



Local workshops December 2011 / January 2012

- *Partner: Foundation for Society*
- *Target group: young people of a disadvantaged group (from orphanages), whose work and social integration is one of major stakes*

Goal	Improve social and work inclusion of target group
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raise awareness of education possibilities in Latvia ▪ Help to choose career path ▪ Raise awareness of personal skills and self-esteem ▪ Help to enter the labour market <p><i>Please choose (according on your target group):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ develop and improve occupational and social integration of young people (over 16 years)
Methodology	Discussions, interviews, consultations, group work
No. of beneficiaries involved	30
No. of staff operators involved	3 career consultants, 5 representatives of different professions, 2 orphanage staff members, 1 representative of the Foundation
Activities	<p><i>Please choose and explain your activities (according on your target group):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 workshops were organized. During the first workshop, orphans from 2 orphanages (at the age 16-24) participated in the meeting with career consultants who helped them to decide which profession and why would be the best for them and where it's possible to study the subject they are interested in. In addition, they did different writing tests to understand their strengths better. ○ During the second workshop, youngsters in groups reflected their experience from career consultations. Afterwards, together with staff members, they told about the information they had just found out, expressed their thoughts about future or current work or study possibilities, evaluated their possibilities to enter the labour market. At the end of this workshop, there was a discussion with 5 profession representatives as before the workshop, they were asked to say what professions they are interested in. During these talks, youngsters asked many questions to the representatives, and they were really excited that they have such possibility. ○ Individual interviews with young people. The representative from the Foundation, interviewed youngsters trying to define the common



	problems, their point of view and motivation behind learning.
Outputs and results	20 young people actually defined their interests, wishes on future plans, found out about colleges and universities where they can study, as well as with the help of career consultants analyzed their strengths and weaknesses.
Strengths identified	Through informal methods, it is possible to find the right approach to such young people who have suffered a lot and are really closed to outside world. The conclusion is that actually showing the real world outside the orphanage (for example, through meeting with famous people, different profession representatives), it is possible to break the wall that was done during these activities.
Weaknesses	One of the difficulties was to formulate their ideas about future career path as many of them at the age 16-20 still do not have clear future plans because of the lack of the information and lack of motivation to learn.
Other information	The most effective way for opening up young people and guiding them toward defining future plans was the meeting with different profession representatives. The most they liked meeting with an actor, make-up artist and film director as these young people enjoy creative activities. This method was evaluated as the most effective because in this way people could understand more effectively what it is like to be an actor, what are the advantages and disadvantages.