MOBILE YOUTH WORK IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

REACHING THE UNREACHABLE
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CONTENTS

PREFACE .......................................................................................... 005
GREETINGS .................................................................................... 008

Angela Merkel, German Chancellor .................................................. 009
Klaus-Dieter Kottnik ........................................................................ 010
President of the Diakonisches Werk of the Protestant Church Germany

Walther Specht, Opening speech ...................................................... 011
Reaching the Unreachable - Mobile Youth Work in a global context

MOBILE YOUTH WORK IN GERMANY ........................................ 015

Siegfried Keppeler, Walther Specht ................................................. 016
Social area analysis as a basis of Mobile Youth Work

Werner Kübler .................................................................................. 022
Establishing contacts in the Streets in Mobile Youth Work

Matthias Reuting - Mobile Youth Work: ....................................... 029
Application of the working forms and Principles in Germany

Walther Specht ................................................................................ 037
Social-pedagogical development of functional equivalents as a key concept of Mobile Youth Work

Rainer Treptow ............................................................................... 043
An international comparison of youth and social work

Gabriele Stumpp .............................................................................. 053
The definition of health and illness in Mobile Youth Work:
The salutogenetic model

MOBILE YOUTH WORK WORLDWIDE ....................................... 055
Walther Specht, Germany ............................................................... 056
Mobile Youth Work with a global perspective

Grame Tiffany, Great Britain ............................................................. 066
Detached Youth Work in the United Kingdom

Bernard Rodenstein, Colmar, France .............................................. 074
Violence in French Suburbs

Peter Kulifaj, Slovakia ................................................................. 077
Mobile Youth Work in Slovakia

Zorjana Lukavetska, Ukraine ....................................................... 082
Mobile Youth Work in Ukraine

Nana Agapishvili, Georgia ............................................................ 084
Mobile Youth Work in Georgia

Irving Spergel, USA - Mobile Youth Work: ................................. 088
A Comprehensive Community-Wide Approach to the Gang Problem

Trudee Able-Peterson, USA .......................................................... 097
StreetWorks Collaborative - Why should we work together

Davies Okombo, Kenya .............................................................. 106
Mobile Youth Work in Kenya

Walther Specht, Germany ............................................................ 108
Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the field of training and qualification
as incentives for civil society to fight social exclusion

Walther Specht, Germany - Mobile Youth Work .......................... 113
As a community-based approach to include children and their families

Short descriptions ................................................................. 120
of selected projects and activities by symposium participants

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME .................................................. 133
THANKS TO ........................................................................ 137
EXPERTS AGREE:

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT GLOBAL FUTURE DUTIES IN THE WORK WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT RISK LIES IN THE QUALIFICATION OF SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONALS
PREFACE

The 9th ISMO Symposium „Reaching the Unreachable“
2008 in Stuttgart

With this book the International Society for Mobile Youth Work (ISMO) aims to document key speeches of the 9th Symposium 2008, central teaching contents and texts used as a basis for training seminars in Mobile Youth Work by ISMO and our partners. Since its foundation, ISMO has been following the aim of discussing the social - pedagogical concept of Mobile Youth Work not only in Germany and in Europe, but world-wide and therefore to advertise for its application in different countries. This concept of the youth work and youth social work has been developed in co-operation with other professional organisations of the youth and social work in Europe and through countless international discourses between practical workers and scientists in this field. It appeared that indeed every country on Earth, every region, every city and every community puts different challenges before the concept of Mobile Youth Work. Poverty and exclusion of endangered children and youths, as well as other problems in their families almost always show the world different faces; therefore hunger for food, education, recognition and love can be expressed differently. But a deep and scientifically proven support and devotion towards excluded children and youths, as for example by the means of Mobile Youth Work, can bring much almost everywhere on Earth and pay a tribute to the improvement of the situation of endangered children and teenagers. Since 1967 Mobile Youth Work has been successfully practised and taught in Germany. This development has led to establishing of more than 1000 projects in Germany, which are linked on the local and since 1997 on the federal level (consortium for Street Work / Mobile Youth Work). On the international level, in 1983 a series of globally oriented professional discourses (Symposiums), devoted to the Mobile Youth Work, was initiated at the University of Tübingen (the Institute of Pedagogic). Up to now 9 international congresses have already taken place. The last 5 of them were organised by ISMO with different partners in Santiago / Chile (1994), in Solothurn in Switzerland (1995), in Saint Petersburg / Russia (1998), in Limuru/Kenya (2003) and in Stuttgart/Germany (2008). The purpose of these events is the effective improvement of the living situation of children and youths with special social difficulties. In the process of the mobilisation of certain local community and taking into account the UN Convention for the Protection of Child’s rights, the main aim is to waken and strengthen the civil- social forces, which can generate a lasting and productive development towards excluded children and youths. For the sake of these excluded children and youths, the everyday living situation, the milieu, in which they grow up, should be positively influenced by the means of the reconstruction of social capital.
Since 1996 ISMO has been actively involved in various projects in Central and Eastern Europe in order to build up, support and stimulate projects, oriented on the improvement of the living situation of endangered children and youths. The 7th International Symposium with over 300 participants from 38 countries took place in St. Petersburg in Russian Federation in 1998. One important result of this Symposium was the Action plan, which was adopted by the plenary meeting. This Action plan contained, among other things, the request expressed by the Eastern European participants for qualification courses in Mobile Youth Work. Already a year after the Symposium (1999) ISMO was able to satisfy this request in St. Petersburg, Moscow and Smolensk. Since then ISMO has been and will be carrying out qualification seminars in Mobile Youth Work in other Russian or Siberian cities, as well as in Estonia, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Turkey and Georgia and has plans for other Eastern European countries.

In 2008 the planning and performance of the 9th International Symposium on Mobile Youth Work from September 15 to 18 was ISMO’s main concern. The symposium could be carried out under the patronage of Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel. Co-organizers were the Diakonisches Werk Württemberg, the University of Tuebingen, Institute for Pedagogy/Education and Social Work, the Association for Mobile Youth Work Stuttgart and the Association for Mobile Youth Work/Street Work Baden-Württemberg. Due to altogether 14 supporters the symposium could be realised. More than 300 experts and special guests from 39 countries of the world took part in a very multifaceted program under the title “Reaching the Unreachable”. The great majority was very happy with the reached results on the programme. From 60 evaluation questionnaires on the last conference day and from more than 50 oral and written separate comments, we were able to conclude that a great consent was uttered considering the multifaceted program like the ecumenical worship, the reception in the New Castle of the federal state government, the key notes, the 4 forums, the 10 task groups and the visits of the participants to agencies of Mobile Youth Work in Stuttgart. This satisfaction includes also the participation in the different workshops and in regard to the great party of Mobile Youth Work Stuttgart-Ost. But also the organisational course, the climate of the conference and the friendly company of the ISMO staff like students, members of the ISMO board and other volunteers gained a lot of recognition.

It was critically remarked – especially from representatives of new partners of ISMO – that the concept of Mobile Youth Work got a raw deal within the frame of the overall programme and therefore the discourse about it could not happen so much in detail. Furthermore many participants expressed the wish to deepen the already existing cooperation with ISMO and to get more support. The newly build contacts often wished to extend the contacts to a partnership.
The comparatively complex, however inevitable professional translation in the object languages Russian, Spanish and English contributed to the already mentioned great success of the symposium to a great extent. Particular participants and students translated not professionally but very skilled and engaged in the non-plenary sessions to the object languages French, Portuguese, Slovakian, Hungarian, Estonian, Swahili, Czech and Bulgarian.

Despite all the elements which differed like language, culture, history and distance there was the connecting element at this symposium (in spite of being insufficiently represented in the program) - Mobile Youth Work. This concept has now been discussed for more than 40 years in Germany, in Europe, in the world. This concept since the first symposium in Tubingen in 1983 consistently has been developed further, presented itself more and more as a strong uniting bond. The formation of an informal international network for Mobile Youth Work could be strengthened further through the symposium.

This bond of theory-based 'best-practice' within Mobile Youth Work got its international legal basis in Germany through the UN Convention for the Rights of the Child which was ratified by the German Bundestag in 1992. Since then the rights of the child are formulated clearly in that document, although it is often not possible in the particular region to claim the right for oneself. This still needs for example the legal representation approach of Mobile Youth Work. In the weeks and months after the symposium the issue of the provision of qualification courses in Mobile Youth Work for children and youth at risk from different countries in the world became more and more present. This applies for Latin America, Africa, Asia but at the same time as strongly as before for the Eastern European countries.

Already during but also after the symposium the participants from the US showed interest to hold the 10th symposium in 2011 or 2012 in the USA. Yes we can!

Prof. Dr. Walther Specht
GREETINGS
I send my affectionate greetings to the participants of the symposium of the International Society for Mobile Youth Work in Stuttgart.

You are dealing with a depressing topic which we cannot and should not cease working on. There are innumerable children and youth in the whole world living on the brink of society. They grow up in the streets, where they have to fight to survive every day. Most of the times conventional supporting measures are rather inappropriate to reintegrate these people into society.

Mobile Youth Work shows a new direction. It directly approaches children and youth, comes to the locations where they are, establishes contacts and offers individual help: a warm meal, a shelter or an educating project. People who are active in Mobile Youth Work know: Success in integration eventually depends on whether and to which extend these young people feel addressed and feel taken seriously and therefore accept help. Hence Mobile Youth Work tries to gain their trust. This can only be achieved with a lot of devotion. It certainly affords a lot of patience and empathy, but it is worth every effort to open up perspectives for a hopeful life for the excluded and traumatised children and youth.

Eventually i wish you, as participants of this ISMO Symposium that you will take home new motivation and many ideas for the effective support of young people during these days in Stuttgart.
Dear ladies and gentlemen,

after symposia in Germany, Switzerland, Russia, Chile and Africa, the 9th international symposium takes place in Stuttgart again this time and here the circle closes which has been started with the first symposium in 1983 at the University of Tübingen, 1991 in Stuttgart and with the foundation of ISMO in 1992.

I am happy that the International Society for Mobile Youth Work as a professional association of the Diakonisches Werk has managed to discuss approaches and methods of social work worldwide and to both give new impulses and maintain them. For the Diakonie Mobile Youth Work is a good example, that social work has to reach out to the people in difficult living situations, that it cares for each of these people individually, but keeps the community in view as well. This is traditional in the Diakonie: Already Wichern, whose 200th birthday we are celebrating this year, attended to street children and criminal youth in a special way. Back then as well as today the integration of youth into society has a very high priority in the Diakonie. ISMO considers this as its goal as well.

Stuttgart is certainly a well-chosen venue for this 9th symposium, since the excursions are to show that in a supposedly rich city children and youth are at-risk in different ways. „Reaching the Unreachable“ is an excellent slogan to show that we need not relent to be there for people in difficult situations. Especially in Mobile Youth Work there is much evidence for success, which has been thought to be impossible in the beginning. Therefore I would like to encourage all participants of the 9th symposium to not give up hope for a better and juster world. 

I wish the symposium a lot of success.
Dear secretary of the federal state of Baden-Württemberg, Dr. Monika Stolz, dear Mrs Sölinger, former secretary for social welfare of Baden-Württemberg, dear Helga, dear Mayor of Stuttgart, Dr. Martin Schairer, dear representatives of the municipal council of the city of Stuttgart and state parliament of Baden-Württemberg, dear ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues from all over the world. I am very pleased that you accepted the invitation to the 9th ISMO Symposium and to the reception tonight and came here.

The title of our symposium about Mobile Youth Work is: "Reaching the Unreachable". What do we want to express by that? If we look at it from a superficial point of view the answer can easily be found: If the "hard to reach" do not come into our counselling centre, we go to them.

This is how Street Work starts almost everywhere in the world. But a "warm" conversation on the street by itself, does most of the times not result in anything. There has to be more. An efficient and sustainable improvement of the living situation of street children and youth at risk requires longer ways, bigger efforts.

To us reaching the "Unreachable" means to address mentally hurt and excluded as well as mistrustful and aggressive children and youth in the whole world in a professional way.
We are doing that on the basis of the professional concept of Mobile Youth Work. We offer this target group our long-term support and critical solidarity.

Since the concept has not been implemented everywhere in Germany, Europe and in the world yet and has become a main topic of the respective youth politics, we would like to do our bit with this symposium.

Unfortunately we have not managed to write the expression "Mobile Youth Work" down into the law, when the new German Children and Youth Services Act was formulated in 1988. Many things would be easier today. Therefore it is still an outstanding task. What do we consider to be special in this 9th international symposium for Mobile Youth Work?

Let me quickly reach back to explain this. All of us today, in every beautiful spot in the world, live in a situation full of risks and dangers. I am talking about the risks that we unintentionally produce ourselves, but also the intended risks. We are already familiar with the term of the ‘Risk Society’ - which has been shaped by Ulrich Beck - since 1986.

Let me quickly go far back to explain this.

In his new book he talks about the ‘World Risk Society’ under a more global perspective. What does he mean by that? Well, it is about dangers and risks that we all know; about:

- nuclear technology,
- the imminent climatic catastrophe,
- the power of international companies and cash flows, which have become uncontrollable and about
- Terrorism.

These dangers, which are not our primary topic at the conference, lead however to an intensified public debate about security, to regulative conflicts about the public space, which also has impacts on the concept of Mobile Youth Work that we represent. This happens no matter whether we see this correlation in our work or deny it. They invest for example a lot more in multi-billion dollar security technology than in urgently necessary non-formal education, youth welfare service or directly into Mobile Youth Work.

Mobile Youth Work is nevertheless a professionell concept of social work in the whole world today. It certainly comes along in different guises and with different contents. Not all the methods, which seize the same basic ideas, share the same name. We would like to discuss and introduce these forms of Mobile Youth Work to one another here at the symposium. Comparing approaches of Mobile Youth Work in a district called Hallschlag in Stuttgart, in Tscheljabinsk, Rio de Janeiro, Paris, London, Kisumu at Lake Victoria or with methods in the South Side of Chicago.

We would like to do this in the good tradition of the past eight international symposia of Mobile Youth Work since 1983. All of them were about the synopsis of theoretical, practical
and socio-political developments in the wide sector of Mobile Youth Work. We will see that there are different, maybe even opposed perspectives, although we could theoretically all read the same professional literature in the global age of the World Wide Web. Therefore we want and have to have this professional discourse, given the critical living situation of more than 100 million children and youth at risk in the world we have to act responsible and we have to intend to influence and advice our governments. Almost everywhere poverty and exclusion build the initial situation of the target groups of Mobile Youth Work.

Different situations and developments in the several cities, countries and continents with their historical, cultural and political perspectives will have a say in the following three days. I do not want to put the case for an interesting arbitrariness by that. Since what unites us, despite all the real differences, or at least what should unite us, is the fact that we address all the children and youth at risk in the world on a subject-oriented basis and we take over responsibility for them. Furthermore there is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as a common international action basis. This functions as a value and legal basis which is signed by almost all the countries in the world. Religious values can self-evidently also forms the basis of our acting. I see for example many colleagues from Stuttgart here in this hall, who either works for Caritas or for the Evangelische Gesellschaft. Eventually Christian values entered the formulations of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Where are at a medium-range level the risks and dangers, but also the chances for Mobile Youth Work?

Given the mentioned risks that have been produced either on purpose or accidently and the insecurities for any place in the world, for any human being in he world the topics of security and control have reached an unprecedented significance in our present modern society. This enormous boost through world risks, which can possibly not be controlled for the topic security, has already been intruding into sectors of social everyday life of people for a while and it is spreading almost uncondctedly. (Just think of the thousands of observation cameras, which have been installed in our cities...) Law and order - a primary task of the state for their citizens - are being more and more privatised.

It is not just the private insurance companies who offer new risk coverages, but also private security companies of the risk industry soften the state's monopoly of power and create new uncertainties by that. The bigger an imaginable damage can be however, the less the representatives of the risk industry are able, to safeguard risks and to compensate a possible damage.

An educational and youth-political confession of failure of the responsible people cannot be doubted in cases where they, for example resolved by stranded local politicians,
mobilise private security services, so-called “black sheriffs”, to solve youth problems at schools and meeting points.

How can this development be stopped? Can it be stopped at all? Which alternatives do we have?

How could these processes of change look like, which improve the living conditions of children and youth at risk concretely?

All of us have learned to recognise, analyse and formulate contradictions and claims (e.g. case-, district- or social area analysis) face to face with the responsible people for these situations. But we know at the same time, that in most cases this is not enough and a second step is necessary. Therefore it is almost everywhere the Mobile Youth Worker’s task to build the competing power of youth-work alternatives to be able to stage and create social capital in contrast to the bad condition that exists. This means: Street Work, Case Work, group work and community work. Mobile Youth Work organises recognition and establishes an informal social control net through group work and community work. Formal control like police, order- und security services are going to be needed and required less and less.

You heard or read that our federal chancellor, Dr. Angela Merkel has undertaken the patronage for this symposium. You will probably have wondered why?

Mobile Youth Work has in its history of origins not emanated from the far-sightedness of the ruling party of the parliament debates – and least of all from the cathedrals of power in economy, science, state and the media scene. It had to make its way many times through concerned people, social experts and residents against these zones of influence. And it is able to do so. You here in this hall are the living evidence for that. Nevertheless we know: Mobile Youth Work in Germany, in Europe and in the world is still being constricted from its necessary spreading by concentrated resistance of a well-organised ignorance. On the way to a democratic subversion we therefore have to form not only local, regional and national alliances, but also create a cosmopolitan network for Mobile Youth Work and to spark a purgatory of opposite opinions.

We have got together today, because we want to show children and youth who have special social difficulties, a way to integration into their reference group and organise recognition, respect and reintegration together with them. Solidarity and social security for children and youth at risk has to become a common accepted value in Europe and in the world. The UN convention for the rights of the child has to become reality everywhere.

Thank You!
Siegfried Keppeler / Walther Specht

Mobile Youth Work is often carried out on the basis of a local needs analysis and it has to be able to ground on quantitative and qualitative data upraised at the place of planned actions. Being a cause-oriented and success-oriented concept, it cannot function properly without relatively precise knowledge about the situation and the subjectively defined social environment of excluded children and teenagers.

A relatively precise description of the given conditions for a planned or already running practical project for and with excluded children and youngsters in their respective environment plays a great role on a local political level and affects the aimed stratigical and educational goals of implementation. A maximum of participation and self-organization of the respective target group is to be aimed at within this fieldwork. This is as important as the co-operation with all involved institutions, such as administration, social services of non-governmental organisations and controlling authorities. Participation of the hired employees should take place as soon as possible. They should know where, how, with whom, when and why they will begin their work. For them it is necessary to have a clear idea of a given situation in every concrete case and carry out the Mobile Youth Work taking into account city planning and municipal youth welfare development. Carrying out field analyses, city district analyses or studies on social area must become an indispensable condition for every youth welfare institution.

In many European communities various activities for street children and youths, if any, take place in the city centres or at railway stations. Although they certainly perform im-
important survival support there, they often disregard the origin of the children. If you try to answer this question thoroughly, you will bump into gigantic residential accommodations, “dormitory towns” and flat construction settlements, where their parents, mothers, fathers, families still (partially) live. Most of exclusion processes and experiences of violence originate there. Still, these are the places, where, in spite of everything, the same experiences are carried back to over and over again. Organisation of support for children, youths, disabled people and families at the place of their origin could also be a very important result of the social area analysis. Of course partial-stationary and stationary help for seriously and multiply-handicapped children and youngsters on the national level have to be taken into account separately. Nevertheless, they should still be looked at in the context of social environment.

**General meaning and function of data, received by the means of social space analysis**

In general, social space analyses can have different functions. For example, they can serve for following purposes:

- Recognition and observation of specific spatial distribution patterns concerning social dissimilarity and undersupply conditions in the cross section and time course of certain inhabitant's groups (social strata, milieus, ethnic groups), for example, in the context of segregation or compartmentalization, as, for instance, the distribution of social services (Analysis function of spatial distribution)
- Seeing connections between the spaces arranged by people (architecture, city planning, policy of apartment distribution) and the people living there, their social actions, communicative processes and specific coping strategies (Function of analysing space and life quality)
- Perceiving the density and quality of social infrastructure development in the social area and recognition of specific supporting services for certain groups of people (statoes analysis)
- Clarification of needs for support or care of specific inhabitant's groups and target groups or groups, which attract attention in the certain social area (cliques, gangs) (function of clearing the needs and demands)
- Detection of possible support or infrastructure capacities and development of the bases for certain activities and projects, as well as for necessary concept adjustments
- Making the social-spatial reflection of the local work easier by the means of providing substantial basic data for the analysis as well as necessary information about the needs and demands of the target group, which can be useful for the planning of future projects or interventions
- Using the process of the data collection for apprehension of the external view on the local parish among different actors and using this information for the internal reflection and community development
Being able to get in touch with most important institutions and representatives of different organisations in a certain social area, exchanging experiences on social-spatial resources and problems and discovering common ideas for cooperation.

REMARKS TO THE DATA OF SOCIAL SPACE ANALYSES

Depending on goals and functions, which you want to achieve, social space analyses can consolidate different information. The instruments and means of social space analysis (decision about the type of data and the way it should be collected) also depend on special expectations, which are connected with the aims of social space analysis.

Basically, data can be distinguished according to its type. Quantitative data aims at giving generalized statements about single phenomena. Presumption can be formulated as follows: By bringing together particular data (single questions, questionnaires or similar) and generating it to a "data pack", a "representative" picture of reality emerges. Quantitative procedures work, above all, with methods of the standardised data collection and statistical evaluation procedures. Qualitative data aim at understanding the subject and his particular perception of "his" reality. This data refers, primarily, to the subjective perception and interpretation of phenomena by the questioned individuals. Qualitative procedures work in the methodical concept, above all, with single or group interviews or also with observation and investigation procedure.

"LIVING CONDITIONS" AND / OR "SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT"?

Living conditions
The term “living conditions” originally comes from the social-political debate, which took place in the fifties of the last century. It characterises the elbowroom, which is available for a single individual for the satisfaction of his material and immaterial needs. The income level, possibilities for establishing contacts, space for learning and experience, possibilities for regeneration as well as disposal and participation chances are important criteria of this elbowroom. This concept shows that various social-structural dimensions must be pulled up for the description of living conditions. Thus, application of this concept in the research on poverty points out the fact that beside the still significant income factor, other relevant areas of life, such as work, education, flat and availability of social or health services, must be taken into consideration to illustrate the actual living conditions. We can speak about analysis of living conditions, if structural data within the social space analysis is raised according to the recommendations, described above, and then comple-
mented with statistical information about network of social services and flat distribution, the rate of unemployment and single parents.
This procedure cannot determine the way people cope with these social-structural conditions, which risks they have to deal with and which support could preserve them from failing in these situations. This perspective opens the access through the living conditions.

Social environment
The term “social environment” means not only natural environment of people. It is rather a part of the subject itself. It shows a horizon of the implicitness which is assumed and which defines people’s actions. The social environment is determined culturally and socially: by the family, workplace, group of peers, community or church parish. If outsiders happen to be in such a horizon, they enter a notification process without giving up their own background and experience. A professional data collection during qualitative interviews is distinguished by the ability to initiate this notification, to structure and maintain it, but still remain effective and purpose-oriented.
Social work, oriented on the social environment, should enable a “successful everyday life”. Hans Thiersch has explained his concept of the orientation on social environment and everyday life in particular for the youth welfare: it should refer to the diversity and complexity of given life conditions and problems; it should have compensatory effects in order to eliminate existing inequality, weaknesses and discrimination; and it should contribute to the coping with difficulties. In this sense, social work provides help for coping with problems in life. At the same time, it remains oriented on the everyday life of the people and proceeds on their level of thinking and acting. Thiersch understands commonness as an action mode in the concrete configurations in the family, school, professional life and spare time. Thereby, a professional social worker sticks to the everyday experiences and relations of the people and connects them with his perception of the situation and conditions, under which practical tasks have to be mastered.

LINKING OF DATA ON LIVING CONDITIONS AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT
Social space analyses can be understood as an attempt of tying together data on living conditions in a defined social space with data on their social environment. These are connected with each other through a communicative process between affected people (subjects) and experts on social environment (representatives of social services). Therefore, social space analyses always take care of both dimensions and looks for similarities or contrasts between both types of information.

The following methodical ways to access data collection may be rather helpful:
The first access is developed by the subjective view of the observer on the social space within the scope of district investigation and inspection. They can also be done when a hypotheses is supposed to be confirmed or rejected. Information about the historical development of the social space makes a contribution to the understanding, but also provokes further questions.

The second way of accessing data includes actual collecting of data, arrangement and systematising of structural data about the population structure, particular social indicators, building, traffic and economic development. It can be compiled on the bases of already existing statistical data or it can be investigated through targeted establishment of contacts with experts.

The third access might fit in the context of expert's interviews, which question their opinion and evaluation of issues, connected with social environment and living conditions. The quality of expert's data differs from the data on living conditions and social environment because experts often fall back to certain scientific theories, which are "fed" by personal explanations, empiric documents and knowledge about risks of failure, patterns of coping with problems and possibilities of the intervention. They are in their turn "garnished" with intuitive everyday knowledge, biographical experiences or cases concerning friends and relatives. All these factors complicate the assessment of given data.

Another way of better understanding of people in their social environment can be achieved through forms of participant observation, to one-to-one conversations or interviews with concrete affected persons, such as representatives of discriminated target groups, socially noticeable or disadvantaged people or simply "cultural strangers ".

Choosing questions for collecting data
Selection of questions for collecting data is strongly coupled to the main questions and aims which should be answered in the process of social space analysis. If you stick to the question, "What should the social space analysis serve for?", it will help you to make decisions and, above all, leave out irrelevant information. Here are some possible questions:

- What is the reason for doing social space analysis? Does this topic interest only me or can it interest others as well?
- Which purposes would I like to pursue by doing social space analysis?
- Which questions about social environment have to be answered in order to achieve set goals?
- How can I find out the information I need, but do not know so far, spending as little time and effort as possible?
- What information do I have to discover for myself by doing analysis of social environment?
• Which data concerning living conditions (statistics, structural data etc.) do I need and where do I get this data?
• Which data connected with social environment do I need from each questioned group; how do I contact these people?
• Which experts could be helpful for answering the questions? How do I contact them?
• What other goals could be achieved by questioning the experts and what should be done in order to do so.
• How do I keep records? Who could be interested in the results? What should the documentation and presentation of the data look like?
• Which positive effects could result from the social space analysis? What is my contribution to choosing it?

