



Youth to Youth Integration (Unga In)

USING YOUNG PEOPLE TO REACH OUT AND ENCOURAGE MARGINALISED YOUNG PEOPLE TO RECEIVE HOLISTIC, INDIVIDUALISED SUPPORT FROM THE SWEDISH PES AND OTHER ACTORS.

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SWEDEN

The practice aimed to provide more effective support to young people who have complex needs, where the Swedish PES (Arbetsförmedlingen) cannot provide suitable support alone. The practice brought together a range of multi-competent agencies to provide holistic, coherent individualised support to marginalised young people who are 16-24-years old in five towns in Sweden.

The practice engaged 1333 marginalised young people, with 688 who fully completed the support process. Of these, almost 60% of the young people entered into employment or training. Many elements of this practice have been integrated into a new project, UngKomp, which will cover 20 municipalities.

Name of the PES

Arbetsförmedlingen (Swedish PES)

When was the practice implemented?

June 2012 – May 2014

Which organisation was involved in its implementation?

The project brought together the Swedish PES, the youth centre Fryshuset, the National Police Board, municipalities, employers and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKL).

Which groups were targeted by the practice?

The target group was NEETs and 16-24-years olds who were not in education or work, nor registered in the system or involved in any other form of recognised occupation. The group had not been in contact with the Swedish PES or the municipality.

What were the practice's main objectives?

The aim of the practice was to provide young people with holistic, flexible support that was appropriate to their needs and situation so that the young person could enter employment or education. The practice was delivered in five towns in Sweden; the three largest cities (Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö) and two smaller towns (Gävle and Skellefteå).

What activities were carried out?

The practice deployed a range of methods to engage with the target group. This included outreach activities with 'young marketers.' A maximum of 25 young marketers, across the five areas, were specifically recruited for this role, using standard recruitment methods. 'Young marketers' were from the same background as the target group, and were often the first contact point between the young person and the Swedish PES and partners. They promoted the practice at concerts, festivals and other arenas where the target group would meet.

The practice used a five step process:

- 1 Young marketers reached out to young people;
- 2 A young person registered at the Swedish PES;
- 3 The young person met with their designated case worker;
- 4 The caseworker undertook an assessment of the young person's competencies, needs and required support;
- 5 The relevant holistic and individualised support was provided by the required partner in an informal environment and existing measures were adapted to the needs of the young person.

What resources and other relevant organisational aspects were involved?

The practice brought together a range of skills and competencies including schools and care institutions, municipalities, social institutions, NGOs, social partners, schools, training providers, and police. A formal agreement was signed by all partners. The practice utilised the specialist skills of professionals such as employment officers, psychologists, study and vocational guidance counsellors, and social workers.

What were the source(s) of funding?

European funding, regional funding

What were the outputs of the practice: people reached and products?

People reached:

- ▶ 1 333 marginalised young people participated in the project; out of these, 688 young people completed the process.

Products:

- ▶ Website (in Swedish)
- ▶ Guidance and training materials for PES caseworkers
- ▶ Guidance and training materials for young marketers

What outcomes have been identified?

From the 688 young people who completed the process, 27% of them have progressed into employment; 32% into further studies; 27% have entered further support (e.g. care); and 14% are unknown. A large number of those who have moved onto work are still in employment three months later. The practice contributed to overcoming isolation among young people. The practice established contact and trust among young people who were largely outside society and working life.

What are the lessons learnt and success factors?

The most important lessons learnt for the Swedish PES is that well-organised cooperation can lead to more effective working and all parties gain more from the same resources. In addition, having an individual-centric approach is also more effective.

The external evaluation of the practice shows that many of the activities helped young people back into education or the labour market. Young marketers have been one of the major success factors in this practice as they help to engage young people and get them through the door.

Many elements of this practice have been integrated into a new project, UngKomp. This is being led by the Swedish PES and will be rolled out across 15 municipalities between 2015 and 2018. The new project continues the working methods from this practice, particularly the co-existing multi-competent teams and holistic, coherent and individualised support.



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