



ECPA 2005

German Entry

1. What is the title of the project?

„Projekt Kontakt“ – socialwork and streetwork with children and juvenile adults; city-point” and open meeting

2. Please give a short general description of the project.

With its 3 components **socialwork and streetwork**, “**city-point**”, and the possibility to use the location of the city-point in **open meetings** the aim of „Projekt Kontakt“ is a holistic approach of crime prevention in the city of Göttingen. Since 1999, „Projekt Kontakt“ has concentrated on young people between 12 and 25 with several different problems such as delinquency, acts of violence, alcohol and drug abuse, homelessness or school avoidance. At the moment, the personnel ratio is 3.5 (October 2005). The contact with the young people is mainly established by streetwork and regular meetings at schools and youth institutions and also by the cooperation with public authorities such as the youth welfare office, the juvenile court, the police, and the juvenile prison. The aim of the project is to prevent criminality of young people in the town-centre of Göttingen and to present them trustworthy persons to talk to. Therefore, it is necessary to build up a trustful relationship between the “Projekt Kontakt” socialworkers and the young people and to develop realistic prospects according to the young persons’ capabilities and possibilities. The working method concentrates on the individuality of young people. Socialworkers accept what they are and what they do. Even if a young person does not keep an arrangement he/she is still welcome at “Projekt Kontakt”.

All offers of the project are voluntary. The fundamental idea of “Projekt Kontakt” is to re-integrate young people and to give them opportunities to get out of crime supporting subcultures.

A network of “competent” public facilities (youth welfare office, juvenile court, police, schools, social welfare office, employment exchange, drug advice centre, debt advice centre) and free youth welfare institutions is not only necessary because of efficiency and economy. A network and coordination provides important conditions to deal with individual problems of children and juvenile adults.

In 2004, staff members of “Projekt Kontakt” took care of and looked after 152 young people and were in contact with 900 children and juvenile adults in their city-point, at schools or in the juvenile prison.

3. Please describe the objective(s) of the project?

The main objective of „Projekt Kontakt“ is to avoid the strengthening of delinquency among children and juvenile adults in the target group. Together with the young people the project works on a development of an individual and realistic prospect for the future and for social (re-) integration.

These predominant objectives can be split up into several small aims:

For the component socialwork/streetwork:

- to get to know each other (staff members and young people)
- to gain confidence as a basis for further steps
- to have someone to talk to, consultancy and offers for help
- to get in contact with young people who have not yet accepted any help of youth welfare institutions or who stopped measures or arrangements.
- to be present and able to interfere in trouble situations

For the component “city-point”:

- establishment of an “open meeting” for the target group
- to build up relationships
- to build up a responsible and reliable institution where someone is present to talk to in trouble situations
- lounge for the possibility to have peaceful and quiet company
- offers for particular problems of girls and young women
- offers for particular problems of young migrants
- support for young peoples’ living conditions (basic needs)
- prevention of increasing poverty
- developing positive ways of looking at life
- integration in education and employment systems
- development of individual future prospects
- washing and shower facilities
- physical and psychological regeneration

4. How was the project implemented?

The project has been carried out since 1999 under the responsibility of the NGO „Jugendhilfe Göttingen e.V.“. In 2001, “Projekt Kontakt” moved into “Die Blechtrommel” – a building that is situated in the town-centre of Göttingen. The project is subsidized by the municipality, by means of “Jugendhilfe Göttingen e.V.” and by means of the employment exchange and a municipal employment support project.

5. Were partners involved in planning and/or development and/or implementation of the project? If so, who were they, and what were their roles?

The planning and further development of the work of the project takes place on arrangements with youth welfare institutions of the city of Göttingen. “Projekt

Kontakt” was discussed and developed together with the youth welfare office of the city of Göttingen and the prevention counsel of the city of Göttingen (police, department of public prosecution and the social departmental head), municipal facilities for youth welfare, youth judges, juvenile prison as well as political committees. There is a regular and active interchange of ideas between “Projekt Kontakt” and authorities (youth welfare office, social welfare office, schools, administration of justice, police) and other youth welfare institutions in the city of Göttingen. Thus, different experiences and ideas about the current problems of young people can be gathered.

