

Best Practices

Discover your municipality – for kids

“Discover Your Municipality” is an interactive project combining “adventure-based learning” and “place-based pedagogy”. Over the course of a three- to five-day project, children and teenagers explore and get to know their municipality in an adventurous and holistic way. Traveling on foot or by bicycle, participants move through their municipality to discover their local environment through a wide variety of activities.

The project aims to strengthen participants’ knowledge of the municipality, their sense of belonging, their environmental awareness, and their connections with children from different cultural backgrounds. In this way, it contributes to intercultural living together on the local level, while highlighting the social, historical, cultural, and ecological aspects unique to the municipality.

“Discover your municipality” can be organized either by a school or by a municipality in collaboration with external partners who offer this service.

Objectives

- To foster a connection with one’s own municipality and its history by experiencing it from up close
- To encourage appreciation of local nature and promote sustainable behavior within nature
- To strengthen social skills through adventurous group activities
- To support the development of individual responsibility through decision-making during activities



Methods

- Cooperation with local institutions and stakeholders, offering the opportunity to experience what it means to be part of a community
- Development of adventurous and playful workshops at the local level
- Traveling on foot or by bicycle during activities
- Navigation using maps and compasses
- At the end of the project, participants present their experiences to their families by showing photos
- Project documentation may be published in the municipal bulletin to raise awareness among other residents of the municipality

Examples of activities that have already been integrated into existing projects:

- A visit to a local beekeeper
- A photo rally using historical photographs through the city center
- An interview with survivors of the Second World War
- An analysis of the local watercourse

Each project is unique and tailored to its municipality; therefore, the concept is redesigned for each municipality.

Budget

The cost of developing the project varies according to the choice of activities and on whether or not there is collaboration with an external service provider. In the case of collaboration with Natur.Bewegung.Entwécklung (NBE), for example, the practical implementation, including the involvement of two external educators, starts at 6 300€.

Materials

- Equipment can be borrowed free of charge from Natur.Beweegung.Entwécklung (NBE) or the National Youth Service (SNJ)
- Accommodation facilities for the group during the hike
- Meeting room for the final day of the project



Periodicity

- 1 – 2 times per year during school holidays

Evaluation indicators

- Number of participants
- Participation rate
- Participants' feedback

Practical advice - DO's

- Develop activities that are specific to the municipality activities specific to the municipality
- Collaborate with local partners and institutions
- Ensure professional supervision of participants during the project
- Involve the parents or family members of participants

Practical advice - DONT's

- Develop activities that are taking place outside the municipality
- Develop activities with no connection to the local community

Contact person/Possible partners

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Schools, youth centers ...

