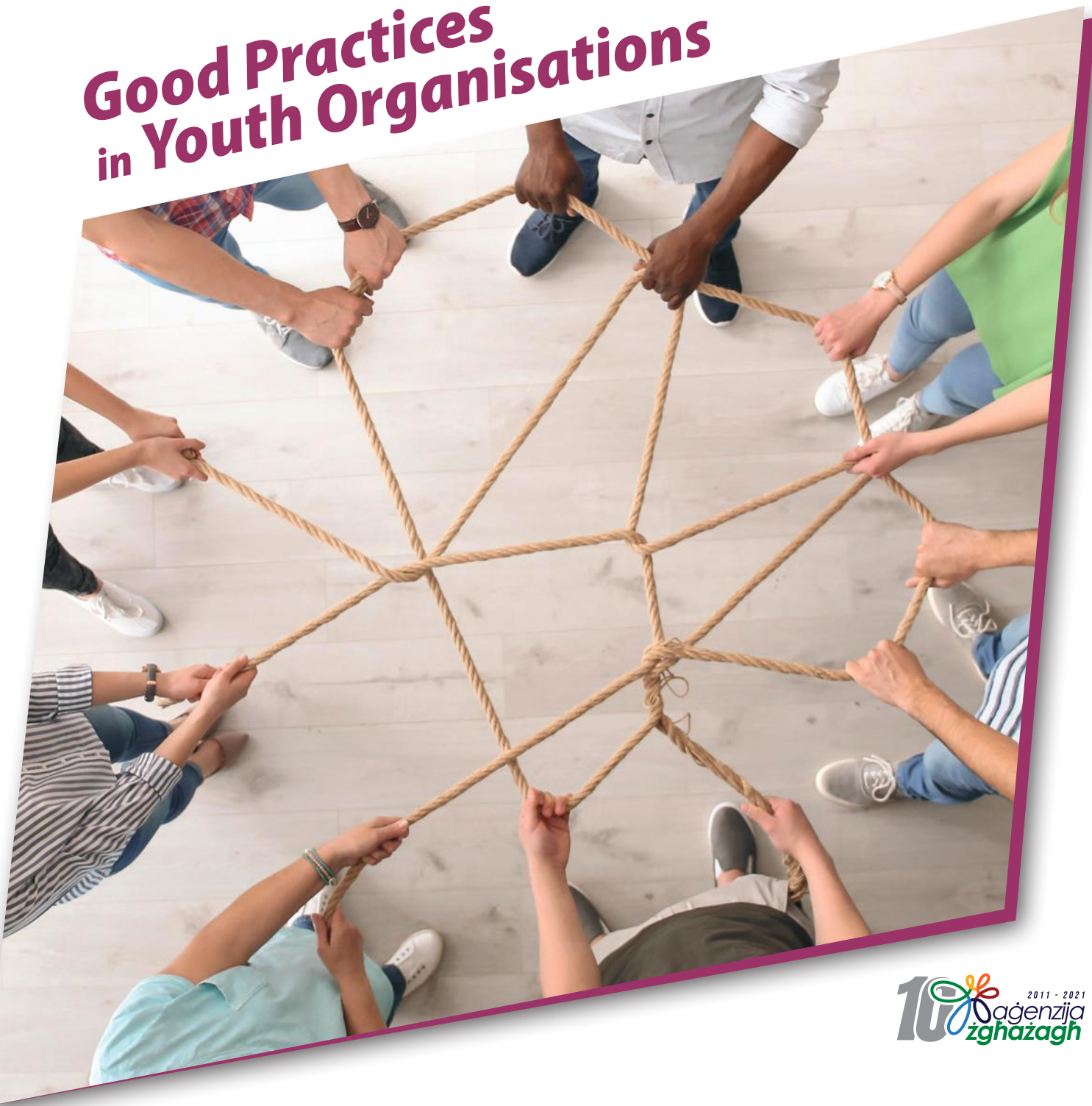


Good Practices in Youth Organisations





Good Practices in Youth Organisations

Aġenzija Żgħażaġh
Good Practices in Youth Organisations

St Joseph High Road,
St Venera SVR 1013, Malta

Tel: +356 2258 6700
Email: agenzija.zghazagh@gov.mt

© Aġenzija Żgħażaġh

No part of this work may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means
- graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording,
taping, web distribution or information storage retrieval systems - without
the written permission of Aġenzija Żgħażaġh.

Photography credits: www.depositphotos.com

Date: 2021

ISBN: 978-9918-9507-1-3



Foreword	1
Introduction	3
A4U – Assistance for You	5
Young and Free	6
Deaf People Association Malta	7
We Are - LGBTQQI Youth and Organisation	10
Għaqda tal-Malti Università	11
Kummissjoni Festa Esterna 16 ta’ Lulju Fgura	13
Salesian Oratory Sliema	15
Opening Doors	16
St John Rescue Corps	17
Salesian Brigade	19
26th Cospicua Girl Guides	20
Žgħażaġh Azzjoni Kattolika (ŽAK)	21
19th Dingli Girl Guides	23
Agara Foundation	24
Down Syndrome Association Malta	25
JCI Malta	26
Malta Scout Group	27
Sezzjoni Žgħażaġh Pawlini Munxarin	28

Be Active	29
GWU Youths	31
Attard Parish Youth Group	33
Gozo University Group (GUG)	36
Malta Unesco Youth Association (MUYA)	38
Youth Included	41
Malta Girl Guides	43
Malta Gay Rights Movement (MGRM)	46
Tghanniq	48
Malta Unesco Youth Association (MUYA)	51
The Scout Association Of Malta - Stella Maris College Scout Group	53
Home Away From Home Salesjani Youth Centre - Senglea	55
JCI Malta	57
St John Rescue Corps	61
Malta Gay Rights Movement (MGRM)	63
National Scout Youth Council	65
YMCA Valletta	66
Friends of the Earth	68
Grupp tal-Armar 6 ta' Diċembru, Siġġiewi A.D. 1997	70

Good Practices in Youth Organisations

Identifying and promoting good practice is a common feature of organisational and performance management. The aim is to help organisations to not only manage their staff, resources and operations more effectively but also to help engender quality, continuous improvement and innovation in the services and supports they provide.

As part of its remit, Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ provides support to voluntary youth organisations with the aim of increasing their potential for empowering young people and enhancing their capacity to offer better services and opportunities for young people in their communities.

The 330 voluntary youth organisations registered with Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ benefit from supports provided under two main funding schemes. *A4U – Assistance for you*, aims to support and increase capacity in youth organisations and help them further develop the services that they provide for young people in their communities. Youth organisations are invited to come up with initiatives that help them strengthen and develop their services by improving/refurbishing their premises and/or purchasing additional materials and resources. *Be Active: Developing ideas together*, aims to provide support to youth organisations in the development, planning, implementation and evaluation of projects that aim to provide for the well-being of their respective members as well as for the local community.

The purpose of this report is twofold. First, it gives an overview and examples of how voluntary youth organisations have used the support funding they were allocated over the period of 10 years by Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ. Second, the projects selected are practical examples of good organisational practices.

As is evident from the report, these good practices can vary in terms of aim, content and context from addressing issues of safety and maintenance to promoting tolerance, dialogue, active citizenship and health lifestyles.

Whatever the good practice, this report demonstrates the voluntary youth sector’s capacity for practicality, creativity and innovation in providing the young people with whom they work with new experiences and opportunities. In providing such organisations with continuous financial support we are helping young people and their communities as well as promoting the spirit of volunteering.

Miriam Teuma
Chief Executive Officer,
Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ

The National Youth Policy – Towards 2020 highlighted specific action plans for youth organisations as spaces that:

- support the active engagement, empowerment and participation of young people;
- provide non-formal learning opportunities for young people, hence developing young people's competences and skills that enhance their future learning and employment prospects.

In view of such action plans, Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ offered for the past 10 years support to youth organisations with the aim of increasing their potential for empowering young people and enhancing their capacity to offer better services and opportunities for young people in their communities. The 330 youth organisations registered with Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ benefitted from support provided by the same agency since its inception.

The following is the support which was and is still given by Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ to its registered organisations.

A4U – Assistance for you

Through this scheme, Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ aims to support and increase capacity in youth organisations and help them further develop the services that they provide for young people in their communities. Youth organisations are invited to come up with initiatives that will help them strengthen and develop their services by improving / refurbishing their premises and/or purchasing additional materials and resources.

Be Active: Developing ideas together

Through this scheme, Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ aims to provide support to youth organisations in the development, planning, implementation and evaluation of projects that are aimed to provide for the well being of their respective members as well as for the local community.

Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ also supports registered youth organisations through:

- a newsletter highlighting relevant funding, resources and training opportunities available;
- the free rental of equipment scheme through which youth organisations can rent various equipment to use during their activities;
- the use of the Youth Village facilities and Youth Activity Centres at discounted rates;
- regular training events.

Through this publication Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ is presenting a selection of good practices which have been tried and tested along the years. This supports the sharing of good practices and enables peer learning and networking between those youth organisations who have participated in this process.



Good Practices in Youth Organisations

Year: 2013

Organisation: Young and Free Malta

Project Name: Web Presence and Inclusion Material

Profile of organisation

Young and Free Malta is a multicultural youth foundation that aims to improve the social economical position of young people. Its mission is to be an indispensable social partner in its surroundings, the largest provider of socioeconomic support, stimulating projects for youth in the field of culture, education, integration, recreation and employment. Young and Free Malta believes that young people today should have equal opportunities in matters such as education, employment and social integration, as well as mutual respect to different cultures and equality among citizens. This also includes young people who are living in Malta as 'asylum seekers', refugees or migrants.

Project description

Through this project, Young and Free Malta have had the opportunity to develop their own website through which the organisation has obtained online presence, as well as printed and designed a brochure which was distributed in the Open Centres in Malta. The aim of this initiative was to offer opportunities and possibilities for young migrants to exploit their talents, to promote this interaction as a space through which young migrants and local businesses can collaborate to offer work experiences, to reinforce and professionalise mentorship for young migrants within several communities and to stimulate and support entrepreneurship initiatives undertaken by young migrants through support of training and facilities.

Testimony

This project by Young and Free Malta has contributed to initiate dialogue between young migrants and the local community. Migrants feel that they are excluded from the community while the Maltese community feels that they are under threat by migrants, hence the need of social cooperation and understanding. Therefore, this project, involving directly a group of youth workers working with young migrants has acted as a bridge between the local and the migrant community as a step towards a long term relationship of mutual benefit. In itself, this project has provided opportunity for initiatives that promote active participation of young migrants in the Maltese community.



