this introduction, which summarises the theoretical context of mobility within terms of social activation.

The three barriers that exist are:

- physical mobility (e.g. space to move in, distance, ...)
- social/mental mobility (e.g. attitude, network, self confidence, ...)
- professional mobility (diploma, skills, competencies, ...)

A story about a boy is told to illustrate the theory. What obstacles does he have in his life?

The barriers that the participants of the workshop pointed out, are:

- Basic mobility
- Lives in a target area, homeless
- Social network, influence friends and family
- Communication
- Mental problems
- No diploma

The two topics that the participants choose to discuss further, are mobility and social network.

Mobility

Belgium: There are a lot of initiatives that already exist. For example: in Kortrijk unemployed people can rent a moped or get a bus subscription at cheaper rates at VDAB (Flemish Service for Training and Mediation to Employment). Several OCMW's (Public Centres for Social Welfare) offer bus subscriptions at cheaper rates, or give bikes to people in a work experience program. Social economy projects like Mobiel or Kringloopwinkel also offer cheap solutions for bikes (used or second-hand bikes) and at Mobiel people can also take bike lessons and rent a bike.

England (Community Connections): tickets for public transportation are reimbursed for unemployed people who take a course or training at Community Connections.

Social network

Community connections has established a strong network between two different age-groups. They bring together young and old, to learn from each other.

For example: young people organise and guide computer lessons for older people and the older people share their experiences and technical knowledge with the younger people.

The idea came from the young people, in stead of complaining, they were asked what they can do about it en what they would like to do.

This way, two separate worlds are brought together, they learn from each other and they work together. This is also motivating and inspiring for other neighbourhoods.

They find it also very important to put every action in a neighbourhood in the spotlight. For example also the cleanup after a neighbourhood party. The positive message is needed, it stimulates young people who more often are put in a negative spotlight.