

AUSTRIA

Local development

Location

Pulkau

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P6 – Social inclusion and local development

Measure

M19 – CLLD/LEADER

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 9 585.57

EAFRD 5 367.92

National/Regional 1 341.98

Private 2 875.67

Project duration

2017 – 2017

Project promoter

Stadtgemeinde Pulkau

Contact

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Website

n/a

An intercultural youth event that allows young people from neighboring countries to learn about each other's language and culture and to exchange experiences.

Summary

Bringing together young people and organisations from the countries neighbouring Austria and elsewhere in Europe is a longstanding tradition in Pulkau. The Eurosmile event organised in Pulkau, is an example of the intercultural youth work that has been organised by local public and private actors. Young people are supported to exchange information about their region and educational sources on employment and environmental issues.



Results

An equality and gender-appropriate offer for young people was created.

A total of 35 young people participated.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ There is a great interest for this kind of initiative. An improvement could be to have a more regionally focused outreach, thus intensifying the exchange between young people from the area and abroad.

Context

The 'Europahaus' building in Pulkau, northern Lower Austria, was used to store grain for centuries. Built in 1711, this historic box-shaped building was converted into a site that promotes hospitality with the help of public and private sponsors and with the exemplary support of the Pulkauer citizens under the initiative of Kaplan August Paterno from 1998 to 2000. Together with the adjacent vicarage, the house forms a site of high architectural appeal.

With great attention to detail, the historic building combines modern comfort while preserving the original ambience. Today, in addition to its main purpose as a meeting place for European youth, especially young people from the poorer East European countries, the building is an ideal setting for events and seminars, exhibitions and festivals.

The renovated building was opened in 2003. In recent years there has always been support through the ERASMUS funding programme to offer services for young people. In 2017 there was no ERASMUS support and therefore the Pulkau community, which wanted to continue financing the activities of the 'Europahaus', decided to apply for LEADER funding.

Objectives

The overall objective of this project was to promote cross-border youth integration by ensuring the continuation of the activities of this historical site that brings together young people from different countries to share their cultures, habits and learn from each other.

Activities

The project activities helped young people to get to know each other's language, culture, lifestyle and region, thus also promoting integration in the European Union. The project acted as a tool to remove the language barriers

and gave incentives to participants to voluntarily continue learning the language of a neighbouring country. It promoted networking and improved the offer of cross-border services for young people.

The supported project activities included:

- Organising barbecues where participants could exchange concrete examples of inclusion and equality opportunities from their region;
- Walks through the vineyards to become familiar with the area and understand the value of the environment as a source of work and living space by interacting with local people;
- Sport and leisure activities that foster self-responsibility and promotion of inclusion and diversity, enterprise and environmental awareness;
- Non-formal learning on how to access employment and raising environmental awareness;
- Organising the closing Event Eurosmile 2017 "YOU ARE NOT ALONE".

Main results

The project allowed Pulkau to create a high-quality and a gender-appropriate offer for young people, including those from across the border.

A total of 35 young people participated.

Key lessons

There is a great interest for this kind of initiative. More and more young people participate each year, so many of them have to be rejected. There are also plans to offer this service twice a year. The young participants mainly come from sister towns or other parishes. An improvement would be to have a more regional application, thus also intensifying the exchange between local young people and those from abroad.

Additional sources of information

n/a