



ROUND TABLES/DEBATES REPORT **December / January 2013**

- *Partner: COOPERATIVA LA COMUNITA'*
- *Target group: YOUNG PEOPLE*

Let's do it better project is based on educational and training competences of the participants, in order to become promoters of their own social emancipation and social integration.

Round tables and debates based on interviews with the beneficiaries are an inspiration both for beneficiaries and professionals to think about how popular education and social mediation promote social and political empowerment of target group.

Please describe - according to the beneficiaries -

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

o equal opportunities

It is extremely important that between the educators and the target group there is no distance in terms of participation and cooperation in order to implement the relationships between peers and the collective growth for both individuals and groups.

Knowledge should not be transmitted according to the top-down model but it has to be shared, diminishing age and role differences between practitioners and adolescents.

o social inclusion

It is necessary to promote free access to the facilities where services operate, thus enlarging as much as possible the audience trying to work on prevention rather than on treatment. You have to base your work on reality opposed to abstract models, sharing issues, trying to fulfill the needs and proposals coming from the youth. Furthermore it is absolutely important to detect some "mediators" among the



target group, recognize within the group the most influential figures and use their features in order to create a more immediate contact between workers and youth.

o intercultural dialogue

The focus has to be on abolishing differences of gender, age and ethnicity of the youth, working on the integration of the weaker subjects, making them feel valuable by the group avoiding discrimination and exclusion. Prejudices imposed by society must be erased by endorsing the best features of each kid underlining differences and pointing them out as a positive aspect.

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

The goal of active citizenship practices has to be the activation of virtuous processes in one's neighborhood through popular education and social mediation.

The main aim has to be the collaboration and cooperation between peers and between them and the practitioners trying to build up positive relationships which are not related to economy or consumerism. Social inclusion must develop living and loving your everyday places.