

THE FICE INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

34 FICE Congress in Israel - overview
35 FICE Congress in Senegal -First
announcement
'The future of FICE' Workshop
Information about members in Austria,
Bulgaria, Croatia, Lebanon, Israel,
Netherlands, Romania, Switzerland, Hungary,
UK, USA, Zambia



INFORMATION ABOUT OUR MEMBERS ACROSS THE GLOBE



The FICE Executive committee would like to extend a very big "Thank you" to all FICE members who sent inputs to this Newsletter!

The Executive Committee would further like to extend warm wishes for happy holidays to all members, partners, supporters and everyone interested in the activities of FICE International.

"CREATING FUTURES" PROJECT

A project, realized by FICE Switzerland in partnership with NENESZ, Hungary

FICE Switzerland and NENESZ (Hungary) collaborate with the research and development project Creating Futures. The project aims at developing and trying out new or improved ways in which child and youth homes in Switzerland and Hungary can promote the self-empowerment of young people more effectively: that they take their lives into their own hands and create and realize their own ideas of the future sustainably during their stay in the Home already.

The project has been developed and is being implemented by a community of practice (CoP) of the youth homes Gfellergut and Jugendnetzwerk Horgen in the Zürich region in Switzerland and the child and youth homes Cseppkő and Szilágyi Erzsébet in Budapest and Matészalka in the North East of Hungary. It is led by Dr. Anna Schmid from ZHAW Zürich University of Applied Sciences, member of the board of FICE Switzerland and Swiss representative at FICE International. A FICE International meeting in Serbia in 2016 first brought the partners together. The FICE organisations NENESZ and FICE Switzerland have been involved ever since, giving support and the opportunity for expert reflection and dissemination of the project. On an academic level, there is a cooperation with the University of Pécs in Hungary. From 1 January 2019 to 31 August 2021, the project is made possible by a grant from Mercator Foundation Switzerland.

The CoP understands youth homes as organisations with defined structures as well as spaces and approaches that support the young people in building up their own lives. It also understands leaders, workers and young people as the main actors who co-create the daily life and practice in the Home. Accordingly, the young people are considered experts of their own lives, and all three groups are involved in designing, steering and implementing the project on a voluntary basis.

The project consists of four modules. In the first half of 2019, Module 1 raised knowledge about organisational factors that contribute to self-empowerment of young people and its promotion by youth homes. It did so through a literature survey and focus group discussions with 10 leaders, 20 socio-pedagogical staff, 10 young adults and 16 adolescents from the homes in both countries. The results showed many different ideas of what the goals of self-empowerment should be, such as: to ensure education, resilience, independence, integration/inclusion, job/profession/finances, self-determination or being content/happy. A large number of organizational aspects influencing

self-empowerment and its promotion were found, within the main dimensions of structural characteristics of the Home, availability and characteristics of staff, training and further education of staff, leadership and management, sociopedagogical processes, approaches and methods regarding the young people, staff attitudes, relationships, young people's own resources and identity. Interestingly, several potentially relevant aspects were not or hardly mentioned, such as: the economy and labour market situation, laws and regulations, finances, family and wider social network, peers and the peer group in the Home, services with which the Home collaborates or competes and physical structure and location of the Home. In Module 2, the Homes created a framework of analysis. Each Home selected aspects of most interest and actuality during a CoP Meeting in Pilis in Hungary in September, and determined how to find out which good practices it already has with regard to these aspects, and where it has potential or a need for improvement or, in fact, innovative new approaches, processes or structures.

Until the next binational meeting in Mid-February of 2020, each Home is completing an analysis on the basis the framework of analysis and then developing ideas of possible innovations and improvements. These will be tried out concretely in the second part of Modul 2 in the course of 2020.

Further very important project steps of 2019 were the initial binational kick-off CoP meeting in Zürich in March, and the national CoP meetings in June and July respectively. There and among other things, all Homes presented their insights on how they recognize concretely that a young person takes their life into their own hands. A very special moment was the Young Expert Exchange with 24 Young Experts from both countries in Budapest in July. The highly motivated Young Experts developed ideas of what "an ideal Home where everybody succeeds in taking their lives into their own lives" would look like, as well as advice to leaders, staff and young peers regarding the upcoming phase of analysis in the Homes. Their findings will be an important guideline to evaluate the new ideas generated by the Homes at the CoP Meeting in February of 2020.

Over this year, the CoP members have grown together as a group. They feel that the diversity in the group is very important for reflecting on own knowledge and experiences and to create new ideas. In fact, several new ideas have already come up, some even being tried out already. The Young Experts appreciate their equal

"CREATING FUTURES" PROJECT(CONTINUED)

role in the project and, in several instances, have offered and taken on extra tasks to promote the project in their Homes.

According to the participants, the fact that Young Experts, staff and leaders work together on the the better promotion of self-empowerment has in several instances led to a new mutual understanding and brought forth additional potential and resources of for the development of the Homes. At the end of October, the project was presented at the 34th FICE Congress in Tel Aviv at the end of October.

The participants look forward to the further feedback and exchange of ideas with the members of FICE International and thank FICE Switzerland and NENESZ for their contribution and support.

Anna Schmid, FICE Switzerland

[Film of Young Expert Exchange 2019 \(English\)](#)

[Film of the Young Expert Exchange 2019 \(Deutsch\)](#)

[Film of Young Expert Exchange 2019 \(Magyar\)](#)

[Paper in the International Journal of Child, Youth and Family Studies \(English\)](#)

[Film Young Expert Exchange 2017 \(preparatory project phase\)](#)

