

GOOD PRACTICE

Project HEL Fritid (WHOLE Leisure)



City
Slagelse

Country
Denmark

Mission
Improve the state of health of the citizens of the Slagelse municipality; prevention of juvenile delinquency.

Target Group
Socially and/or economically disadvantaged children aged 6 – 18.

Highlight
356 children could begin a leisure activity thanks to the project.

Timeframe
Initially January 2011 – November 2014.
Expansion of project under way.

Budget
€ 940 000 in total



Objectives

In 2012, the Danish Health and Medicines Authority made a national survey which revealed that the state of health of the citizens of the Slagelse Municipality was below the national average. Other surveys have revealed that the number of socially disadvantaged children participating in leisure activities is also below average.

The project therefore focuses on helping socially and/or economically disadvantaged children to take part in one of the many leisure activities that are available in the Municipality of Slagelse. It can also be seen as a preventative measure against juvenile delinquency.

The Concept

Local government, social and health workers that are in direct contact with disadvantaged families by virtue of their profession refer children to the project.

The project then offers to pay the children's membership fees to the chosen leisure activity for the first 6 months of their participation. Once enrolled, all children are assigned a "guide"; a person who will support them and their families during their first weeks with the new leisure activity, in order to make sure that they feel comfortable in what may be a completely new realm to them.



12 volunteers helped by a full-time project manager, a full-time “guide” and three part-time student workers ensure a successful program implementation.

Timeline

2011

Project commencement: Establishment of contact with facilitators, draft of execution plan and employment of project manager and student workers.

2012

Project launch: First contact with children and their families, further development of the cooperation with facilitators, recruitment of volunteers, employment of additional student workers.

2013

Focus on the possibility of municipal implementation of the project, development of database in order to make the evaluation of the project possible, focus on retaining volunteers and children, evaluation of the project process and of the best practices.

2014

Politicians of the Slagelse Municipality are discussing potential economic models that could be adopted in order to extend and continue the project on the coming years.

Cooperation and Partnerships

The project is made possible by the support of the Danish Ministry of the Social Affairs, which provides 71% of the total budget, and the involvement of key stakeholders coming from many different sectors in the City:

- The municipality (29% of the budget)
- Local sport clubs
- Teachers
- Social workers
- Health workers
- Volunteers.





Key Outcomes and Results

Since 2011, the project has helped 356 socially and/or economically disadvantaged children to become active through leisure activities. It therefore plays a great role in improving the children's quality of life and – in the long run – perhaps also preventing juvenile delinquency.

A majority of the children that have been part of the project are still active in their leisure activities after the first 6 months of paid membership fee. Seeing that their children are pleased with their new leisure activities, families are encouraged to continue paying the membership fees themselves.

Strengths of the program are:

- personal guidance, which ensure that all children have a good experience when starting up in a sports club;
- cross-functional cooperation between local government workers, schools, municipal authorities, volunteers and sports clubs.

Areas for improvement include the engagement of volunteers: it has proven difficult to retain them over a long period. The collection of data for meaningful evaluation is very time consuming.

More information:

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