



When generations meet

A project to further the understanding between young and elderly people

Project partners



- The Evangelic-Lutheran church Gleráirkirkja
- The Evangelic-Lutheran church Akureyrarkirkja
- The High-school of Akureyri
 - (Menntaskólinn á Akureyri)
- The home for elderly people in Akureyri
 - (Dvalarheimili aldraðra á Hlíð)



The history

- Conceptional work started in 2005:
 - The defined need for empowering the communication between young and elderly people
 - The defined need to fight against prejudices that each age group seemed to have towards the other age group
 - The lack of cooperation between institutions, NGO's and others working with different age groups

The background



- Build on a project-idea that was developed in Skálholt, a retreat and education centre of the church in south Iceland
- That project was called: “The heritage of the generations” and aimed at educating young people about the situation in earlier times.
- Initiator of the project was pastor Bernhardur Gudmundsson, former LWF's Secretary for Communication Consultancy

Project design

- Focusing on empowering participants to communicate with people in different age groups
- Strengthening citizenship and democratic skills
- (Emphasizing) Stressing the importance of equality between gender and age groups
- Creating a platform for “getting to know each other”
- Strengthening the cooperation between NGO’s, institutions and others who work with different age groups



Four practical steps

- Introduction to participants on two levels
- The main gathering
- Meetings in small groups
- Evaluation on three levels



picture: akureyri.is

Introduction

- The high school teachers introduce aims and objectives of the project to their pupils.
40 pupils (age 19) can participate.
 - Usually more pupils would like to participate
- At the home for elderly people social workers look for 40 participants.
 - As the project now has become a tradition it is relatively easy to find participants
 - At the projects beginning it was not always easy to find participants



The main gathering

- 2 + 2 in each group
- Music in the beginning
- Singing together
- Drinking coffee and some traditional cakes
- Working on “Today's task” with conclusions
- Deciding where and when to meet in the small group



picture: akureyri.is



picture: akureyri.is

Today's task

- The theme of the day is introduced, giving each small group a task
- Discussions in the small groups
- Each group reports it's conclusion to the gathering
- Sometimes even local politicians come to hear the conclusion

Examples of a today's tasks

- Each group representing the board of a NGO has to decide who they would like to have as a manager, choosing between four different persons who all have their strength and weaknesses
- Each group representing the community council gets the opportunity to make three to five important changes for the community.

Evaluation on two levels

- All participants of the elderly people meet to evaluate the project and to talk about the feelings that arose during their participation
- All participants of the pupils give a short report back to the teacher and to their classes about the project and what they now think about the situation of elderly people in the community

Further information

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