Year: 2013

Organisation: Deaf People Association Malta

Project Name: Increasing Deaf Awareness in Malta

Profile of organisation

The **Deaf People Association** aims to ensure that Deaf people have equal opportunities to live an independent life of the highest possible quality through speaking out and representing Deaf people by entering into partnership with Government, Authorities and Organisations that are consonant with the Association's aims and disseminating information on existing facilities available to Deaf people. The Association works incessantly to investigate ways Deaf people can have equal opportunities and lobby for these with both institutions and by raising public awareness.

Project description

As part of the Deaf Week initiative, the Deaf People Association held a number of events to coincide with the International week of the Deaf. The events celebrated the achievements of Deaf people locally and also helped to boost awareness of Maltese Sign Language (LSM) and other Deaf issues. A half-day Deaf Awareness Seminar was organised for the general public, related organisations and politicians, during which a number of short presentations were delivered about Deaf culture, Maltese Sign Language and the Maltese Deaf Community. Participants of this seminar had the opportunity to learn basic LSM and ask questions they may have to facilitate relations and communication. Another event organised was a 'Shh Party' at the Deaf Club for members, Deaf people, their friends and family members and students of Maltese Sign Language (LSM). This party encouraged all those who attended to 'turn off their voices' and to embrace more visual methods of communication. Volunteers also organised visual-based games which are

“The energy generated by the activities of this project have also resulted in a group of increasingly active young people in the organisation.”

Good Practices in Youth Organisations

commonly found at Deaf gatherings and which encourage participants to become more visually aware, supporting their sign language skills while encouraging social rapport. The organisation also produced visibility material which was distributed during the Notte Bianca events in Valletta.

Testimony

Over 70 people attended including the Hon. Minister for the Family and Social Solidarity, Marie Louise Coleiro Preca and Member of the European Parliament Hon. Roberta Metsola Tedesco Triccas who both addressed those present. Both politicians expressed their support for the Deaf Community and applauded the voluntary organisation for their hard work in the sector. The Minister successfully greeted the audience using LSM before starting her speech and promised the government's full cooperation to increase access for Deaf people. MEP Roberta Metsola stressed the need for more Maltese Sign Language Interpreters and called for the introduction of subtitles on TV. The opposition leader also sent a subtitled video address and praised the Deaf People Association for their "huge courage, ambition and drive". Deaf People Association President Steven Mulvaney stressed that opportunities, such as this conference, are key to creating dialogue and advancing the cause of further participation of Deaf People in Malta. The energy generated by the activities of this project have also resulted in a group of increasingly active young people in the organisation. In fact, young members of the Deaf People Association performed a translation of the popular song 'Stay' by Rihanna in Maltese Sign Language live on National Television (TVM) to raise funds for L-Istrina on the 26th December 2013.



Good Practices in Youth Organisations

Year: 2014

Organisation: We Are - LGBTQQI Youth and Student Organisation

Project Name: Enhancing Dialogue

Profile of organisation

We Are is the organisation where students on the University of Malta campus can truly express their sexuality and gender identity. It provides a social space for young people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, straight allies, or are questioning their sexuality/gender... or who don't identify as anything at all but believe in creating a loving, fun, and inclusive community! The organisation also organises initiatives and actions which focus on homophobia, transphobia and LGBT rights, and is present where it matters to discuss LGBT issues and education.

Project description

The project focused on an event in March which explored intersectionalities of identities and the set up of 5 non-formal workshops held at the Rainbow Support Services Youth-Drop in Centre in Valletta and at the University of Malta with the specific aim to cater to different audiences. The workshops discussed different themes and included a session on Comic discussion for LGBTQ young people; a discussion on AIDS and HIV at the University of Malta for the general public; a Film Discussion: 'Coming Out' for LGBTQ young people in Valletta; 'Trans representation' reaching out to the general public at the University of Malta; and 'How I told my mother' for LGBTQ youth in Valletta.

Testimony

Through this project, the organisation **We Are** focused its energies on internal dialogue (among its members) and external dialogue (reaching out to people beyond the organisation). 'Enhancing Dialogue' supported the organisation to work on its education and community pillars since it developed tools for non-formal education and engaged with the community to deliver them. The project also provided the framework for the organisation to bridge the gap in reaching out to LGBTQ youth at the Youth Drop-In Centre in Valletta.



Year: 2014

Organisation: Għaqda tal-Malti Università

Project Name: Holqa

Profile of organisation

Għaqda tal-Malti Università works on various fronts related to the Maltese language. It is the brainchild of two medical students - Rużar Briffa and Ġuże Bonnici who spent a lot of time studying and discussing literature. The organisation was established in 1931. 1988 marked the year in which the first president, George Said, was appointed among students. Għaqda tal-Malti Università, in recent years, has invested in educational and interdisciplinary projects which reach out to young people, in particular through programmes for creative writing, interdisciplinary arts initiatives and publications.

Project description

'Holqa' is a project developed with the aim of establishing closer ties with the organisation's members and the wider community. The project focuses on the design and hosting of a website taking into consideration user-friendly features, including facilities for ease of access through PCs and mobile phones.

Testimony

Through this project, Għaqda tal-Malti Università has taken initiative to invest in online resources in Maltese in response to feedback from teachers and students who find it difficult to retrieve high quality materials in Maltese online. More significantly, the organisation has invested in a project that has left legacy beyond the remit of the current committee, giving the organisation renewal and a higher visibility profile.

// The organisation has invested in a project that has left legacy beyond the remit of the current committee, giving the organisation renewal and a higher visibility profile. //



Year: 2015

Organisation: Kummissjoni Festa Esterna 16 ta' Lulju, Fgura

Project Name: Tahriġ fis-sengħa ta' mastrudaxxa gewwa maħžen tal-armar

Profile of organisation

The **Kummissjoni Festa Esterna 16 ta' Lulju Fgura** is an organisation consisting of a group of people that work together in Honour of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the patron of Fgura. This Commission organises fund-raising events to sustain the feast's expenses, to restore current street decoration and to plan and develop new decorations. The organisation operates through the work of the 15 young volunteers.

Project description

The project by the Kummissjoni Festa Esterna 16 ta' Lulju Fgura was designed to empower new young members with carpentry skills to contribute as volunteers within the organisation. The workshop was prepared and a number of tools, including bend saw, chainsaw and belt sander were procured. The workshop was also set up with First Aid and fire safety equipment. Training was delivered by a number of mentors and learning was evaluated through a practical assessment.

Testimony

This project has left a lasting impact on the organisation, in particular through the training of carpentry skills. Various volunteers who had acquired trained six years ago through this project are still contributing to carpentry works and the creation of new carpentry works to the organisation. Through the work of these volunteers we are manufacturing pedestals used for outdoor festa decorations. Two years after this project, we have inaugurated the first pedestal that has been completely manufactured by our volunteers. The machinery bought through this project is still put to good use. The funding from Aġenzija Żgħażaġh through the A4U fund has allowed us to invest in the talents and skills of our volunteers through training which together with the tools acquired, have contributed to a continued service in the community. Heartfelt thanks to Aġenzija Żgħażaġh!





Year: 2016

Organisation: Salesian Oratory, Sliema

Project Name: RENOV8+CRE8

Profile of organisation

The main objective of the **Salesian Oratory**, better known as 'Salesjani' in Sliema is to carry out activities aimed at promoting holistic education of the young. All members are helped to understand that they belong to a family in which they are welcome and to which they have a positive contribution to make. Throughout the years, the Oratory has been able to reach out and help young people to develop and implement new ideas by creating new opportunities for them. The Oratory which was founded back in 1908 embraces several sub groups, each with its own specialisation to empower young members to become leaders.

Project description

'Renov8 + Cre8' is a project that has invested and augmented the potential of experience which the Oratory offers through the Salesian Band Room. Through A4U funding, the organisation has invested in the Salesian Band Room through measures of temperature and humidity control. After the renovations took place, the young people were offered mentorship and hands-on workshops which gave the young people the necessary skills, enabling them to record their own music. During the evaluation phase of the project, the young people had the opportunity to evaluate work on a song which they arranged and recorded with their mentors.

Testimony

This project helped both people within and outside our organisation since the Salesian Band Room also hosts people that do not regularly attend the Salesian Oratory. The A4U funding has supported us to create a better and improved environment where young people can express themselves better and have fun doing something which they really enjoy. Since the Salesian Oratory Band Room is used regularly, the air-conditioner was of a benefit to many. The humidity treatment applied helped in preserving the studio itself that is used by the members. This project gave a sense of belonging and responsibility to the participants in charge of the Salesian Oratory Band Room where they came up with solutions to maintain the place with the help of mentors. Thus this project helped in giving good values and further skills to these young people which will surely serve well in the wider community.



Good Practices in Youth Organisations

Year: 2016

Organisation: Opening Doors

Project Name: Heart is Music

Profile of organisation

Opening Doors Association works for the promotion of the active participation of young people and adults with learning disability in creative opportunities. All projects of Opening doors engage adults and young people with learning disabilities in processes that facilitate the creation of their own work and aesthetic, and empower them to take ownership of this work and process. Opening Doors Association was founded because the members believe in cultural rights and accessibility. The organisation is committed to the creative expression of people with learning disabilities.

Project description

'Heart is Music' revolved around the supply of new percussion instruments which were used as resources for the Music Group, which has grown as a result of this investment. During the course of the implementation of this project, the Music Group trained and participated in an integrated performance, local performance and outreach tour. These sessions involved live music performed by the Music Group.

Testimony

This project has helped in supporting our young musicians in developing their skills and talents in the artistic field and in enhancing their well-being through the facilitation and promotion of values such as inclusion, integration, diversity and equality. The tools acquired through A4U funding has helped in embracing the diverse abilities of our young musicians, recognising and respecting their individuality, acknowledging their social and cultural development, and re-defining artistic excellence along the process. Through this initiative the musicians were supported and encouraged to develop their musical skills and their appreciation and active participation in the arts. 'Heart is Music' has also enhanced the well-being and active participation of young people with intellectual disabilities who have fewer opportunities, encouraging them to integrate and fully participate in social and community life - henceforth directly contributing to both the Arts and Culture Action plan and the Social Inclusion Action plan of the National Youth Policy Towards 2020.



Year: 2016

Organisation: St. John Rescue Corps

Project Name: Water Rescue Training

Profile of organisation

St. John Rescue Corps is a voluntary organisation established in 1986 with the aim of providing a support civil defence unit consisting of volunteers fully trained in rescue. The Corps currently offers its service to the general public and the Civil Protection Department in rescue operations including Fire fighting, High Angle rescue and Urban Search & Rescue (USAR). The Corps would also like to start providing water rescue services in community events and to the general public. In order to provide such a service to the community, youth members of the Corps need to be trained in dealing with various water rescue emergencies. Unfortunately, the Corps lacks the necessary equipment needed to be able to train its members to cater for such water rescue emergencies.