If the aim of social space analysis is the planning and realisation of a new project in Mobile Youth work or analysis of an already existing project according to the concept of Mobile Youth Work, it already gives an orientation for adding and leaving out potential data. In any case, social area analysis plays a decisive role in the youth-political debate on the local level, because it provides an empiric basis for social workers who have to make various decisions while planning and developing the concepts of their work.

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ESTABLISHING CONTACTS IN THE STREETS IN MOBILE YOUTH WORK

Werner Kübler

Street Work as a professional type of social work and social pedagogic takes its origin in the USA. At the end of 20ies, a series of social pedagogical programmes started there, especially in big cities, as a course of increasing crime rates. As typical target groups of these spatially detached working approaches on the streets, carried out by the social institutions (consulting centres, youth welfare offices), were youth gangs, as well as loosely structured youth street groups, cliques or youth bands. The workplace of social work was to a certain extend replaced to the meeting and whereabouts of youths. Through the years following terms have been applied for this ambulant consulting work: street corner worker, street gang worker, area youth worker, outreach youth worker, street club worker and field worker (Specht 1979).

Street Work as a part of Mobile Youth Work is a consulting concept, which is oriented on the social environment and living situation. It addresses young people with special problems and needs, who live in a certain community. Street Work (I) assures that the Mobile Youth workers get to know the living conditions of their target groups and are able to make an appropriate low threshold offer.

In order to be able to speak with the target group on the streets, at the places, where the cliques meet, at the street corners, on the bus stops or in the bars, at first the contact must be built up at all. How it can be achieved successfully and what efforts the maintenance of development contacts demand, will be the subject of the following discussion.
Establishing contacts is an essential part of the Street Work on all stages of the work: at the beginning, during the opening of the new working fields, or during the process of getting acquainted with new groups and single persons. The phase of establishing contacts often releases fears, insecurity and compunctions among the street workers. This usually happens due to the fact, that in professional literature the first contacts between the social workers and their target groups are described as decisive for the future opportunities and boundaries of the communication and interaction. For example, Spergel writes about it:

“... The first contacts build up on the first stage of the communication and interaction will make all other relationships of the street workers with the target groups either easier or more difficult. The problems, with which you are confronted at the beginning, can be highly typical and characteristic for the whole working process and further work with the group” (Spergel 1966: 72).

Because of the fact that street workers are not usually called into the city district by the young people themselves, the possibilities of accessing the young people have to be thought of and found. Only if the contact with the target group can be established successfully, the help and supporting processes can be started. Three forms of establishing contacts are described in literature (Miltner 1982: 117f):

• Offensive form of contact establishing
• Indirect form of the contact establishing
• Defensive form of the contact establishing

During the offensive form of the contact establishment the Mobile Youth Worker approaches the target group directly. He or she introduces himself and tries to explain his role and function. They also offer their services as counsellors and supporters actively if they see chances for pedagogical activity. Pace, depth and liability of the contacts will be decided on by the teenagers. They start speaking about certain conflicts and problems, which can be solved with the help of the Mobile Youth Worker, and he in his turn encourages the group to turn to him any time.

The indirect form of the contact establishment happens, when the contact is being set by the third person, known by both sides. This mediator introduces the social worker to certain people or to the whole group, explains the role and intention of the Mobile Youth Worker, accompanies him or her for a while to the gathering places of the target group and then he withdraws himself slowly when the group starts trusting the social worker. The role of mediator can be fulfilled by the inhabitants, who have a confiding relation to the target group, the employees of other institutions, a barkeeper or another teenager.

During the defensive form of contact establishment the Mobile Youth Workers regularly visit the meeting places of youths. They are mainly watching, waiting and ready to help. Being a social worker, he signalizes the openness for a conversation, which can take place
at a certain time later. At first the Mobile Youth Worker comes as a usual guest and thereby takes part in interactions of the young people. In this way he tries to get acquainted with the social structures of the group. Pedagogical actions are supposed to happen incidentally. The social worker creates conditions, under which he can be addressed to by the teenagers. The young people decide on the pace and liability of the contact. Nevertheless, what form of the contact establishment should a social worker prefer? If you look for help in the literature, a few reports about the practical work on this topic will not give you an explicit advice. For example, when Miltner speaks in favour of offensive form, he says: “... I have chosen the offensive form of contact establishment, because I wanted to behave openly and let young people know, with whom they are dealing from the beginning ...” (Miltner 1982:118).

On the contrary, Steffan summarizes his opinion: “Lots of street workers favour a rather defensive an waiting contract strategy. They usually leave it for the potential “clients” to decide, whether they want this contact or not.

... In spite of the defensive-waiting strategy, establishing contacts remains an interaction, which is actively organised and forced by the street worker. The street worker must be prepared for presenting himself and making clear, that he can be spoken to any time. He should continuously pay attention to non-verbal signals, but also to the contact wishes, which are hidden behind ignorance, cool affectations and aggressive behaviour and react to them appropriately. He has to be able to react to the challenges, which are verbally or non-verbally expressed by the representatives of the target group. There is a great difference between simply standing and waiting till someone speaks to you and such passive-waiting contacting”(Steffan 1989: 190f). At this point Steffan also points out that verbal communication is for street work as important as non-verbal communication. At the beginning the representatives of target groups are watching the street worker in order to make up their minds about him. What is he up to? What kind of person is he? With whom does he already have contacts? Can he be trusted or is he a police spy? Therefore, the expression made through non-verbal interaction will decide, whether the barriers of the communication will be weakened or strengthened.

It should be kept in mind, that every single procedure must be oriented on a certain situation and particular circumstances. It certainly makes a difference, whether I contact my target group on the playground (excluded and perhaps violent youngsters), or in a local bar (drug-addicted youths). External circumstances in the first example make it easier to act openly and offensively. Caution and rejection are less distinctive and lots of things will depend on the fact, whether the value of what Mobile Youth Worker suggests will be recognised by the clique on the playground.

In the second example, success will depend on the regularity of visits and on the ability of the street worker to keep his eyes and ears open. First of all, presence is important for
making yourself comprehensible for the group and gradually building confidence in themselves. Being a Mobile Youth Worker, you will be tested. Being a freshman, you will be fooled. Conversations about everyday situations, worries and needs can positively influence your position. A clear statement about your functions, about the willingness to hear about the banalities of the drugs life, about gossips and dreams (T. Schmidt 1989:90) can become a good starting point. If in this situation you succeed to offer individual help and support, it would be the first step on the way of gaining trust and acceptance, on which you can build up the further work.

Every Mobile Youth Worker will have to find his own style. It is important to be authentic and to be alert for non-verbal and verbal signals. This demands a self-reflective behaviour towards one's own biography.

Apart from these forms of contact establishment they can be differentiated according to the context. Mobile Youth Worker can use his task (for example questioning as a part of social area analysis, distribution of condoms, injections, flyers during the street work in the drug scene, ...) as an excuse for a conversation with young people. The main interest at the beginning is not necessarily to make clear the contexts, but to establish contacts even at afterwards.

My experiences prove, that the most successful contacts can be set when teenagers, young people or young adults get interested in me as a grown-up person. Good requirements for that are when you are ready to listen to their stories, not to point at them with a finger. You should take them seriously as a person, act confident and reliably, be ready to support and to help, and at the same time clearly show where the limits are.

Such behaviour means, that I regularly and continuously betake myself to them and offer them a relationship. It often demands much patience. It can become understandable, if you think of the past situations in which these young people were disappointed by the adults and in which no appropriate and adequate solution was found.

Street work is not a field only for man. Whether you should go out alone, in a pair or with other colleagues, depends on your personality. At the beginning of your work it is not desirable to go alone, till you are known by the young people you deal with and till you are clearly associated with the institution you represent. In any case, a woman should be ready to be confronted with situations, in which she will be treated and tested as a sexual object (Mion 1989:196ff): “Physical flirt is often rather offensive, but seldom aggressive. In most cases it can be solved without snubbing the male representatives of the youth group”, reports Pia Mion about her experience as a street worker in the drugs scene (Mion 1989: 199). Further on she summarises: “The ... sexual flirt is not necessarily connected with “serious intentions”. It rather has a character of a joke, amusement or a “test”. Your reaction to such situations is being checked. It is the question whether you can stand them without uncertainty” (Mion 1989: 200).
Concerning fears of being confronted with violent actions, it can be said that female and male Mobile Youth Workers are not daily attacked by their target groups. On the contrary, they experience a certain kind of protection. The requirement for that is however the necessary sensibility for critical situations.

In critical situations, males often have an advantage of physical strength. At the same time, females have another advantage, because boys/male teenagers often do not physically attack women. They should rather be careful with the girlfriends of these boys, because they are often treated as competitors by them.

Otherwise, women and men have similar conditions during establishing contacts with their target groups.

Besides establishing contacts, street work in the context of Mobile Youth Work also includes a very important aspect, namely taking care of the contacts. While visiting the meeting points of young people, we are only adult “guests” in their surroundings. Meeting them in their milieu is the way to show, that we have a serious and long-term interest in their living situations and well-being. This demands acceptance of their norms, rules and cultural peculiarities (Bopp u.a. 1997). Street workers have to be sensitive enough to recognise when they must step back or withdraw themselves completely in order not to violate the right of hospitality.

If you want to find the locations, where young people meet informally, it is necessary to look for the places, time and movements of the children and youths. The principal of voluntariness must be preserved, which might under certain circumstances mean that further intensification of the contact on the part of young people will not be desired. As a Mobile Youth Worker you have to accept and tolerate this.

The clearer the role of Mobile Youth Worker is fulfilled and the more authentic he is for young people as a person, the easier the contacts can be deepened and kept. Once I am known and accepted as a representative of Mobile Youth Work in the community or in the city district, I usually get an easier access to other youth groups in the same area, because I can count on a certain trust “bonus”.

The claim of Mobile Youth Work sounds as follows: to build up and provide a low threshold consultation and support, which, being an outreach concept, reaches the living situation of young people, settles there and continues working in spite of all difficulties in order to reach the unreachable.

Klaus Kuke demands, that Mobile Youth Work should take at least one third of the working hours of a team for street work to satisfy their own standards (Kuke 1997: 52). At the same time, Kuke’s description reveals the conflict area of the dialectics of help and control, in which the Mobile Youth Workers are put to. As long as they long for acceptance and partiality in their work, they are repeatedly forced to making these principles clear and comprehensible for their target group and for the whole environment.
Therefore, it is necessary to make a visible demarcation. This includes for example the form of the co-operation with the police, which must not contain any transmission of information on the part of Mobile Youth Workers.

Thus, Mobile Youth Work mustn’t work with certain groups, but always with those young people, who do not reject this work themselves. Only they can be accompanied for a while in spite of their non-conformity.

Mobile Youth Work must not be used as “ideal social emergency, which can come along quickly, when there are fights during school breaks, or empty bottles are found on playgrounds, or when Skins gather at the railway stations and Punks in the pedestrian areas. Street work should solve disturbance, guarantee quietness, restore order, solve violence and adjust to community demands, and above all, street work should be effective, mobile, flexible and cheap”, as the team of authors formulated it in the Handbook of Mobile Youth Work (Bopp 1997: 48).

Mobile Youth Workers often have to defend themselves when they do not want to accomplish the demands of administration and their own employer and work as “mobile snatch squad”. That is why, according to the above-mentioned team of authors, “the description of the working conditions and concept must clearly say, that Street Work is free of political tasks. Moreover, street workers always have to underline, that in spite of the fact, that low threshold work may bring up improvements in the living conditions of young people, street work must not be used and taken advantage of as a “joker in the pacification poker” (Keppeler 1989: 16; Bopp 1997: 49).

I hope that with this contribution I managed to make clear, that besides their personal human qualities, Mobile Youth Workers should have high professional knowledge of psycho-social counselling and support in order to fulfil the variegated demands in this working field. If we strive at improving structures and living conditions, it is important to stand for our target group and protect their interests in other institutions, politics and in public. This includes in its turn the sphere of community work, which will also be described in this reader.

The principles, which define all activities of street work and mobile youth work, were summarized and described in the professional standards of the state consortium of Street Work/Mobile Youth Work: “Following working principles determinate Street Work and Mobile Youth Work: outreaching character, low threshold and flexible proposals, orientation on needs and living conditions, voluntariness and acceptance, protection of confidence and anonymity, transparency, liability and consistency. Considering sex differences are integrated into all working principle.” (BAG Streetwork/Mobile Youthwork 1999).
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APPLICATION OF THE WORKING FORMS AND PRINCIPLES IN GERMANY

Matthias Reuting

In the concept of Mobile Youth Work, as it was developed by Walther Specht (see especially Specht 1979; Keppeler/Specht 2005), the four working forms, namely Street Work, individual aid, group work and community work, play a central role. However, not only the question "What should be done?", but also "How it should be done?", has the determining meaning for the quality of the practise of Mobile Youth Work. This question "How?" is concretised for the practise in working principles, which determine practical activities and are derived from the theoretical bases of the concept. In this article we will take a closer look at how these working forms and working principles of Mobile Youth Work are determined and exercised in Germany. In order to do so, we will take into consideration annual reports, written concepts and documentation of various institutions, as well as experiences of professional workers of the Mobile Youth Work in Baden-Württemberg.

APPLICATION OF THE WORKING FORMS OF MOBILE YOUTH WORK

At first it should be explained how the people, who carry out practical Mobile Youth Work, describe their own experiences of using four central working forms of the Mobile Youth Work in order to improve life conditions of excluded and disadvantaged youths and to en-
courage them in their development. They deal with young people who either alone, but mostly in groups attract attention by violence, drugs consume or delinquency and are often considered to be the „unreachable“. Furthermore, we will discuss the effects, which are observed and documented by the Mobile Youth Workers.

**Street Work**

Establishing and maintenance of contacts as well as constant deepening and update of the knowledge about the life conditions of the target group build up the midpoint of street work: Mobile Youth Workers regularly seek young people at the places where they usually meet and at the time when they usually meet. They behave as guests there and offer consulting and information if necessary. Through regular street work Mobile Youth Workers develop the necessary closeness to young people, who otherwise are taken for distracting, troubling or dangerous. Gradually youths can build up a trusting relationship with Mobile Youth Workers and decide, whether and at what time they will turn to them for help and support. Young people should experience the following: here are grown-ups, who do not want to chase them away because of the dirt they cause or the noise they make. They are interested in the way they feel. These adults do not come to say what they are not allowed to do, but to show them their opportunities. They are people, who have time for listening and understanding their views on the problems. They are social workers, who try to answer their questions, who have ideas and information to do so.

In their documentations Mobile Youth Workers say, that they are often the only adults, to whom these young people have sustainable contact. Often they are given the function of the “bridge” into the world of adults and play the role of listeners, counsellors, interpreters and mediators. The young people experience appreciation and interest from these adults, they can argue with them while developing their personality. At the same time, Mobile Youth Workers get to know more about the life situation of youths, about their resources and difficulties. This knowledge helps them to support young people properly and they can use this knowledge while planning and optimatizing the social infrastructure.

**Group work**

According to the assumption, that cliques offer changes for the development of young people, youth workers support cliques especially in their search for opportunities to meet each other and to do something. Instead of giving instructions, work with cliques and groups should enable alternative experiences and development of social skills as well as open up new options for action. All this becomes possible through adventure-based actions and short trips, through club work, youth cultural projects and topic-centred group work. This can also mean, that by emerging difficulties, cliques have to be consulted and Mobile Youth Workers can support them as moderators.
As for the effects of the group work, Mobile Youth Workers observe the following: offers for groups and cliques provide opportunities for social learning and individual support. Key processes hereby are the ability to deal with conflicts constructively, to solve their problems with each other, to care for and support each other. When the cliques experience respect and support of their interests, they learn that they are a part of the community and society, which they can influence. They feel that they are taken seriously and experience adults as trustworthy partners, with whom they can make binding arrangements. They can be sure, that both sides have their rights and responsibilities. Mobile Youth Work enables young people to have space for experiences, in which they can learn the most important functions of the group: support of each other and learning from and with each other. Youths, who otherwise got the feeling of success or emotional “kicks” only through crime, violence and drugs, are now able to find other challenges and recognition.

Activities for groups and cliques offer young people opportunities to try out completely new things, which are suggested by the adults. They get to know each other from a different perspective and discover their own new and unknown till now qualities and potentials. Social workers describe their observations of how the life of young people changes through new experiences and key events in the context of the group work and how they therefore get new impulses. On the other hand, group and clique work is often a good starting point for individual aid and consultations, because it offers lots of question and topics for personal conversations.

Community work
Community work in the Mobile Youth work aims at solving the problems of young people in and with their primary environment. Mobile Youth workers initiate therefore networks of institutions on a district or community level, or work actively in the already existing networks in order to improve internal relationships in the community, where young people live. They take care of the relationships to all institutions and organisations, which are important for them in order to improve the social infrastructure for them. Through their work they strive at solving conflicts between youths and institutions (for example police, city administration and youth clubs) or with townspeople and at reducing prejudices towards them. Mobile Youth workers report that one of the effects of this work is making available and accessible such professional resources as, for example, consulting centres for drug addicts, youth clubs, youth welfare office and consulting centres for debtors for young people who used to be excluded from them before. Block parties and projects, such as building of sports grounds in the city district, influence the coexisting in the quarter positively. Young people, who used to be treated as not capable of cooperation, or rather those who have to be feared, can now be included in the processes of community planning and civil participation (for example, in youth forums or planning work-shops). Insight in-
formation about the living conditions of young people in a certain city quarter is often very valuable for planning processes and committee work, because it enables necessary changes in the existing services according to actual needs of the target groups and lets young people take part in these changes.

**Case Work**

Mobile Youth Workers offer help in solving all personal problems, which young people want to share with them. This includes consulting, support and monitoring, as well as establishing contacts with already existing services. Form and content of this kind of help and support for individuals can be very different and have no set process structure. Time required can vary from some minutes to several hours per week, depending on the needs. Important requirements for realisation of this help and services are flexibility, reliable accessibility through permanent working hours of the office, answering machine and cell phone, as well as networking with different institutions and organisations.

Mobile Youth Workers report the following about the course and effects of individual aid: There is often a fluent transition from conversations on the street or during the group work to intensive counselling, which can end up with concrete changing plans ("I want to change something about my drug consume"; "I want to have a permanent dwelling place"; "I want to be able to protect myself against my friend"; "I don’t want to drop out of school."). The desire to get concrete help ("Could you explain this letter to me?"; "Could you help me to write an application?") can often become a starting point for a deep conversation, through which a teenager will find out an opinion of a trusted third person, who has a neutral view on the issue. Sometimes young people even turn to relatively unknown social workers, when they have serious problems.

Mobile Youth Workers accompany young people during their visits to official authorities, they help to prepare for important conversations and telephone calls, to contact with institutions, they encourage young people in following their goals in spite of all difficulties. All these activities have positive influence on the future life of excluded young people. Various forms of individual aid in the course of Mobile Youth Work play a decisive role and influence the chance of getting a job, finding a flat, solving family conflicts, avoiding dropping out of school, mental stabilisation, stopping criminal behaviour, giving up drugs and alcohol and finding a suitable therapy or other kind of professional support. The whole family constellations and surroundings often start changing and looking for individual counselling and support.

**APPLICATION OF WORKING THE PRINCIPLES**

After describing of what is done by the Mobile Youth Workers to achieve their goals, we
will have a look at how it can and should be done. What are their guidelines when they have to make everyday decisions, whether they concern interactions with young people, or organisation of group work, or even by defining main points of the working plan for the next months? What theoretical presumptions define their work?

At first, we will give a description of the most important theories, upon which the concept of Mobile Youth Work is built: in addition to the concept of Mobile Youth Work, which was theoretically developed and practically tested by Walther Specht, there is the concept of social work oriented on the living conditions and social environment of the target group, developed by Hans Thiersch (Thiersch 1986; 1992), which also plays a central role. Experts of Mobile Youth Work in Germany also refer to elaboration of Franz Jose Krafeld, which relates to the above mentioned concepts, and concerns the work with right-wing extremist youngsters (under the title accepting or justice oriented youth work, Krafeld 1996).

The Mobile Youth Workers should “respect the obstinacy of the living environment” (Grunwald/Thiersch 2005: 1143) of their target groups. If they succeed in doing so, they will be able to see their behaviour, which is considered to be hazardous for the development of young people or destructive for successful cooperation, in the context of their living situations and as attempts to overcome difficulties in their living conditions. Mobile Youth Workers assume that young people ground their behaviour on their experiences, which cannot be abolished by cautioning or fighting (Krafeld 1996: 16). Therefore, Mobile Youth Workers do not try to change faulty behaviour through their actions. They try to offer youths possibilities for changing themselves and enable them to act differently. Young people are treated seriously as subjects of these developmental processes, in which Mobile Youth Workers play a central role, because young people can develop their personalities through dialogue, discussion and confrontation with them and their opinions, because they can offer help and support in overcoming everyday difficulties, because they create opportunities for new experiences, which can result in new courses of actions. Cliques and groups are not treated as dangerous. They are acknowledged as resources, which enable social learning and “emancipative learning steps” (Specht 1979:132). Instead of “breaking” the “dangerous cliques”, one should develop “functional equivalents” (Kastner/Silbereisen 1991:230; also an article by Specht in this brochure) to dangerous behaviour. Oriented on the basic pedagogical principle, formulated by Herman Nohl (Nohl 1949), Mobile Youth Work focuses mainly on the problems, which young people have, and neglects the problems, which others have with them. Taking care of well-being of young people instead of their good conduct (Keppeler/Specht 2005:1231) leads the actions of Mobile Youth workers, who therefore cannot fulfil judicial mandate. However, if the living conditions and social environment of young people can be improved, it will cause enormous positive “secondary effects” in their surroundings.

In almost all institutions, where Mobile Youth Work is carried out, staff members formulate
working principles, which they hold on to in their work. These working principles will now be presented selectively. They also serve as the bases for description of quality criteria for Mobile Youth Work (for example Mobile Youth work Stuttgart 2005).

**Holistic approach**
Staff members are ready to discuss all topics, which interest young people. Activities they do are not narrowed to discussing special problems, such as addiction, delinquency, violence or choosing a profession.

**Orientation on personal relationships**
Young people get an opportunity to have stable and resilient relationships with staff members and therefore be confronted with completely different life conceptions. Mobile Youth Workers take care of these relationships thoroughly over a long period of time till they become reliable. The purpose of this is to enable young people to build up basic confidence and trust. The contact itself (even without apparent counselling or support) between young people and staff members is one of the most important qualities of the work. It empowers young people in experiencing appreciation and meeting “usual” adults, which are interested in them and their lives.

**Orientation on resources**
Staff members focus on solving those problems, which young people have, and not those, which they cause. They do not concentrate on the deficits of young people. On the contrary, they try to focus on their strengths in order to develop and extend them and to expand the possibilities of acting in a certain way and finding more solutions for occurring problems. They even adopt the functions of protecting the interests of their target group, as well as lobbying.

**Orientation on the needs of young people and their participation**
On the bases of the reliable relationship, staff members try to recognise the needs of young people and develop suitable projects together. All stages of work lead to discovering new information about the needs. These insights are in their turn always included in further planning, for example, spending extra time on street work, exploring new locations where young people meet, starting new projects aimed at preparing youths for future professions, development of adventurous and experiential activities or intensified cooperation with certain institutions.

**Voluntariness**
Young people are those who decide on the type and extent of contacts and help they want to bear: doing street work Mobile Youth Workers behave as guests at the places,
where young people meet, and accept situations when they are not welcome there. In the context of individual aid staff members develop various ideas of what could help young people. They present results of their work, but young people decide, what exactly they want to do. They are responsible for the success of the chosen solution. Participation in all activities and projects for groups is voluntarily.

**Flexibility and low threshold approach**
Lots of efforts are put into preserving main conditions, requirements and other barriers, which damage the process of establishing a reliable contact or accepting helpful suggestions, as low as possible. Times, places and methods of work are adjusted to the needs of young people: staff members preserve contact in spite of concrete expectations of anyone. Their working hours and places where they carry out street work depend on chances for reaching young people. Doing individual aid, Mobile Youth Workers try to be well available for young people through binding office hours, telephone answering machine and cell phone. Staff members have no decision authority for distributing social benefits, such as welfare allowance. That is one of the reasons why the contacts stay free from pursuit of getting some sort of benefit.

**Acceptance**
Mobile Youth Workers treat representatives of their target group respectfully and with appreciation. This attitude does not depend on behaviour of young people, on their life styles, attitudes, or wishes to change something in their living conditions. They preserve contacts and try to understand their life and needs. Thus, staff members act openly and authentically and make it clear, when they consider certain behaviour patterns to be inappropriate, dangerous and not ethical. However, they believe that there are always reasons for certain decisions and actions, which can be discussed and argued about. Their task is to show alternatives, which would lead to new experiences and cause other behaviour.

**Protection of confidence**
Staff members have unlimited protection of confidence. They do not betray any personal information to others and do not fulfil any tasks from others, unless they get an explicit request from young people. Only if they suspect urgent life-threatening circumstances they can intervene in order to protect people in risk.

**Gender-specific approach**
During all activities Mobile youth workers pay attention to gender-specific role behaviour of young people, as well as to gender-specific expectations they are confronted with. They try to contribute to abolishment of gender discrimination.
Cross-cultural approach
Mobile Youth work demands cross-cultural expertise. It means that interpretation patterns and behaviour of young people should be understood in the context of their cultural imprints. In addition, it includes ability to react, behave and communicate according to this.

SUMMARY
This article focused on describing how the working methods and working principles of Mobile Youth work were developed theoretically and how they were then interpreted by experts in their practical work. This can illustrate, how the aims of social work, oriented on the social environment and living conditions of excluded and discriminated young people can be realized through the concept of Mobile Youth work.

Reference
SOCIAL-PEDAGOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENTS AS A KEY CONCEPT OF MOBILE YOUTH WORK

CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

Since 1967 till now the main goal of Mobile Youth work has been discovering of new social learning fields or areas of development for and with children and youths, whose living conditions can be described as critical. This can be said of excluded children and youths all over the world. These social areas of development should constitute a functional equivalent to the dangers and difficulties in their lives, build up a competitive power in their everyday life and unfold what prevents them from becoming a self-responsible personality. Social areas of development mean resources from different spheres of life, such as family, friends, neighbours, school, authorities, education and business, which make up central fields of work for achieving successful everyday life of young people in the Mobile Youth work.