6. How did you build in plans to measure the performance of the project?

An anonymous and quantitative registration of the yearly number of clients has been developed during the creation phase of the project. The registration is carried out once a year. All contacts with young people are included, current problems of existing relationships, the total number of clients, age-groups of clients, the gender ratio, the kind of assistance or help, the kind of getting in contact with clients and comparative figures to the previous year. The success of the work is shown in the total number of clients and also in the client’s approval of project offers. The objective is to reach as many delinquent young people as possible and those who are threatened to become a delinquent. The aim is also to gain their confidence and to give them as much support as possible to cope with their problems. The increasing total number of contacts and clients does not represent an increase in juvenile delinquency but an increasing familiarity and experience of “Projekt Kontakt” within the target group. Written documentation of all actions and arrangements with each client is part of the project’s daily routine and a basic requirement of evaluation and further development of the project’s work.

7. Has the project been evaluated? How, and by whom?

The staff members developed a concept for evaluation to check the objectives of the project regularly. This includes a quantitative statistical evaluation referring to the clients and the evaluation of the quality of the project’s work according to the changes in particular groups of young people. The annual presentation of the evaluation at political committees, the regular internal monitoring and the regular reflexion of participating institutions, particularly the police, the department of prosecution and a committee of several youth welfare institutions (“Innenstadtkonferenz”) initiated by “Projekt Kontakt” helps to identify priorities and enables a fast and flexible reaction on changes in juvenile delinquency.

8. What were the results? How far were the objectives of the project achieved?

The results of the project are: delinquent and socially excluded children and juvenile adults of the town-centre of Göttingen are not left to themselves. They increasingly accept on the offers since the project has started. Familiarity and experience of the project have remarkably raised among the potential clients due to the project's socialwork/streetwork and the co-operation with schools and the juvenile prison. Priorities in juvenile delinquency have been identified together with the police and co-operating partners. Measures of prevention were successfully taken (prevention against violence in schools, campaigns against drug abuse, additional offers for the target group). Offers for help and support to cope with every-day life (drug advice, language courses for migrants, looking for suitable schools, looking for flats, accompanying at offices, administration and court) have been carried out and developed furthermore with co-operating partners.

At the same time it has been noticed that the number of conspicuous children under 14 has raised within the last three years. As a reaction on this fact "Projekt Kontakt" offered more free-time services for this age-group. These offers have quite often taken on and carried out furthermore at schools. It has led to a remarkable relief in places in the town-centre of Göttingen where delinquent and criminal acts affected the public order.

The main objectives (to avoid the strengthening of delinquency among children and juvenile adults, to develop individual and realistic prospects for the future as well as the social (re-) integration) has been achieved for the time being.

„Projekt Kontakt“ – socialwork and streetwork with children and juvenile adults; city-point and open meeting

The town-centre of Göttingen is a place where a lot of children and young people meet. Among a large group of inconspicuous children and juvenile adults there are also truants endangered young people – so-called “risk-kids”. Often, they already have contact with homeless people and/or drug addicts and dealers. Many of those “risk-kids” are threatened to slip into these groups where criminal acts to earn one’s living are the order of the day. Furthermore there are the so-called “street-kids” who withdraw from their families for different reasons and who are quite often burdened with living in a children’s home. They transfer their focus of life onto the streets with the hope to find some kind of replacement for their families. For them homelessness, delinquency and criminal acts as well as drug abuse are a part of normal life.

Pretention and objectives of the project “Projekt Kontakt”:

- a) social integration of conspicuous children and juvenile adults
- b) support and development of individual and realistic prospects for the future and development of positive ways of looking at life
- c) integration in education and employment systems
- d) to show offers and support of existing youth welfare services

The working method concentrates on the individuality of young people and their individual problems. Its aim is to get young people prepared for an active change. The project’s priority is prevention.

The most frequent problems of the young people are unemployment, a lack of social relationships to parents, relatives and teachers, housing shortages, homelessness, avoidance of school, crime, drug abuse, psychological problems, violence in families, poverty, a lack of prospects, problems with confidence and the interruption of education. As a rule, young people do not only suffer not from one problem but from a variety of problems. Most of the times, there are long-term processes that developed over years and then intensify because of a particularly bad situation.

Working method is socialwork and streetwork, i.e.

- a) visiting places in the town-centre where the target group stays
- b) a daily open city-point
- c) regular work at youth centres, schools, public training workshops and the juvenile prison
- d) visiting young people at home, contact with training workshops and places of work
- e) institutional co-operation with juvenile court, youth welfare office, police, the court of Göttingen, probation office and all youth welfare institutions.

This networking enables the identification of the diversity of the young peoples’ problems and the focus of crime in the town-centre of Göttingen which is necessary to develop measures for prevention and intervention.