



KAZINCBARCIKA VÁROS POLGÁRMESTERE

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Cooperation of generations for urban social renewal in Kazincbarcika

Good Practice Summary

There are significant social challenges for towns and cities in Europe, among them ageing, younger generation's moving away and the recreation of urban poverty should be highlighted. These processes are all present in Kazincbarcika. In Kazincbarcika, ageing has increased well above the national average. (the rate of people over 60% have increased by 50% compared to 0-14-year-olds). The economic potential of the town and the region has been shrinking with the decline of the heavy industry, so more and more people, many of them young, moved away from the settlement. The number and rate of families with no or low education and without regular income has been increasing, and unemployment recreation has appeared. A part of the residents living in difficult conditions is concentrated in a well-identifiable area, such as Herbolya district, a segregated area, where about 600 people live.

The municipality planned to handle the processes mentioned above with district interventions and the active participation of the social service.

The steps for the good practice are as follows:

- In 2011, in a segregated district of Kazincbarcika, namely in Herbolya, a new community house was implemented within the integrated social, environmental rehabilitation programme.
- There was a need for programs of the community house, in which the family assistance service of the municipality involved people living in the area as well as NGOs of the town. The discussions began in 2012.
- The result of the dialogues is that members of "Idővár" Pensioner Club voluntarily started to hold playful, creative events connected to national holidays and school holidays for disadvantaged children and youngsters living in the area.
- Due to the success of the programme, the events have been made regular since 2013, and it has spread to all the territory of the town. As a part of this, the members of the pensioner club, mainly formal teachers (coordinated by family assistance service workers), voluntarily dealt with 7-15-year old, disadvantaged, mostly Roma children, who had learning problems, and were at risk of dropping out of schools.
- Due to its success, the Idővár Pensioner Cultural Club has extended its activities: it organises casual events for disabled people, a multiple-round settlement knowledge and historical competition was organised for primary and secondary schoolchildren, and from 2014 (chapter 3)
- From 2014, a so-called value-transfer programme was launched in topics youngsters are interested in (e.g. partner selection, celebrations, volunteering) together with La Cosa Nostra Ensemble, a youth organisation for the 15-25-year residents of the town.



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The municipality defined the integrated that is coordinated, social and environmental improvement of Herbolya district. (http://www.kazincbarcika.hu/data/dokumentumok/ivs_kazincbarcika.pdf) The indicated information was issued regarding 7.6 Herbolya-Old-District and 9.5.7 area specific educational measures. This worked as a catalyst to establish a long-lasting cooperation between the older, pensioner and young generations. The new town development strategy approved in 2015 http://www.kazincbarcika.hu/data/dokumentumok/its_elfogadott.pdf also includes the information on the area development of Herbolya in its section 3.1.2 and on the education activities in section 3.3.

The main outputs of the good practice:

- starting from occasional involvement, regular activities are organized
- starting from a district, the residents living in all the territory of the town are involved
- starting from confidence building discussions with disadvantaged children, they are assisted in their education
- Considering the 7-14-year-old age group, the youths of 15-25-year-old age group are cooperated with
- Cooperation between social groups has become one of the approved principles of “Kolorcity”, the new image programme of the town.

Innovativity, so that the active pensioner residents can be initiative, and perform activities and transfer traditional values on a voluntary basis to the youngsters as well as disadvantaged families.

Realised results:

- Occasional craftsman freetime activities have been organized every year and complemented with other helping forms: establishing a library from donations, donating clothes, and organising christmas celebration donation. Based on the good practice in Herbolya district, other civil organisations (e.g. Don Bosco School oratoriums) have also organised programmes for local families, children.
- About 25 children regularly attended the afternoon activities realized in the town 600 times in 2016. The children’s self-confidence was improved, their school performance became better and their aesthetic sense developed.
- It occurs in such a way that the retired generation voluntarily utilise their practical experience, knowledge through keeping children occupied, and they can spend their everyday lives actively.

When a programme finishes, the family assistance service evaluates the experience of the programme together with the members of the pensioner club, and they also plan the oncoming events. Conclusion and feedback are important so that the future activities will be successful and fruitful.

The examples can be adapted easily in fields where there are self-organizations for active pensioners. The experience of older generations can be utilised well during dealing with children from the disadvantaged groups, who need more care and attention. The cooperation provides the opportunity - beyond the compulsory institutional education - to apply a more effective learning method, in which the attention can be focused on 1-2 children. All of these are useful, so that children will not abandon their roots, will have good samples for their further studies and for the start of their adult lives.