Preparing for and dealing with challenges in inclusive international youth projects

Everyone who has organised international youth experiences before knows that challenges will arise and things may go differently than planned. **This is not any different for projects that aim to be inclusive.** However, it is crucial that we prevent harm and prepare ourselves for challenging situations.

Concrete tips and tricks on how to do that:

- To avoid risky or harmful situations, **create clear guidelines** for team members regarding safeguarding and make sure everyone in your team is familiar with them. One team member can be designated as the trust person on these topics.
- Go through your project plans together with experienced youth workers and experts on working with different groups of young people with fewer opportunities to establish a safety checklist. Make sure to adapt everything to the specific barriers, needs and experiences of the young people that will be involved in the programme.
- **Prepare your team to be able to understand challenges** as part of the journey towards inclusion. Make them alert to signs of somebody feeling uncomfortable and discuss how such situations can be approached.
- Even with the best preparation, no one can predict and prepare all possible situations. If something unexpected happens despite your preparation, **accept it and look for solutions collaboratively with participants**, your team and partners and - if needed - your national agency. If all goes well, the experience can be transformed into learning.

"I try to facilitate by example: when I make a mistake, I will laugh about it, when something goes wrong, I will be honest about it. I think that it's really not about being wrong or right. It's about being warm and inviting."

Morgaine Green, Otra Escuela es posible, Madrid, Spain

Morgaine Green
Spain

Reach out to your national agency for support:

Find contact details on the EU commission's webpage.

More resources about inclusion:

In Engage in Inclusion!, you can find specific information about risk assessment.

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