Best Practices

Participatory worksite

A participatory worksite is a project that takes place over a defined period and brings together local residents around a construction project of varying scale. This may involve building a dry-stone wall, a forest cabin, a playground, renovating heritage buildings, or even constructing a house. These projects often have a social or ecological purpose, with the goal of sharing knowledge and skills among participants.

Objectives

- Share practical know-how
- Create a sense of cohesion through a shared achievement
- Promote the inclusion of all members of the community
- Value people's manual and practical skills
- Potentially strengthen the relationship between municipal services and the local population

Methods

- Identify a project that is meaningful to the community and meets a real need
- Find a structure or association to lead the project that has the expertise to manage a worksite and supervise volunteers

Budget

The budget will depend on the scope of the project.

It is necessary to allocate funds to support volunteers (food expenses, equipment, etc.).

An adequate budget should also be planned for communication: invitations, reports, promotional materials, and other dissemination tools.

Materials

- Construction materials and tools for the worksite
- Equipment needed to supervise and support volunteers

Periodicity

- One-time project

Evaluation indicators

- Number and diversity of volunteer participants

Practical advice - DO's

Advice for the municipality

- Ensure communication (invitations) is designed to attract a wide and diverse range of participants.

Advice for volunteers and/or professionals

- Plan celebratory or appreciation moments for everyone involved.
- To enable parents to participate, consider organizing childcare arrangements.
- Have a “Plan B” in case of a shortage of volunteers or if certain tasks turn out to be more complex than initially expected. Consider having professional teams available to step in if needed.

Practical advice - DONT's

- Carefully assess risks on the worksite and do not assign non-professionals to tasks that may pose health or safety hazards.
- Avoid proposing tasks that require certified professional qualifications unless appropriate supervision is provided.

Contact person/Possible partners

Given the wide variety of possible worksites, it is difficult to name all potential partners.

For example:

- The “Äerdschëff” project (eco-construction initiative in Luxembourg) https://aerdscheff.lu/a-propos/#history, https://www.infogreen.lu/apprendre-l-eco-construction-sur-un-chantier-participatif.html
- The “Construction of a Straw Building for the Forest Ranger” project in Junglinster (Municipality of Junglinster, Equiclic asbl) https://www.equiclic.lu/page8/files/7juinquotidien.pdf