Project description

The initiative undertaken through A4U funding enabled the St. John Rescue Corps to acquire the necessary equipment as well as provide the necessary water rescue training to a group of young volunteers. The training course was delivered by youth members to other young volunteers aged between 17 and 30. The training provided the skills and competences to help fulfil the youth members' potential and aspirations in becoming proficient water rescuers. Certification for the training was issued by the Royal Life Saving Society and is also recognised by member states of the Commonwealth of Nations.

Testimony

SJRC members attended water rescue training held both at Fort Madliena and at sea. A total of 27 members successfully undertook the Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) Life Support 1 exam whilst 8 other members successfully completed the more advanced Life Support 3 exam of the same society. 10 members obtained the RLSS Bronze Medallion, 6 the RLSS Bronze Cross, 11 the more advanced RLSS Award of Merit and 8 the RLSS Silver Cross. A wide variety of equipment such as throw bags, submersible mannequin, rescue floatation devises, spinal board, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) mannequin were used through the funding obtained from the Aġenzija Żgħażaġh A4U Scheme for youth organisations.



Year: 2017

Organisation: Salesian Brigade

Project Name: Plumbing: A Hands-On Approach

Profile of organisation

The **Salesian Brigade** functions as a non-governmental voluntary organisation, is non-profit making and forms part of the mission of the Salesians of Don Bosco in Malta. The Salesian Brigade offers members a learning experience in a unique set-up since learning can take place in a structured manner without the stiffness of a formal classroom set-up. The aim of the Salesian Brigade is to organise activities that introduce young people aged 7-25 years to exciting, positive, challenging and enjoyable things to do in their leisure time. The Salesian Brigade also focuses on the opportunity to learn through adventure and the outdoors.

Project description

This project enabled a project team of 5 volunteers aged 17-29 to co-ordinate and learn through a hands-on experience of plumbing and masonry works for the development of the Ghajn Tuffieħa camp site which the Salesian Brigade recently acquired. The young volunteers were responsible for the planning, implementation and evaluation of this project. The process included discussing different ideas and options that best suit the needs of the young people using the camp site, designing and getting quotations, and choosing professionals that would be helping and mentoring the work which needed to be completed at the Ghajn Tuffieħa site. The project enabled the Salesian Brigade to not only increase their working capacity through further use of their Ghajn Tuffieħa premises, but also to support the young volunteers to acquire teamwork skills and trades, boosting their employability.

Testimony

The main impact of this project was to help young people in two areas: teach a group of young people two basic trades that will help them explore and learn through non-formal education. The project team was shown how a domestic plumbing project worked in a household environment. They learnt how to use hand tools and small power tools and learnt the theory in basic plumbing system and the principles in practice of plumbing installation. They also learnt to do masonry work to finish off the Ghajn Tuffieħa site. All the material used for the project will be kept for maintenance purposes and once the Ghajn Tuffieħa site project has been completely finished, many young people will benefit from the premises.



Good Practices in Youth Organisations

Year: 2017

Organisation: 26th Cospicua Girl Guides

Project Name: Chairs and Tables for the new premises

Profile of organisation

26th Cospicua Girl Guides is a non-governmental organisation forming part of the South District of the Malta Girl Guides. Its main aim is the empowerment of young girls and women and this is done throughout various activities at a local, national and international level.

Project description

The project revolved around the supply of new chairs and tables for the new premises of the 26th Cospicua Girl Guides. For over 25 years, the group had been using ad hoc meeting places or moved between places. Given this limitation, the group was unable to have and develop its own resources.

Testimony

This project has had a great impact on our organisation and the wider community due to the fact that for the past 26 years we have not had any permanent premises and thus, no permanent resources. With the funds acquired we were able to purchase the basic necessities for our weekly meetings such as the chairs and tables which will enable the members to work more comfortably. Moreover, this aided a better delivery of the sessions, and as a result, the girls could make the most of the Malta Girl Guides 8 point programme which also goes in line with the National Youth Policy 2015-2020.

“ Moreover, this aided a better delivery of the sessions, and as a result, the girls could make the most of the Malta Girl Guides 8 point programme which also goes in line with the National Youth Policy 2015-2020. ”



Year: 2017

Organisation: Żgħażaġh Azzjoni Kattolika (ŽAK)

Project Name: Learning by Doing

Profile of organisation

Żgħażaġh Azzjoni Kattolika (ŽAK) is the youth branch of the Malta Catholic Action. The organisation seeks to continuously improve and update its youth work services in order to offer additional learning opportunities to complement the formal education of young people. ŽAK aims to assist young people in their holistic personal development and to help them in becoming active citizens and finding their role in society. For this purpose, ŽAK forms groups of young people in different localities and provides young people with opportunities to learn through non-formal methods and to be exposed to informal learning. The organisation gives the utmost importance to the participation of young people, to the extent that the young people themselves are the protagonists at every level of the organisational structure. Young people are encouraged to actively participate in the decision making and planning taking place within ŽAK.

Project description

The project is a youth led initiative aimed at coming up with a solution to access and provide showering facilities for large group activities. Hence, under the mentorship of a mechanical engineer who volunteered his support, young people had the opportunity to build a set of portable showers to be used during various youth activities. The young people involved in this project put their formal education to good use in different fields such as welding, woodworking and plumbing in order to assist and continue to learn how to build and set up these portable showers from scratch.

Testimony

The impact of this project was to involve and teach young people within the organisation through a hands on activity. The product they produced through DIY work, from scratch, has not only proved to be useful tool for the organisation but also increased their sense of self efficacy. The National Youth Policy Towards 2020 clearly affirms the commitment towards providing young people with opportunities to put their talents and skills at the service of the community.



Year: 2018

Organisation: 19th Dingli Girl Guides

Project Name: Enhancing the Safety of our Young People

Profile of organisation

The **19th Dingli Girl Guides** is a non-voluntary organisation forming part of the Malta Girl Guides Association. Malta Girl Guides strives to be a relevant movement where each girl and woman is valued, empowered and given a voice. Malta Girl Guides provides challenging opportunities that promotes leadership in girls and women. Through fun and adventure, members discover and develop their potential whilst making a positive difference in their community.

Project description

The organisation's goal is to have its programmes compliant to standards set for the recognition of non-formal learning, with the aim of enabling young people following our programmes to have recognition of this learning on their school leaving certificates. The need for this project arose after Health and Safety Inspection of the 19th Dingli Girl Guides premises in Dingli. Feedback of the inspection report included the installation of a fire alarm and fire fighting equipment. The project includes installing a fire alarm system and also installing the fire fighting equipment in main rooms and corridors.

Testimony

This project has enabled the 19th Dingli Girl Guides to strengthen and develop the services of the organisation by offering a better product to the young people following programmes at its premises, and paving the way for the formal recognition of non-formal learning. The Malta Girl Guides motto is to BE PREPARED. This project is helping the centre to continue developing this mission across the work that we do. Through this grant, Aġenzija Żgħażaġh has supported us to recognise the opportunities we offer to young people for lifelong and life-wide learning.

// This project has strengthened and developed the services of the organisation. //

Good Practices in Youth Organisations

Year: 2018

Organisation: Agara Foundation

Project Name: New Kitchen

Profile of organisation

Agara's aim is to walk together with different communities and individuals all over the world to empower them in their respective environments. Agara does not have any full-time workers but an ever-growing number of volunteers are helping out in several ways and means. One of Agara's primary aims is to provide individuals with the opportunity to work in the voluntary sector, especially those persons who had never previously had the means or possibility to do so. Thus, Agara seeks to propose creative alternatives which challenge the belief that there is only a limited or particular way that one may be involved in voluntary activities. It taps into the potential and specific capabilities of individuals, be it of the volunteers or of the people on the "receiving end."

Project description

The aim of the organisation is to enhance the organisation's meeting place to offer a more welcoming environment to volunteers working on various projects with the organisation. Through this project, Agara Foundation will invest in a small kitchenette for its new premises. Volunteers can use the kitchen to prepare some food and beverages during their meetings and thus avoid buying take away food all the time.

Through A4U funding, the running costs were minimised and an appropriate environment was provided for the volunteers.

Testimony

The impact of such project was that it has helped Agara foundation to have a better place for its volunteers. The place is more welcoming, and volunteers can work together as a team in a more functional space. Another positive impact of such project is that it is helping the foundation to organise more activities and events where outsiders feel comfortable to get interested in its projects being held throughout the years. The project is therefore contributing directly to the outreach of new volunteers. The National Youth Policy Towards 2020 advocates the development of initiatives to enable young people to be active members of their local communities and take responsibility for the quality of community life and the local environment.



Year: 2019

Organisation: Down Syndrome Association Malta

Project Name: Meeting Room

Profile of organisation

The **Down Syndrome Association Malta** was founded in 1981 with the aim of encouraging people who have Down Syndrome to fulfill their potential for successful and happy lives, in a society that recognises their abilities and is supportive of their needs. We also represent the interests and needs of people who have Down syndrome in all aspects of life and individuals' needs, as members of the family and the community.

Project description

This project focused on increasing the seating capacity of the organisation and involved the procurement of chairs and tables to accommodate the needs of the organisation, enabling the set up of gatherings and activities. In order to make best use of space, chairs bought were stackable and tables foldable. This enabled the Down Syndrome Association to use the space in a flexible way.

Testimony

Through this project, the organisation was able to invest in adequate facilities for the use of both our members and specifically the young people attending activities in the organisation. The initiative helped our members feel more comfortable and welcomed. The project physically supported us to accommodate more people in our activities as we had the resources to support various programmes including computer sessions, future skills, the summer friendship circle, radio valo, music programme.

Good Practices in Youth Organisations

Year: 2019

Organisation: JCI Malta

Project Name: Public Speaking Toolkit

Profile of organisation

JCI Malta is a nonprofit organisation of young active citizens who are engaged and committed to creating impact in their communities. JCI gathers active citizens from all sectors of society, and develops their skills, knowledge and understanding to make informed decisions and take action. Our mission is to provide development opportunities that empower young people to create positive change. Our vision is to be the leading national network of young active citizens. We think critically about society's greatest challenges and act on behalf of our communities to be part of the solution. We seek better solutions to build better communities, creating a better future.