In the late sixties (Specht 1979: 132) the focus was mainly on the delinquent young people in West Germany, who already were criminalized or at least were treated as such. At the beginning, the function and meaning of delinquent actions had to be analysed and found out through “emancipated steps”. “Attractive social-pedagogical performances” are supposed to become effective as a competitive force, which would make certain delinquent actions unnecessary. For young people delinquent actions do not only fulfil a certain function, such as “possessing something”, “attracting interest” or getting acceptance in
the group. They simultaneously release or even strengthen various excluding and stigmatizing processes and cause dependence, limitations and captivations (imprisonment) by applying enforcing measures. Therefore the focus of the work in the past was on the actions, which could avoid such consequences ("emancipative" actions). What was then and still is crucial, is that social workers together with young people and their peer group develop competitive action alternatives, which are attractive for them. At the same time they have to pay attention to the function and quality of such "difficult" behaviour in the past. The first emancipative step in 1979 was called: "replacement of delinquent actions through attractive social-pedagogical performances" (Specht 1979: 132). Places for learning with relieving and correcting functions were supposed to appear. Limitations and dependences were supposed to be decreased or even abolished.

This concept of focusing on delinquent behaviour patterns, such as property offence and violent crime among young people and development of social-pedagogical behaviour alternatives have already proven their worth in the past in Germany, in country of their origin – USA, but also in many other countries of the world. In many cases it was generally referred to deviant behaviour. However, since last 25 years the key concept of Mobile Youth Work and development of functional equivalents to destructive behaviour against oneself and others has been expanded and discussed. One of the reasons for that were social changes and changes in the politics on the national, European and global level. Moreover, these changes brought up practical challenges, such as increased consumption of illegal drugs and extremist orientation among young people, problems connected with migration and integration, questions concerning education, unemployment and child poverty, which had to be dealt with in Germany, in Europe and in the world. These topics are even more up-to-date now and therefore challenge the theory of Mobile Youth Work even more than they used to. On the other hand, all these problems have been concerning the practical side of Mobile Youth Work since its foundation in 1976. Even then, prevention or even extirpating of "purely" delinquent behaviour of young people, for example in a therapeutic institution or in a children's home, without questioning the causes of such behaviour and integrating this knowledge into social-pedagogical activities, showed no chances of success.

In the pilot project “Hallschlag” from 1979 till 1984 Mobile Youth work was confronted with massive consumption of hard drugs (heroin) among youths for the first time. This project was carried out under the expert monitoring by the Institute of educational science at the University of Tübingen. There were no practical experiences of dealing with young heroin consumers in the field of Mobile Youth Work till then. Experts, mainly from a medical and therapeutical field, were strongly against the attempts of applying Mobile Youth work for solving this problem. They thought that even this first attempt was doomed to failure. Heroin is supposed to have such dominant power, even control over individuals, that there is nothing that could compete with it, least of all an everyday life
oriented social-pedagogical concept. The doctrine of that time, which was based on the theory of “psychological strain”, was rather categorical and plead for long-term therapy (15-18 months). However, the young people from Hallschlag did not agree to such measures and forced the whole social-pedagogical team of Mobile Youth workers to rethinking of their intentions. Can it be that there is an effective competitive force to this vicious, but wonderful heroin? And indeed, there was one, even if it was not applicable for all stages of addiction. Derived from the “emancipative steps” of Specht (1979: 132), Kurzweg formulated new, so to say “attractive antipoles” to the drug consume (Kurzweg 1991). After staging and approving them successfully, it can be said that there are “functional equivalents” even for young people who are consuming heroin on an initial and addiction stages.

In 1985 the results of a long-term comparative survey between Berlin and Wilshaw by Silbereisen appeared. This psychological survey analyzed drug consume by young people over a long period of time. According to the results of this study, drug consume was described as a process of coping with developmental requirements. They also made clear that even drug consume, as well as delinquent behaviour in general, fulfills a certain function for consumers. If this function could be replaced through something more attractive, a functional equivalent would be found. This theoretical construct of “functional equivalents” by Kastner/Silbereisen was adopted by the Mobile Youth work in 1986, because it suited the previous basic research on “emancipative steps”.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Being an applied science, social pedagogy acquires its eligibility by proving the fact that set aims have been achieved. Obviously, this is also true for the Mobile Youth Work. The brochure published by the working committee of Mobile Youth Work and Street Work in Baden-Wurttemberg says following about it: “Staff members in the field of Mobile Youth Work are well grounded in the local terms and have experiences in terms of social environment of young people... Mobile Youth work accompanies young people in their everyday life and prevents them from degradation through supporting activities. If young people have experienced failures, traumas and rejection in their lives, and these negative imprints dominate over approval and positive self-esteem, they will need time to find their own values and their line in life. Mobile Youth work provides an opportunity for this target group to discover their hidden and unknown till now abilities and potentials and to cope with their previous and new experiences.”

In every society, in every country, every city, every community (no matter whether it is a political or a religious one), in every city district, quarter or block of flats, slum, township, ghetto or favela there are potentials for solving all occurring problems. The main aim of
Mobile Youth work should be and is to discover these resources through a social space analysis, to “vitalize” them for excluded children and youths and to apply them for and with excluded children and young people as a valuable social capital.

For example, lots of inhabitants of a certain city district might be afraid of a violent youth group, the members of which are young people living in the same district (provocations, damage of property, fights, conflicts between rivalling ethnic cliques and youth gangs). As a consequence, these inhabitants might avoid contacts and/or demand more police. Such behaviour of these frightened citizens can signalize and express their insecurity and defencelessness. In such complex situation, functional equivalents of Mobile Youth work should be planned and performed at least on two levels:

Level 1: Establishing contacts with excluded (“violent”) youths and gaining their confidence through showing solidarity (street work, individual aid and group work) (Specht 1979: 112)

Level 2: Co-operation of Mobile Youth work with all institutions of social control and welfare, which are responsible for these excluded young people, and mobilization of district inhabitants, who are disposed critically, but solidary. They can be then gained as alliance partners for excluded children and young people, as well as for Mobile Youth Work (Keppler/Specht 2005: 1223).

Discovering and permanent negotiating about functional equivalents in this suggested example of juvenile violence show the meaning of professional skills of social-pedagogical work. These skills and abilities almost always require a rather precise knowledge of living conditions of violent young people. About 80% of juvenile violent crime happens in groups (cliques, fellowships, gangs). Therefore, finding functional equivalents in these cases is even more important than while dealing with “soloists”, because there are group interactions and influences on every person, which have to be taken into account. Counsellors and therapists often advise to “stay away from the clique”. However, cliques or peer groups are always there, whether at school, on the way to school, on the streets or in the park... Therefore, it is essential to establish contacts with violent young people and to gain their confidence on this base. At this stage of the relationship development these young people should be asked: What function does violence fulfil for them? It can be assumed that:

- Violence is always a result of an interaction.
- Violent behaviour has been learned in the family or in an institution (orphanage, prison), as well as on the streets, in youth cliques, peer groups and youth gangs.
- The forms of violence chosen by every single person depend on his physical and psychological abilities and on his experiences. They can also be learned cognitively from the mass media, for example through observation and watching TV.
- According to Heitmeyer, violence is a highly effective resource and it is available at any time.
• Violence always has its history. 
• Violence is always an act of exercising power. Violence strengthens dominance and (re-)establishes authority. 
• If people get violent, it is mostly about recognition or exercising power. Young people might have only few sources of recognition. For example, those who are “poor”, have exceptionally few of them from people and things (money). Recognition and acceptance are reciprocal communicative processes. They often base on giving and receiving. “The clique, the dudes, the gang accept and approve me and I accept and approve them in return”.

Therefore, first of all the sources of acceptance and recognition for a certain young person should be found out (parents, family, school, learning, work, adults as role models, peers). Who denies recognition or thinks that he or she is incapable of it? These social fields of socialization also hide sources of neglect and status refusal. The main questions, which are important for young people, are:
Who needs me? What am I worth for whom? Who respects me?

It is important to consider that feelings of injustice are highly subjective. People who suffer from lack of acceptance and recognition often do not pay attention to inviolableness of others. In such situations preaching of adults cannot compete with experiences of young people. Therefore, when Mobile Youth Workers meet violent young people, they will try to find out and analyse the function of violence on the bases of assumptions, which were shortly presented above. In the Mobile Youth Work, this stage of analysis should be followed by the practical stage, which is performed and prepared according to social-pedagogical principles. This stage means finding a “functional equivalent” for previous violent behaviour. This equivalent must have a higher value in the eyes of a young person. It must be attractive and tempting. It must unfold a competing potential to violence and show the young person new and available opportunities and strategies.

If we take a look at the above mentioned example once more and apply it to a certain young person. Let us think of 16-year old Jonas, who has always attracted attention by his brutality towards the members of another rivalling clique. He was sure to get recognition from the members of his clique for such behaviour. Now this source of recognition from the members of his clique for such behaviour. Now this source of recognition and acceptance finds a competitor. After individual counselling by Mobile Youth Worker called Hansi, who has already established a mature and faithful relationship with him, he agrees to participate in a sports activity “Organisation and carrying out football tournament in the city district”. Participation in this activity will surely bring up recognition and acceptance. Hansi found out that Jonas is good at sports and his skills will now be revealed not only to the members of his group, but also to the whole community. He might even be praised in the local newsletter, although only a few months ago Jonas proudly showed Hansi...
his folder with newspaper articles which reported about violent acts of his clique. Of course, this is not the end of the work. Now Mobile Youth Worker together with the whole clique has to find and develop competing alternative to their previous negative image in the community (Keppeler/Specht 2005: 1228-1230).

The purpose of this article was to explain what the basic principle of “functional equivalents” means. Further steps should be taken in order to improve and stabilize everyday life of Jonas. Throwbacks have to be taken care of. Functional equivalents must also be found on the level of “fears of citizens”. Informing the community about living conditions of excluded young people is only the first step of the whole process. Appropriate instruments for successful communication could be, for example, social, cultural and sport activities and events. All verbal pleas for solidarity with excluded youths without experiencing them in concrete and pleasant situations will have little or no effect. Therefore, such activities as community celebrations, sports- and cultural events, all sorts of communicative public meetings, which enable socially successful encounters, play a very important role. They are a competing alternative to anonymity and ignorance and convey understanding, tolerence and appreciation towards others.

So far some thought concerning the key concept of Mobile Youth Work, which has already helped a great number of young people to take over responsibility for themselves and for others. The chances of implementing this concept must of course always be considered in a certain historical, cultural and social developmental stage.

Reference

The topic of this conference “Reaching the Unreachable” contains an ambiguity. It is singular and plural at the same time. It means: to reach the unreachable (meaning something) and the unreachable (meaning people). In addition to that the topic formulates an antagonism full of content. How, in what way should something unreachable, should the unreachable people be reached? I would like to proceed in four steps. Firstly it is important to make this antagonism productive. In the second step I introduce a few examples of concrete concepts to support street children and -youth. Thirdly I offer a formal modell to sketch levels of communication to the international comparison of forms of social support and will fourthly come to a short conclusion: develop potentials.

I. REACHING THE UNREACHABLE: AN ANTAGONISM RICH IN CONTENT

“Reaching the Unreachable” in the context of working with children and youth in and on the streets means to recognise three dimensions: a utopic, a socio-spacial, and a temporal dimension. All three are significant for international youth and social work. For which reason?

The first, the concretely utopic dimension of reaching means the imagined reaching of a far goal, a utopia, which is like all utopias regarded to be unreached maybe risky, unreachable. Conditions of professionalism of political will and institutional performance have to be fulfilled so that utopias can become concrete.
Utopia, in the sense of strong hope has played a significant role in the history of social work of many countries. It is the claim of approaching social work, to support those who otherwise cannot be reached by anyone else, except by actors of their instrumentalisation or repression. And it is the strong and sustaining hope that children and youth - and here we talk about hundred thousands of street children and -youth - are still able to live a more successful life, although it has been determined by extreme material poverty, experiences of violence and exploitation until now.

Although it is already difficult enough for themselves and their families to survive on the streets, they should get a good, a seminal life in which they are not excluded or instrumentalised, in which they are taken seriously and treated with respect. This utopia goes with confidence that there will be rights one day which are not only valid on paper for every child in the world, but are realised in fact. This is how an abstract utopia becomes a concretisation: Survive, participate, become educated - this belongs to the concretely utopic basics, on which the support through social work is based worldwide.

The second, the socio-spacial dimension of reaching, is about reaching people, about establishing contacts with them in the space of the street, the district, downtown and on the margins of the cities and about the provision of reachable forms of support. It includes the spacial reachability, which we can find in the word reaching, of people and institutions. Socio-spaciality is so essential, because the flame tube systems, cartonages and cling wrap in which children in the streets of some countries of the southern hemisphere have to live and because the fire tube systems, cellars and run-down houses in the freezingly cold regions of some countries in the northern hemisphere are their main dwelling places. This is exactly where they are to be reached, because here they supposedly find, what could be called a surrogate place to live, their retreat and going out area at the same time. It can only be called a substitute in a limited sense, since they often live in such quarters for years and decades without ever experiencing how a flat differs from a surrogate flat. To respect the place means to know the social room of action, of agency in which children and youth appear as actors as acting people and not merely as objects of the strategies of adults.

The third, the temporal dimension includes the reaching of people, information and institutions at day- and nighttime. The coordination of time is a very current topic in the century of global reachability with cell phones, e-Mail and GPS. And the life on the street creates special forms of time. They are characterised in a spectrum between a settled, sometimes strict arrangement of appointments and a de-structurisation and dissolution of patterns of time. To name simply one example: the use of cell phones has changed its form in some regions, where street children arrange meetings. On the other hand orga-
nisations have the possibility to extend their time window in which they can be reached just because of that, I remind of 24-hour-hotlines in projects of American streetworkers who are available for the gang members all the time. The reliable reachability around the clock becomes more and more important. Crises and need of shelter follow a different time logic than it is regulated in some institutions.

II. EXAMPLES: REACHABILITY, STRESS, FORMS OF SUPPORT

Professional support always means to cooperate with the actors of the social space as well. It is therefore important that the individual children and youth are seen in a biographical frame of reference, especially in their group membership. Here some particularities can be seen. Let me briefly introduce some examples to show that:

Example 1:
a research from India by Anubha Gupta and Suman Verma asked 100 street children and -youth which kind of support they are looking for, if they find themselves in special stress situations. It is stress which is caused by the conflict with peers, at work or through the punishment by the parents (Gupta/Verma 1995). The result is noteworthy: although looking for help from their parents, preferably their mother and supporting their sisters themselves in stressless situations, most of the street children said that under stress they are rather by themselves and just rely on themselves: “More boys than girls preferred to be alone in stressful situations, and a larger percentage of girls sought their mothers’ support in comparison to the boys” (ebd.)

The authors conclude, that these results about the social preference of support of street children not only give important hints on the factors of stress within the social space of the street. They also contain information about self-confidence, strategies of surviving and coping strategies, about the quality of their family relationships and their social interactions (ebd.). What is interesting in this result considering the factor of reaching and reachability of street children?

First of all it shows that they have competence to arrange solidary relationships. Secondly we can assume that because of their strategies of staying by themselves, street children are especially hard to reach, when they should be reached most urgently from the point of view of social work.

It is possible that they make different observations in different countries. So we have to be careful to generalise or transfer this result from India to other countries, but it nevertheless contains a valuable incitation. It would thus be desired to further develop accor-
ding internationally comparing researches, because professional support would have to take such attitudes and patterns of activity of street children into account. This leads to the question, how activities of support have to be designed to meet the different living situations. Further examples to this topic:

**Example 2: Concept “Child-to Child-Support”,**
Examples like the child-to-child support concept, like it has been developed for children after cases of catastrophes and in war-like conflicts, can be pathbreaking here (Kassam-Khamis 2005, p.47). The children are supported to communicate knowledge and abilities amongst each other, hence to solidarily establish contact amongst each other and with the community, to explore the environment together and to build up own forms of action.

**Example 3: Project “support” Mumbai**
A further project “support”, from India as well, from Mumbai, shows that girls and boys need special access, because their living situation is formed by addiction, sexual abuse, prostitution, ambivalent relationships to their families on the street, etc. (vgl. Support 2008).

The support concept from Mumbai arranges for the networking of centers, it connects ambulant and stationary forms of help. Street children, street youth, such who have made experiences with sexual abuse, with HIV infections, with drug addiction and prostitution, as well as families who live on the street are the contact people. Stationary and ambulant support arranges for a daytime institution, a withdrawal institution, two rehabilitation centers as well as a training school.

Now it is to be supported one thing, children and youngsters and her families, so that they can better survive in and on the street. Another is to allow alternatives to the life on the street. In addition it requires strains for the lasting development of abilities, for the purposes of capacity building.

**Example 4:**
Urban Street Children empowerment Project, Indonesia: Like our Indian modell the Indonesian modell shows how we have to differentiate strategically and carefully plan social support (compare Save the children 2006).

The final report of a project with Indonesian street children found the following results: If the goal is, to develop alternatives to the former life on the street, special factors have to be taken into account: these are the empowerment of girls, education about their rights as well as the improvement of the health situation and a self-responsible behaviour in risk situations. The condition is the networking of social work in sustainable regional and national political general concepts.
It is apparently also a common experience that children and youth are sometimes regarded as “difficult”. And it is a special challenge to find ways to reach them anyway. One of the answers from a European point of view is: They make trouble, because they have trouble. Having trouble can mean many things: to have to live in extreme poverty, to have a family who has to fight to survive itself, to be violent sometimes, to be ill or addicted. And it can mean, to withdraw oneself, because they have made bad experiences, and not seldom just with those who offer help and support, but do not fulfil it reliably.

Here are the overlooked, the ones who are at risk to be forgotten, the forgotten ones, and there the deniers, the drop-outs. Those are the ones who escape intrusiveness which is felt to be exaggerated of the controlling state. Those are the ones which have made the experience of indifference or brutal persecution. For them being reached means the same as exclusion or repression. Since “reaching the unreachable” is connected with the questions of coherence between help and control. It is the tightrope walk between a control as a repressive limitation of individual rooms for manoeuvre and a control as necessary practice of professional observation of helping processes and their effect.

A big challenge is therefore to get in contact with people who either defy actively, do not want to have anything to do with social workers or those who are so resigned that they cannot believe that someone is seriously interested in them and in staying in contact with them and in shaping it sustainably. Some supporting concepts explicitly abandon the idea to impose relationships on them. They confine themselves to the provision of services, like over-night shelter possibilities, like hygiene, short-term provision of food etc. conversations with social workers only happen by request.

These facts lead to several questions addressed to this 9th symposium. They are:
• Which intentions, means and ways are there to reach children, youth and families in and on the streets?
• Which forms of networking and support are there?
• How do the differences and commonalities look like?

III. COMPARING FORMS OF SUPPORT

To achieve this we have to enter different content levels. One of the most important tasks of international congresses consists in a common communication. To reach this different content levels have to be entered. As fast as it might be possible to a common initial position, the consideration of different regions shows how conspicuously these differences result in many perspectives. This already starts with the survey, more precisely with the
description of living situations of these children and youth. It depends on whether there are authorities and practices at all, to carry out survey like that, e.g. to make statistics which operate on the simple level of quantitative description and this not only for short terms, but in the long run.

It leads further to the question, which need of support is recognised and defined as legitimate and legal, talking about organisations, institutions or initiatives which are competent and above all influential enough to do this. This again raises the issue of an economic, legal and personal basic conditions in individual countries which have to be taken for granted to meet these needs of support. However we still have not clarified whether and to which extent children and teenagers as well as their parents and relatives are involved in the clarification, which form of support is appropriate in which living situation. Because the experience also shows, that the participation is an important condition for the finding of support, for the success of working together and also for the sustainability. Here the development of a methodology, its application and its evaluation is necessary.

Now the first possibility consists in describing the social situation of children and youth, the forms of youth and social work in individual countries one after the other. It is easy to accept that these country reports would quickly lead us to an end – since it would only be possible – with almost 200 countries in the world – to reasonably describe a fraction of them exactly. Too many national “paths”, of cultural and intellectual, economic and social basic conditions would have to be illustrated, not to talk about the changing processes or a simple lack of available knowledge. The perspective on the continents of this world also does not make it easier, since the variety of forms of support within the African, the Asian, the American and the European continent are so extensive that even here the limit would soon be reached. Additionally there are the different systems, which exist between the welfare states of the industrial nations of the Northern hemisphere and the countries of the Southern hemisphere, which complicate the case.

Therefore I would like to go a different way here. For this purpose I would like to introduce a formal model which is supposed to integrate different level and which I can only imagine multi-dimensional. Hence I chose the form of a die. I rush to name the disadvantage of such a visualisation: it misleads to imagine the world as a shoe box and to abet the narrow-minded thinking. But this is not what I am talking about here, but rather the attempt to correlate different levels in a simplified way.

This model is based on a question. The question is: Which share does social work in individual countries have with the organisation of individual life careers? To answer this question we have to analyse the context of the lifeworld, regional and international dimension, hence on a micro, meso or macro level.
This happens in the way that institutions and actors of social work of an individual country are characterised, who are provided with the respective responsibilities. Then we have marked a first basic position: individual life careers. These are for example in the sector of educational measures sometimes called “helping careers”, in the sector of migration research “migration careers”, in the sector of poverty research “poverty careers”. To not decide this in advance I choose the expression “individual careers”, because forms of support and help do not necessarily have to significantly influence the history of life, not every history of life can be attributed to a migrational background.

For the social work perspective it is interesting how burdened circumstances of children, youth in selected countries can be characterised. We can typically assume that people have always been developing independent forms of coping with life’s problems in the social proximity of their daily life, hence the lifeworldly coping with burdens and revert to regional resources and individual networks: in the kinship, the neighbourhood, in voluntary structures, but also in other sectors, where social capital can be acquired and used to cope with burdens. This level can on a very high abstraction level be called the micro level.

On the next level we ask for the special structure of social services, which reacts in the individual country to a special type of burdened circumstances and individual coping with life’s problems. Special helping and supporting measures are being developed - or not. Here it is very interesting if and to which extent there is a cross-border cooperation: Are there international networks, cooperation projects etc. on a regional level in the sector of social services which refer to certain tasks in the sector of child and youth welfare? Which goal establishment do they follow, which duration and results appear? And eventually: do bilateral learning effects result with the consequence of a change of the helping forms and supporting practices? According to the chosen logic of levels this can be described as the meso level.

On the third level the aspects of particular “welfare regimes” are going to be analysed according to prominent differentiations by Esping-Anderson which have a significance in matters of education and social policy for the provision of social services. This expression however needs to be considered under reserve in a global norm: in many countries the criteria for a welfare state are not fulfilled, maybe it would be better to talk about supporting structures. A matter of particular interest is the question of internationally binding agreements for the regulation of common concerns here, e.g. the issue of European social justice, the UN Convention for the rights of the child, etc. Consequently this is the macro level. Let us start again on the micro level.

Under the angle of a question for a form of coping with burdened circumstances within the individual life career referring to internationality or trans-nationality, migration and
trans-migration take a special significance. Since the question, which role different occasions and perspectives take over in cross-generational migration careers, not just touches the level of the particular national migration policy, but depends on cross-border cooperation. This talks about the meso level which acts in form of international networks for migration, like this example illustrates. This is also valid for other groups, like “unattended minors seeking asylum” who cross borders or the “social platform”, an international forum on the EU level.

Auf der Makro-Ebene wird hier wichtig, auf welche Weise eine internationale Kooperation organisiert ist, die teils zwischen staatlichen und Nicht-Regierungsorganisationen, teils nur zwischen Nicht-Regierungsorganisationen, teils nur zwischen Staaten stattfindet.

On the macro level it is important here in what way an international cooperation is organised which partly takes place only between NGOs, partly only between states.

Now we give the die a last spin (the top and bottom side are not going to be described today). It is reserved for the sector of research respectively research and development.

According to the logic comparative social work on the micro level deals with “comparative research of life careers”, on the meso level with “comparative research of services”, on the macro level with “comparative research of politics”.

This coherence of academic issues can be understood under “internationally comparative research of social politics” which mainly deals with the structure and change of institutions of social security within and between nation states. Especially the different lines of development of social legislation as well as political strategies of enforcement and change of social security standards in the wider setting of the organisation of social interest groups are particularly interesting. “Internationally comparative” means the interest in a social policy which is predominant in the particular national setting in front of the background of its economically, socially and culturally given conditions, how they can be found there, which is correlated with other forms of nation states.

CONCLUSION:

Children and youth in and on the street are an underprivileged part of the potential of society. With many limitations in their development through poverty, violence and illness, international projects prove: street children have potentials themselves, their own competences, creative, instrumental and communicative abilities to orientate themselves in a very risky, even dangerous daily life, to establish relationships there and to survive under most difficult conditions. Nevertheless there are great dangers and they need support, be it with the self-organization of their interests, with the participation in education
and activities, be it in health behavior. This support can only be successful if they can be reached in this ambivalent circumstance between accessibility, exclusion and refusal. This triple referral of the topic „reaching the unreachable“ marks reasonably exactly, where the claim and experience of youth work and Mobile Youth Work is. Social work is the difficult task, which has to be aimed for again and again, to link the utopic with the social and socio-spatial dimension and to develop flexible and reliable time structures at the same time - and all this in cooperation with the children and teenagers. This means to start from the beginning again and again without being sure, whether the move, which lies in the desire to reach, in the reaching, is successful.

Reference

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Health is not for nothing characterised as the most precious good – health is the basis for a successful life and a fundamental resource for every individual in every society. Nevertheless, everything that health stands for in every detail is defined differently concerning the historic, social and cultural context. The WHO gives us a universally valid definition which defines health as a “state of total physical, mental and social well-being and not just as the absence of illness and ailment”.

It is obvious, that this definition formulates a perfection which is aimed for at the most. At the same time the normative value of this definition is that it contains the right of a healthy life for every individual, also and especially for children in the streets, who - as far as health is concerned - bear a multiply increased risk and whose resources are deficient.

