Cross-Border Youthwork as a strategic pillar in the regional cooperation

Florian Schmid, President GFGZ, Neuhausen-Switzerland

FLORIAN SCHMID, President GFGZ & Political Scientist
GFGZ, CH-Neuhausen a. Rheinfall- www.gfgz.org
The Region of the Lake of Constance - some impressions
The 5-Country-Region of the Alpine - High and Upper Rhine

- The 5-Country-Region includes Austria - France - Germany - Principality of Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

- Between the Alpes and Strasbourg regional cooperation over the borders has a long tradition, even the german - french - region at the Upper-Rhine has a long tradition as a powder keg.

- Special is, that there is an EU-external-border

  -> Austria, France and Germany are members of the EU.
  -> Principality of Liechtenstein is a member of the EEA.
  -> Switzerland has bilateral agreements with EU.
The Region of the Lake of Constance, the High Rhine and the Upper Rhine
The 5-Country-Region of the Alpine - High and Upper Rhine

- The long tradition of regional cooperation over the borders between this countries shall significantly contribute that the 5-Country-Region is one of the engines of Europa - peaceful and economically powerful.

- Rate of unemployment: $\varnothing$ 2-3% less than the national standard.

- A lot of tourists visit the region as a tourist.

- The Cross-Border-Cooperation includes the fields of economy, tourism, health, culture, ....
The Lake Constance- High- & Upper-Rhine-Region: Cross-border Commuter

France: 30,000

Switzerland: 100

Germany: 56,000

Quelle: Bundesamt für Statistik, Bern

Powerful Economy
The regional cooperation over the borders

The regional cooperation over the borders is characterized by governmental agencies as the IBK (Internationale Bodenseekonferenz) and the Upper Rhine Conference but also by more than 500 private organizations as the GFGZ.
The International Conference of the Lake of Constance (IBK)

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- The IBK was founded in 1972 because it was necessary to cooperate in the question of environment and water protection.

- The IBK has the goal to protect and support the border-region as a place of living, a place of culture, an economic area and a natural area.

- The IBK wants to strengthen the regional togetherness.
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The Upper Rhine Conference

The Upper Rhine Conference is a cooperative association sustained by German federal countries Baden-Württemberg, Rheinland-Pfalz, the Swiss Cantons Basel-Land, Basel-Stadt, Solothurn, Jura and Aargau and the French region of the Alsace.

The ORK was founded 1975 in Bonn.

The ORK has a common joint Secretary, a Plenary Assembly, working groups in the field of education, sports, environment,....
Today’s Youth

A lot of persons think young people are only on the mobile phone.

But it’s important to differentiate:

- The Life didn’t get easier.
- In a loft of European Countries the young generation pays for the ageing of the societies
- the young generation, the digital natives have a high digital competence.
- the most youth people, independent from which European country, have good english knowledges.
Grenzüberschreitende Jugendarbeit ist wichtig!

Instruments

- A permanent youth-projectmanagement-group.
- Regular survey of the youth.
- X-Change - for youth who are doing an apprenticeship.
- Small-Project-Fund.
The project group for cross-border youth-engagement

- Founded by 2012.
- Lead by his Excellence Mr. Horst Schädler, General Secretary of the government of the principality of Liechtenstein.
- 10 members - one of each member state.
  -> every member state decide who represent the own member.
- There are two meetings a year of the whole group and a temporary working group organize one event per year.
The project group for cross-border youth-engagement

- young people between 14 and 25.
- persons who are working with young people as teachers, docents, apprentice trainer and youth worker.

The group don’t focus on an elite of the youth, the group focus on the youth independent of the social background.

In all four countries there is a long tradition of a duel education system.
Activities

Activities of the project group for cross-border youth-engagement

- A competition for ideas -> an a following support to realize the ideas, for example of a cross-border-youth theater.

- Youth Summit about Europe with Prime Ministers, Ministers and members of the Government of the IBK - Members.

- A Council as a part of the celebrations of the Council of Constance about migration and refugees.

  → the young participants brought their ideas to the Council of Europe and to the president of the European Parliament

- A Conference for youth workers of the Cross-Border Region.

FLORIAN SCHMID, President GFGZ & Political Scientist
GFGZ, CH-Neuhausen a. Rheinfall- www.gfgz.org
Youth Workers

Youth Workers work

- Youth Workers work with young people outside the school structure.
- They make contributions to the self-confidence of the young people.
- The work of the Youth Workers supports the self-responsibility of them, what supports for example their
  - entrepreneurial skills
  - environmental awareness
- So, the engagement of the Youth Workers encourages and promotes active citizens which trusts in the institutions.

FLORIAN SCHMID, President GFGZ & Political Scientist
GFGZ, CH-Neuhausen a. Rheinfall- www.gfgz.org
A small excursion - The dual education system

The most of the young people make after 9 or 10 years compulsory education an apprenticeship.

They go during three or four years in a company for three or three and a half day a week for their practical education.

The rest of the week, they visit a professional school to get the theoretical and a general education.

The consequences are, that an academic title in this region is not important, more - in particularly in Switzerland - it’s rarely irrelevant.
A small excursion - The dual education system

A small excursion - the dual education system

- Nevertheless, the rate of youth unemployment is very deep.
- Switzerland, Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria are one of the most innovative areas in Europe.
- There are a lot of small and medium sized companies who are leaders in niche markets.
- For the future much more important is, that the young people - and a lot of them are better prepared then the elder people - that the attitude that the life long learning is much more important, then got get Knowledge of a moment of a frozen time.
Xchange

- Xchange: offers apprentices exchanges of three/four weeks in a company of the neighborhood country.

- Empowerment of intercultural competence and self-esteem of the young people.

- Companies made very good experiences with the young students.

- Link: www.xchange-info.net
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There are a lot of Small Project Funds in the different regions of the EU.

They are part of the Interreg-Programs and should help to develop the Regions.

The Small Project Fund supports projects as camps, seminars… with 2500 € and helps on an unbureaucratic way the realize regional projects.
Results

The work creates continuity into the whole region of the lake of constance and in the region of the upper rhine.

The young people learn to understand the region as a whole without borders.

It connects persons over the borders, what’s positive for the exchange, the trade, the cultural and the personal exchange what has positive effects for the economy and a peaceful coexistence.
Conclusion

- To make the Youth as a strategic pillar in the region cooperation over the borders is a longterm investment for the future.

- With less financial resources you get sustainable success.
Thank you for your attention!
Большое Спасибо! -

*When you have any question or ideas for cooperations, projects etc, do not hesitate to ask me or to contact me after the panel or under info@gfgz.org.*

FLORIAN SCHMID, Political Scientist / President GFGZ
GFGZ, CH-Neuhausen a. Rheinfall - www.gfgz.org