Project description

The Public Speaking Toolkit project set up three events to equip young people with skills in public speaking and debating to continue developing their capacity as active citizens. The first event focused on the right mindset required for public speaking, and dealt with developing confidence, methods and building speeches. The next event focused on skills required for public speaking for the media and journalism. The last event exposed young people to the basics of debating. The funding acquired for this project served to support the organisation with the resources required to set up these events.

Testimony

The project had a positive impact on the organisation and the wider community. The implementation happened in line with JCI Malta's mission to strengthen skills acquisition and empowerment of young people, by providing opportunities for personal and professional development. In fact, the events were implemented by young people for young people and were consistently geared at equipping young people to become active citizens and participants in their society and communities. The project helped participants find their voice, which can be identified as the main benefit provided to society and which has contributed to the strengthening of JCI Malta's mission. In line with the National Youth Policy towards 2020, the Public Speaking Toolkit events empowered participants to improve their own confidence and skills to participate in society.



Year: 2020

Organisation: Mosta Scout Group

Project Name: Acquiring new skills while creating a better place

Profile of organisation

The **Mosta Scout Group** is one of the largest scout groups forming part of The Scout Association of Malta. Established in 1916, the group has more than 100 years of history and tradition in the Mosta community. The mission of Scouting is to contribute to the education of young people through a values-oriented system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society. The motto "Be Prepared" aims to encourage the development of active and responsible citizens contributing to the creation of a better world. Scouting promotes social, physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual formation of its members. The group organises a range of outdoor activities which include community work and hikes, camping and life skills, as well as other activities of a non-formal educational nature.

Project description

This project focuses on the development of the Mosta Scout Group outdoor activity centre and camping facilities at Targa Battery (ex military premises). Young volunteers worked with lecturers at MCAST to furnish an indoor dormitory that will enable the premises to host approximately 24 persons. With the pandemic kicking in, young volunteers worked in small groups during the summer months. In the process, they gained various skills. The funding awarded was mainly spent on materials and tools.

Testimony

Despite the pandemic, this project has motivated young people to volunteer and acquire new skills through our partnership with MCAST. We firmly believe that voluntary work is a value which every individual should possess. With regards to the project's impact on the wider community, the Mosta Scout Group can now offer the additional service of the dormitory as sleeping quarters during activities organised at the campsite. Hence, all youth organisations and the general public can make use of this project, encouraging more over-night stays and outdoor activities. In line with the Scouts Motto, the Campsite and activity centre are now also 'PREPARED' to host campers in winter, and in case of rain, adequate shelter will be available. The tools bought will enable the upkeep of the place in the long term.

Good Practices in Youth Organisations

Year: 2020

Organisation: Sezzjoni Żgħażaġh Pawlini Munxarin

Project Name: Promoting the participation of young people in traditional activities through improvements in our workshop.

Profile of organisation

Sezzjoni Żgħażaġh Pawlini Munxarin is a community organisation in the locality of Munxar. Its main objective is to promote our village through professional artistic and cultural activities by young people and volunteers from the locality itself. SZPM aims to increase awareness of the locality and also offer a safe place for all the young people to focus their attention and energy on these events and also offer the necessary skills and knowledge in these areas so that eventually those skills can be transferred to the job market. Our aim is to make a difference in our community and also in our country, leave a legacy and offer a sense of continuity in our community.

Project description

Having recently acquired use of a space within the community for its work with and by young people, Sezzjoni Żgħażaġh Pawlini Munxarin used the A4U grant to adequately refurbish the space. Through this project the organisation sought to encourage young people from the locality of Munxar to learn skills that enable them to contribute and participate in traditional Carnival activities. This project supported the young people with the necessary tools and a safe place to meet and be creative in as they prepared Carnival dances and Carnival masks that were displayed in various localities around Gozo during the Carnival period.

Testimony

This project has left a positive impact in our community. Now our young people have a place where they can frequent if they need to produce an artistic project, particularly for the Carnival period. This will, in turn, contribute to having more young people joining the organisation and also helping in other projects that the organisation has. Through the set up of our own workshop, the organisation is now able to exhibit its works to the public. This serves to promote the organisation with a wider audience, thus supporting the organisation to increase its capacity to grow by involving more young people in its projects.



BeACTIVE
Developing Ideas Together



BeACTIVE

Year: 2013

Organisation: GWU Youths

Project Name: National Educational Campaign regarding Precarious Work from a Youth Perspective

Theme: Active Citizenship

Profile of organisation

The **General Workers' Union (GWU) – Youths** is a Voluntary Organisation, which is affiliated and forms part of the GWU. The GWU – Youths represents individuals who are considered as young people, that is, under the age of thirty-five (35) years. The said section also participates in national and international affairs with regards to youths in society. In Malta, the GWU-Youths forms part of the Kunsill Nazzjonali għaž-Żgħażaġh (KNŻ) and internationally on the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC).

The Young Workers' Movement was founded on the 27th of August 1944, when a rally for young workers was organised by the GWU (a year later after the founding of GWU itself). GWU – Youths is formed by students, employees or unemployed youth. The youths are the driving force for change and equality, a movement which helps to promote a more inclusive and sustainable civil society.

Project description

The National Educational Campaign regarding Precarious Work has sought to reach out to and educate young people 13-30 years old, and their parents, on matters concerning precarious work. Many young people who enter the work force as temporary, part time or full time workers often enter into precarious work agreements. Precarious work refers to work that either exposes the worker

// This campaign has reached out to young people and their families on the matters relating to precarious work and about their rights as workers and entities which they can access to strengthen their skills for better work opportunities. //

Good Practices in Youth Organisations

to continuous risks, a job that has lack of certainty, continuation and stability, is without opportunity to develop into a career, without access to vocational training, with a low and insecure wage, with no knowledge regarding health and safety measures on the place of work and without representation in a trade union. These disadvantages have direct impact on the lives of young people in the following ways: problems to obtain bank loans; lack of training and development; as well as a general impact on interpersonal relations. The campaign was disseminated during Freshers' Week at the University of Malta, at the MCAST (main campus), at the Valletta City Gate, through various press conferences, through a specific website developed to disseminate information on precarious work; a letter sent to all the members of the organisation (totalling 1800 young people) and through the online media.



Testimony

The campaign has reached out to young people and their families on the matters relating to precarious work and about their rights as workers and entities which they can access to strengthen their skills for better work opportunities. Through the experience on this project, the organisation has gained the confidence to open up its experience and consider EU training and exchange opportunities for its members through the Youth In Action programmes. The website has been designed and planned for a long term presence of this campaign given that measures have been taken to ensure that it will remain online for at least 5 years after this project.

BeACTIVE

Year: 2013

Organisation: Attard Parish Youth Group

Project Name: Darkness to Light

Theme: No Hate Speech Movement; Active Citizenship

Profile of organisation

The **Attard Parish Youth Group** caters for 14-16 year olds and is led by youth workers and youth leaders. Youth workers are primarily concerned with the social, personal and political development of young people. As educators, we are constantly striving to encourage young people to achieve the diverse skills required to fully participate as active members of society. 'Youth Empowerment' can be a meaningless term unless significant opportunities are made available. Non-formal learning, using creative forms of expression is a particularly effective tool to facilitate the learning process. Encouraging young people to pursue their individual talents towards a common goal is a rewarding experience for all, and the resulting synergy from such an endeavour makes it possible to achieve what was previously unattainable. The European theme for 2013 is that of Citizenship, emphasising the importance given to the concept of Active Citizenship. Postmodern society is characterised by the glorification of individualism and many people are only concerned with their own well-being, indifferent to the needs of others less fortunate. Young people are often described as being passive members of society. We beg to differ!

“ Spreading the news: Beyond the hype and feel good factor resulting from the successful launch, this was the final and most significant stage of the whole process. ”

Project description

The aim of 'Darkness to Light' was to demonstrate the capacity of young people to be active citizens. After much discussion, our youth group members and leaders decided to prepare a powerful message in which all are reminded that living the good life cannot happen without including others. Achieving a good quality of life as opposed to a high standard of living is the secret to happiness. For this to

Good Practices in Youth Organisations

materialise, the well-being of all members of society needs to be safeguarded. Active citizenship implicates advocacy for others. The objective through which we endeavoured to achieve our aim were reached by emphasising the key values of Love, Solidarity, Respect and Appreciation of Diversity within the Community. To disseminate our communication we decided to experiment with diverse media including music, dance, drama and filming, all of which are popular forms of interaction between young people anywhere. These instruments also allowed us freedom of expression and flexibility which were suited to our needs. There was a wealth of skills within the working group and these together helped establish a strong sense of identity. The feeling of being in command, pioneering in a unique opportunity to be heard was greatly appreciated by all. This emerged as a strong element in the evaluation conducted post-production.

Testimony

Spreading the news: Beyond the hype and feel good factor resulting from the successful launch, this was the final and most significant stage of the whole process. The uploading of the music/dance scene on the social media has helped to disseminate the message of hope to many others. The tool-kit the group has produced as a result of this project was disseminated to other youth organisations with the support of Aġenzija Żgħażaġh. The learning experience: The aim of the project 'Darkness to Light' was to deliver the values which need to be proclaimed. This, after all, is what active citizenship is all about. As youth workers it is our calling to encourage such ventures which provide valuable opportunities for young people to experience social participation through hands on involvement. As non-formal educators we must encourage their creative expression to assist in the personal, social and political development of our cohort. This project is a practical example of sound youth work practice.

“ The uploading of the music/dance scene on the social media has helped to disseminate the message of hope to many others. ”



Good Practices in Youth Organisations

Year: 2014

Organisation: Gozo University Group (GUG)

Project Name: Youth Gozo

Theme: Active Citizenship

Profile of organisation

GUG (Gozo University Group) originated in the 1980s and was then officially recognised in 1987 as a student organisation by the Senate of the University of Malta. Since its foundation, GUG has expanded to become more useful and flexible. It became the sole voice for Gozitan youths, students on campus and on a national level, doing its best to work for their interest and safeguard their rights. The Group tries to cater for the particular problems and needs which students may encounter.

It is affiliated to various committees and organisations including the Regional Projects Committee of the Ministry for Gozo, the KPS (Commission for Social Policy), the KNZ (Youth Council of Malta), Aġenzija Żgħażaġh and the Gozo NGO Association. GUG is also striving to affiliate itself with other organisations on a European and global level. GUG, being a voice for Gozitan youths, strives to meet the demands of all Gozitan youths and students. GUG attends important meetings, fully participates in discussions and gives its opinion in relevant public consultations.