Especially Mobile Youth Work knows from its practical experiences how important it is to take the topic of health into account to minimise the health risks of children and youth and to establish and encourage access to health resources. For that however it takes adequate lines of orientation, thus a definition of health, which is suitable for the design of concepts of action when working with children and youth.
From the traditional biomedical perspective health is defined as the absence of illness. Health and illness are two clearly separate poles; you are either sick or fit. Health is seen as a normal condition which does not need to be defined further. The central question of this model which was therefore named “pathogenetical” is: Where does the illness come from? But the focus is not on the subject as a person with a life story, but on the symptomatology of an illness which has to be fought with appropriate means. This approach is predominant in most health discourses and the modern medicine has created many possibilities to fight illnesses with this approach. However, this point of view has its limits. It meets limits where it deals with attracting notice to the entire person beyond symptoms of illness but with their individual, subjective and hardheaded health theory. Even where they deal with prevention and health promotion in public and political discourses there are still questions about causes of illnesses, while the central question about the causes “why people stay fit despite all that” is dealt with rather marginally.

This reversal of the problem is exactly where social work sets in and wants to deal with health in a subject- and resource-orientated way. This is the only way to make a widening of the point of view possible towards a definition of health which is compatible with the life world-oriented understanding of Mobile Youth Work. From the theoretical point of view a widening of the perspective in the concept of “salutogenesis” which was founded by the Israeli sociologist Aaron Antonovsky in 1987, makes sense. The core of this concept consists in a radical reversal of the perspective: The question of what makes people sick does not take the centre stage, but how people stay fit. Health is not understood as “Homeostasis”, as normal condition, but as a constant process of (re)establishing of health which is forming itself. Everyone is always, during their whole life, every day, every hour on a continuum between health and illness. Risks and stressors are present all the time and inevitable and therefore staying fit or becoming fitter means an ongoing active process. Whether this perpetual act of balance on the continuum health-illness shows a tendency rather in one or the other direction - according to Antonovsky - depends mostly on the resistance resources a person possesses. These “healing resources” intensify within the so called “sense of coherence”.

It is obvious that this point of view regarding health can effortlessly be adapted in theoretical concepts and practical action of social work and Mobile Youth Work. Especially where social work is asked to lobby for the rights of the unprivileged in political and public health debates, it meets the power of definition of a purely medically-oriented health concept which predominates the rhetoric of the health discourse. Here the offensive relation to the theoretical concept of Salutogenesis can decisively provide a basis for the voice of social work in health discourses to account for health-politically necessary changes.
Especially when working with children and youth on the streets it is more than obvious that the chances for a healthy or healthier life, for the development of a stable sense of coherence are distributed very socially unequally. In a globalised world the access to a good fitness becomes more and more a question of money and income. For this reason young people on the streets are more and more on the bottom end of the resource provision for a healthy life. And therefore a new scope of duties opens up for social work to bring in a salutogenetically established voice especially while intervening in political health discourses.

In front of the background of the salutogenetic concept we will not just concentrate on looking at the illness symptoms of children and youth, but will also consider the person as a whole in his/her life world. That is to say that an HIV-infected child is not just a sick child, but a person with healthy parts and strengths, which need to be backed up.

Under a salutogenetic point of view we are not going to interpret drug addiction or self-injuring behaviour with teenagers as a mainly pathogenic symptom, but as an attempt to survive in an unbearable living situation, thus to make the unbearable bearable and maintain fractions of health despite everything.

A salutogenetic direction enables the social worker to be able to understand and support the resiliencies and hard-headed health concepts of the individuals better.

And last but not least the salutogenetic perspective refers to the responsibility of social work to agitate for approaches like that in the public and political health discourse, which contribute to maintain the human dignity of each individual or to rebuild it, no matter where on the continuum between health and illness it might be. This also applies for the 15-year old prostitute in the former CIS states as well as for the HIV-infected orphan in Africa or the homeless, drug-addicted teenager in Western Europe.

Reference


MOBILE YOUTH WORK WITH A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Walther Specht

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION: STREET CHILDREN - STREET YOUTHS

There are street children in almost all regions of the Earth nowadays. Only a few years ago Europeans and Americans treated them exceptionally as phenomenon of developing countries of Latin America, Africa and Asia. Today the existence of Street children in the USA, Canada, European countries as well as in the CIS countries cannot be ignored. Those who want to see them there can find them either in the centres of such cities as New York, Madrid, Bucharest, Naples, Moscow, Cologne, Marseilles and Warsaw, or in their suburbs and slums with lots of many-storied buildings.

The term “street child” implies a rather high homogeneity of comparative characteristics, which however cannot be proven by the scientific research. This is true for the indicators, which relate either to life circumstances, cultural milieus and “carriers” that already have the children during their street socialisation, or every singular situation and form of coping with everyday problems in their lives.

The United Nations Children’s Fund estimates the amount of Street children in the world between 80 and 100 millions (UNICEF Germany 1992). This category includes young people up to the age of 18, for whom the street in its broadest meaning of the word, has become the central living point and who therefore get no substantial protection. In this context the term “Street” means also abandoned and half-destroyed buildings or apartments. According to UNICEF, about 40 million of street children out of these 80 millions
street children worldwide live in the cities of Latin America. The others are mainly spread in Asia and Africa. A relatively small amount can be found in the USA and in Europe. Although the issue of street children is being discussed almost all over the world, there is no generally accepted definition of this social problem. How can this phenomenon be approached? I suggest using a definition, which has been developed in the course of practical work. Long-term experiences in the Mobile Youth Work concerning excluded children and young people, for whom the street was or still is the most important socialisation place, prove that following of a definition, which is mainly applied for the situation in Europe, should be striven for.

In 1994 a study group of the Council of Europe is Strasbourg published: “Street children are children under 18 years old, who have lived in street milieu for a longer or a shorter period of time. These children move from one place to another and have their group of peers or other contacts on the streets. Officially, their address is registered either at their parents’ house or at a social facility (orphanage, help for the bringing up of children, youth psychiatry). The most important hereby is the fact, that people who are responsible for them, such as grown-ups, parents, representatives of schools and social workers, have little or even no contact with their target group” (Council of Europe 1994: 23)

If this definition is being followed, it means that the division between children (in Germany under 14 years old) and youths (14-18 years old) is annihilated. This legitimately grounded differentiation does not reflect the real situations, which are faced by the young people. Further more, this definition makes it clear, that there are people, responsible for the fact that young people live on the streets. However, they are either not able or don’t want to fulfil their tasks. As a conclusion, it can be said that a new approach towards organisation of help proposals for street children in unprotected street space should be developed. Generally, it can be said that street children are desperately looking for such solutions of their life problems as drug consume, burglary, prostitution, drug trafficking, and violence. Their previous experiences base on exclusion, indifference, violence, exploitation and seducement. Lots of street children have to do hard and unpaid work.

Cliques and street gangs often replace families, they become the place where children can turn to and hide at in their difficult situations. Only there they get the necessary safety and protection, which has been missing in their lives so far. So the children live either alone or in cliques and gangs. Often they have been hungering since their birth and have bad health. They lack education, protection, devotion, security and love. For lots of children and youths the street fulfils the function of a living and working place at the same time. Practically without any support of the grown-ups they have to fight for their survival every day. This is true for children and youths who have occasional contacts with their families, as well as for those who have been completely abandoned. “When
they wake up in the morning, they do not know, what they will eat for the next meal, or whether there will be one. In their everyday life they have to accept everything as it is, no matter how bad it is. They cannot plan their future, or delay their plans... Sometimes they don’t know where they come from and where they go to” (Agnelli 1986:32).

However, after experienced misery and violence in their families, the life on the streets is to some extend even a relief and becomes in a while something like “normality”. Still, it should not be misunderstood and taken for a happily and voluntarily chosen alternative, as it might be presented in some romantic childish visions. The quality of experience on the streets exhibits a peculiar subcultural space. The life on the streets, if treated as a place, where something happens, with its excitement and action, can even fascinate. The existence on the streets without protection by the family or by others disposes the simultaneous violation of all basic human rights: a right for food, shelter, health, education and freedom. The main difficulty hereby is the fact, that no single cause can be distinguished.

2. ORIGIN OF THE MOBILE YOUTH WORK

Mobile Youth Work is an outreach youth council concept. It is being put into action of social work in the frame of group- and individual social-pedagogic and social work. Mobile Youth Work is district- or social-area-related and aims at preventing or cancelling exclusion processes of youths. Hereby, resources and self-aid powers towards the solution of social problems in the community are being used and sustainable solutions are being aimed at. Two forms of Mobile Youth Work can be differentiated at present: A community-based concept which arose in big housing areas (“dormitory towns”) and a rather scene- or target-group-related approach in the action centres of big cities. Mobile Youth Work takes its origin in the community-based form.

The development of the concept of Mobile Youth Work in the 1960s in Germany takes its origin in the dispute with American authors and projects in the field of youth work with delinquent youth street groups and street gangs (street work, street corner work, street gang work, street club work), as well as community-oriented work (Shaw and McKay 1942, Spergel 1966, especially: Specht 1979).

The practical beginning of the professional Mobile in Germany in the 60s took place at the Diakonie and goes back to Chicago-School (Shaw and McKay) in the USA in the 20s (area approach). Mobile Youth Work in Germany follows also the tradition of community work in the Netherlands (“Categorical” community work, Bolz/Boulet 1973). During the urbanisation process in western Germany, which took place in the sixties, lots of rapidly growing council estates appeared in the suburbs of big cities. At the same time the social infrastructure especially for young people was neglected. Similar situation happened in many other European countries.
Rockers, youth cliques and youth gangs, which caused problems in the communities challenged police and juvenile courts, as well as social work and social pedagogic. These circumstances lead to the initiation of Mobile Youth Work by the Protestant society in Stuttgart in 1967. Since that time this concept, borrowed from the USA and adopted for Germany, has become a successful concept of practical youth and social work. Other non-governmental organisations and later on the governmental ones joined the work as well. In the mid 70s other projects and institutions, which carried out the Mobile Youth Work appeared beyond the boundaries of Stuttgart in Baden-Württemberg. Nowadays Mobile Youth Work is carried out in 94 cities and communities all over Baden-Württemberg. Since the 90s, it started in the new Federal States of Germany. All in all, there are 1200 institutions in Germany now.

2.1. Precarious living situations and problematic behaviour of young people: How is a society to deal with it?
The reasons which lead to the foundation of Mobile Youth Work are much the same at present as they were when the first social-pedagogic steps were taken in the district Freiberg of the city of Stuttgart 42 years ago (1967). The initial problem in almost every community, in almost every city is always conspicuous, difficult, attention-demanding or delinquent behaviour of young people.
The main question always remained the same and has, meanwhile, reached a global dimension: Shall we turn towards these homeless, impoverished, delinquent, sick, underfed, despised, drug-consuming, provoking, extremist-oriented children and youths or shall we exclude them by lack of attention, punishment, repression and, increasingly, legal sanctions? Do we define the conspicuously acting youths (punks, skinheads, gangs, cliques, youth gangs, street children, young drug-consumers, hooligans etc.) as “endangered” or as “dangerous”?

The decisive factor for the choice of either a social-pedagogic or a repressive-controlling approach is which definition is being enforced in the youth-political public. Aid or control, attention or exclusion are the, often fiercely discussed, counterpart positions. Frequently, a mixture of both approaches is being applied, mainly when laws have been violated. The causes, however, have always remained the same. Conspicuous youths provoke conflicts, but also victims. The violence of youths, which has doubtlessly increased in brutality, is also being reported by schools meanwhile. In the present discussion, this leads to the demand of reinforcing school social work and strengthening the co-operation of Mobile Youth Work with schools to meet the common interest to prevent social exclusion of youths. Since exclusion frequently goes along with stigmatising, it is also the aim of Mobile Youth Work to prevent stigmatising processes or possibly to initiate processes of de-stigmatisation. Hereby, Mobile Youth Work relies on structures of trust and voluntariness of
the youths by offering them development options and chances of life management without violating laws. The main age is between 12 and 19 years. Sometimes, however, younger or older youths belong to the target group of Mobile Youth Work as well.

2.2 Method Concept of Mobile Youth Work
The concept of Mobile Youth Work is divided into four fields: Case Work, Street Work, Group Work and Community Work which are being weighted according to the local situation. The characteristic of Mobile Youth Work is the fact that the concepts of all four working fields are connected with each other.

2.2.1 Case Work
Individual Aid means that Mobile Youth Workers feel responsible for all the problems the youths they care for have and approach them in the context of an understanding of council towards pragmatic aid (cf. Thiersch 1977). This is the consequence drawn from the experience that youths will only show trust when trust is being shown towards them. Concerning solutions for their problems, youths will not choose adults according to their official responsibility but have to rely on opportunities available in their every-day-life. Thus, Mobile Youth Workers are being confronted with a variety of issues and they can only decide in a second step whether to take up contact for instance with an organisation of debt- or drug council. This is being clarified in each individual case in the course of the council process and according to the wishes of the youths. Personal council includes crisis intervention as well as long-term council if necessary. This means to look upon the various problems of youths in their individual development as a whole complex and to develop respective processes of aid. Other youths, friends, pals, the clique, the gang, are being integrated systemically into the aid process provided that they are influential and of importance for the individual person. Club- and group work offers the necessary frame for this kind of aid. This means that the acceptance of Mobile Youth Workers as group-pedagogic persons of relationship makes the contact to the individual youth possible or at least easier.

The offer of individual and group-related council relates to the following fields mainly: Family, school, training, clique, work and unemployment, legal and illegal drug consume regulation of debts, sex and the threat of AIDS. Additional is the field of dealing with authorities, doctors, hospitals, financing institutions, police and justice, prisons and victims, which is especially important for delinquently acting, ill or drug-addicted youths (cf. Local Institution 1997).

2.2.2 Street Work – Outreach Youth Work
Street Work as a professional kind of social work and social pedagogic has its origin in the USA. Especially in the big cities respective social-pedagogic programmes have been de-
veloped in the view of increasing youth delinquency at the end of the nineteen-twenties. A typical target group of this approach of aid, which was established apart from the offices of youth authorities and council institutions on the street, were loose gangs (loosely structured youth street groups, cliques or youth gangs). The working place of social work was, so to speak, being transferred to the meeting points and living places of the youths. Over the years, the following terms were applied to social workers in this ambulant field of council: street corner worker, street gang worker, area youth worker, outreach youth worker, street club worker and field worker.

Since World War II street work approaches have been practised in Western European countries, in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Australia as well. To name some European examples: In Great Britain the term is “Detached Youth Work” or “Outreach Youth Work” or Mobile Youth Work”, in the Netherlands it is “Street Corner Work”, in Switzerland “Gassenarbeit” or “Mobile Youth Work”, France it is talking about “Travaille de la Rue” and in Austria and Germany it is “Street Work” as well as “Mobile Youth Work”. Since the global political change of 1989/1990 there are approaches of Street Work in Eastern Europe as well. Street Work is a methodical concept which, on one hand, needs the local, community-based rooting and, on the other, has got concrete offers for youths: People who have time for them, a telephone in order to contact authorities or to ask for employment, a cup of coffee, a shower, a place of rest, a refuge for the management of crisis, but also a place where ideas for leisure-time activities, support for the realisation of the wish for an individual space within the district or offers for social experience with other youths can be realised.

2.2.3 Group Work – Work with Cliques
Mobile Youth Work was also initiated as a pragmatic critic of merely individualising approaches within Youth Aid. The role of peers, as being helpful for the socialisation next to parents and school, has not been integrated in a productive way into their forms of reaction by Youth Aid neither in the 60s, nor today. Mobile Youth Work approaches existing cliques and informal groups, because these groups have an important part in the building of views and attitudes of children and youths, but for their management of development challenges as well.

The term clique is frequently being used as a synonym related to the terms peer or peer group and indicates a type of informal groups which can be described as “comprehensible construction, in which every-day-needs and adventures are the main thing. The belonging has a rather fleeting character and is not bound to formal regulations. The informal structures may show hierarchic characteristics sometimes, however, they are subject to the direct influence of those belonging to the clique” (Liebel 1991, p. 306). Cliques mostly show local, social-area patterns of orientation and thus differ from scenes, which have an
open, not necessarily local structure and frequently establish themselves along different music- and life-styles.

The characteristic of cliques in their social structure is the “equality of position in the relation to each other” (Krappmann 1991, 364). In this respect they differ from youth groups or -gangs which have a hierarchic social leadership structure. Long before German research adopted the issue of cliques, gangs, especially youth gangs have been researched in the USA. The tradition goes far back to early works of the Chicago School about social-economic delinquency research and the classic about gang research “The gang” (Thrasher 1926).

There are other forms of survival nowadays within which the peer group, the clique plays an important part. There has been a change of meaning even during the last two decades. In the view of growing individualisation and increasing loss of orientation of youths, cliques nowadays frequently are said to be “main socialisation points of crucial importance for the survival” (Ferchhoff 1990, p. 72). This is especially true if the basic demands of an individual are not satisfied in the family. The living-up of youth-cultural individuality within the clique is frequently connected to a territorial dimension. Youths, mainly boys, occupy public areas, make their own use of them, understand them to be the stage for clique-related possession processes. It is especially important for revaling cliques.

Mobile Youth Work picks up these problems conceptually within the group and club work. In many cases it supports social area-related evacuation processes in residential areas of the youths.

Such example can be an organisation of meetings in the free time (a certain room for a club, youth centre, access to the community centres, drop-ins and so on). Within cliques, common learning and social discussion is possible. Within the group, youths experience self-value, backing, continuity, trust – most important factors for their growing-up. Relation groups can stabilise individual youths in problematic phases. Thus, the approach of Mobile Youth Work is contradictory to repressive forms of dealing with conspicuous street groups. Because frequently, groups are being denounced as being seductive, and it is being overlooked that frequently they grant status and a subjective feeling of security, belonging and strength to the youth concerned. These basic human needs are obviously not being sufficiently granted in the other daily social contexts of the youth and therefore need the possibility of extension or substitute. It is for these positive resources and potentials that youth groups can be said to possess that Mobile Youth Work includes them into its pedagogic processes as a starting point. There are possibilities of overcoming dyadic structures by applying existing relationships, working with the dynamic of the group, initiating or accompanying group-related processes. The frequently only short-term relationship between the youth and the social worker can be extended by processes of buil-
ding up support structures which are longer-lasting and often more effective. This needs a longer-term relationship work which is being developed in the context of attractive leisure-time-offers and systematic group work in rooms rented for the purpose (Haeberlin/Klenk 1997, Deinet 1966, Vogt 1997).

2.2.4 Community-based Work

Since integration and exclusion, acceptance and rejection, the origin and the solution of problems frequently arise within the environment of young people, Mobile Youth Work makes a point of its approach being community-based. It is inspired by American examples like for instance the work of Saul Alinsky and the concepts of activating and conflict-oriented community-based work (Alinsky 1973; Bahr/Gronemeyer 1974) but by analytic community approaches like they have already been practiced in the settlement movement at the end of the 19th century as well (Müller 1988). By way of field- and social area analysis the main points of Mobile Youth Work are being determined along the local situations and put into action in a sense of grass root youth aid planning (cf. Specht 1980, Specht 1992, Jordan/Schone 1992, p. 45 f./Lukas/Strack 1996). The concept of community-based Mobile Youth Work includes the joining of existing local offers in the sense of an institutional community network and the creation of respective institutional structures like for instance district working groups. The presence within the district, an office, an activity room for the clique, create the necessary precondition to get into contact with the citizens. Additionally to the work with the youths and the families, all inhabitants groups of a district or community are target groups for special actions, who can contribute to the improvement of the social climate within the community or to forms of productive management of social or political conflicts. In this context the concept of “Laienberater” (indigenous worker), developed in the model project “Hallschlag” in 1985, plays a very important role. In the course of social-pedagogic processes former endangered young people or active volunteers from a city district become positive examples for younger group or club members and are therefore either protagonists for the interests of the young people or an authority for the democratic control of the social work.

3. ISMO

ISMO, the “International Society for Mobile Youth Work” in Stuttgart, a non-governmental organisation, together with other professional organisations of Youth Welfare Service from around the world has been developing the concept of Mobile Youth Work on the international level for many years. The first international symposium on Mobile Youth Work took place
1983 at the University of Tuebingen, Germany. Symposia in foreign countries followed 1994 in Chile and 1995 in Switzerland. Since 1996 ISMO has been active in Eastern Europe. In 1998 the 7th international Symposium on the Mobile Youth Work took place in St. Petersburg, Russia. During this Symposium it became obvious, that there is a great demand for qualification in the field of Youth Welfare Service in the post-communist countries. Since that time lots of lectures, seminars and courses took place in 7 Russian cities, as well as in Sofia/Bulgaria, Varna/Bulgaria, Bratislava/Slovakia, Tbilisi/Georgia, Budapest/Hungary, Mikkolaiki/Poland, Cesky Tesin/Czech Republic, Shitomir/Ukraine and in Tallinn/Estonia. In 2003 the 8th international Symposium on the Mobile Youth Work took place in Limuru / Kenya (ISM0 2004) and the 9th in 2008 in Stuttgart Germany under the title “Reaching the Unreachable” with over 300 participants from 39 countries around the world.

The general connectional objective is directed to the creation of projects and networks for excluded children and youths, which are oriented on the circumstances of their lives. In the process of the mobilisation of certain local community and taking into account the UN Convention for the Protection of Child’s rights, the main aim is to waken and strengthen the civil-social forces, to build social capital, which can generate a lasting and productive development towards excluded children and youths. For the sake of these excluded children and youths, the everyday living situation, the milieu, in which they grow up, and their social capital should be positively influenced in order to activate the integration processes. People, who live there, should provide safety, acceptance, and feeling of security, affiliation and appreciation for excluded children and young people. On the other hand, it is important, to show them orientation and set limits.
At the same time, the concept of Mobile Youth Work is conveyed on the basis of the theory and practical experience of the international social work and social pedagogic in the whole world (although sometimes different terms are being used in this context). It is being offered under the consideration of social, ecological, historical, cultural and legitimate conditions in different countries.

Reference

I would like to thank the organisers of this conference for the opportunity to talk to you. I hope I can say some things that are of interest and that will help you in thinking about your work. The question of how the changing global context has impacted on mobile youth work - or, as we call it in the UK: detached youth work - is an important one. Globalisation works in many ways. Certainly, increased mobility has led to increased diversity in the communities in which we work. Whilst we recognise the political debate about immigration, our first priority is to ask: how should we respond to this reality? At the same time, and despite living in one of the richest countries in the world, we see the gap between rich and poor widening. For sure we engage in the debate about whether this is a product of globalisation, but, as with increased diversity, our first priority is to be clear about the action we should take. Let me quickly mention the research context in the UK. I will be speaking mainly about England because, as some of you will know, a process of devolution has taken place in recent years. Scotland has its own parliament, Wales a national Assembly and Northern Ireland also its own arrangements. This had quite a significant effect on youth work generally because - as I think we all appreciate - youth work can be is defined in many ways and, perhaps more importantly, can be valued in different ways. And we should remember that it is only through recognising these values that the aims of our work can be validated. This devolution has enabled us to do some particularly interesting comparative research about young people's general education. But it is true to say that the work of detached youth workers is extremely under-researched. I see this as a major
problem, particularly as many of the mechanisms that we now use to evaluate our work do not have the same culture of flexibility that detached youth work seems to demand. For those of you who were lucky enough to have been at the European conference on outreach work in Oslo in April, I am sure, like me, you were impressed by the Scandinavian commitment to research and documentation which, in my opinion, are essential for a proper and sympathetic assessment of the effect of mobile youth work.

As part of the UK Federation for Detached Youth Work I have been discussing how we might improve our collaboration with both social scientist and journalists because of my experience in Oslo. Let me return to an assessment of how UK youth policy and indeed social policy more generally has been oriented in the context of the changes I have highlighted. The first is, perhaps, better expressed in French rather than English. My colleagues over there refer to <a sécurité>PPT a policy that appears to regard the public space in which young people gather (and, of course, where many detached youth workers work) as solely a negative space. It is a place ascribed with danger, a space that needs to be controlled for the benefit of all society. As such, social policy now dictates the employment of increasing numbers of authority and semi authority figures and dictates that these areas are subject to curfews and dispersal orders.

This ‘hard’ orientation is also increasingly prevalent in youth work. In practical terms, this has led to increased targeting of young people considered ‘at risk’ [although, as I think we accept all across Europe, it is still unclear how we define ‘at risk’ and who we then identify as being ‘at risk’. Some would say that this lack of clarity has led to a culture of believing all young people are at risk, and of regarding the street as an inherently dangerous space, a place to be feared and avoided.

This ‘hardening’ of attitudes and the subsequent increased targeting of young people has led, perhaps inevitably, to a degradation of the [progressive] principle that youth work is based on young people’s voluntary association. For the first time in the UK we are debating the viability of this principle. In some quarters this is indeed a true debate, and yet in others the inference is more subtle. Let me give you an example. I was pleased that the Chief Executive of the National Youth Agency – perhaps the person in the Youth Service closest to government – accepted my invitation to speak at the launch of my Reconnecting Detached Youth Work – which is an account of the first piece of systematic research into detached youth work for many years. You might guess from the title that a conclusion is we have become somewhat detached – which is, I accept, an ironic use of the word – detached from a progressive history that many workers are very proud of. I note it is identified as such on the ISMO website. Leaving this aside for a moment, the audience at the book launch – which contained many, many detached youth workers was told: “You need to remember that your skills go beyond voluntary association”. I remember well seeing their reaction. They understandably felt proud. But I began to wonder if there wasn’t a different way of interpreting this comment.
Was the inference that we are at the beginning of the end of the democratic principle of voluntary association? Looking around at practice there is growing evidence that this has already begun. For example, detached youth workers are increasingly to be found in the compulsory environment of school.

I shall say more about this later in trying to respond to another of my challenges - to mention how detached youth work is positioned within the wider education system. But for now, let me suggest that in many ways it is young people who have always been in control of the voluntary principle. In the context of compulsory education there are vast numbers who prefer truancy or the less tangible, but all too common, culture of being present but not being engaged. We can conclude at the very least that learning is no corollary of attendance.

The debate about the relationship between targeted work and universal provision is an important one; it is one we must all face up to. My own view is taken from my own experience as a detached youth worker and the research I have conducted. I believe it is possible to ‘target through universalism’. Simply put, this means that in adopting an open, community-based approach detached youth workers become very aware of which young people needs added, often one-to-one, support. And they will work with them to achieve this.

The Norwegians take this very seriously because of their concerns to avoid stigmatisation. Indeed, this is recognised as a first principle in the wider Scandinavian welfare systems. But, just as is happening in this area of Europe, we have to face up to the cost of this policy.

