



**KÖZÖSSÉGÉPÍTŐ EGYESÜLET**

### **Innovation of the project idea**

When founding the Association Co-Efficient, our main motivation was to create something new which defers from our former experiences. The objective was to establish an organization and activities that are based on the main knowledge and traditional ideas of social work, but at the same time it is also open for new ideas and point of views and relates to the target group and the work done with them in a flexible way. We have implemented our first project as an informal group, not as a formalized organization.

The main objective of our Surf Safe project was to enhance the integration of young people with social disadvantages via the safe use of internet, that we achieved by applying non-formal education methods and transferring a multi-cultural approach.

The safe use of internet is extremely important for disadvantaged young people, since outside of school they don't have the possibilities to use a personal computer and the Internet at home. Because of financial constraints the parents cannot afford to buy a personal computer or purchase an internet connection, or they are simply not aware of the possibilities provided by, nor the risks posed and dangers caused by the internet. Besides this another reason for our project was that in our current modern society the efficient use of internet is part of the general knowledge. In case the young people lack this knowledge, their disadvantages in different areas of life are even increased.

In the virtual world of internet social relationships can be deformed, being 'invisible' might cause new forms of behaviour, which the young people cannot handle properly due to the lack of relevant skills and techniques. They might even get engaged in crime, so their disadvantages in the cyberspace might be of multiple kind.

The risk of not possessing the right and required knowledge is not only that the integration of young people is hindered by prejudices that exist on the internet, but also that the young people might be drawn into criminal groups by the desire of belonging somewhere.

### **Innovation in accessing the target group – participation**

The target group of our project were disadvantaged young people between the age of 14 – 17, living in Budapest. Our understanding of the 'disadvantaged' situation is very wide: the participants of our project were roma young people, children with big families, young people with special educational needs, or 'simply' living in bad financial conditions. We did not exclude anybody just because they were 'not disadvantaged enough', as a result of which we involved young people coming from different layers of society. Our aim was to strengthen the sense of solidarity and responsibility in the participants by helping them acquire a multi-cultural approach.

Our secondary target group were the social professionals and the institutional system: schools, family support centres, NGO-s etc. We managed to reach this target group also successfully by making presentations and providing the possibility to download documents from our website (see below).

The participants of the project acquired the below skills during the trainings:

- co-operational skills
- team-work
- sense of critical thinking



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- basic labour market knowledge (job seeking on the internet, interview situations, writing of cover letters or curriculum vitae)
- development of entrepreneurship via the leader training.

By using the acquired skills the young people can more easily join their contemporary age groups and they can more easily meet the requirements of their school obligations and later the requisities of the labour market. Since the world of work is being globalized, the high level use of internet is a basic requirement.

### **Innovation in implementation - efficiency**

First group of the Surf Safe project started in May of 2011 after careful planning. We involved 15 young people after assessing the needs of the applicants by conducting tests, group work exercises and interviews, ensuring the participation of disadvantaged young people who are capable to actively contribute to the project.

Volunteers of our Association organized 3 hours long trainings on Saturday mornings for 3 months. Participants could take part on team-building activities at first, only after these sessions started the group to study the internet and its dangers. We not only touched the issues of social network sites, online buying, but the participants could acquire knowledge on the protection of personal data, techniques on job seeking, copyright infringement, legal royalties and other relevant information. Participating young people could acquire the necessary knowledge to produce a stop motion animation as a third step, resulting in a short movie about the dangers of the internet.

The second group of the project started in the September of 2011 with similar topics, but with the contribution of youth leaders volunteered from the first group, as group leaders.

Methodology elaborated during the project follows the following cornerstones:

- 1.) Involvement. We involved public institutions and NGOs into the process of recruitment in order to spread information as wide as possible. We provided continuous opportunity for feedback during the implementation of trainings; target group was involved into the development of the agenda of the training.
- 2.) Non-formal pedagogic tools. We tried to avoid the use of frontal techniques during the trainings, preferring the following tools: group work, individual work, simulations, exercises, evaluation, discussion, and debriefing. Individual decisions influenced the work of the group.

The methodology based on the involvement of participants and on the use of non-formal tools is universal and easily adoptable. We intend to start our "cut together!" project in 2012, which aims the production of socio-films based on the methodology elaborated during the Surf Safe Project. A project prepared jointly with Motiváció Foundation is already started; the "Point of View" is aiming to produce a theater show based on the very same methodology, involving young people with disabilities and their "healthy" contemporaries.

Results of the project in numbers:

- 45 young people applied
- 30 persons started the project, 23 finished it



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- 20 training days
- 2 excursions
- 2 joint animations

### **Innovation towards the public – showing example**

We devoted special attention to the communication of results during the implementation of the project. We preferred the online media, which provided many possibilities of appearance (see the list of these websites on the blog of the project: [surfsafeproject.blogspot.com](http://surfsafeproject.blogspot.com)), but we also used the local media (weekly paper of the 6th and 7th district, Civil Radio) and also addressed the stakeholders of the social profession (Journal of 'Together in child protection'). Furthermore, we did our best to avoid traditional forms of communication: instead of a final workshop we organized a 'closing party', we presented about our project at the summer festival of the Bánki lake, and we also organized dissemination activities at party places preferred by young people in Budapest.

We were contacted by primary schools and vocation schools to organize headmasters classes and consultations for the parents of the students about the topic of safe internet usage. We implemented these activities as follow-up of our project. We are planning to start the third training group of the project in May 2012, for which we have already received applications via family help centres (even before the official announcement of the program).

It would not have been possible to implement this project without a broad co-operation. Our team began the implementation of the project without the relevant infrastructure. The venue of the trainings were provided to us by the Városi Színház Kft (an alternative cultural platform in Budapest). The recruitment process for the training was supported by schools and NGO-s.

Financial support for the project in 2011 (from 1st February 2011 until 31st December 2011) was provided by the Youth in Action Program of the European Union. We received 6450 EUR funding in the frameworks of the program. The fund covered the costs of stationery, rental fees and communication costs. It did not involve any contribution to personal costs, so the members of our team did all their work in the project voluntarily and without any financial benefit. These activities involved the recruitment of participants, the facilitation of trainings and all project-related communication. We donated altogether 10 laptops to the training participants, that we could purchase on a discounted price with the support of IBM ISSC Hungary Kft. Furthermore, we managed to provide desktop computers to all other participants who did not receive a laptop, by having them donated to us by individuals and other firms.

Further information:

[www.egyutthato.eu](http://www.egyutthato.eu)

[www.surfsafeproject.blogspot.com](http://www.surfsafeproject.blogspot.com)

[www.facebook.com/EgyuttHato](http://www.facebook.com/EgyuttHato)