Project description

The main aim of Youth Gozo is to be the space through which young people from Gozo can discuss and exchange ideas through a series of organised discussions contributing to a structured dialogue programme. Additionally the

“This project has enabled young people from Gozo to discuss freely and openly their concerns on gender issues and sexual health - subject largely considered as generational taboos.”

BeACTIVE

“The rich discussion concerning access to knowledge regarding practice of safer sex and a growing lobby to access the services of a GU clinic in Gozo are decidedly the stronger motivation for GUG to continue to discuss ‘taboo’ issues in attempt to fill the gap that exists for such platforms in Gozo.”

event comprises an organisations’ expo, during which, each organisation can demonstrate and exchange good practices while encouraging more young people to be active through association with organisations. The event was held over the course of 2 days at Victoria Gozo with Friday 28th November 2014 being dedicated to Gender and Sexual Minorities Awareness for Gozo College Students and Saturday 29th November 2014 to the set up of a Sex and Sexual Health Conference discussing among other matters the instatement of a GU Clinic Gozo. The Youth Expo held on the evening of Friday 28th November saw the participation of several youth organisations from Gozo including The Victoria Scout Group, the Xagħra Scout Group, the Gozo Youth Council, GUG and Y4E (Youth for the Environment).

Testimony

This project has enabled young people from Gozo to discuss freely and openly their concerns on gender issues and sexual health - subjects largely considered as generational taboos. The conference had input from Ms. Maria Attard from Dar Ġużeppa Debono and Ms. Maria Abela from the GU Clinic. The event was well attended by young people from different backgrounds, including those who had already finished their studies, and others who are currently following their studies at the University of Malta, MCAST and the Gozo College Sixth Form. The rich discussion concerning access to knowledge regarding practice of safer sex and a growing lobby to access the services of a GU clinic in Gozo are decidedly the stronger motivation for GUG to continue discussing ‘taboo’ issues in an attempt to fill the gap that exists for such platforms in Gozo.

Good Practices in Youth Organisations

Year: 2014

Organisation: Malta Unesco Youth Association (MUYA)

Project Name: Youth Cultural Fest

Theme: Active Citizenship

Profile of organisation

A **Malta UNESCO Youth Association** was founded in 2007 aiming to work in the field of developing culture, education, science and communication and spreading the ideas of UNESCO among young people and adults in Malta and internationally through the organisation of programmes and projects which include training courses, seminars and exchanges on a national and international level and through the publishing of diverse literature.

UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, was founded in 1945 and is today operating in 192 countries. It works to create the conditions for genuine dialogue based upon respect for shared values and the dignity of each civilisation and culture. UNESCO's founding vision was born in response to a world war that was marked by racist and anti-Semitic violence. Seventy years on and many liberation struggles later, UNESCO's mandate is as relevant as ever. Cultural diversity is under attack and new forms of intolerance, rejection of scientific facts and threats to freedom of expression challenge peace and human rights. In response, UNESCO's duty remains to reaffirm the humanist missions of education, science and culture.

Project description

The Malta UNESCO Youth Association organised a Culture Fest on Sunday 19th October 2014 from 11am till 5pm at the Qawra LEAP Centre (formerly known as

“*An expression wall with messages and drawings from participants and attendees was developed during the event and left at the Qawra LEAP Centre as a memoir to this event and to continue reminding us that celebrating diversity and living together is beautiful.*”

BeACTIVE

Qawra Access Centre). The festival was organised in collaboration with the Qawra Access Centre. Since MUYA works in the field of developing culture, education, science and communication and spreading the ideas of UNESCO amongst young and adult population in Malta and internationally, the main aim of the festival is thus to promote active citizenship and cultural diversity through the participation of people coming from various cultures.

Representatives from the following cultures joined us on the 19th October with plenty of traditional food and cultural habits:

- Philippines
- Morocco
- Lithuania
- Russia
- Ukraine
- Colombia
- Malta

There were also crafts workshops for the children. All this was accompanied by dances like Salsa, Belly dancing, traditional dance and live music!

H.E. The President Maire-Louise Coleiro Preca also visited the Culture Fest.

Testimony

The event managed to attract the attention of people coming from various communities in an environment that celebrated the different communities. This activity has strongly contributed to combat stereotypes and to enhance social inclusion. Coverage for this event was not only undertaken by the MUYA committee itself, but also by the various communities which took part in this event - such as the initiative by the Filipino community to publish an article to highlight the efforts of this event in a publication in Holland. Various Ambassadors and Consuls have also made contact with the organisation to offer support to future initiatives. An expression wall with messages and drawings from participants and attendees was developed during the event and left at the Qawra LEAP Centre as a memoir to this event and to continue reminding us that celebrating diversity and living together is beautiful.



BeACTIVE

Year: 2015

Organisation: Youth Included

Project Name: Pave D Way 4 Reading

Theme: Active Citizenship

Profile of organisation

Youth Included is a youth work informal group which aims to provide space for young people frequenting public spaces to benefit from a youth work service. Through a process of empowerment and consultations, Youth Included aims to provide a venue where young people may drop in during specified times to socialise in an informal environment. Youth Included also aims to support young people to engage in positive projects in the wider community through consultations and hands on interventions.

Project description

The idea behind this project was to gather young people to work together as a team towards the same goal; that of building this structure and collect books where people would be able to exchange them within the new facility. Members from Youth Included together with personnel from the Qawra Leap Centre met with teenagers on several occasions in the yard of the Qawra Leap Centre to work on this mission. Through workshops which were organised, they built a structure to be used for this purpose. The area where the structure was built (as part of the Qawra Leap Centre yard), was designed by the young volunteers. Involving the young people and letting them pitch in any ideas for the design of the facility made them feel proud of what they managed to create together with their peers, giving them a sense of efficacy. The young people also organised a book drive as

// Hence, Pave d Way 4 Reading actually gave a platform to the active contribution young people can make in the building of a community: a young generation as active citizens concretely working towards the creating of positive change. //



Good Practices in Youth Organisations

part of this project through which they collected book donations and organised a community library system. The Qawra 'book exchange' was launched by the young volunteers in August 2015 in a press conference under the patronage of the Minister for Family and Social Solidarity Hon. Michael Farrugia and Parliamentary Secretary for Research Innovation, Youth and Sport Hon. Chris Agius.

// The young people who worked on this project are proof that even the younger generation can and do beneficial work in their free time and are not only obsessed with videogames and other typical activities which are perceived as time wasters. //

Testimony

The book exchange based at the Qawra Leap Centre has served to encourage reading amongst young people and the wider community. This idea had been brought forward by the community itself, with several expressing the need to address the importance of reading. Through this project reading was promoted as a hobby among the young people who volunteered. Peers and other members of the community were involved by donating books for this initiative. Hence, Pave d Way 4 Reading reinforced the idea that active contribution amongst young people can help build a strong community, a young generation of active citizens concretely working towards creating positive change. The young people who worked on this project are proof that even the younger generation can make good use of their free time, for the benefit of the wider community, thereby removing the perception of seeing young people as time wasters.

BeACTIVE

Year: 2015

Organisation: Malta Girl Guides

Project Name: iCAN Do Science

Theme: Active Citizenship

Profile of organisation

Members enrolled with the **Malta Girl Guides** pledge 'to do their best' to be faithful to their beliefs, act as responsible citizens and be of service to others. These basic principles of guiding instill in our members the values of commitment, responsibility, honesty, respect, altruism, self-esteem and a sense of duty to make the world a better place. The association is divided into different sections: Dolphins (aged 4 to 7); Brownies (7 to 10); Guides (10 to 13); Rangers (13 to 16); Senior Rangers (16 to 18); and Adult Volunteers (18+). The profile of initiatives which the Malta Girl Guides has taken includes activities to decrease the carbon footprint, projects like Free to Be Me, to fight the stereotyping of body image projected by the media; Global Action Theme, to be proactive towards the millennium development goals; and Voices Against Violence, which empowers girls to identify different forms of violence, stop the violence early enough and advocate for the victims' rights and opportunities to start afresh. The Malta Girl Guides aims to help girls develop to reach their fullest potential.

// Through engagement in this project, girls of different ages are increasingly motivated to explore science around them, and relate with science in a positive and enjoyable attitude. //

Project description

iCAN Do Science was an initiative that targeted girls of different age groups with different activities. A science camp event was held at the Fort Mellieħa Camp site between the 6th and 8th April 2015 for around 100 young girls aged 11-16. Activities at this camping event, which were held in collaboration with the MCST (Malta Council for Science and Technology), took on an interactive and hands on approach and included rocket building, tinkering, archery and light painting.

Good Practices in Youth Organisations

Participants were also able to meet women who are pursuing a science-related career, serving as role models.

Additionally, between the months of March and June, a mobile science fair touring different villages was organised in collaboration with S-cubed during which university science students facilitated hands-on science experiments to younger girls aged 7-10 years. To ensure a wider and longer-term impact of the project, a core team of leaders also worked on developing science-related curricula for the different age groups 5-7, 8-10, 11-13, 14-16.

Testimony

Through engagement in this project, girls of different ages are increasingly motivated to explore science around them, and relate with science in a positive and enjoyable attitude. iCAN Do Science has given participants the confidence to believe that STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) is an area of science which is also applicable for girls, and hence it has significantly contributed to encourage more girls to take up a career in sciences, particularly engineering, computing and technology. A lot of energy was invested with the 11-16 year old cohort given that these are already, or will soon grow into young leaders - younger members of the Girl Guides programme will look up to them, and therefore it is very important that these will be able to influence and guide in the right direction. The Malta Girl Guides has also taken care to invest long term in this issue by updating the programme curricula and also training leaders to conduct these programmes. These different strategies undertaken by the Malta Girl Guides to expose girls to STEM have had a direct impact on the reality of the lives of the young participants by opening opportunities that shape their future and ensuring greater participation, equitable economic and social progress for all and inclusive change as advocated by the National Youth Policy Towards 2020.

