



ROUND TABLES/DEBATES REPORT

December / January 2013

- *Partner: MJC AGORA NICE-EST*
- *Target group: YOUNG PEOPLE*

The answers and feelings presented below are two reports of a debate between youngsters during their meetings in Prague and Paris.

The first three-day stay took place in Prague for a futsal international tournament in May. 14 young boys of 18 to 21 years old took part in it.

The second four-day stay took place in Paris during Christmas holiday. Eight youngsters, five girls and three boys, of 18 to 21 years old took part in it.

The following points are to be noted :

- first group (futsal) : the members have shared the same passion for football and sport for several years at the MJC. This project was the idea of a young boy who has been deeply involved in community life since his early age.
- second group : the three boys know each other because they all practise Thai boxing ; the girls are from the same neighbourhood and are members of the association. Again, the project was the idea of a youngster who is deeply involved in community life.

1. how popular education and social mediation contribute to valorize beneficiaries as professionals in terms of:

- o equal opportunities

Taking part in those travels was a true opportunity to know Prague for the ones and Paris for the others. They all are from a working-class neighborhood. They looked for sponsors to fund their projects. The association lent them vehicles. Beyond the fact that they took great delight in being together and in other places, they realized that they learnt a lot about how to set up a project and where to search financing.



It is important to note that the initiators of the two projects, and who also are deeply involved in the association, got a job : the former has just found a job in January and the latter will sign a contract in February.

o social inclusion

During the debate, the boys of the two groups have truly realized that they had acquired “GREAT SKILLS” to set up THEIR project and it was only possible thanks to THEIR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE in the association for several years.

o intercultural dialogue

- If for the first group the futsal international tournament has enabled them to know another country, it has also enabled them to meet another young people from about twenty different countries and to change certain misleading representation.

- For the girls of the second group, getting the permission of their respective parents to go to Paris with boys was undoubtedly a big VICTORY.

2. how the practices of active citizenship and equal opportunities promote a process of target group's social and political empowerment

Those simple examples of project implementation carried out by youngsters for youngsters show how important are the associations of popular education for youngsters' autonomy. The significance of those associations is mainly based on several criteria :

- They are not non-profit associations which sell travels,
- They work in a long-term perspective with the inhabitants of a neighbourhood,
- They learn the project implementation techniques and bring GREAT VALUE.

A young man said : “leaving the neighbourhood with friends is easy and not easy at the same time. If I had not attended the community center maybe I would have gone with friends, probably in a stolen car.”