For example, the Norwegians now find that 25% of the population are receiving benefits of some kind and this is both very expensive and may contribute to a ‘dependency culture’. Again, these are questions that we all have to face up to. Despite this shift, we in England have made a commitment to the provision of services for all young people. Ours is a mixed picture and, up to now, despite growing evidence, is not deeply rooted.

A comparison with Holland is useful; where researchers report that a ‘targeting agenda’ (which has now been in place for some time) has led to many ‘ordinary’ young people rejecting contact with youth workers, it seems, for fear of being stigmatised.

Maybe this is a challenge for our conference: does this, apparently rational - at least in economic terms, process of trying to get resources to the most needy have some unintended and negative consequences, especially for the development of young people's attitudes to public services and, perhaps of equal importance, their attitudes to their peers who are receiving this attention (whether they like it or not)? I would like to reflect on the significance of this policy shift for detached youth workers in England.

But first I note another statement from the ISMO site. This suggests: “wherever public services no longer know how to cope they establish street workers, frequently with temporary contracts, employment contracts. Time and again Mobile Youth Workers are being confronted with the expectation to function as a short-term task force to solve problems.”
This is certainly happening also in the UK but, because of our model of public sector management - a model where contracting and commissioning is more and more common - it is much more common that existing detached youth workers are asked to take on these tasks. This happens as much to detached youth workers working in the voluntary sector as the state sector. This interest in our work is undoubtedly based on a wider belief that we are ‘practitioners with access’. Practitioners who are considered able to ‘reach the unreachable’ where other services have failed.

Being identified as ‘practitioners with access’ has two sides to it. The first is to recognise the value ascribed to mobile youth work. But the other is to recognise that you will be asked to achieve a series of pre-specified outcomes that other agencies desire. What is crucial is to celebrate this attention whilst maintaining the stance that it is precisely because of the processes we use that good outcomes for young people are possible. And that these processes demand negotiation with young people. So, to pre-scribe these outcomes is to disregard the very process that works so well. [Please note my definition of prescription].

What we have found in context is very interesting and I think important. The first is positive; these external demands have encouraged us to revisit our value base and think much more clearly about what we are doing and why. But, equally, we have found that to work in pre-scribed ways risks behaving in ways that social scientists would recognise as evidence of <performativity> Let me give you an example of how performativity seems to work in detached youth work. In my street-based research, what I observed was that it was common for workers to consciously or unconsciously selecting one group over another to work with. I accept that what I am about to say may be seen as prejudiced but, in my defence, I was a detached youth worker for 15 years in some of the most challenging areas of the UK: the groups they were avoiding were the ones I judged, by their behaviours, to be most likely in need of support. They appeared to be choosing to work with ‘easier groups’ of, perhaps more middle-class young people. When I explored this behaviour with the staff involved another policy context, which I have mentioned only briefly so far, emerged. It is perhaps, of all, the one that has the most significant impact on detached youth work.

This is the wider economic context of ‘market-making and commissioning’ that now affects not just youth social policy but that affecting all public services. The consequence of this is that business management models of contracting, procurement and evaluation are employed in the name of ‘best value’ and ‘value for money’. This translates into the pre-scribed outcomes I have already mentioned. Each comes with related ‘standards’ and ‘targets’ that have to be achieved within pre-specified timescales, as dictated by the ‘contract’. What happens then is that managers put pressure on workers to achieve these outcomes and the workers, in turn, tend to target those groups that make it most possible to do so. These, commonly referred to ‘perverse effects’ are occurring across all areas of pu-
Public service and in all countries that have started to use this economic paradigm. For many this is linked with the wider economic paradigm of neo-liberalism associated with ‘globalisation’. Many see this as complicit in widening the gap in social inequality and increasing the social polarisation I mentioned before. It is perhaps an irony that the social policy agenda claims to promote social inclusion above many other values. Likewise, you will recognise that where workers avoid the most needy this can only ever increase their social exclusion.

I have described this as a ‘pistachio effect’ - having watched my mother eat her favourite nuts: when she gets to those that are the most difficult to open she simply discards them, always seeking instead those easiest to open. [I am sure you can recognise the phenomenon in my metaphor]. I do not want to give you the impression that in England our work has gone completely in the direction of targeting because, as I have said, we have a mixed picture. Of note is a recent commitment to what we call the ‘Youth Offer’. This creates an entitlement for all young people to access services and, when set alongside the targeted work, is referred to in a total policy context of ‘Integrated Youth Support Services’. It is worth mentioning here that this concept of ‘integration’ goes beyond the combining of universal and targeted services to also working with other agencies. This is why we now have a wider all-encompassing notion of ‘Children’s and Young People’s Services’. This is not to say this is only a partnership of agencies that have children and young people as their focus, for it includes many other agencies who come into contact with young people. Given what I said about the context of security you will perhaps imagine then that this now includes, amongst others, police officers and representatives of the many other ‘semi-authority’ figures I mentioned, typically what we refer to as Police Community Support Officers and Street Wardens. Of course our experience here is also mixed. There are few detached youth workers who do not have a history of working with other agencies before this became insisted upon. We have always done this when we judged it of benefit to the young people we work with. But in using the word “insistence” you will see that this is now a mandatory part of our work. Perhaps it should be and for sure it has meant, again, we have had to do a lot of think about what detached youth work is and should be in the modern era. And this is, undoubtedly, a good thing. And yet what we have seen in practice is that detached youth work is very often what we have begun to call a ‘minority partner’. And that workers are often told by more powerful agencies: “you are in partnership with us so you will...”.

I have described this in some of my writing as the “tyranny of partnership”. But I repeat again that I am not dismissive of partnership; but I do want to see good partnership and partnerships that are properly invested in. This means in ‘integrated working’ we have to recognise that different professionals have different, sometime conflicting, value bases and we must invest in inter-agency dialogue to address related problems. Beyond this there is also the importance of recognising that with these bureaucracies
come substantial ‘transactional costs’ and these resources could be used in other ways. No less than a more substantive political engagement is called for to address these issues. In this context, we might also see that pragmatism, that most central of youth work values, has, I suggest, limits. This creates the unenviable situation for many detached youth workers that - where they believe it necessary - they have to try to resist involvement in some kinds of work. In the UK this has included demands to accompany police officers on the streets or even, in one case, to accompany them in police cars to support their ‘intelligence gathering’!

One of my interviews with detached youth workers revealed something important though. They told me that in one of these difficult situations they had lost their temper. And shouted at the other professionals that they were working with that they simply did not understand what detached youth work was. But the response was that, actually, they had never taken the time to explain it fully to these others. A salutary lesson about the importance of promoting a wider understanding of work, perhaps?

Let me move on to something a bit more optimistic about our work – but please recognise that I do not apologise for painting you this picture as my experience of working with colleagues in the European Resource Centre for Research in Social Work [ERCSW] suggests England is at the forefront of this shift in emphasis. So I am happy to offer you an insight of the challenges you might face if you follow in our footsteps.

Let me now move on to some of the positive things that have happened in this changing context. Within the wider context of social inclusion we have begun to explore concepts of <Community Cohesion> To many this has proved a concept all too vague, and this has disconcerted and troubled them. And yet, just as I have pointed out in my previous example of partnership working, many perspectives exist. These differing perspectives are, we can say, synonymous with a range of attitudes or, perhaps more precisely, a range of values. What has become intriguing is that many workers have come to recognise the inevitability of contradictions in social policy; that we cannot escape from them. This is simply because social policy is a blunt instrument. What this seems to do is, despite a good deal of commentary to the contrary -commentary that claims the ‘death of discretion’ - is that these contradictions are claimed as room for manoeuvre. They become ripe for interpretation, which is I am beginning to think how it should be anyway.

We have become <social policy interpreters> Significantly, this sense of opportunity is often most prevalent in workers who work in those areas that this rather ambiguous social policy instrument concerns itself with - namely areas of high social polarisation. The detached youth workers in these places have begun to recognised that some historical interpretations of good youth work practice - and, in particular, anti-racist youth work - were, perhaps, contributing to this polarisation. Typically, this meant work with mono-cultural, often single sex, groups always had both a positive and negative potential.
At times, we now recognise, that this work was not always integrated into a wider conceptual framework of multiculturalism. And that the multicultural model we were working today was problematic; it had more in common with what educational commentators such as Apple and McLaren have more recently described as called “conservative multiculturalism”. In trying to find a metaphor for this, the best I have identified is that of cappuccino. Most of us are familiar with being asked if we want “chocolate on the top” of our coffee. And so it is with multiculturalism: that more often than not there is merely as sprinkling of the Other on the dominant, essentially resistant, core.

However, in seeking a more attentive and progressive response to the circumstances in which they now work youth workers have try to work much more with theories of <critical multiculturalism>. This they recognise is only possible when we have direct experience of the Other.

So, to this end, many detached youth workers have been increasingly proactive in promoting engagement across difference. Work in areas affected by riots only a few years ago has successfully brought young people from different backgrounds together. Typically, these are young people from separate white communities and young people of Asian sub-continent heritage and Muslim faith. This has relied for its success on trusting young people rather than a more the more parochial attitude that we, as workers, and indeed social policy, knows best. All sections of the community have been enthusiastic about these contacts and have participated fully and celebrated these inter-groups dialogues. It is worth, I think, expanding on this concept of <participation> further, because it is also identified as a cross-cutting social policy.

It is, I would claim, that area of work that offers detached youth workers their greatest opportunity to engage in progressive work in the current policy climate. What is of fascination is that more we work to this democratic agenda the more we recognise that the agencies that we work for exhibit ‘institutional’ characteristics. That is, they find it difficult to respond to the outcomes of these democratic practices precisely because the outcomes cannot be foreseen.

Our agencies appear to lack the flexibility and internal democratic credentials to respond in an authentic - a democratic - way. Not forcing our own agenda on young people is, we can see, a critical ethical dimension to good practice. Other work undertaken by detached youth workers is also experimenting with the use of increasingly participative democratic activities. In these we are seeking collaborations with adults in the community through inter-generational work. Significantly, this had acted as an important foil - an important counter force - to the states <sécurité> agenda and keenness for ‘hard’ work which many of us believe actually, and perversely, degrades wider feelings of declining Community Safety.

This positive engagement between young people and adults has also led to a greater appreciation among all participants of the need for more positive images of young people
in public life; which I guess we all here today recognise as being almost always negative. We are clearer now in the UK than ever before that you can’t have it both ways: to have two powerfully opposed narratives on youth; one that canonises them for their participation and, at the same time, demonises them so systematically in public life. Our most significant conclusion though is of the enormous potential of democratic practice. But, I repeat, extending this further – which is surely the progressive thing to do - is, in many ways as much in our hands. Can our agencies and organisations develop the democratic credentials necessary to do this? We have much to be proud of in Mobile Youth Work when it comes to furthering democracy, but, at the same time, we must all recognise that there is much more to do. This takes me then to the final challenge set me; to address the question: How is detached youth work positioned within the education system? As ever, the answer to this question is mixed. On the one hand there is a strong sense that youth work is adopting a ‘compensatory’ role. We are to be found much more within the school and asked to work with young people who are deemed to have ‘behaviour problems’ or, in some cases, classified by teachers as ‘unteachable’. This phenomenon has been the subject of much debate in the UK, including in the national press. Many managers identify it as good work, especially as this brings much needed financial resources into projects struggling in the context of the contracting culture I mentioned before. Conversely, the presence of detached youth workers in school is seen by some to be no less than complicit with the exclusion of these pupils. Are they simply creating a hole into which these young people can be thrown? In remembering the history of our work the principle we recognise a long-standing commitment to community development.

So we might ask: to what extent are we working with schools as equal partners to ensure that all young people are supported to achieve within the mainstream; rather than becoming identified with a regime of ‘alternative education and accreditation’ that too few employers recognise as having value. Being part of this debate is, perhaps, our greatest achievement yet. Detached youth workers are participating in an important independent review of the entirety of the English and Wales education systems. This, four-year, process is coming to an end and concluded that youth work is an essential partner in the diverse range of providers necessary for a good education system. Furthermore, we have made the case that what we have learnt from our work, especially in a street-based context, about working with the minimum of power – working in a democratic way – is of value to all educators, including teachers. We are contributing forcefully to the debate about the entire future of education. We in the UK look forward to collaborate with all you here today in working for a much needed democratic education for all young people.
In my short seminar paper about acts of violence in many suburbs of French cities I will try to concentrate upon the specific causes which are covered to our special history in France. Indeed we have all evil of the ghetto as well as they exist all over the world. But here in France they have originated in a special connection and they last in the same connection.

France has remained a colonial state after the Second World War. In our former colonies we have searched the manpower that was necessary for the reconstruction of our country. While to decades hundred thousands young men from Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco, but also from other countries of Africa, have been asked to help us, to restore the economy. One has promised the paradise on earth to you as an equivalent. Indeed, they were used for the most part. They lived in hut camps and worked up to 15 hours per day. They were separated from their families and could not exercise their religion regularly. They have been treated, in a word, as slaves.

At the beginning of the 80s, more and more the question of the resettlement of the families of these so-called "foreign workers" positioned itself. France appeared very cautiously towards this desire. One would have rather wished, they swept back in the native country. From 1973, with the prize increase of the oil, the unemployment has strongly risen. It was not really on the agenda to support the family reunification. In the interim, the colonial regime was lifted, but not to the best conditions.

The war in Algeria ended with a true Fiasco. Till some years one might not speak at all of a "war". With a lot of hypocrisy one talked of the "events" in Algeria. Philosopher Albert Camus said once: “If one does not call the things with her name, one adds new grief to the sufferings of the world". 50 years after the war France still has big trouble to recognize his responsibility. The co-
lonial age had to be absolutely finished. This regime had no future. One would have wished that the dissolution would run rationally and pacifistic. However, there was not enough wisdom. One wanted to escape by force; the others wanted to continue by force her rule. Besides, both sides have lost. And the war goes on. A civil war in the suburbs. The French still have hatred feelings towards North Africans. Not only because these are by the majority Muslims, but because we have spoken never clearly of our common past. There was mistake, bloody mistakes, on both sides, but we should have enough understanding to confess them and to come from there to the situation, finally, to a true peace, not to go towards to a military peace. We must still reach this, but the racism will become worse and worse and the delusions will flow in bigger and bigger fanaticism. Unfortunately, it is to be seen clearly that we are not away on the right one. A fire is hardly extinguished, a new one kindles itself. In one of our newspapers this title was recently effective: “France has 3 religions: Football, racism and forgery of tax returns”!

The state has the choice between two possibilities:

1) He says, oh well, we admit that the life is difficult in the suburbs, because of to big concentration of people, because of the high percentage of youngsters, because of the lack of jobs and of social workers, etc. We are involved in the next from 5 to 10 years and try to improve the situation. But there mostly remains with words. The money does not follow on. The state hands over his responsibility to the local authority districts. The local authority districts make what they are able to do, but they do not dispose of the necessary means. The affected population has long time ago no more trust in the promises of the authorities. She knows she sometimes finds only help at the activities of the associations.

2) The second possibility which the state holds for more effective is the use of force over and over again. The police and the judges should regulate only the problems. Of course they make what is expected from them. The prisons are congested as never before. The fever falls. The infection remains and increasingly to itself. With Nicolas Sarkozy this situation has still strongly worsened.

What would be to be made today is a gigantic job. Every now and then, during the electoral campaigns, is spoken of a Marshall's plan. Milliards are really put in the renovation by frail buildings, but one hardly sees it.
The power rules furthermore. She rules first within the parts of town, among the inhabitants. Poor people exploit other poors.
If one wants to be respected, there is for most people only one solution: Violence. The state gives of course an example.
France has shown it last in Algeria and today in the fight against all forms of violence. Georges Bush has found everywhere good successors. Why should the single people not try also in this way to solve her problems? It is any case the shortest way. And there are weaker and weaker people with whom the power succeeds. So we use them.

Three possibilities exist to be respected with the help of violence:

- One joins to a gang. May be of a gangster's gang.
- One procures to himself weapons. They are to be found quite easy.
- One must earn on an easy way a lot and fast money: in addition helps drug trafficking and prostitution. Also belongs to it on command to beat up certain people or to light up cars.

For all of us, it seems to me, it is important from the beginning of these entire sad realities that there stands the one and everlasting desire: The desire for respect. Every person has a right on respect. Everybody should also respect the other. But who begins? Whom should I respect if I have the impression that others hate me because of my origin, my skin color, my name, my culture, my religion, my traditions? Whom can I respect if I have no claim on a decent flat, on a job, quite simply on a place in the society?

My personal view is that we must undertake socially to protect the fundamental rights of every person. Only then one may expect from all that they also respect the society. In our suburbs in France we are still far away from such a position. There are true solutions only to be reached by common trust, and trust grows only from mutual respect.
The ideas of mobile work with youth appeared in Slovakia after the first qualification courses in the years 2004/2005 and 2006. They were organized by International society for mobile youth work (ISMO) and Tabita n.o. with financial support of Aktion Mensch. There were participants from organizations oriented at the work with young people, but also the representatives from local government. The concept of „mobile work with youth" was new and very stimulating for most participants. The new information website providing informations on mobile work in Slovakia www.mobilnapracasmladezou.sk has been created.

We have seen that the principles and standpoints of mobile work with youth resemble the existing concept of low-threshold programs for children and youth. Their aims are to lower the potential risks connected with their way of life, to enable children and young people to have a better orientation in social surroundings and to create conditions for them to resolve their difficult situation if they are interested. The service is designed for children and young people who are in critical situation and don´t look for standard institutional means of help. It realizes in the form of streetwork or stationary in so called low-threshold clubs. The emphasis is on removing barriers and maximizing the accessibility of the child welfare service. In concord with the concept of mobile work it is based on the rule that the focus of attention is on the problems which young people have, and not on the problems they cause. The methods of work are oriented at individual, group and partially also the community. The need of work with community emerges certain extent in organizations working with socially excluded communities, especially in villages. Yet, the
work with community is still the least developed area in the model of low-threshold programs for children and youth and it seems to be the only clear distinction in relation to the mobile work with youth - it has not become the priority.

It was important for the concept of mobile work with youth to create the space for implementing its methodics. It is appropriate to realize that the organizations providing services for children and young people in the form of low-threshold programs are still young in comparison to the similar organizations in Western countries. The oldest low-threshold club Kaspian has been established in the year 1997. Its work was enriched by experience from Czech Republic, and it’s well-known that the forms of their work were under the influence of German surroundings and the ideas of social pedagogy. For this reason we can find common ideas in the basis of low-threshold programs and the mobile work with youth, naturally adapted to the specific Slovak conditions.

The mobile work with youth and the low-threshold programs introduces the brand new concept of the work with this target group. Not only in terms of its views on the situation of young people, but also in terms of its services. The other activities for young people were based on the offer of the free-time activities (free-time centres) or self-reliant social services (in the advisory centres). Pursuing social services and free-time activities at the same place or directly among young people and in their communities seems to be the appropriate reaction to the actual situation. It becomes apparent that more and more children and young people spend their free time beyond the educational influence of state institutions, self-governing authorities and organizations of the third sector, and they prefer un-organized to organized activities. It results in creating the new model of work, which approach to young people respects their views without too much mentoring.

**ACTUAL SITUATION**

There is no statistics quoting the number of organizations that work with young people using the elements of mobile work. The low-threshold programs originated spontaneously, stimulated also by the long-term financial support of the foundation Intenda in course of the program "Lowering the thresholds" designed especially for this area of work with children and young people. Intenda supported low-threshold programs in the years 2003-2006.

Evaluating actual situation we need to consider the fact that these organizations work in a very variegated surroundings, from the big cities to the small villages. Some of them are focused on the specified limited group of children living in the housing estates („the children with the key on their neck”) some work in the low-thresholds clubs with the ele-
ments of community centres, others realize their programs in the excluded communities, or work with Roma youth. We can notice the differences in different regions of Slovakia, in the extent of involvement of volunteers as the main „working-force" and also in their budgets. One of the participants of seminars emphasized that the differences between age, social and economical situation of the clients is so different that creating the methodologies will be very demanding. We agree and add that there is a space Slovakia and need of the new types of services that would focus on the specific target groups.

After the initial time of excitement some organizations started to realize the real demand of these tasks. Not only in terms of the of financial, personal and material resources, but also it is the area of the methodology. Standards of this work are still forming and they has not bee officially introduced and accepted yet.

The organization have to handle their problems alone. In the course of three workshops the workers from the whole Slovakia look for the answer to the question: "Why did you offer to your clients (children and young people) the low-threshold program as the most appropriate form for them?" The answers were various, yet some of them were similar. The workers noted that "without the club would the most children left on the street", "the club offers activities that they wouldn´t find in their surroundings to such extent (reading)" and they saw the advantage of these clubs in their accessibility and non-formal approach to young clients that enables them to gain their trust. LTP opens up the opportunity to build relations with clients that mistrust official institutions. The workers in the field work can maintain and offer the net of credited following services (if the organization cooperates with others.) Another important element is that this concept doesn´t stigmatize, and the new clients appreciate anonymity, it also creates the space for meeting the peers (creating the group identity „we”). Mentioning the positives of those concrete programs their representatives mentioned most principles of the low-threshold-programs. Discussion about the hardship brought different reaction and inspiring ideas. There are different personal, material and other restrictions which may cause that “we cannot meet the needs of all clients”, or the capacity of room doesn´t allow them to welcome everyone who wants to join their indoor activities. The new identity „we" can create also the new form of isolation in the local community. Another difficult situation in field work is when „they have different rules in their surroundings and we cannot directly influence them." Most activities are focused on the group and there is no space for the work with individuals. There are often problems with keeping the rules. It may result into „quick exhaustion of workers." Every seminar dealt in some way with the reflection on the situation when LTP achieve their limits and the clients stagnate. The participants shared the same view that LTP for children and youth bring to the workers more opportunities than dangers. Yet there is a need to reflect the pitfalls of LTP for children and youth and to work on seeking solutions and the suitable way for our target group of children and young people also by using the methodic materials. It could help to implement low-threshold
programs as a long-term and stable element of social services. As these organizations invest a lot of energy into the direct work, they haven’t enough time for systematic networking, information exchange or lobbying on the state level. Legislation of the low-threshold programs is still not sufficient. The workers of these organizations agree on the opinion that the LTP with their offer of services (free-time activities, social services, prevention, information and educational activities) surpass the limit of their resorts. There is still a void in the legislation concerning them, no one has placed this model of work with children and youth at risk into existing laws. One of the consequences is that LTP do not profit from the the financial mechanisms of state and self-governmental authorities (they can gain financial support from their grant schemes.) It is important to emphasize that the legislative definition could promote the foreknowledge of the workers from the state sector and extend the possibility of placing the work with children and young people at risk among the priorities of self-governing regions and local governments.

The important source of finances are national and local foundations, partially The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of education of Slovak Republic (both mainly through the grant schemes designed for the prevention) the means from 2 percent taxis. The sponsorship from the firms is pursued mainly through the foundations as stewards of their financial gifts. In the conditions of Slovak Republic we can perceive the support from Churches that are usually not the founders of these organizations, but their workers belong to the concrete denominations.

THE ASSOCIATION

The need for mutual co-operation became apparent; the directors started to realize how important it is for the perspective of stable and long-term work. The important issues opened up during the Conference Low-threshold programs that has been held in Bratislava, Slovakia, in February 2007.

The initiative has been taken by the work group from Bratislava (Kaspian, Ulita, Children’s fond SR, Youth of the street - Their workers participated in the qualification course mobile youth work). They prepared the regulations and the basic frame of the work of the Association of low-threshold programs for children and young people. The idea originated a few years ago, they prepared the sport tournaments for their clients, and exchanged the information. Finally they made the concrete steps necessary for its establishment; the official date of birth is August 14th 2008. The main task of the association is to represent the common interests of its members and to take part in the development of the work with youth - directly or through the institutional development of the organizations and the
whole sector. It means also the mapping and networking. The association maintains the website npdm.ziskaj.info providing important informations. It should be also the future partner for the experienced foreign organizations that use the elements of mobile work.

DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVES

The concept of mobile work with youth is still only partially detected in Slovakia. Considering the fact that the whole sector of work with youth is only being formed, the new ways and new starting points being sought and discovered. The workers who were educated represent the potential of propagation the thoughts and using the concrete methods of work with youth. They are only a few; it would be helpful for this concept to focus for professional education of workers who have the perspective of long-term direct field work. The necessary step in development of the mobile work in Slovakia is more intensive cooperation with foreign partners who have the experience in this area.

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Over the last ten years, as the country struggled with sweeping economic decline and a shift in values, it has also had to cope with a side effect of this massive transformation: homeless and neglected children. Away from home, deprived from shelter and parental care, these children are becoming a new cheap workforce and easy prey for the rampant criminal world. Today, both the state and the NGOs are striving to respond adequately to the problem. Yet it is evident that there is not enough capacity to tackle it. The reason of this is not just pure financial condition of state institutions but also lack of effective methods how to work with up-to-day youth. The system and methodology of care for children and youth was inherited from soviet time and it does not correspond to some new realities in today’s society.

In 2001 “Caritas Ukraine” started its first projects in this field. Presently, Caritas maintains 5 social centers for street children in Ternopil, Khmelnytsky, Kyiv, Donetsk and Lviv. The social workers looking for children on street, communicate with them, visit them in the places where they live and provide social services and conduct educational activities with the children in the centers. We involved with community with the help of wide PR-campaign and fund-rising campaign. Having good experience, the project teams still modify and improve their methodology the in order to find most effective instruments of work with street children.

The first step to familiarize Ukraine with the principles of Mobile youth work was done on the seminar in Zhytomir. The youth society “Euroclub”, Zhytomyr regional social center for youth and International Society for Mobile Youth Work (Germany) organized the seminar for social workers in this city.
The Mobile youth work has very good perspective to be applied in Ukraine and can be a basic instrument in the process of integration the street children into the society. We suppose that the participation of practical social workers from Lviv, Donetsk, Kyiv, Ternopil and Khmelnytsk in the 9th international symposium “Reaching the unreachable Social work with street children and youth” will facilitate the implementation and development of Mobile youth work in Ukraine.

Coordinator for the project “Consolidation and expansion of the Mobile Youth Work in Ukraine” ICF Caritas Ukraine, Zorjana Lukavetska
Capacity building seminars in Mobile Youth Work (MYW) have been held for youth workers in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia in 2006. Three seminars were conducted by ISMO. The participants were child protection policy makers e.g. from the Ministry of Education, Public Defenders Office, Municipal Department, NGO's, psychologists, social workers and general practitioners.