// *These different strategies undertaken by the Malta Girl Guides to expose girls to STEM has made a direct impact in the reality of the lives of the young participants by opening opportunities shaping their future and ensuring greater participation, equitable economic and social progress for all and inclusive change as advocated by the National Youth Policy Towards 2020.* //



Good Practices in Youth Organisations

Year: 2016

Organisation: Malta Gay Rights Movement (MGRM)

Project Name: #OurStory

Theme: No Hate speech campaign; Intergenerational Dialogue

Profile of organisation

MGRM is a socio-political non-governmental organisation which has as its central focus the challenges and rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community in Malta. MGRM strives to achieve full equality for LGBT people in Maltese society; a society that enables people to live openly and fully without fear of discrimination based on one's sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

Project description

With the Civil Union bill enacted in April of 2014, just under two years ago, a number of same-sex couples have benefited from this legislation and are now recognised as a couple. This has been an incredible feat for the LGBTIQ community in Malta and has been inspirational for most young LGBTIQ people who aspire to be involved in a committed relationship in their future. Having such a legal bill being introduced in Malta has provided young people with active role models in their own communities. The project gave space for the young people working within MGRM to meet with and interview LGBTIQ couples who have entered a civil union after years of living together as a couple. Topics such as coming of age, relationships and public reception of such relationships were raised in

“*The vision of the National Youth Policy refers to young people being supported in ‘developing their innate abilities and talents for the benefit of themselves, their communities and society’. This project does so by involving young people as active participants in developing a resource leading to better understanding of their own community but also greater awareness in wider society while developing their own skills.*”

BeACTIVE

the interviews. These interviews were held, recorded and edited by the young people with the assistance and support of a technical expert. The young people who participated on this project were mentored by various professionals who are involved in the organisation in different capacities. A series of sessions where the young people were able to put their questioning and filming skills to the test took place prior to the actual filming. Six same-sex couples who have entered a civil union or marriage as well as the Minister for Civil Liberties Helena Dalli were interviewed. Having the young people involved in all aspects of this project made it possible for the final product to appeal to other young people. A launch event was organised in October and was attended by around 40 persons including US Ambassador G. Kathleen Hill as well as representatives from other LGBTIQ NGOs, including Drachma, Allied Rainbow Communities, Aditus Foundation and Forum Opportunitajiet Indaqs. The young people took a central role in the event as they presented their work and answered some questions from those present. Information on the project and the documentary can be found on the MGRM facebook page, vimeo page and youtube channel.

Testimony

The initiative focused on engaging young people within the LGBTIQ community and enabling them to develop an interview that explored an individual's journey towards coming of age, finding a partner and entering a civil union. Young people who participated in the production of this documentary had the opportunity to encounter positive role models as they talked about their relationship and the difference that the Civil Union legislation has made in their lives. The LGBTIQ young people acquired a better understanding of the importance of the LGBTIQ history in Malta. The participants were also able to understand the struggles that older LGBTIQ people faced and the journey towards a more accepting society and legal recognition. This is an important part of the LGBTIQ community's social and cultural heritage. The vision of the National Youth Policy refers to young people being supported in 'developing their innate abilities and talents for the benefit of themselves, their communities and society'. This project does so by involving young people as active participants in developing a resource leading to better understanding of their own community but also greater awareness in wider society while developing their own skills.

Good Practices in Youth Organisations

Year: 2016

Organisation: Tghanniq

Project Name: Explore your environment

Theme: The Environment

Profile of organisation

Tghanniq provides educational sessions both for children and young people in the Kottonera area. It is run by a group of young volunteers who feel the need to offer their time and services to improve the quality of life of the children and young people in the community. The group meets twice a week and various activities are organised. During the winter months volunteers provide lessons free of charge and also regular homework help both at primary and secondary level. Additionally, volunteers set up crafts and drama sessions where children have the opportunity to learn how to do pottery, cards and acting. Volunteers provide life skills sessions for young people and provide them with the opportunity to learn and practice various skills such as time management, communication and team building activities. Each year the volunteers organise a live in with the aim of spending quality time together, learn from each other and have fun together in a healthy environment.

“This learning experience advocated social inclusion and progress in the quality of life of the various participants.”

Project description

Explore Your Environment ‘EYE’ is aimed at increasing the awareness of children and young people who make use of Tghanniq services about the environment they live in. The project focused on highlighting the importance and the role played by the natural environment in our everyday lives. Project activities were held during the months of April, May, June, July and September with sessions using interactive methodologies, hands on experiences and outings. Activities included nature walks, a discussion introducing the term ‘carbon footprint’, games related with waste separation, healthy cooking activities, interactive sessions of climate change,

BeACTIVE

“The active involvement of guardians was impressive, while the changes in choices made by the young participants are particularly encouraging.”

land-use, farming and hydrology. Out of the total 33 participants, 23 young people participated in this programme interacting as participant or volunteer. A newsletter was produced to disseminate the project with the wider community. In addition, various sessions were held with the involvement of guardians so that these too were given the opportunity to understand certain aspects of the environment and possibly support the cause even during everyday and family life, thereby enhancing the community impact of this project.

Testimony

The project was linked to various everyday aspects of the environment such as: linking gardening to cooking; better appreciation of the surrounding natural environment and biodiversity; and a better understanding of our daily life-styles vis-a-vis energy usage, transport and waste production. The volunteers also worked to organise a three day educational live-in where the service-users were presented with sessions related to environmental changes that humans are imposing on nature and discuss actions that might be required to counteract such changes. Volunteers were particularly focused on encouraging participants to think about and reflect on making informed decisions, emphasising their central role as active citizens. ‘EYE’ tied in well with the second pillar of the National Youth Policy making it possible for Tghanniq to offer equal opportunities for everyone, including young people coming from rather disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds. This learning experience advocated social inclusion and progress in the quality of life of the various participants. The active involvement of guardians was impressive, while the changes in choices made by the young participants are particularly encouraging. Moreover this project also got the attention of the Birgu Local Council and through collaboration with this local council, the project was further promoted within the local community.



BeACTIVE

Year: 2017

Organisation: Malta Unesco Youth Association (MUYA)

Project Name: Min Hu I-Malti?

Theme: No Hate Speech Campaign

Profile of organisation

The **Malta UNESCO Youth Association (MUYA)** works in the field of developing culture, education, science and communication and spreading the ideas of UNESCO among youth and adult population in Malta and internationally through the organisation of programmes and projects including training courses and exchanges on a national and international level and through the publishing of diverse literature.

The Association also works to unite representatives of different social, age and ethnic groups with the aim of following the ideas of humanism, tolerance and non-discrimination. MUYA gives priority to promote accessibility of the youth population to education and active participation in society.

Project description

Min hu I-Malti? provided a platform for dissemination of various cultures as experienced within the Maltese context, by becoming a space for the sharing of experiences, cultural identity, traditions, and religious beliefs. It used story telling techniques to recount narratives from various members of our community from foreign countries living in Malta. The project launched an art exhibition as the result of a collaboration of the Malta UNESCO Youth Association and artist Sara Pace. The project considered migrants coming both to and leaving from Malta. The idea stemmed from a question about identity, namely Maltese

“ The general public feedback gave a sense that there are many aspects that the Maltese community is not aware of and agreed that such visual communication and dissemination serves to become increasingly informed in an educated manner. ”

Good Practices in Youth Organisations

identity and whether one should differentiate too much between diverse cultures. This idea brought about a year long project of research, interviews, meetings and formulating the final exhibition. The remit of the exhibition lies in the links between Malta and these various cultures which may be further forged and explored, as may be well seen through these artworks that showcase a representative lens upon the diverse cultures presently living in Malta.

The works consisted of two separate visual and audio pieces presented through video projection, and two sculptural elements focusing on poetry about migration to and from Malta and soil as a representation of the land. The work was exhibited at the Malta Postal Museum, which was significant given that post has been the main communication link between migrant families for centuries prior to the advent of the digital era.

“Exceptional! This project really resonated with me being a foreigner myself living here in Malta and asking myself what makes an identity? It was incredibly interesting to hear other people’s perspectives. Great job!”

Testimony

Feedback to the organisation after experiencing ‘Min hu l-Malti?’ has been very positive. There has been a general acclamation with a particular emphasis on the recognition of the value this project has given to the current discourse on migration at the moment. The general public feedback gave a sense that there are many aspects that the Maltese community is not aware of and agreed that such visual communication and dissemination serves to become increasingly informed in an educated manner. “Sara, MUYA, Well done for this very interesting exhibition. Really enjoyed it! Well done for discussing this topic through art. Brava, Bravi!” “Exceptional! This project really resonated with me being a foreigner myself living here in Malta and asking myself what makes an identity? It was incredibly interesting to hear other people’s perspectives. Great job!” (from the exhibition guest book).

BeACTIVE

Year: 2017

Organisation: The Scout Association Of Malta -
Stella Maris College Scout Group

Project Name: #ONELIFE

Theme: no hate speech campaign - healthy lifestyles -
volunteering - enhancing soft skills

Profile of organisation

The **Stella Maris College Scout Group** was founded in 1956 and forms part of The Scout Association of Malta. Scouting is open to all, regardless of race or creed and anyone who agrees to abide by the Scout Promise and Law can join. At the moment there are over 3,000 youth members supported by around 600 adult leaders. The Association promotes the social, physical, intellectual, creative, emotional and spiritual formation of its young adult members through a policy of inclusivity. It offers its youth program in five sections in accordance to the different age groups, through a wide range of activities. Scouting is based upon the learning by doing principle, where members work in small groups of teams to master various skills such as leadership, teamwork, commitment, planning and adopt a hands-on approach to planning and running their own meetings and activities, using their initiative, and challenging them in the social, physical, intellectual, creative, emotive and spiritual aspects.

Project description

The initiative was designed to promote an active and healthy lifestyle amongst young people, whilst also encouraging them to contribute towards a peaceful environment, based upon tolerance, acceptance and care. The name of the initiative #OneLife has more than a single meaning attributed to it. We all have ONE LIFE - one opportunity to make the best out of living by leading an active and healthy lifestyle, whilst at the same time all life should be treated equally without space for discrimination and hate. The event was held over two camping campaigns with the participation of participants from partner organisations St Patrick’s Foundation, Equal Partners Foundation, Caritas San Blas Drug Rehabilitation Centre, Spark 15 Youth Refugee Organisation and the Sunflower Pony Club. The #LiveTogether campaign focused on the concept of No Hate, and addressed racism, gender discrimination, bullying, discrimination based on physical limitation and/or sexual orientation. The #LiveHealthy campaign promoted on healthy living concepts including being active, eating healthy, staying away from

Good Practices in Youth Organisations

substance abuse. This mix of participants supported the discussion and reflections of the Stella Maris Scout members and their openness to groups vulnerable to hate crimes. The final phase of the initiative involved using photos taken throughout the activities to create a series of posters #LiveTogether #LiveHealthy which were consequently disseminated within the Scout Group, The Scout Association of Malta and Stella Maris College.

“#OneLife has left a legacy not only through the dissemination campaigns #LiveTogether and #LiveHealthy, but more particularly through the responsibility of each participant involved in this project to bring about the positive changes which have been raised through this project.”

