

OPEN THE DOORS CAPACITY BUILDING IN PORTO

In the middle of the project 25 people from the different partner countries met in Porto between the 19th and 23rd of September. Teachers, social educators, mentors and partners met to share experience and work towards getting deeper into the challenges of the project. The project is implementing very innovative approaches to NEET youth - and the approaches call for considerable capacity building and mentality change among youth workers and partners. Open the Doors works through creating substantial community based change missions in collaboration with the young NEETs.



STRUGGLING TO CREATE INNOVATIVE MENTALITY

Along the capacity building in Porto we needed to go back and work with those basic principles again and again. The very entrepreneurial approaches in the project are new to most youth workers and institutions and considerable working through the principles and work methods from different angles is a major part of the project. The most important mission of the Porto event was precisely to work through the project innovation, repeatedly and from different perspectives. The Porto event is therefore expected to be extremely important to the practical capacity building among NEETs in the project's second year.



THE BASIC INNOVATIVE NEET YOUTH APPROACHES

The Open the Doors project is building on the following key principles to create life change capacity among NEETs in dead-end situations:

- REAL-LIFE LEARNING
- 21ST CENTURY LEARNING METHODS IN MIXED REALITIES
- WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY
- ENTREPRENEURIAL MIND-SETTING AND INITIATIVE-TAKING
- CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY

Adding to this innovation, youth workers and partners will learn and build capacity alongside the young NEETs while supporting their mission creation and real-life action.



CONCLUSIONS AND MOVING ON...

The week in Porto clearly demonstrated that youth workers need considerable mentality change and innovation readiness to create capacity building among NEETs. One of the conclusions was the need to change "the very paradigm" of second chance provisions and the limited approaches to what NEETs are capable of.

Many institutions and youth workers across Europe are struggling with similar challenges. The project is keen to share experience with those institutions and youth workers.

Therefore we invite you to contact the project manager and help create useful and mutually benefitting dialogues.

The Open the Doors website is under construction, and we will present the web resources in the next newsletter.

However, you are invited to join the **Opening the Doors to Europe** BaseCamp forum simply by sending your email address to Anna Casas.

In this BaseCamp you can access and work with key project material as well as comment on the material - and on the project in general.

PROJECT CONTACT AND MORE INFORMATION

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Photos from Open the Doors in Porto September 2016