Important results of these seminars were: the recognition of the concept of Mobile Youth Work, the book “Concept of Mobile Youth Work - perspectives for Georgia” and the beginning of the creation of a national network (NGO’s, state representatives not only in Tbilisi, also in other regions of Georgia). The book was spread among seminar participants, high educational institutions, municipal departments, interested professionals, and students.

The program caused several impacts. The seminar set and developed a direction of Mobile Youth Work within the organizations working with street children. The NGO “Child and Environment” which works with street children by delivering shelters and day care centers for children and youth at risk, is strengthening Mobile Youth Work by introducing it in daily activities like the participation of volunteers - former street children. Several steps are taken to implement Mobile Youth Work in the curricula of the departments of social work of state universities. Concept and principles of Mobile Youth Work are considered in the training programs of “Ndoba”. In May 2007 an alliance working on “addressing children and adolescent violence” was founded. The alliance represents a union of organizations and professionals working on children and adolescent welfare and has the same vision regarding general measures towards violence. This alliance was supported by the Georgian Parliament and several ministries. The goals of the alliance are: to work out a
systematic instrument for studying children and adolescent violence, to create database, to assess a preventive intervention model and its integration, to elaborate recommendations in order to make state policy and to deal with violence. One of the working directions of the alliance is a program, which aims to elaborate and implement preventive and intervention programs for youth. Among these preventive and intervention programs is Mobile Youth Work – a street work program is considered.

Supportive actions have been taken. A working group was created by the initiative of the healthcare and social issues committee of the Georgian Parliament in spring 2007 aiming at the mobilization and coordination of experts, media and other interested bodies to solve the problem of violence. This committee as well put up the question of working out a state policy to prevent violence, drug abuse, crime and self-harm among youth. A lot of factors exist in Georgia that support an increase of violent acts, crime and drug abuse among teenagers. Ongoing political, economic and social processes caused changes in many spheres, especially in different state systems such as healthcare, social, education and law enforcement systems. Recently, lethal results of violence have been growing in Georgia. The number of juvenile offenders is four times as high as in 2003. The problem of violence has become more tangible for the society and for responsible bodies from state institutions, because of the numerous lethal consequences. One of the crucial issues for state authorities is the prevention of violence and crime amongst teenagers by finding approaches and working out a state policy which addresses this problem. All this is to say that there is a willingness in the society and in the state as well to find approaches to deal with the problem of youth deviant behavior: violence, drug abuse, crime, prostitution etc. But besides this, there is a need to increase sensitivity in the society towards this issue. By solving this issue we intend to increase the involvement of children and teenagers in decision making processes for example by considering their needs and visions and through a participation in the process.

Different groups are to be addressed: Street children, children at risk, IDP Children. Street children are children, who work in the streets, begging, washing cars, sometimes they live on the streets. They are from unprotected, poor families, their parents are vulnerable, victims of violence, offenders etc. These children in most cases do not attend school and are beneficiaries of social services (shelters, day care centers).

Children at risk: We often meet young people, about whom we say that they don’t have interests, they are not busy with different activities, they are idlers and they waste their time in the streets or in internet cafes, or spend their nights playing net games in night clubs. Not to mention the increasing criminality among youth, increasing numbers of drug users and something like nihilism, strangeness and non-participation in society.
IDP Children: Internally Displaced Children and youth, living in tents and temporary communal centers. (As a result of war which took place in Georgia in August 2008). Thousands of children and youth became witnesses of bombing, killings and other horrible happenings. Now they experience and suffer from post-traumatic stress reactions. (30 000 school age children are affected).

Reactions of adolescents after disasters can be the following:

- Detachment, shame, and guilt
- Self-consciousness about their fears, sense of vulnerability, fear of being labeled abnormal
- Acting out behavior; using alcohol and drugs, sexual acting out, accident-prone behavior.
- Fears of recurrence and reactions to reminders
- Abrupt shifts in interpersonal relationships: Teens may pull away from parents, family, and even from peers; they may respond strongly to parents’ reactions in the crisis.
- Radical changes in attitude
- Some want a premature entrance into adulthood: wish to leave school, get married
- Concern for other victims and families

These reactions will disappear, but some reactions will lead to serious problems, problems of mental health and deviant behavior. A timely and adequate response to these reactions can prevent the mentioned above problems. Apart from personal traumata they are at risk to develop social traumata.

Two directions of personality development can appear: an identification with the aggressor, attitudes and tendencies of revenge and aggressive behaviour or a passive position, an escape from responsibilities or seeking a saviour. The implementation of the concept of Mobile Youth Work started with the formation of youth clubs at schools, whose tasks were: Planning and constructive management of adolescents’ spare time, the transformation of the adolescents’ lifestyle, a rational use of already existing resources in the community for social and useful activities (both by youth and community), an increase of the adolescents’ social and civic participation in the community. The goals of the youth clubs are: the adolescent’s emotional, personal and ethics development, to make them more active in community work, to encourage and help them to do volunteering and take part in useful activities, to help with the realization of their interests and a change of lifestyle. Furthermore they organise a cooperation with street children, active involvement and participation of street children in school club activities. They help with the process of planning and the constructive management of their spare time (after school), to enhance their perspectives, interests and realization of interests in their environment, community
and micro system. We are planning to establish “youth clubs”. This is a non-class club activity which can be organized by the school psychologist, an organizer or senior pupils (e.g. representatives of the school self-government).

The youth club: Members of clubs will be students from schools, who work with street children. One of the activities of the club besides creating first contact with street children should be the attraction and integration of street children into club activities. Street children will become club members. Meetings for adolescents in which they will discuss current topics such as: map of my future, realization of my interests, healthy lifestyle, the hierarchy of social values, gender roles, tolerance, etc. Trainings for trainers in social skill development (communication, conflict management, working in groups, assertive communication) and personality development – 13 steps to personality development, violence prevention program. Volunteers are mobilised to assist. A cooperation and work with IDP youth living in tents and communal centers is planned and implemented.

The members of the club will start concrete activities to help socially unprotected people in their districts. They will get information from the local government about poor families, solitary old people or socially challenged people. They will visit them and learn about their needs. At the same time they will make a social area analysis. (What kind of businesses, governmental or non-governmental, industrial or social service organizations are functioning in the district?) They will also get information about what kinds of services could be provided to the concrete socially unprotected beneficiaries by the above mentioned people or organizations. After this they will solve the existing “problem”. This kind of activity will be one of the permanent ones. Leisure, educational and developmental activities as well as school activities both school teenagers at risk, street children and IDP Children should benefit from these approaches in equal measure.
INTRODUCTION

I would like briefly to describe in some general way the youth gang problem situation in the United States and then indicate theoretical perspectives, especially social disorganization, to explain the problem. I then focus on three community program models, with emphasis on the role of the Mobile Youth Worker as a member of a team of different types of street workers addressing the problem through a comprehensive community wide approach, being developed and tested in a score of sites in the United States at the present time.

THE YOUTH GANG SITUATION

In the most recent of national surveys, by the National Youth Gang Center in Tallahassee, Florida, affiliated with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice, Egley and O’Donnell (2008), estimated that youth gangs were active in 3400 city and county law enforcement jurisdictions in the United States in 2005. A key conclusion and concern was the scope of extreme violent activity by youth gang members. Seventeen-hundred and fifty-six (1756) gang homicides were recorded. Of these, 77% oc-
curred in large cities of 250,000 or more, with two of the largest metropolitan cities, Chi-
cago and Los Angeles, accounting for slightly more than 50% of the total (1756) youth
gang homicides. Male gang youth 17 to 22 years of age were the largest proportion of the
various youth gang groupings up to the age of 30 years.
The Justice Policy Institute, a major social policy think tank, however, reported a less alarm-
ing interpretation of the gang problem (Green and Pranis 2007). They concluded there
was a trend of decreasing gang membership and activity. Youth gang members were re-
sponsible for less than one in ten total homicides (gang and non-gang). Youth gangs did
not drive or organize the drug problem, and were mainly small-time dealers.

It is possible that the two sets of data represented different aspects of an interrelated
gang problem, and constitute a basis for different strategies and approaches for address-
sing the problem. Conclusions may vary depending whether focus was on older or youn-
ger youth, more criminally organized versus more peripheral, less delinquent youth gangs.
Furthermore, there is no consensus across local criminal justice or government agencies,
social agencies, community groups, grass-roots organizations, or even researchers on the
definition of components of the gang problem: who is a gang member, what is a gang, and
what is a gang incident? Consequently, there are different policy, strategy, and pro-
gram approaches for addressing the youth gang problem in the United States. They in-
clude at the present time mainly suppression and deterrence, and also, to a much lesser
extent, social services including detached youth work or mobile youth work.

EXPLANATIONS OF THE YOUTH GANG PROBLEM

Twentieth-century system explanations of the delinquency and youth gang problem rele-
vant to mobile youth work took place in the 1920s and 1930s based on the work of Shaw
and McKay (1943) and Thrasher (1927). They used ideas of urban growth and changing
local community conditions which create social disorganization, resulting in increased
rates of delinquency and gang formation. Industrial and economic development brought
low status/immigrant/rural populations to urban centers in the U.S. in search of jobs, bet-
ter social and economic conditions and/or escape from intolerable conditions in other
countries. These populations often settled in marginal or interstitial areas near central
business or industrial areas. These areas came to be characterized by high levels of social
and health problems, including crime. These conditions still prevail increasingly in many
parts of the United States, and perhaps also more recently in other urbanizing and indu-
trial areas or centers in the world today.

For immigrants in the newly-settled areas - perhaps into the second or third generation
- there may be a disjunction between goals and values of the larger, dominant society, with limited opportunities to achieve them. Conflicting norms and values of older and newer institutions of socialization, family, schools, and youth agencies create conditions of special risks of gang involvement for certain youth, especially male adolescents of marginal families living in marginal sections of urban society.

Over time, modifications of theories of social disorganization and strategies to address the gang problem have occurred. Bursik and Grasmick (1993) and Bursik (2002) argue that despite the formation of gangs and the presumed alienation of gang members, they still maintain ties to family, kin, neighbors, and other conventional institutions and organizations of the local and larger society. Hagedorn and others (2007, 2008) claim that globalization, characterized by changing social and economic conditions and large and rapid movement of low status/low income populations within and across countries, has magnified the development and spread of the youth gang problem. Youth gangs come to be found “almost naturally.”

Manwaring (2007), a military strategist, sees the development of youth gangs in the modern era as a potential threat to state security and integrity. In the first stage of gang development, emphasis is on turf protection, increase of social status through violence, theft, and petty crime. In the second stage, street gangs emphasize drug trafficking and more sophisticated criminal-gang activities. In the third stage, there is a threat to the maintenance of civil order and a stable society. Street gangs are said to be affiliated with insurgent groups and anti-state activities. Manwaring claims they may become part of movements that seek to control communities that are poorly-governed or territories dominated by corrupt politicians and government functionaries. Militias and rebel groups come to vie for political influence and power, threatening state legitimacy. However, evidence of this third stage of gang development is not evident in the U.S., Europe, and most countries, other than perhaps African and South American countries.

On the other hand, Barrios (2003) and Brotherton (2003) view youth gangs more positively as examples of “resistance organizations” to a repressive society and potential elements of more positive social change. Youth gangs are expected to become transformed and empowered to join social and political reform groups and movements that oppose community conditions of poverty, corruption, and human degradation. However, evidence again is not available to support the existence of these latter transformations of the youth gang problem at least in the United States.

COMMUNITY GANG PROGRAM APPROACHES IN THE U.S.

Social disorganization theory at the community level has been the basis for a series of
gang program models: youth social development; deterrence and suppression; and the comprehensive community-wide model.

The youth social development model has traditionally focused on use of street workers, mobile youth workers in the streets, and more recently, on gang prevention in the school, youth agency, treatment, and criminal justice settings. The model deemphasizes or prescribes a limited relationship to criminal justice deterrence, community development and organizational change efforts in the open community. Agencies such as the YMCA, Boys Club, faith-based and special youth projects have traditionally engaged in outreach to unaffiliated, often younger, less delinquent youth, sometimes on the periphery of gangs. Emphasis by workers is on establishing trusting relationships and persuading youth to conform to behavior acceptable to the larger society. Primary means to achieve these objectives are recreational activities, brief counseling, social and cultural activities, and faith-based experiences.

In the deterrence/suppression model, focus is on the identification, control, and punishment of gang youth who by definition are considered a threat to society. The model emphasizes the availability of specialized law enforcement (prosecution or correctional) units to prevent or interrupt gang activities in the open community (justice system or institution setting). Focus is on the use of intelligence gathering procedures, surveillance activities, gang member classifications, gang sweeps, and enforcement of civil injunctions. Coordination across justice system units at city, state, and federal levels is increasingly encouraged to “pull” all possible justice system “levers” to enforce controls and punish gang offenders, especially those involved in violence and drug trafficking. Cooperation of community groups is sometimes sought to aid in deterrence and control of gang activities. Contact with, and referrals of, gang youth to youth agencies for prevention, social development, or rehabilitation is generally not sought. Outreach youth workers are often thought by police to be too gang-identified or even still active gang members. Such incidents or charges are often a basis for law enforcement to attack mobile youth work or detached worker programs.

In the comprehensive community-wide approach, the goal is to reduce the gang problem by focusing on use of interrelated strategies of prevention, social intervention, deterrence/suppression, and more recently reintegration of incarcerated gang offenders back into the community. A variety of specific strategies of community mobilization, social intervention, opportunities provision, and organizational change and development is used to achieve both social development of gang youth and those at high risk of gang involvement and at the same time protection of community residents and property interests from gang harm and deprivations. The comprehensive approach attempts to integrate elements of the social development and deterrence/suppression models and insure ma-
ximum collaboration between mobile youth work programs, criminal justice efforts, and community support.

The complex comprehensive community-wide model has been recently developed and tested in various communities, and where adequately implemented has achieved considerable success. The model requires the development of certain structural and program process elements: a lead, or coordinating agency, e.g., police department, youth agency, or school; a steering council of leaders of key organizations and community groups including representatives of police, probation and other justice system units, social agencies, schools, faith-based organizations, businesses, employment agencies, government officials, citywide community organizations, and grass-roots groups; and a street team, including detached youth workers or Mobile Youth Workers, police, probation officers, along with affiliated school, treatment, and job training/placement, and neighborhood-organizing personnel.

The comprehensive approach is highly targeted to the gang problem sector of the community, with emphasis on reaching, helping, and controlling specific gang-involved youth engaged in as well as youth who are at high risk of engaging in violence and drug activity. Much depends on ongoing assessment of gang problem situations, community leadership, staff dedication, and careful evaluation of efforts to address the problem. Use of outside experts and academic researchers is advised in the design of programs, assessment of program component efforts, and evaluation of program outcome.

THE ROLE OF THE MOBILE YOUTH WORKER IN THE COMMUNITY-WIDE MODEL

The role of the Mobile Youth Worker has to be carefully developed and implemented in the comprehensive community-wide approach. The youth worker focuses not only on building effective relationships and behavioral outcomes with specific target youth, but he must also (along with other members of the street team) address and affect relationships and behaviors of key components of his community context, i.e., the gang, girl/boyfriend, family, school, neighborhood groups, employment, and other agencies. Mobile Youth Workers should include as staff former, now reformed, gang influential from the same target community, as well as social work professionally-trained youth workers who can facilitate both contact and relationships between gang delinquent youth and available social development and treatment resources.

Community Mobilization. The Mobile Youth Worker contributes in several ways to community mobilization and resource development. In the course of contacts with gang youth, he is in a special position to learn and analyze the social development interests and needs
of target youth especially for further education, training, employment, controls and social services. He observes organizations and their gatekeepers or special personnel in these organizations with access to social and control resources who can facilitate referrals and mediate conflicts between target youth and these organizations. Such information and contacts are useful not only for his particular street-level program efforts but to lead agency administrators and steering committee members in the formulation of program policy and development of broad organizational support for the program. The mobile youth worker is in a position to identify particular agency and community personnel who can be useful in the development of various program and policy structures needed by the program. He is in a special position to aid lead agency and steering council administrators in the recruitment of local governmental leaders, neighbors, and parents to participate in and support the program’s various advisory structures and activities.

**Social Intervention.** This is the primary strategy of the Mobile Youth Worker. The strategy requires continuing and intensive contact with gang youth who are identified as needing program services. The effectiveness of the strategy depends on the positive and useful working relationship achieved by the mobile youth worker with both the target youth, and key community groups and organizations related to target youth. Understanding and skill in brief counseling, and crisis intervention with gang youth and development of discussion activities at times of gang conflict in the context of group or gang dynamics are important in the worker’s efforts to guide the youth in more social or conventional paths and limit the effects of gang norms and values. Work with troubled and troublesome youth in the context of gang structure, and pressures as well as relationships with family, school, employment and neighborhood groups and the justice system is exceedingly difficult. As a key street team member, he provides to and seeks ongoing and often selected information and advice from other street team members, e.g., police, probation officers, neighborhood organizer on how to deal with the gang youth and other agencies and community groups the youth may interact with. He assists other team members and receives assistance from them in making appropriate referrals, providing additional services and controls to target gang youth he serves.

**Provision of Social Opportunities.** This strategy is closely related to social intervention. Success in developing successful intervention procedures depends to a large extent in meeting the needs of gang youth through access to adequate and sustained performance in jobs, training, and school. The mobile youth worker may need not only to have to engage in extensive discussion with the youth about use of available opportunity resources, but persuade gatekeepers to make these opportunities available to the youth. The specific interests, social needs, and handicaps of particular target youth are communicated to gate keepers. The Mobile Youth Worker acts as a broker and mediator between
the youth and the gate keeper and his organization. Certain police and practices may have to be encouraged. Special efforts are made to persuade the gate keeper that the youth will not mess up as he did on previous occasions and that the youth will now proceed to invest himself in more productive relationships in the particular opportunity-providing setting. He may call on the youth's girlfriend, wife, parent, neighbors, even fellow gang members to aid in this process. A major effort needs to be made to begin to separate the youth from the gang as he participates and gains some success and satisfaction from job, training, school, other cultural and social activities, girlfriend and family relationships.

Deterrence and Suppression. The mobile youth worker is a moral guide to the youth, advising him in times of crisis about choices to be made and the right socialization path to take. A variety of sanctions may also have to be undertaken, for example, alerting team police officers to the presence of weaponry in the target youth's house and persuading or assisting the team police officers to remove the weapons. This does not necessarily mean arresting a young gang member, but instead requiring the youth to make better use of school or available educational opportunities. The mobile youth worker may be able to encourage the school to provide special tutorial arrangements for the youth. On the other hand there may be occasions when the youth is so out of control in participating in, or stimulating, intergang conflict that the mobile youth worker may recommend additional probation supervision or even court referral of the youth to a correctional setting - preferably for a shorter rather than longer period - while still maintaining contact with him in the institution.

The Mobile Youth Worker is an outreach social worker. He does not act as an agent of the criminal justice system, although he may work closely with officers, especially around issues of violence and illegal drug trafficking. He is careful not to over identify with law enforcement personnel, yet must provide information about serious criminal activities of target gang youth. On the other hand, he must also be in a position to observe abusive police activity affecting target gang youth and communicate such information to appropriate police supervisory and administrative personnel, and encourage transfer or removal of such officers from the district.

The role of the mobile youth worker in deterrence must be reciprocated by team police officers' expanded social development support role in referral of gang youth for social services and less punitive sanctions for youth. Street team relationships and experiences for law enforcement officers encourage greater respect in relationships with gang youth, their families, and community residents.
Organizational Change and Development. This strategy underlies the other comprehensive program strategies. While its implementation is largely the responsibility of the lead agency executive staff and members of the advisory council, the mobile youth worker has a significant role to play in alerting program leaders about community, institutional, and agency gaps in the development of an effective program to address gang problems. The strategy is closely related to the community mobilization strategy. The youth worker provides periodic assessments based on his observations of target youth and gang behavior as well as agency, community, and governmental policy and program responses to the gang problem that need to be further developed or changed in the effective implementation of the community-wide approach.

EVALUATION

Finally, the design, development, program process and outcomes of the program need to be carefully assessed and evaluated, often with the aid of outside research evaluators. Evaluation of the comprehensive gang program is difficult and complex, but essential if we are to learn what works and does not work. Effective evaluation depends on the availability of good empirical data, close collaboration with data-providing organizations, and requires external and long term collaboration between the evaluators and program personnel. For purposes of evaluation, particularly of large-scale projects, quasi-experimental research designs and the availability of comparable program and comparison non-served youth are necessary. There has been an extraordinary lack of adequate gang program evaluation research over many decades which may account for the lack of progress in understanding, designing, and implementing effective community programs to reduce the youth gang problem. This is not to deny the influence of defective governmental policy, competing organizational interests and limited resources in reacting to the increased spread and globalization of the gang problem.

References


1. SERVICE PROVISION

Freeport West, Inc.’s StreetWorks, is a collaborative of Twin Cities agencies that have come together with a common vision and mission to reach out and assist homeless youth who are in high risk situations and vulnerable to exploitation and violence.

30 plus outreach workers team in pairs to be present on the streets in areas where youth hang out. As youth advocates, our goal is to develop trusting relationships in which youth feel genuine care and concern.

Because of collaborative relationships, in-depth services such as, shelter, drop-in, transitional living programs, medical services, and alternative care options youth have more opportunities, better service coordination and “insider” access to services.

The challenges of a collaborative model are many.
Practices and standards, do we all agree?
Funding differences, how do we spend the money?
How do we schedule workers?
What we learn from it.

Through partnership we learn more about the demographics of youth homelessness, service needs, trends in street drugs, trafficking patterns, and internet versus street exploi-
Youth associate us as one group, if someone leaves; youth know there is another trained professional to assist them. This model creates safety for youth and OW's through ethics and boundaries that are agreed upon by all members.

Professionalism & Supervision - this defines supervision with supervisors who are on the street which informs their supervision. Supervisors are required to go on the streets with their outreach worker/s each quarter; they then fill out a questionnaire designed by StreetWorks, the Supervisory Quarterly Feedback Form (SQFF). This questionnaire has several questions that will assist the supervisor on the progress of the outreach worker. Supervisors see the OW's work space/s, discover what kind of relationships the outreach worker has formed with youth and community, including other professionals, and what capacities the OW holds or what other training the worker may need. The SQFF is turned in to StreetWorks staff by the end of each quarter of the year. At that time a meeting can occur with the supervisor, worker and Coordinator of Outreach Services to discuss progress and capacity building needs. Outreach workers are generally eager to take the supervisor out with them and show them the work they do. New supervisors who are unfamiliar with street outreach work must go out on the streets more frequently and experience a similar training that new outreach workers complete. The new outreach worker training component is detailed below in # 3, Collaborative Model in Cross Training.

2. SPECIALIZATION

Diverse population engagement

LGBTQQI - This population’s experience is different than other targeted populations, because LGBTQQI, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, Questioning and Intersexed youth, may come from homes where poverty exists, but often come from middle and upper class homes also and are rejected because of their sexual orientation. Because of rejection and or abuse by family members and peers, these young people are even more vulnerable in street populations. Transgender youth face even more challenges when they become homeless and often male-to-female transgender youth end up sexually exploited, particularly youth of color where racial diversity exists. Youth in sex work - Youth engaged in sex work or sex survival sex are often forced or coerced in exchanging sex for a place to sleep, food, money to survive or drugs. Differing opinions about whether a youth can CHOOSE to sell their body abound worldwide. Another global issue is, the differing ages of consent in countries. We do however know from recent and thorough studies, that the teen brain is undone! Although teens and young adolescents may present differently in a variety of cultures depending on responsibilities and maturation progress, studies show
that the young brain isn't finished until into the twenties because the pre-frontal cortex is still developing. So how can a 14 year old child make a life-time choice to become a sex worker when he/she doesn't have the stored experience to compare that life to other experiences?

Immigrant youth - Border fluidity means that youth are moving across countries being utilized in abusive labor markets and for the purposes of trafficking. These children and youth often are without family or are sometimes, the main “breadwinners” in the family. Streetworkers can help to stabilize this population, but until world poverty is seriously addresses, laws that are in place to protect minors are not enforced. In the USA many undocumented youth come from our neighbor countries in Central or South America where poverty and violence is extremely high. We don't see youth flooding over the border from Canada certainly. In the USA and globally, youth arrive illegally and are trafficked into sex work, labor or simply end up in street cultures surviving through drug dealing and other criminal activities. When these youth are apprehended, they are sent back to their home country, and to the violence and poverty they escaped from originally. The USA needs to make serious changes in immigration policies.

Traveling/squat youth - They are counter-culture youth who “hop” the trains and travel around the USA, (mixed with an older population of travelers.) This community is very private and keeps in touch or shares information with one another through “word of mouth” or by utilizing computers in libraries as they stop-off in different cities. They often travel in groups, or have specific meeting places where they camp for periods of time. Street workers often assist them with food, medical referral resources, or replacement of basic travel needs, back packs tarp for camping, and clothing. Their philosophical views are often anarchistic and they are not typically seeking to settle in any specific city or take permanent jobs. They do often work in some capacity on the road, such as at small carnivals, fruit or vegetable picking, handiwork and some of the females strip in clubs for short periods.

3. COLLABORATIVE MODEL IN CROSS TRAINING

Collaborative training Curriculum - The training of new outreach workers is very intensive. It includes 3 orientation meetings with StreetWorks Supervisor of Outreach Training, and the new outreach worker’s supervisor. It is critical for the supervisor to participate and hear what the collaborative expectations are of the worker and the supervisor. (See the New Outreach Worker Orientation that follows for topics that are covered during each 2-3 hour training session.)
The worker must visit all 12 collaborative partner agencies, and meet staff in individual agencies in order to get to know people who they will need to work with in the future, whether in a shelter, drop-in center or independent living program. They are required to visit approximately 20 other service organizations, such as welfare and government centers, local hospital emergency rooms, other youth programs that are not members of the collaborative and adult homeless service providers. These visits are critical in forming relationships with everyone they will need to work with in the community.

In addition to program/site visits, the new outreach worker is scheduled for their first street shadow training shift with the Supervisor of Outreach Training and 10 additional shadow training shifts within the teams of (30 + outreach workers) for 10 additional shadow training shifts. The final shift is with the Supervisor of Outreach Training, before being approved to receive the StreetWorks Greenbag.

During the process, the supervisor of the new outreach worker calls outreach teams, (who work in pairs) to thank them for assisting in training the new outreach worker and to get feedback on how the outreach worker is doing.

When all shadow training shifts and site visits are finished, the new worker and supervisor has the final 3rd orientation session with the Supervisor of Outreach Training and the StreetWorks Program Assistant to learn the responsibilities of paperwork, forms, time sheets, data collection, and how to fill out the monthly calendar. At this time they receive the StreetWorks Greenbag, which StreetWorks supplies with: outreach cards, condoms, bus tokens, “emergency” food or supply cards, hygiene items, t-shirts, socks, underwear, hats, gloves, scarves, (in winter) and other basic need supplies. The worker can come to the StreetWorks office to refill the supply bag any time that the office is staffed. Receiving the Greenbag is a proud moment for the outreach worker as they’ve worked very hard to earn it. The length of time to get the Greenbag is typically 4-8 weeks, depending on the new worker’s availability to complete all training shifts and site visits.

NEW OUTREACH WORKER ORIENTATION

**Orientation I (Supervisor and Outreach Worker)**

a. History of Street Outreach in Twin City Metro and Suburbs
b. Program Vision and Goals
c. Outreach Worker Expectations
d. Code of Ethics in Outreach (Ethics and Boundaries with Youth and team members)
e. Continuum of Services and Resources
f. Agencies to get to know. (Including youth and adult programming, specialists in sub-
cultures, etc.)
g. Outline of Supervisory Responsibilities
h. Scheduling of outreach 1st training shift with Coordinator of Outreach Services and set up of 10 more shadow training shifts with team members

Orientation II

a. Outreach Methodology
b. Case Management
c. Suicide Risk Intervention
d. Safer Sex, HIV and STI’s
e. Mental Health
f. Outreach Workers and communities
g. Safety Protocol
h. Discussion of ongoing outreach training shifts, styles of outreach they’re seeing, target populations, areas they’ve been scheduled in, challenges, what’s going well

Orientation III supervisor and Outreach Worker

a. Paperwork Needs
b. Review of training shifts and agency visits
c. Working with sexually exploited youth.
d. Working with LGBT youth
e. Review of Goals
f. Review of Resources

• Drawing on a large professional group, academic and life experience - Outreach workers are able to draw on a group of experienced team members throughout the training process and as they develop their expertise. Team members are very diverse reflecting old and new populations in the Twin City metro area of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Minneapolis/St. Paul (twin cities) has the largest Hmong population in the USA outside of California, a new population of East and West Africans, a huge population of Central Americans, many of whom are undocumented. There are also new populations of East Europeans, and Muslims from many countries. The twin cities have a
large population of African Americans, as well as Caucasians and Minneapolis has the largest urban population of Native Americans of any city in the USA.

- Our diverse team includes people who have had life experiences with homelessness, including young peer outreach workers that are holding their first job, older outreach workers who have had homeless experiences when they were young, those who have studied sociology or social work and bring academic and theoretic learning to the group. Whatever the previous studies or experiences the outreach team has, they all bring a fierce commitment to working with young people and a willingness to work in the street and community through our cold MN winters and our steamy summers!

- Growth of team, challenges and changes in the team – The StreetWorks Collaborative currently has 12 agency members. Our team has grown from 20 outreach workers to 30+ individuals in 2008. Some outreach workers are full time, (40 hours) some are part time (10-20 hours). There are 3 StreetWorks staff to assist the workers. StreetWorks Manager, Supervisor of Outreach Training, and Program Assistant. It is a challenge to keep the outreach workers supplied, keep up with data collection and programming, report to funders, schedule all workers in a monthly calendar, represent the StreetWorks Collaborative in community meetings and events, plan and organize monthly meetings for collaborative members as well as organizing training opportunities to enhance capacity for all team members, outreach workers and supervisors.

- Outreach workers also “turn-over” and it is the responsibility of all collaborative members to welcome new workers into our field of work and re-create our team. StreetWorks Collaborative staff plans an annual team building event for outreach workers also. At the end of 2008 we had a “SPA and Outreach Worker Appreciation Night”. Outreach workers could choose to have manicures, pedicures, massages, sauna use and whirlpool bath, catered food, appreciation certificates of service and gifts.

- Succession planning – It is important to have a balance of team members. Some are very “seasoned” and a few have been outreach workers for 8-15 years, others are at the beginning of the training process and but others have been at StreetWorks member agencies for 3-6 years. This is an exciting mix of experience and new energy. Our outreach team varies from ages 18 to 50. It is important for the StreetWorks staff to plan for succession of jobs. The Supervisor of Outreach Training is working to develop a manual that will detail the responsibilities of this position. StreetWorks will be hiring a “Lead Outreach Worker” by the 2nd quarter of 2009, this individual will “job shadow” the Supervisor of Outreach Training for the remainder of 2009.

Job overlap is relative, so that our small staff understands the responsibilities of the other positions and the individual work isn’t “silooed” so that if someone leaves the position, other staff can perform those duties at least nominally, until a new person is in position.
4. SITTING DOWN WITH THE GOVERNMENT DUDES

So... who needs funding?

Systems-Change through Partnership with Government, Foundations, Private Sector, NGO’s - It is important to get to know funders and make them aware of changing needs in homeless youth populations. It is through knowing the needs of youth that we can advocate for funding and legislation to create justice and opportunity for youth.

We invite funders to our programs, offer to take them out on an outreach shift and meet some of our youth. We also create relationships with local, regional, and national government agencies and political representatives. At an annual conference in Washington, DC called the National Network 4 Youth Symposium, outreach workers, youth workers, managers, supervisors, youth and executive directors from individual states make appointments with senators and house representatives and visit them in groups to advocate for increased funding for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, (RHYA) which is United State governmental federal funding for: Basic Centers, (includes emergency shelter beds) Transitional and Independent Living Programs, and Street Outreach Programs.

We encourage youth to vote and organize voting opportunities for homeless youth so that they have a voice in the political system. Funding can be dependent on the political philosophy of the majority of elected officials that go to Washington, so being involved with local politicians is critical. For the first time, advocates worked with politicians in MN in 2006 to pass the first state Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. Although it’s a federal act, every state doesn’t have its own RHYA. Having the act in place means that funding will be allocated for programming in the state.

Efficacy of funding a collaborative - Government and Foundation funding streams are attracted to collaborative work, because they are getting “more for their dollars”, so it’s easier to attract funders by working together. However, funders and private donors need to learn how much work is involved in the running of a collaborative. Collaborative members also go compete for some of the same funding dollars, so, in essence, we agree to compete for these funding dollars. There is more work to be done in this area as a collaborative, and there is a working committee of executive directors of the collaborative and other youth programs to increase funding opportunities by writing more joint grants.

Ending Homelessness State/Country Models - Many states in the USA now have models to end homelessness in their state. MN has a 10 year plan to end homelessness that is considered one of the best models in the country. There are many committees involved in the planning process both in the metro and rural areas. The MN Foundations are also
a part of this planning process, which includes more affordable housing and support services such as substance abuse treatment, case management and street outreach.

Involving the public - Take the issue to the public in every way possible, talk to the media and the press, talk on local radio programs, television news, in churches, synagogues, mosques and temples. Tell your neighbors, your relatives and friends. Let youth tell their stories, but take precautions because youth can be exploited by media. Make sure youth know what they’re doing when dealing with media outlets and be there when it happens! Tell youth not to answer any questions they are uncomfortable with. Utilize honorable media resources such as newspaper reporters who you’ve read, and know how they approach issues, and form relationships with good reporters. Use Public broadcasting systems of radio and television if they exist in your area. They are generally more objective and compassionate to the issues of homelessness.

5. COMMUNITY VISION - FUTURES & FEATURES IN A COMMUNITY - PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND ECONOMIC HEALTH

Meeting with concerned persons - This may be politicians and foundation representatives, but it also may be religious leaders or elders in the community, and the most important people to meet with is youth. Do focus and survey groups with youth to see if you’re meeting their service needs.

Form committees and create a work plan with the following members: youth, police departments, school teachers and social workers, medical personnel, sexual assault and legal services, cultural representatives, runaway homeless youth service providers, neighborhood representatives, county/government personnel. Speak to sociology, social work, medical and other students in related studies at local universities about the reality of homeless youth experiences and what street outreach is. Create partnerships with all parties who come in contact with youth to learn how to work together. Develop a protocol so that all who come in contact with youth who may be homeless are interviewing youth in similar ways to determine whether they are homeless or sexually exploited.

By working together and impacting the quality of one another's work, all youth receive more professional, safer and more balanced services.
References

Margo Hirsch, “Streetwork is not just shelter work outside”, Empire Coalition of Youth and Family Services, NYC, NY
MOBILE YOUTH WORK IN KENYA

Davies Okombo, Kisumu

The situation of the street children continues to raise great concern and interest. In Kenya, studies indicate that there are about 250,000 street children, and the number seems to increase. There are many factors which work in combination or singly to contribute to the increasing number of street children and youth.

According to studies, 60 per cent of Kenya’s population lives below poverty line, which implies they spend less than US $1 in a day. The families are therefore unable to meet the basic needs, such as food, shelter and education for the children. HIV/AIDS has also contributed to the suffering of the children, as there are 1.5 million orphans in Kenya due to AIDS. Consequently, the orphans lack support and care and decide to stay on the streets.

The street children undergo a lot of suffering on the streets, since they sleep on the cold pavement, in many cases they have no food to eat, and this compromises their health status. They suffer physical and sexual abuse, and in consequence, they are traumatized and many contract sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS.

The traditional practices and interventions, in particular, creating of children's homes, seemed to fail to adequately respond to the plight of street children. In fact, it appeared in several studies that majority of the street children have spent time in the children's home, but chose to run away from the same. It is against this background that a professional and scientific concept became a necessity. The mobile youth work concept filled the vacuum, and has since seemed set to bring professional approach to the interventions. The components of the concept, namely: street work, individual aid, group work and community-based work are better geared at finding solutions to the phenomena of street children.
Street work, in particular, has proved invaluable in building trust amongst the social workers and street children. Borrowed from the concept, the social workers reach out to the street children and hold interactions, and in the process making clear the existing services. A few social workers conduct street work in the night, a very risk exercise due to increased insecurity and proliferation of small arms. It is observed that street work also meets resistance from the authorities who mistakenly believe that street work makes life more comfortable for street children. This school of thought reasons that street life should be reasonably unbearable for street children, to induce them to return to their homes!

Group work is also encouraged due to the fact that street children are known to stay in groups, which they refer to as “bases”. In Kisumu, Kenya, the street children have given interesting names to their “bases”: Taliban base, Kingdom base, Baghdad base, Akamba base etc. The bases consist of at least five street children, who consensually select a leader. The leaders have a lot of influence, and it is for this reason that group work becomes essential. Group work takes many forms, including group counseling and street soccer.

Individual aid is also offered after a careful analysis of the child’s background. It is the duty of a social worker to dig deeper into a child’s background, and then to work together with a child in developing an individual treatment plan (ITP). This theory acknowledges that every child is unique and special, with individual needs. Based on each child’s background, an ITP may include referral to a children’s home or reintegration into the child’s family or school.

Finally, the community is involved at a different level to respond to the plight of street children. The business community, especially Rotary Club, also discusses the problems of street children and cooperates in finding solutions. The slum community is particularly empowered through micro-credit programs as measure to stop the flow of children from the slums into the streets.

It is however important to appreciate that the concept was first heard by a large audience in Kenya in 2003 during the 8th ISMO International Symposium. It took a lot of time before the organizations began to adopt the concept.

In conclusion, the Mobile Youth Work Concept will hopefully go along way in finding lasting solutions to the problem of street children, not only in Kenya but also the rest of Africa.
Since the end of the Communist era the society in the Russian Federation has gone through multiple changes. The increase in the number of problems facing the Russian people is reflected in the number of non-governmental organisations that exist today. The Charities Aid Foundation published 1993 for Russia a number of fewer than 30,000 non-governmental organisations. 2002 they speak already of 300,000 officially registered NGOs. The Russian people more and more realise that they are on their own. The state will no longer support them in many daily matters as in former Soviet times. This seems to be especially true in the social service sector.

On a general European political level there is since the year 2000 the Article 137 of the EU treaty against social exclusion. “The European Council of Lisbon in March 2000 recognised that the extent of poverty and social exclusion was unacceptable. Building a more inclusive European Union was thus considered as an essential element in achieving the Union’s ten years strategic goal of sustained economic growth, more and better jobs and greater social cohesion”1. Three year later (March 21 2003) the European Commission
stated in its report to the European Council: “Exclusion imposes unjustifiable and avoidable costs on society. The Lisbon strategy’s response – a European social agenda – is to provide basic skills for all, promote employment for those who are able to work and ensure adequate social protection for those who cannot. This approach recognises the role of well-developed social protection systems in reducing poverty and promoting employment and employability, as well as the need of such systems to be modernised to ensure their long-term sustainability in the face of an ageing population.”

In this report the Commission argues strongly for a real investment in social capital i.e. people. Education as a key factor all over Europe, in the whole world, not only for children but also for adults in the sense for life-long learning, plays a rightful priority. This again made clear that fighting poverty is very much relying on our systems and qualities of education and training. The worldwide legal base for children and youth in respect to education and training is written in article 28 of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, but it is also a part of many European national constitutions or special laws for children and youth.

Concerning the target groups children and youth at risk there is to present a concept of inclusion. In Europe we deal with socially excluded children and youth in many different ways, levels and institutions. After the St. Petersburg conference 1998 the International Society for Mobile Youth Work (ISMO) and the European Network for Street Children worldwide (ENSCW) decided to focus on those children and youth – especially in Russia and in other eastern European countries – who are excluded from formal educational systems (schools) and who have in thousands of cases to survive on the streets as drug addicts, street children, street youth, violent gang members, skinheads, punks and as members of other subcultural groups in hundreds of European cities and towns. Most of the time they come out of poor or broken families or they can be characterized as socially excluded within their community.

This focussing on children and youth does not mean, that ENSCW and ISMO concentrated directly on the development of practical education- and training-oriented projects, but on the situation how are our members and partners, respectively their staff in terms of qualification, skills, knowledge and competence prepared to deal with the subject of excluded children and youth. The promised offer of both organisations to the over 350 participants - mainly from Russia - was qualification in the concept of Mobile Youth Work, laid down in an action programme at the end of the mentioned St. Petersburg conference.

1 EUROPA, the European Commission, Employment and Social Affairs, The social Inclusion Process, 18 June 2003. Website: www.europa.eu.int

2 quoted in Caritas Europa 2004: Poverty has faces in Europe, page 19 (report)
Being unemployed or being poor is a hard fact of exclusion, but being sexually abused or exploited, beaten, abandoned or physically or mentally handicapped is in no way a slighter problem and leads most of the time also to exclusion within families, neighbourhoods, communities or societies.

Good social work action must be grounded in theory and in solid quality according to the highest and most developed professional standards all over the world. This must be true, although we know that many of us live in a rich Europe with a lot of inequality and the widespread feeling of being poor and powerless. But realising our dream for a quality of life for all in an enlarging Europe and within a growing global cohesion begins with the exchange of best practice, the qualification of staff, counselling for members and should link universities and education and training centres to enable in the near future European or global benchmarking.

Establishment of an Institute for Mobile Youth Work in the Russian Federation.

In the Russian Federation the transition-related economical depression is still on its way. As a result of it there are under the 33 million children in Russia a large number of disabled children, orphans, abandoned children, homeless children and refugee children. These children - of which about 70 % live in cities - face a strong weakening of social capital in their daily surroundings, which means in their families, in their neighbourhoods, in their schools, in their cities. The number of children living permanently or temporarily in orphanages, shelters or other child institutions or are placed with foster parents is high and still increasing according to UNICEF. But is has also to be seen, that many of the street children today have escaped from shelters because of the abuse, squalor and hard discipline there. Nine out of ten street children have parents who are living, but who abuse or neglect their children. Many of the runaways have come from homes that have a history of alcoholism.

President Putin saw 2002 the need for urgent action to deal with the street children phenomena in today’s Russia, whose numbers are now larger than they were after the Revolution and Civil War. The Ministry of Labour and Social Development in Moscow established under the Deputy Minister Mrs. G. Karelova a working group to deal with the mentioned social problem and to take measures. The European Federation for Diaconia - EURODIACONIA - and the International Society for Mobile Youth Work (ISMO) offered its cooperation and support especially in the field of training and qualification for those who work with children at risk.

The concept of Mobile Youth Work implies a strong community-based mobilisation of social capital as part of the civil society. It presumes that the real powers for help and support for children at risk lie within the community, which means in the (problematic) family and their reference groups, the neighbourhood, the cliques and gangs of youngsters, the schools and in other resources of the neighbourhood or the city. This concept has been
successfully tested in different Russian cities since 1998. At that time in September in St. Petersburg took place a big international symposium (350 participants) with the theme „Street Children and Mobile Youth Work“, organised by the local government of St. Petersburg, the State University of St. Petersburg, the European Network for Street Children worldwide and the International Society for Mobile Youth Work. One result of the conference was an action program, which includes the development of courses for NGOs on Mobile Youth Work.

At that time already 12 seminars on Mobile Youth Work have been successfully carried out in Moscow, Smolensk and in St. Petersburg. On April 25, 2002 in Smolensk already 75 certificates on Mobile Youth Work could be handed out to Russian youth and social workers of the 3 cities.

The need for further qualification also in other Russian cities is great. The former ISMO coordinator for Russia, Dr. Olga Ivkova, stated that there should be a institutional basis in Russia, either in Moscow or in St. Petersburg. This institute could function Russia-wide as a network between theory and practices of Mobile Youth Work since the need for training and qualification for those who work or want to work with children and youth at risk in Russian cities is still very high as well within local authorities and also within non-governmental organisations.

**Goals of the Mobile Youth Work Institute**

- Teaching and training of the theoretical basis of Mobile Youth Work;
- Development of action research-based practical concepts fitting to specific local situations;
- Qualification of youth and social workers who work with children at risk in a community-based approach;
- Networking of similar projects on a local, regional, nation- and European-wide basis;
- Call upon Russian cities in development policies with a special focus to protect the rights of children at risk;
- International exchange of relevant experiences (best practice) with other Russian cities and European wide in the field of Mobile Youth Work.

**Target groups**

- Leading experts in the field of child and youth welfare in Russia and in other European countries;
- Politicians in the field of social policy and youth welfare on a local, regional and national level;
- Governmental and non-governmental organisations who deal with children and youth at risk;
• Representatives of church-based organisations who deal with children at risk;
• Universities;
• Youth worker, social worker, psychologists, psychiatrists, police, law enforcement administration, judges and others.

**Organisation of the Institute**

Headquarter in St. Petersburg or Moscow with 2 staff members on a regular basis (manager and secretary).

**Tasks:**
• Responsible management and coordination of the project;
• Selection of local partners (universities, governmental, non-governmental and church-based organisations) for a city-wide roundtable;
• Development of a training programme in cooperation with ISMO;
• Organisation and carrying-out of relevant seminars;
• Cooperation with other Russian and European cities;
• Public relation work (scientifically and to the general public);
• Organisation of internet counselling and knowledge dissemination.
MOBILE YOUTH WORK AS A COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH TO INCLUDE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Walther Specht

The social pedagogical systemic concept of Mobile Youth Work includes
- Street Work
- Case Work
- Group Work and
- Community Work.

It is a practical and effective tool to reduce social problems under children and youth at risk and a tool to overcome their exclusion from society i.e. families, schools, friends, neighbourhoods, communities, training and employment places.

In general it should be seen and used for the improvement of the living conditions especially of excluded children and youth in the context of their families.

On a European political level there is since the year 2000 the Article 137 of the EU treaty against social exclusion. "The European Council of Lisbon in March 2000 recognised that the extent of poverty and social exclusion was unacceptable. Building a more inclusive European Union was thus considered as an essential element in achieving the Union's ten years strategic goal of sustained economic growth, more and better jobs and greater social cohesion" Three year later (March 21 2003) the European Commission stated in its

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3 EUROPA, the European Commission, Employment and Social Affairs, The social Inclusion Process, 18 June 2003. Website: www.europa.eu.int
report to the European Council: “Exclusion imposes unjustifiable and avoidable costs on society. The Lisbon strategy’s response - a European social agenda - is to provide basic skills for all, promote employment for those who are able to work and ensure adequate social protection for those who cannot. This approach recognises the role of well-developed social protection systems in reducing poverty and promoting employment and employability, as well as the need of such systems to be modernised to ensure their long-term sustainability in the face of an ageing population.”

In this report the Commission argues strongly for a real investment in social capital i.e. people. Education as a key factor not only for children but also for adults in the sense for life-long learning plays a rightful priority. This again made clear that fighting poverty is very much relying on our systems and qualities of education and training. The worldwide legal base for children and youth in respect to education and training is written in article 28 of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, but it is also a part of many European national constitutions or special laws for children and youth.

Concerning the target group’s children at risk and their families we should and can present a concept of inclusion and love. In Europe we deal with the mentioned target groups in many different ways, levels and institutions. We are concerned about children and youth – especially in eastern European countries – who are excluded from formal educational systems (schools) and who have in thousands of cases to survive on the streets as drug addicts, street children, street youth, violent gang members, skinheads, punks and as members of other subculture groups in hundreds of European cities and towns. Most of the time they come out of poor families or they can be characterized as socially excluded within their community.

This focussing on children and youth does not mean, that ISMO concentrates directly on the development of practical Mobile Youth Work oriented projects within our partners activities, but on the situation how are our partners, respectively their staff in terms of qualification, skills, knowledge and competence prepared to deal with the subject of excluded children and youth.

Being unemployed or being poor is a hard fact of exclusion, but being sexually abused or exploited, beaten, abandoned or physically or mentally handicapped is in no way a slighter problem and leads most of the time also to exclusion within families, neighbourhoods, parishes, communities or societies.

4 quoted in Caritas Europa 2004: Poverty has faces in Europe, page 19 (report)
Good social work must be grounded in solid quality according to the highest and most developed professional standards all over Europe. This must be true, although we know that we live in a rich Europe with a lot of inequality and the widespread feeling of being poor and powerless. But realising our dream for a ‘Quality of Life for all in a enlarging Europe’ begins with the exchange of best practice, the qualification of staff, counselling for our partners and regional networks we are starting to build up.

QUALIFICATION IN MOBILE YOUTH WORK

The fact of thousands poor or socially excluded children and youth at risk, especially street children and street youths, mainly in countries like Bulgaria, Romania, Albania, Yugoslavia since the political changes (1990), but also in other eastern European countries of transition like the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belo-Russia, Moldavia is the cause for urgently needed qualified social work action. Especially in large cities there is a high rate of broken family situations which are caused, among other things, by economical reasons, poverty, unemployment, alcohol and drug problems. Under these conditions children are dropping out of school, suffer under violence and exploitation, run away from their family or are kicked out and many times end up in the streets.

We in the ISMO try to follow a twin strategy:

First: We aim to guarantee the rights of street children and street youth within the present and the coming Europeans social and youth policy.
Second: We try to give a practical answer by training the staff of our partners in the concept of Mobile Youth Work. We train those who work with the excluded children and youth in need. We think that it is crucial for the endangered child or the youth, how the neighbourhood, the church community or the local youth authority react to this situation of crisis.

• Are there volunteers to build social capital?
• Does an effective, preventive oriented local youth policy, supporting the families or providing community-based youth work approaches exist?
• Is there an effective local church community, or a public or private network of youth work NGOs, who are united in the goal to improve the living conditions of children at risk, at work?

At present there is some help in many places, but it is not strong enough. A local, democratically based and strategically grounded youth policy, preventive oriented, directed to develop human and social capital in the different neighbourhoods,
communities and schools is most of the time missing. The approach of the society as a reaction to the plight of children at risk is many times ignorance or dominated by exclusion and law and order measures. But repressive activities “for” children in the streets are a contradiction in itself and create even more problems in the future of that particular community or society and it violates the human dignity and human rights of the child.

As a main idea it was mentioned to qualify youth and social workers, volunteers, church leaders and social managers in the respective countries who are responsible for or who work or who want to work with street children and street youths and who do not have a qualified training or diploma in social work or in Mobile Youth Work.

The plan on the table was that within a certain period of time the participants of the training programme will learn the basic principles of Mobile Youth Work. Within professional social work it is considered as very effective and worldwide the most developed concept of reaching the hard to reach children and youths in trouble.

What is the concept of Mobile Youth Work like?

Mobile Youth Work is an outreach youth counselling concept. It is being put into action of youth social work in the frame of group- and individual social-pedagogic and social work. Mobile Youth Work is district- respectively social-area-related and aims at preventing or cancelling exclusion processes of youths. Hereby, resources and self-aid powers towards the solution of social problems in the community are being used. Two forms of Mobile Youth Work can be differentiated at present: A community-based concept which arose in big housing areas (“dormitory towns”) and a rather scene- or target group-related approach in the action centres of the big cities. Mobile Youth Work has its starting point in the community-based form.

Precarious living situations and problematic behaviour of young people:
How is a society to deal with it?

The reasons which lead to the foundation of Mobile Youth Work are much the same at present as they were when the first social-pedagogic steps were taken in the district Freiberg of the city of Stuttgart 43 years ago (1967). The initial problem in almost each community, in almost every city is always conspicuous, difficult, attention-demanding or delinquent behaviour of young people.

The main question always remained the same and has, meanwhile, reached a global dimension:
• Shall we turn towards these homeless, impoverished, delinquent, sick, underfed, despised, drug-consuming, provoking, extremist-oriented children and youths or shall we exclude them by lack of attention, punishment, repression and, increasingly, legal sanctions?
• Do we define the conspicuously acting youths ( punks, skinheads, gangs, cliques, youth gangs, street children, young drug-consumers, hooligans etc.) as “endangered” or as “dangerous”?

The decisive factor for the choice of either a social-pedagogic or a repressive-controlling approach is: Which definition is being enforced in the youth-political public. Aid or control, attention or exclusion are the, often fiercely discussed, counterpart positions. Frequently, a mixture of both approaches is being applied, mainly when laws have been violated.

The causes, however, have always remained the same. Conspicuous youths provoke conflicts, but also victims. The violence of youths, which has doubtlessly increased in brutality, is also being reported by schools meanwhile. In the present discussion, this leads to the demand of reinforcing school social work and strengthening the cooperation of Mobile Youth Work with schools to meet the common interest to prevent social exclusion of youths. Since exclusion frequently goes along with stigmatising, it is also the aim of Mobile Youth Work to prevent stigmatising processes or possibly to initiate processes of de-stigmatisation. Hereby, Mobile Youth Work relies on structures of trust and voluntarism of the youths - a subject-oriented position - by offering them development options and chances of life management without violating laws. The main age is between 11 and 19 years. Sometimes, however, younger or older youths belong to the target group of Mobile Youth Work as well.

Since World War II street work approaches have been practised in Western European countries, in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Australia as well. To name some European examples: In Great Britain the term is “Detached Youth Work” or “Outreach Youth Work” or Mobile Youth Work”, in the Netherlands it is “Street Corner Work”, in Switzerland “Gassenarbeit” or “Mobile Youth Work”, France it is talking about “Travaille de la Rue” and in Austria and Germany it is “Street Work” as well as “Mobile Youth Work”. Since the global political change of 1989/1990 there are approaches of Street Work in Central and Eastern Europe as well, for instance in Russia ‘Mobilnaja Rabota s Molodjeschju’.

Many times Mobile Youth Workers are being confronted with the expectation to function as a short-term task force to solve problems. It is often not easy to communicate that Street Work represents merely one methodical concept within Mobile Youth Work. Street Work is a methodical concept which, on one hand, needs the local, community-based rooting and, on the other, has got concrete offers for youths: People who have time for them,
a telephone in order to contact authorities or to ask for employment, a cup of coffee, a shower, a place of rest, a refuge for the management of crisis, but also a place where ideas for leisure-time activities, support for the realisation of the wish for an individual space within the district or offers for social experience with other youths can be realised.

Mono-functional rooms and objects are being changed in function in a group-specific sense (cf. Becker/Eigenbrodt/May 1989, Böhnisch 1989). Especially in the case of migrant youths, cliques are closely connected to territorial behaviour. Territorial behaviour gives cliques a feeling of power demonstration and acceptance. Within their territory, cliques claim respect for themselves and adopt identifying functions for their self-affirmation within their environment, which they initially experience as being alien, into their action. Of special importance are the jackets as a symbol for clique membership and territorial claim. Conflicts between foreign, respectively multi-ethnic youth gangs arise whenever they move within alien territory (Tertilt 1996).

Mobile Youth Work includes into its concept the fact that clique membership nowadays offers a basis for territorial self-affirmation for many youths as well as being a place of mutual support and common aid in managing youth risk situations. Within cliques, common learning and social discussion is possible. Within the group, youths experience self-value, backing, continuity, trust – most important factors for their growing-up.

Community-based or social area-oriented Work
Since integration and exclusion, acceptance and rejection, the origin and the solution of problems frequently arise within the environment of young people, Mobile Youth Work makes a point of its approach being community-based or social area-oriented. It is inspired by American examples like for instance the work of Saul Alinsky and the concepts of activating and conflict-oriented community-based work (Alinsky 1973; Bahr/Gronemeyer 1974) but by analytic community approaches like they have already been practiced in the settlement movement at the end of the 19th century as well (Müller 1988). By way of field- and social area analysis the main points of Mobile Youth Work are being determined along the local situations and put into action in a sense of grass root youth aid planning (cf. Specht 1980, Specht 1992, Jordan/Schone 1992, p. 45 f./Lukas/Strack 1996). The concept of community-based Mobile Youth Work includes the joining of existing local offers in the sense of an institutional community network and the creation of respective institutional structures like for instance district working groups. Parishes and church communities can play a key role in rooting this area-oriented approach. The presence within the district, an office, an activity room for the clique, a social club room, create the necessary precondition to get into contact with the citizens. Additionally to the work with the youths and the families, all inhabitant groups of a district or community are target groups for special
actions, who can contribute to the improvement of the social climate within the community or to forms of productive management of social or political conflicts.

Proposals
- To promote a stronger exchange of experiences and projects in different European regions but also European wide;
- Preparation of structures for capacity building and fund raising and monitoring of EU budget lines;
- The networking of Mobile Youth Work centres in Europe;
- Development of non-formal basic education offers;
- Vocational training centres orientated towards the labour market;
- PDFromotion of key competences such as responsibility, ability to communicate, creativity, frustration tolerance, reliability, work culture, ability to structure the day and to plan;
- Designing of life-oriented curricula for the non-formal education and training;
- Spiritual/religious pedagogical activities;
- Mobile Youth Work staff development and their qualification in connection with the networking as mentioned above.
PRESENTATION OF SELECTED SHORT PROJECT AND ACTIVITY REPORTS BY SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS
Profile of the Organisation: Community Ailment Redressal Establishment (CARE) is a benevolent, nonprofitable and nongovernmental organization working for the wellbeing of Homeless people in Vellore District in Tamilnadu state. It is a registered organization and was registered under Indian Trust act in 2004 with committed social scientists and social Reformers. Its main aim is to empower the most marginalized to enable them to get redeemed from the clutches of physical, mental, educational, economical, and social poverty and become productive members of society.

Strategies adopted for working with Street Children:
1) Capacity building
2) Strengthening the community structure
3) Behaviour change communication
4) Linkages with Government and non Government organizations.

HIV/AIDS program for Street children: On regular intervals HIV/AIDS programs are being conducted for the street children, in which basic facts about HIV/AIDS, causative organism, window period, incubation period, minor and major symptoms, treatment aspects, the ways it doesn’t spread, care for people with HIV infection, etc. are taught to them.

Educational Activities: Our organization conducts motivational training programs, provides school notebooks, stationeries, uniforms and other relevant material requiring for their education during the intervention program.

Vocational training programs: The children do not know adequate vocational skills as they get involved in the unorganized sectors. Most of the time they are affected physically and psychologically due to their work. Considering the above facts we have provided them with vocational skill training on various schemes being implemented by state Government.

Cloth distribution: Our organizational personnel collect used cloths from many families living in Vellore city and textile shops for nominal cost and distribute them to the children. At the same time they are taught how to use them properly and maintain their personal hygiene in order to avoid infection from many diseases.

Free Medical Health camp: Free medical health camps have been conducted for the street children with assistance of local doctors. We have motivated them to under go regular medical check up as they get involved in hazardous works and antisocial elements. Exactly 156 children have benefited out of our camps.

Reintegration with Normal schools: A little less than 50 percent of the target children are out of schools. When they visit centre regularly they are taught lessons in a participatory ways, motivated on importance of education and after certain period of time they are re-admitted in the schools, where they have studied already, to continue their education.
**Health education:** The children are provided health education on HIV/AIDS, personal hygiene, tuberculosis; sexually transmitted infections, positive life styles, narcotic drugs, alcohol, etc.

**Awareness on safe migration and trafficking:** Awareness programs have been conducted twice for street children wherein the children have been taught on what is trafficking, forms of trafficking, child sexual exploitation, safe migration, on formation on service provider, etc.

**Training program on sexual health and Sexually Transmitted Diseases:** A day long training programs have been conducted for street children twice in which the children have been taught on functions of reproductive systems, various sexually transmitted infections, syndromic case management, various types of fungal and viral infections, etc.

Mathew Arumai, Chetpet

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**Mobile Youth Work in the United Kingdom**

Graeme Tiffany has a background in youth work, community education and community development. He was a detached youth worker for 12 years. Since 2000 he has been a freelance researcher, trainer, lecturer and education consultant with special interests in detached and street-based youth work, youth social policy, democratic education, participation and the use of philosophical tools to support learning. Graeme is Vice-Chair of the UK Federation for Detached Youth Work and the author of Reconnecting Detached Youth Work: Guidelines and Standards for Excellence (2007) and Learning from detached youth work: democratic education (2008), published by the Nuffield Review of 14-19 education, for which Graeme is an advisor.

**New Trends in Mobile Youth Work: a UK perspective**

In recent years, there has been growing interest in detached youth work in the UK. Despite being identified in a range of youth and social policies it continues to be varied in its approach and focus. For example, some politicians, in the context of recent moral panics about young people’s ‘anti-social behaviour’, gangs and gun and knife crime, have described it as a ‘progressive response to crime’. This has created a lot of debate in detached youth work circles. Is this an opportunity for much needed funding, or does this justify concerns that detached youth work is valued more for its contribution to security than young people’s welfare and education? Similarly, the fact that detached youth workers are
now increasingly recognised as practitioners ‘with access’ is celebrated by some but condemned by others who fear that demands to target young people not in education, employment and training (NEETs) heralds in a new era in which young people’s right to voluntarily associate is under threat. Out of this comes unprecedented discussion of detached youth work values and, in particular, its commitment to a model of democratic education - an education in which young people significantly inform the terms of their engagement, the assessment of need and the ‘curriculum’ to be followed. Educational and social research is equally varied. Whilst generally supportive of the value of detached youth work, particularly in engaging the ‘hard-to-reach’, evidence also emerges that the determination of many programmes to achieve pre-specified outcomes can have a constraining effect on a practice that, as history shows, is dependent for its success on flexibility and the ‘celebration of uncertainty’. These tensions will be explored by way of examples from the recent experience of UK detached youth workers.

Lutheran Deaconate Foundation Project Fund, Porto Alegre, Brasil

The Lutheran Deaconate Foundation Project Fund provides assistance with emphasis on the themes Education, Youth and Public Policies. PhD in Communication Sciences by the Vale do Rio dos Sinos University (Brazil) and a sandwich PhD in Audio Visual Communication by the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain). Researched on the "Micropolicies for youth and transversal visibilities: audiovisual in(ter)ventions in Restinga, Porto Alegre" and the Masters dissertation prioritized: "Hip-Hop and the (In)visibility in the mediatic scenario". Beside the activities at FLD, she is a researcher in the research group for Public Policies and Production of Subjectivity at UFRGS.

The Lutheran Foundation of Diaconia prioritizes support to projects in the areas of Popular Education, Community Health, Generation of Work and Income, and Family Agriculture and the Environment. The objective for the 2008-2010 period with children and youth is to contribute to strengthen youth protagonism by supporting projects demanded by groups and networks with activities in building inclusive actions for children and youth by encouraging interventions in the public and governmental policy agendas. The experiences in supporting projects from organizations that work with children and youth and projects proposed by youngsters have challenged FLD to build new languages and follow-up methodologies that empower the youth as managers of their personal and collective projects.

Deisimer Gorczewski, Porto Alegre, Brasil
Mobile Youth Work in Slovakia

The idea of Mobile Youth Work was discovered in Slovakia after the qualifying-trainings in years 2004/2005 and 2006. It was obvious that Mobile Youth Work is, considering its basis and principles, similar to the existing concept of low threshold programs for children and youth. The aim of low threshold programs is to minimize possible risks connected to the life-style of children and youth, to help with the orientation in their social environment and to create conditions where they can manage the difficult situations. The service is focused on children and youth in difficult life-situations, which are not using offered standard forms of institutional help and care. For that reason low threshold organizations established cooperation with the International Society for Mobile Youth Work (ISMO) and invited representatives of ISMO to the International conference on children and youth-work in February 2007 in Bratislava.

Organizations providing low threshold services for youth in Slovakia are interested in methodical materials, as these bring new ideas for their work. Majority of these organizations is still at the beginning of their professional work, what creates an opportunity for working methods of Mobile Youth Work to become a part of the developing methodology. Further training and establishing partnerships with organizations from abroad with longer practise is necessary for the development of Mobile Youth Work in Slovakia.

Peter Kulifaj, Bratislava

Uhuru Community Development Project (UCDP)

A Case Example of the Mobile Youth Work Concept in Africa

I am greatly honored to attend the 9th ISMO International Symposium. I participated in the 8th ISMO Symposium which took place in 2003, in Nairobi, Kenya. The symposium was a turning point for the organization, since it designed activities based on the three core components of the Mobile Youth Work Concept. The components are: individual aid, group work, and community work. Street work forms the initial process of building trust with street children. The social worker subsequently conducts case assessment to determine the best choice of interventions. These interventions include referral to children’s homes, and reintegration into the community. The street children have also been trained on leadership, which resulted into the formation of a street children forum.
The organization facilitates access to education for the vulnerable children who are unable to raise school fees. The organization also improves the economic status of the women by providing access to micro-credit. ISMO has been a partner with us, and it has planned a qualification course on Mobile Youth Work Concept for East Africa. The concept seems relevant in addressing the situation of the street children and youth at risk in Africa.

Davies Okombo, Kisumu, Kenya
Uhuru Community Development Project

Mobile Youth Work with children and youth in the Smolensk region ...................

In cooperation with ISMO our youth department organized in Smolensk between 2004 and 2007 six seminars on Mobile Youth Work for 75 youth leaders and social workers. The participation of the youth in solving social problems helps young people to gain self-reliance, self-respect, get knowledge and skills necessary to influence different processes; it also shows the active public position of the youth. Young people can not make progress if they just watch aside, if they learn about the main life values and principles from a stranger. Only participating they gain experience, skills, self-reliance, necessary knowledge.

One of the forms that demonstrate such responsible participation is voluntary activity that does your family, home, yard, street, educational institution and the society in general good. Bearing that in mind the main task of the modern Russian society is to create conditions that help to involve youth into the social and political life of that region where a young man lives at that moment, into the activities of the authorities and social initiatives. There are free-will organizations in 12 cities of Smolensk region that fulfill mobile youth work with youth. 23 voluntary youth organizations are officially registered.

Main principals of work:
• do not fulfill work mainly to derive an income;
• the work is fulfilled on a voluntary basis, without compulsion;
• the basis of the voluntary work is achieving two results:
  1. Creating the stable and united society;
  2. Spreading of the facilities spectrum, provided by the state and business to the society.
Forms of the voluntary work:

- Solving ecological problems of the region;
- Advocacy of healthy life mode among young people;
- Risk behavior prevention among youth;
- Providing help to invalids and socially non-defended categories of people;
- Help in restoration of the world cultural inheritance.

To organize voluntary work on the territory of Smolensk region is a hard thing to do: there is no legislative base for voluntary work and for youth social organization support either, there are no centers or special state institutions that manage the activity of voluntary organizations on the regional and municipal level.

While speaking about the activities that are to support and develop the voluntary youth movement financed by the state it is worth mentioning the positive dynamics: if in year 2007 for these activities 97,0 thousand rubles were assigned in year 2008 it were 150,0 thousand rubles.

In conclusion it must be pointed out that the youth voluntary movement on the territory of Smolensk region successfully develops but many things are still to be done. To involve young Smolensk residents into the voluntary movement it is necessary to consolidate efforts of executive authorities, of business and social organizations, create a regional legislative base in matters of providing support of social organizations for youth and children, and also assign financial means to support and develop voluntary initiatives in the context of regional programs of special purpose.

Alexey Serij, State Duma of the Russian Federation in the Smolensk region

Social work with Roma - situation and approaches

To work with Roma people is one big challenge for the contemporary social work. On the one hand, one big part of them really needs from “outside” social help as they live in the situation of poverty. Because of that Roma are an object of special attention at the international level as a special group that needs support for development (for example the UNDP researches on Roma problems and understanding of Roma as one of the “vulnerable” groups in the society).

On the other hand, Roma group has its traditions that are reflected on its life and on its mentality. The problem is that the values, attitudes, understanding of the sense of life and its everyday components of many Roma are too different from the other ethnic
groups in the respective country, especially of the majority group that values and traditions form the concept of the “normality” (what is “normal” for the citizens of the country, what is expected from them to do, which life is “good” or “bad”). This discrepancy at the value level is the big challenge to the social work – at theoretical, national legislation, everyday practical work levels, and we should have it in mind when we develop our approaches to work with Roma.

Assoc. Prof. PhD Siyka Georgieva Chavdarova - Kostova, Sofia university St. “Klement Ohridski”, Faculty of Pedagogy, Head of chair “Theory of education”

Bento Rubião Foundation, Rio de Janeiro

I work at Bento Rubião Foundation, a non-governmental organization for the human rights. It works toward the reduction of social inequalities and targets the poorest and most vulnerable sectors of the population. We deal with right to land and housing, and warranting children and youth human rights. Nowadays, we have three programs: Right to Land, Right to Housing and Children and Youth Program. The Children and Youth Program protects and warrants their human rights, regarding the 8069/90 Law –“Estatuto da Criança e do Adolescente”. We have four centres placed at the slums of Vila Aliança/Bangu, Pedreira/Costa Barros, Vila Rica/Botafogo and Tavares Bastos/Flamengo, west and south zones of Rio de Janeiro city. There we give attendance to children, adolescents and families, trying to avoid violence, with social work and educational activities. That Program aims to adolescents who are in prison or are behaving in disagreement to the law, in the field of juvenile delinquency.

We conceive as children and youth who live or work in streets “those who regard streets as his/her home, away of getting money support, without a responsible adult to care, guide or protect.” (Lusk: 1993, p. 161, apud Rizzini: 2003, p. 21) ONUŽ’s concept. We make part of Childrens Rio de Janeiro Network, a group of NGOs which work with street children and youth at-risk. We are part of its coordination and reference to the other organizations to make decisions about the them. We support them and give social, psychological and juridical assistance to children and adolescents on the court. Our experience is that most of the children and adolescents who are in prison have family problems, are wrapped with drugs traffic, and at least once had used the streets as shelter.

Clayse Moreira, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
FASE - Federação de Órgãos para Assistência Social e Educacional

- FASE was founded in 1961, and it is an institution with history and tradition, with a popular education profile and strong commitment with civil organizations and popular movements. FASE defends human rights, democracy and sustainable development, understanding them as an intrinsic interconnection. (More information about FASE can be found in http://www.fase.org.br)
- The practical action of FASE is developed throughout Programs and Projects, being SAAP (Service of analysis and advisement for small projects) one of them. SAAP supports specifically small popular groups all over the national territory, through the development of educational activities and promoting their exchange. SAAP's main priority is to support youth groups, although it’s not restricted to them. The Selection of groups is defined by low Human Development Index (HDI). Since its foundation, SAAP maintain a long term partnership with “Brot-für-die-Welt”. (more information about SAAP can be found in http://www.fase.org.br/_saap/pagina.php?id=232).
- I integrate SAAP's team since 1989, and took place as its coordinator in 2005. As an Educator, I have always been responsible for the development of the formation activities of this program. My last professional activity, before joining FASE was Pedagogical Coordinator in Instituto Methodista Bennett. However, my educative practice began in 1972.

Cleia José Silveira

The Hanse office of Kaliningrad

The Hanse office of Kaliningrad was founded in 1992 as a representation of a German NGO „conveyor association for youth education and economic relations North Germany Kaliningrad, inc. RF“, Lübeck, for the coordination of the projects on site. Since 2001 the office also fulfils the functions of the office of information of the country Schleswig - Holstein in Kaliningrad.

As the most important projects from the area of social, initiates by the conveyor association in whose preparation and realisation the office was involved directly, are to be mentioned here:
1) Supplement of the curriculum to the education of the social education workers, bearers – conveyor association for Kaliningrad, Lübeck, Russian state I.Kant university, Kaliningrader regional college for social educational theory, finances by Robert Bosch Stiftung. Aim – education of the competent professional forces for youth work; in 2006-2009;

2) Preventive youth work in the Kaliningrad area (model project – looked living for graduates of the child homes), bearers – the Russian NGO „open world“, Kaliningrad and conveyor association for Kaliningrad, Lübeck, Kiel WAK, finances by Robert Bosch Stiftung and various German and Russian donators. Aim – selfresponsible and independent life creation of undeprivileged youngsters by limited in time social-educational care and company; in 2002-2007;

3) Support of the child homes in Selenogradsk and Bolschoje Issakowo, finances by the German donators about the conveyor association for Kaliningrad, aim – cover of the basic need for the life, later – advanced training for the professional forces and renovation work in the buildings; in 1991-2007

4) Youth court on the farm in Oserki (Nesterow Rayon) for undeprivileged youngsters – graduates of the child homes, bearers – conveyor association for youth education, farm of family Saez, finances by the conveyor association, aim – normalisation of the social sphere by the life in the family; in 1994-2004.

Tatjanaj Pavlova, Kaliningrad, Russia

LOGO MMIK Youth Service Szombathely Hungary ..............................................................

The youth service was founded in 2002 as an answer to a research among the youngsters after Austrian pattern. It offers to the expectations and according to needs of the youngsters a complicated service. The aim is to help the 12-26 year-old to solve in her everyday lives to emergent problems, to reduce proving obstacles from her age and life situation, to give useful information to become responsible, active adults.

LOGO MMIK acts as a youth information counsellor's service in the community with the following tasks:

• Management of the youth news service
• Organisation of cultural programmes for the age group
• Protection of services (communal opportunities, clubs, educations, events)
• Primary drug prevention, organisation of lifestyle activities (nature conservation, healthy life, sport, theatre)
• consultations (Professional and same age help), general informations
• coordination, technical help of the LOGO point of information Net for youngsters (in 8 settlements).

The Logo-mobile provides mobile youth work in the Komitat Vas. The staff aims to visit and offer the youngsters information and services where they live, learn and spend her spare time. The minibus functions as a mobile point of information, provides information, professional help, prevention and counsellor activities, play and sports possibilities, Internet connection and experiences for the youngsters.

Misereor Germany

Misereor has as an ecclesiastical charitable organisation in the very first line the order of support of projects fighting poverty in Africa, Asia and South America.

Above all continents away Misereor supports projects which deal with children and youngsters in social predicaments situations, although numerically not as a main focus. In Africa suitable projects are promoted in almost every country and above all the big metropolises in which Misereor has partnerships.

Beside the project financing it was to Misereor and engaged partners in the field of Mobile Youth Work already very early a concern that the projects qualify, take advantage of the experience of others and develop best practice for this sector. Hence, Misereor also supports organisations to the qualification of the "roadwork" like Street Child Africa from UK.

Our partners coming often from the ecclesiastical sphere have a long historical (European) tradition of the work with children and youngsters in social predicaments which was often a home-centred, however, in the past. The applications were suitable often. We work together with other charity organisations like Bread for the World, ISMO, Don Bosco mission, Missio, Terre of the Hommes, German world hunger help) and other partners. Today Misereor partners have a differentiated beginning in Street Workher work, drop in centres, family return approaches or group accommodation, school education and professional training, measures for special situations like under age prostitutes and working with children and youngsters in prison.

Besides, health work, mediation and partly payment of services, but above all preventive efforts play an important role in such projects. In view of the alarming AIDS situation in many African countries and the special risk just of these children and youngster the HIV/AIDS - clarification urgently belongs to this work.
MONDAY 9/15/2008

Moeration: Rudi Karg, TV 38
Reception and Opening
Location: White Hall of the New Castle Stuttgart
Music: „Chorlight“, Egil Fossum

Welcome notes:
Minister of Social Affairs Dr. Monika Stolz, Baden-Württemberg
Mayor of the state capital Dr. Martin Schairer
Board of Diakonisches Werk Württemberg Heike Baehrens

Opening of the symposium:
Prof. Dr. Walther Specht
Chairman of the International Society for Mobile Youth Work (ISMO e.V.)

TUESDAY 9/16/2008

Welcome notes:
Davies Okombo, UHURU, Kisumu, Kenya
Tom Küchler, federal study group Streetwork / Mobile Youth Work Germany
Matthias Reuting, land study group Streetwork/Mobile Youth Work Baden-Württemberg
Roland Kaiser, municipal association youth and social affairs, Baden-Württemberg
Willi Pietsch, state police management of Stuttgart
Ulrich Ahlert, Caritas Stuttgart inc.

Speeces:
Prof. Dr. Rainer Treptow:
International youth work and social work in the comparison, University of Tübingen
Prof. Irving Spergel:
Youth violence in the USA ans answers of social work and justice, University of Chicago, USA
Bernard Rodenstein:
Youth riots in France („quartiers chauds“) and reactions of the politics, Espoir, Colmar (F)
Short contributions to mobile youth work in Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Finland, Germany, Kenya, Ghana and Philippines
**WEDNESDAY 9/17/2008**

Prof. Dr. Hans-Jurgen Kerner:
Development trends in the tension field of help and control, University of Tübingen (D)
Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou, member of the European Parliament, Strasbourg/Brussels:
European child politics and youth politics

**WORKING GROUPS ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:**

- Groups, cliques, gangs – with whom it deals mobile youth work?
- Unlawful drugs and addiction - "coma drinking"
- Sex-specific work – girl
- Sex-specific work – boys
- Power Child – children strongly make against sexual power
- Prostitution and Sexwork
- Mobile youth work and school – school social work
- Right-wing extremism / nationalism
- Social work and police
- School, occupation, No Future
- HIV / AIDS
- Social and ethnic minorities, example Roma
- To the value of the community work in the MJA
In the afternoon:
Excursions and workshops

Excursions: In 16 different quarters of Stuttgart there is Mobile Youth Work. Well-chosen locations are visited there. Besides, important cooperation partners of the mobile youth work are also introduced, for example: Welfare centers, education projects, housing groups, help for delinquents.

Workshops: Different agencies give specific insight into their method fields of the Mobile Youth Work: Climbing and experience educational theory; adventure activities, music projects in the MJA; animal-supported educational theory in Mobile Youth Work; actions in the public space.

THURSDAY 9/18/2008

Prof. Dr. Jelena Dikova-Favorska, University of Zhytomir/Ukraine:
Contact with divergent and delinquent behavior of children and youngsters in East European countries
José Alvaro Ruiz, Arequipa, Peru:
Street children in Peru and the chances of Mobile Youth Work
Prof. Dr. Walther Specht:
Considerations to the further work of ISMO in the European and global context - establishing of national, international and continental networks for Mobile Youth Work

4 workshops:
1. Representatives from Central-, Southeastern- and Eastern European countries;
2. Representatives from Western-, Northern- and Southern-European countries;
3. Representatives from African countries;
4. Representatives from Latin-American- and Northern-American countries.

Leading question: Which challenges and needs for the realization of Mobile Youth Work exist in single countries and continents?

Summary – end of the symposium
WORDS OF THANKS
THANKS TO

Brot für die Welt

Aktion Mensch

Robert Bosch Stiftung

Baden-Württemberg
MINISTERIUM FÜR ARBEIT UND SOZIALES

Diakonie
Diakonisches Werk Württemberg

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THANKS TO

Bundesverband
Editor, Prof. Dr. Walther Specht is the chair of ISMO. He teaches social work and youth criminology at the University of Tübingen.
MOBILE YOUTH WORK ASSERTS ITSELF WORLDWIDE MORE AND MORE! WHY? BECAUSE MOBILE YOUTH WORK IS MORE HUMAN, MORE EFFECTIVE AND MORE COST-SAVING THAN DETERRENCE, PUNISHMENT AND PRISONS.