Testimony

#OneLife had a direct impact on the participants and members of the Stella Maris College Scout Group. The project gave the space and platform through which the participants gained important soft skills while planning and running the project and working together to reach the same aim. The participants also benefited from the outcomes of the project itself. The aim of the project was to encourage healthy lifestyles through regular activity, healthy eating and a campaign against substance abuse, as well as to discourage hate and discrimination. It was great to see the outcomes of this project materialise following the hard work this involved as from submission of application. The project had an impact outside of the organisation as well, through the dissemination campaign designed to share experiences and lessons learnt during the activities beyond the boundaries of the Stella Maris Scout Group itself. The initiative targeted the values and principles on which the National Youth Policy Towards 2020 is based. #OneLife has left a legacy not only through the dissemination campaigns #LiveTogether and #LiveHealthy, but more particularly through the responsibility of each participant involved in this project to bring about the positive changes which have been raised through this project.

BeACTIVE

Year: 2017

Organisation: Home Away From Home Salesjani Youth Centre - Senglea

Project Name: Healthy Body + Healthy Mind = Happy Youths

Theme: Healthy Lifestyle + Volunteering + Enhancing Soft Skills

Profile of organisation

Home Away from Home is a voluntary organisation set up by the Salesians to provide young people, including those hailing from a disadvantaged background, with structures and environments that make them feel welcomed, cared for and valued. The organisation operates the youth centre in Senglea for young people from the locality and neighbouring localities which offers opportunities for teenagers to find a space they can call their own, where they feel comfortable and can grow and develop. Young people are engaged in fun, educational and cultural activities through which they acquire leadership skills, assume responsibilities, and contribute to shaping their own environment. Through the youth centre, young people are given the space to dream and implement some of their ideas in such a way that an emotional connection is developed with the youth centre and the way it is run: with them, not just for them.

Project description

The project was designed by a group of 15 volunteers with the aim of testing out their belief that in order to be healthy, they need to be healthy all around, and be balanced people: “- so we need to be healthy in mind as well as in body - we need to look after ourselves as well as those around us - we need to be reflective and look inwards as well as proactive and look outwards - we need to look at our near surroundings as well as the greater society around us.” The project enabled various activities including various meet-ups and a live in event.

“Healthy breakfasts and healthy eating activities were not only healthy but also amazing fun, which have encouraged everybody to keep up this aspect of healthy living.”

Good Practices in Youth Organisations

Testimony

This was the best summer the young people have had in many years because through their involvement in this project, the young people kept going from one thing to another and Senglea locals not involved with the Youth Centre, expressed positive comments. This was the first healthy outcome. Some youngsters developed soft skills in areas like leadership and organisation, through responsibilities which they took around tasks such as running the live-in, buying food, organising orders and delivery of food; shopping and negotiating with the shopkeepers; or through organising a 'Day by the Pool' which was the young people's idea of promoting mental health; and for those who put in an extra effort there was the benefit of seeing the fruit of their voluntary work being enjoyed by others. The older young people involved in the project took on added responsibilities in organising the live-ins. Healthy breakfasts and healthy eating activities were not only healthy but also amazing fun, which have encouraged everybody to keep up this aspect of healthy living. Through this project, many volunteered throughout summer and as a result volunteering has become part of the regular programme once school re-started. The project has left a lasting impact on the energy at the youth centre and its general well being.



BeACTIVE

Year: 2017

Organisation: JCI MALTA

Project Name: The Art of Oration

Theme: Enhancing Soft Skills

Profile of organisation

JCI Malta is a non-profit organisation of young active citizens between 18 to 40 who are engaged and committed to creating impact in their communities. Active citizens are individuals invested in the future of our world. JCI gathers active citizens from all sectors of society. We develop the skills, knowledge and understanding to make informed decisions and take action. As globally minded young people, we all have rights, responsibilities and share goals. We find targeted solutions to local issues benefiting our communities, our world and our future. Embracing new ideas, collaboration and diversity, we have the passion and courage to address the critical challenges of our time.

JCI Malta is the Local Branch that aims to be the recognised organisation that is the forum for the development of bold and stimulating leaders within our community. We aspire to provide our members with the opportunity to develop leadership skills, social responsibility, fellowship and entrepreneurship for the advancement of the individual and the community in general. Our members are creative, challenge their status quo and very enthusiastic. We create positive change. We train to become better leaders.

Project description

Through the Be Active scheme, JCI Malta offered a structured programme designed to give training in debating and public speaking skills to young people.

// *The Be Active funding from Aġenzija Żgħażaġh is helping JCI Malta - in this case - but also other NGOs around the island to develop opportunities for training for our young people to be able to foster an educational aspect into being employable in today's world and also into being the active young people that this country needs.* //

Good Practices in Youth Organisations

JCI Malta roped in debating champions from the JCI network and other public speaking experts: Eric Fitzpatrick - author, speaker and coach - helped participants understand the 6 common mistakes speakers make and helped them to develop effective introductions and conclusions; Adrian Corcoran and Keira Keogh - two Irish debating champions - delivered a practical workshop for the development of skills in mock-debates and Dragon Den style negotiations; Annalisa Schembri closed the series with an exposure to the elevator pitch essentials, from the overview idea to the choice of words, tone of voice, use of humour, to the preciseness to get a conversation started and grabbing the right attention at the right time.

“ In 2017, JCI Malta offered over 120 young people the opportunity to learn how to 1. Successfully engage an audience 2. Debate effectively 3. Pitch ideas. ”

Testimony

Through the three sessions organised, JCI Malta has been able to assist young people to acquire the courage to stand up and confidently speak their mind, in different situations. The programme tackles persuading an audience, both through a speech and a presentation, the art of debating and pitching an idea or one's self in different life situations, such as a job interview. Apart from improving the skills related to public speaking and debating, the training programme enhanced the skills of the organisation's members in logistics, event management, teamwork, finance management and budgeting, and marketing amongst others. The wider community can now benefit from improved events in the future as well as directly from future training sessions which are now made possible thanks to the broader knowledge of the local trainers. The National Youth Policy towards 2020 states that young people should be respected, valued, and listened to. Apart from this, they require support and encouragement to build fulfilling personal and social relationships. The training in public speaking and debating provides the confidence required to the participants so that they automatically attract the respect they deserve. After making an informed decision about a particular topic, young people will be able to convey their message in an appealing way which will facilitate matters for their audience to listen and understand them. Relationships are built on proper communication channels. After learning more about emotional intelligence,

BeACTIVE



and how one can apply it to different scenarios, our participants should be able to create long lasting personal and professional relationships with a wide variety of people - all with their own unique personality. The ground rules established throughout all the sessions, namely those of respecting the efforts made by people sharing personal stories, of listening to the other participants, and in making an effort to participate and contribute to the discussion can be applied in the daily lives of young people. There were many instances throughout the session which one could reflect on and take away a message, idea, story, or solution. "The Be Active funding from Aġenzija Żgħażaġh is helping JCI Malta - in this case - but also other NGOs around the island to develop opportunities for training for our young people to be able to foster an educational aspect into being employable in today's world and also into being the active young people that this country needs." Annalisa Schembri. In 2017, JCI Malta offered over 120 young people the opportunity to learn how to 1. Successfully engage an audience 2. Debate effectively 3. Pitch ideas successfully.



BeACTIVE

Year: 2018

Organisation: St John Rescue Corps

Project Name: Beach Clean-ups

Theme: The Environment

Profile of organisation

St John Rescue Corps was established in 1986 by the first Corps Commander, the Marquis Buttigieg De Piro, to meet the need in Malta of a support civil defence unit consisting of adult volunteers fully trained in rescue and first aid. St John Rescue Corps is part of St John Association Malta, and operates under the auspices of The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem.

The mission statement of St John Rescue Corps is to provide a uniformed voluntary Corps of organised and fully trained adults, able to carry out rescue operations and first aid efficiently. They are to be prepared to go into action as an individual unit, in support of the constituted authorities of the Maltese Islands, when officially called upon by them. Members must be over eighteen years of age. Cadet volunteers may join at the age of 16."

Project description

The objective of this project was to organise two clean-ups, in collaboration with another voluntary organisation. St. John Rescue Corps partnered up with Get Trashed Malta for a clean up on the 29th July 2018 at Fekruna Bay and the other one on the 30th September at Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq. Around 35 young volunteers attended these two events. Apart from youth volunteers from the St. John Rescue Corps and Get Trashed Malta, the general public was invited to attend these two clean ups providing a platform to promote the culture of volunteering. St. John

// *The Corps benefitted throughout the project as we experienced and gained useful lessons during the planning and implementation phase as we worked as a team, learned and improved our planning and problem solving skills as well as became more aware of the issues surrounding the environment.* //

Good Practices in Youth Organisations



Rescue Corps also supported the clean-up event by supplying volunteer life-guards and first aiders. The clean up events also had the aim of promoting the work of both organisations and giving visibility to the importance of safeguarding the environment with the wider community.

Testimony

The impact of the project on St. John Rescue Corps was both direct and indirect. The Corps benefitted throughout the project as we experienced and gained useful lessons during the planning and implementation phase as we worked as a team, learned and improved our planning and problem solving skills as well as became more aware of the issues surrounding the environment. The wider community has benefited since awareness was raised about the need to keep our environment clean and care for it by maintaining and cleaning it. Maltese society has benefited directly through the clean up as through these activities two beaches were cleaned up. The spirit of collaboration amongst voluntary organisations was also promoted and proven to be beneficial both to the voluntary organisations collaborating and to the general public.

BeACTIVE

Year: 2018

Organisation: Malta Gay Rights Movement (MGRM)

Project Name: LGBTIQ Youth Activism: The Past & The Present

Theme: No Hate Speech Campaign; Youth Building Peace -
UN International Youth Day 2017 theme

Profile of organisation

MGRM strives to achieve full equality for LGBT people in Maltese society; a society that enables people to live openly and fully without fear of discrimination based on one's sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

Project description

The project focused on the lived experience of activists within the LGBTIQ community in Malta. The aim of the project was to publish a short narrative of the lives of a number of individuals from the LGBTIQ community in Malta in their role as activists. The book has two different sections. It starts by recounting the story of MGRM and its inception through the narrative of some of the individuals who were there when the organisation was set up, highlighting their experience as young volunteers and activists. The book then shifts its focus from the past to look at the present scenario of the movement and at the young people that are presently involved in activism and volunteering. The aim is to highlight the achievements that were reached and the struggles faced by the previous generation and how this has influenced the present generation. The published book also incorporates questions that any young people interested in volunteering or becoming an activist might ask. Two hundred copies of the publication were printed to be disseminated in different educational institutions.

Testimony

LGBTIQ Activism: The Past and the Present serves as a point of reference in the setting up of other youth led organisations while raising awareness of the importance of youth activism in view of difficulties faced in recruiting youths as

“ The publication serves as an information tool to overcome the same struggles and provide solutions to go around the challenges that previous activists faced and shared in the book. ”

Good Practices in Youth Organisations



volunteers. It outlines how being active within society gives so much back to a young person, not only as far as personal development is concerned but also as experience which supports employability skills. The publication serves as an

“The narrative serves as an opportunity for young people to relate with the experience of other youth activists and their story and what motivates them to be engaged in advancing human rights.”

information tool to overcome the same struggles and provide solutions to go around the challenges that previous activists faced and shared in the book. The narrative serves as an opportunity for young people to relate with the experience of other youth activists and their story and what motivates them to be engaged in advancing human rights. Its impact lies in affirming, encouraging and empowering young people to engage in activism and advocacy. The young people involved in this project have also gained various skills in project planning - coordinating meeting with the participants, time-management, writing skills and methods of how to overcome challenges they faced throughout the journey of activism.

BeACTIVE

Year: 2019

Organisation: National Scout Youth Council

Project Name: HumanKind

Theme: Mental Health

Profile of organisation

The **National Scout Youth Council** is a team of eleven young people which acts as the representative body of young members of The Scout Association of Malta. It seeks to be a platform for youth empowerment and a space that promotes, advocates for and tackles youth issues, both within Scouting, as well as wider society.

Project description

HumanKind consisted of 100 posts, one for every day for 100 days. The National Scout Youth Council took the initiative to post an instant photo of a featured individual, together with their own story of an act of kindness that they once received that really made their day. The stories requested were memories of a small experience that left a positive impact, emphasising that it doesn't cost us much to be of help to the people around us. At the end of this project, we are appealing to the Maltese public to make the coming year a year of kindness.

Testimony

Through this project the National Scout Youth Council has achieved two main goals. As young people, we have spread a message of positivity, brightened the news feed of many followers, counteracting the negativity and rage marketing that is encountered online. We have also encouraged our followers to be kinder on a daily basis through the use of role models sharing their experience through our project.

Good Practices in Youth Organisations

Year: 2019

Organisation: YMCA Valletta

Project Name: Clear Mind Better Lives

Theme: Mental Health

Profile of organisation

YMCA Malta was founded in 1976 as YMCA Valletta. The organisation is a Non-Government Organisation, non-profit, voluntary and ecumenical movement seeking to promote the vision to build a more just society. YMCA Malta supports the positive development of young people as a preventive measure and also offers a spectrum of social work services to individuals who are underprivileged or socially disadvantaged. The specialisation in this regard is the support, assistance and reintegration of the homeless in Malta. The organisation takes an active part in cultural, environmental, artistic, musical, audio-visual and other forms of activities.



BeACTIVE

Project description

The Clear Mind Better Lives project sought to collaborate with young people to increase their knowledge and understanding of mental health and well-being through mental health and well-being-informed activities. The project also delivered a number of counselling/psychotherapy sessions. Outreach activities were carried out in secondary schools and MCAST Malta and Gozo covering different key mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, distress and others. A Yoga session was also held open to the public in Sliema. The project also supported the implementation of the I AM WHOLE campaign which is a global initiative focused on challenging the language used around mental health issues through the dissemination of material as part of our outreach. In this way, the project also enabled us to reach out to young people to unite against negative stereotypes and language use in relation to mental health by reflecting and challenging themselves and others on the words they use while being more aware on the impact of stereotypes in our lives.

“This project also enabled us to reach out to young people to unite against negative stereotypes and language use in relation to mental health by reflecting and challenging themselves and others on the words they use while being more aware on the impact of stereotypes in our lives.”

Testimony

The direct involvement of young people in the project as volunteers for the setup and implementation of the outreach events and dissemination of outreach materials has supported them as active and responsible citizens. The project contributed to the delivery of 156 counselling/psychotherapy sessions to young people thereby supporting young people address their needs and concerns in order to fulfil their potential and aspirations, as advocated by the National Youth Policy Towards 2020. The project encountered a further 350 young people through educational institutions and other outreach events.

Good Practices in Youth Organisations

Year: 2020

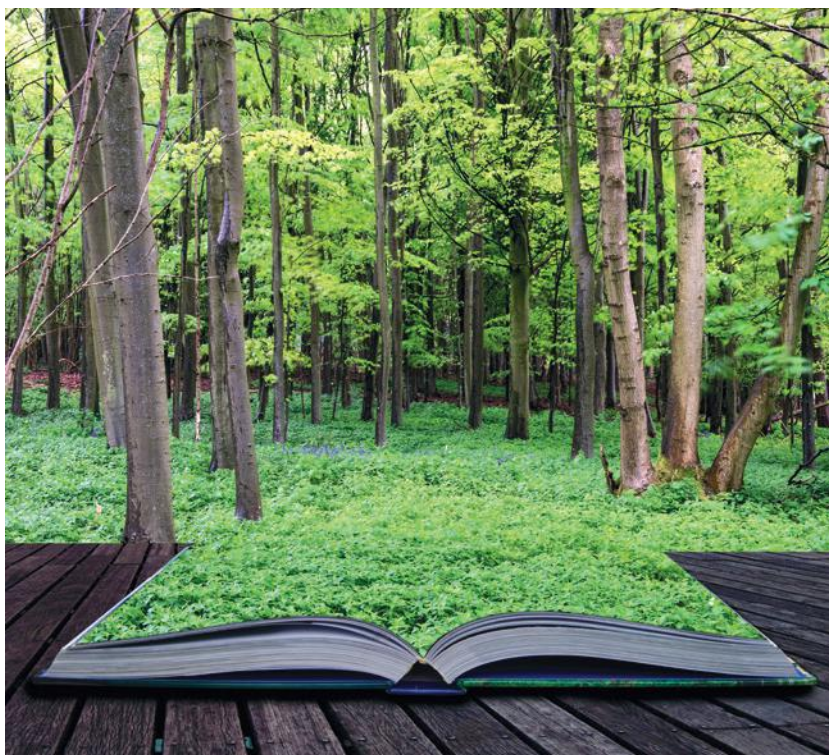
Organisation: Friends of the Earth Malta

Project Name: Green Lending Library

Theme: The Environment

Profile of organisation

Friends of the Earth Malta has been active in the environmental field in Malta since 1985. It is an environmental organisation that campaigns on some of today's most pressing environmental and social issues, by engaging the public directly through a wide range of diverse projects and activities. Friends of the Earth Malta



BeACTIVE

creates and participates in vibrant campaigns, raises awareness on a number of pertinent national and international issues, and mobilises people to participate in decision making processes. It also strives to provide creative solutions that are based on sound knowledge and information, especially through the promotion of alternatives to certain environmental behaviours. In keeping with their activist roots, Friends of the Earth Malta continuously lobbies, mobilises, and influences the policy community towards a more just and sustainable society.

Project description

The objective of this project is to encourage young people to get involved in environmental activism and also to read more books. The project does this through the set up of a reading library with lending facility, and also a reading area within the organisation's community garden. The library is a long term initiative that continues to be sustained even after the end of the project funding. It is open to the youth members of FoE Malta and also members of the community since it will also be tied to the community garden project initiative in Floriana.

Testimony

The Green Library has been an investment in knowledge and information for the organisation as a resource on environmental subjects, the European Green Deal, gardening, bees and much more. Through this project, Friends of the Earth Malta is also able to engage further with its members and volunteers through this new service. They say books open up a whole new world of possibilities, and books have become our tools to sustain our community at Friends of the Earth. This project will help create a new space in the local community of Floriana and encourage young people to take leadership role in democratic processes. The library also seeks to increase young people's awareness on issues related to the environment and how environmental issues are multidisciplinary in a way that they are tied to human rights, mental health and well-being, cultural and social issues.

// *They say books open up a whole new world of possibilities, and books have become our tools to sustain our community at Friends of the Earth.* //

Good Practices in Youth Organisations

Year: 2020

Organisation: Grupp tal-Armar 6 ta' Diċembru, Siġġiewi A.D. 1997

Project Name: Building Bridges

Theme: Intergenerational Dialogue

Profile of organisation

Grupp tal-Armar 6 ta' Diċembru Siġġiewi A.D. 1997 is a voluntary organisation with its mission being to maintain, restore and manufacture feast decorations and then setting them up along the streets and squares of Siġġiewi for the feast of St. Nicholas of Bari that occurs on the last Sunday of June. Preparations for the subsequent feast start from the previous summer - an annual work program is drawn up for the year ahead and the members follow that action plan accordingly. The energy and enthusiasm of our younger members and the experience of the older members of the group intertwine together to take the group and the feast to new levels. The actual work done as part of the group's mission will stand the test of time as the stewardship of the decorations pass from one generation to the next. However, what really lasts are the skills learnt, the values acquired and the friendships created during the course of each volunteer's experience.

Project description

Our organisation takes pride and is equally grateful for the heritage that our veteran members (50+) have brought to the group, and for the energy of the young people involved (18-25) which gives life to the entire structure. The age gap however has left noticeable gaps in ideology and also in skills capacity of the individual volunteers. This project has created a platform which facilitates inter-generational dialogue to bridge the ideological and skills gap between both age groups. The funding has served to give a hands-on approach to facilitate the transfer of skills and values. The project budget covered material costs, paintwork, the purchasing of a welding machinery necessary for the learning process, and the appropriate outfits for health and safety reasons. The project was not focused on the end result but on the process and the skills and values gained during its execution.

// *Apart from the hard skills taught, young people will benefit by gaining soft skills like dialogue and respect. These interpersonal skills will surely prove useful in their future everyday life.* //

BeACTIVE



Testimony

The impact on the organisation is that this project has enhanced the talent pool of the organisation, especially those of young people. Apart from the hard skills taught (welding and spraying), young people have benefitted by gaining soft skills like dialogue and respect. These interpersonal skills will surely prove useful in their future everyday life. The community will also benefit by having a more preserved shared heritage. 100-year old feast decorations will be protected from weather and other external elements which will ensure that these decorations are enjoyed by future generations. Participation, inclusion and empowerment were strengthened throughout this project. Respect of the young people towards the elderly has increased through their newfound appreciation of talent and experience.



Aġenzija Żgħażaġh
St Joseph High Road
St Venera SVR 1013, Malta
Tel: 00356 2258 6700
Email: agenzija.zghazagh.gov.mt
youth.gov.mt



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR INCLUSION
AND SOCIAL WELLBEING



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT
FOR SPORTS, RECREATION AND
VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS