

# City Network and Erasmus+ Project

November 2016

The relationship between the *European City Network* and the Erasmus+ project *Social Inclusion, Education and Urban Policy for Young Children*, their goals and working methods are shortly described in this paper.

Please notice that the City Network takes part in the Erasmus+ project – and has at the same time some own activities. We are aiming at a close collaboration between all partners.

## ***The City Network***

The City Network was established by six cities by the conference in June 2016: Amsterdam, Berlin, Copenhagen, Ghent, Ljubljana and Rotterdam. The group of six participating cities in the City Network is based on existing relationships. Participants have already experienced the value of exchanging experiences, sharing best practices, inspiration, reflection on own situation and new insights. It could be possible that more cities participate in the City Network in the future. The City Network is established for a period of three years, starting in June 2016. After evaluation in the first half of 2018 the network could be continued.

During the kick off on June 7<sup>th</sup> 2016 the six cities agreed to exchange experiences and work together to develop all aspects around the development of young children in an urban environment. The cities agreed on the following topics: integration/cooperation; role of parents; quality (of preschool); inclusion; values; urban perspective; language; refugees; health; citizenship and education for educators.

The cities will exchange practical experiences and relevant data, scientific research and policies.

If possible the City Network cooperates with other relevant networks e.g. Child Friendly Cities.

## ***Working method City Network***

Childcare International (CCI) by Yvette Vervoort<sup>1</sup> is the formal representative and coordinator of the City Network. The development of the work method is a work in progress. Each of the cities is represented by a coordinator. The city-coordinator is responsible for the communication with Childcare International and with the other cities: distributing information, data, reports concerning the City Network AND the other partners in the Erasmus+ project within that city (see below about the Erasmus+ project).

## ***Erasmus+ project: Social Inclusion, Education and Urban Policy the Young Children***

The City Network also participates in the Erasmus+ project: Berlin, Copenhagen, Ghent and Ljubljana as partners and Amsterdam and Rotterdam represented by CCI, the coordinator, who is a partner in the project. The focus in this project is on the social inclusion of young children in a broad sense: scientific research, the developing of programs for the education of students and staff working in the field of inclusion of young children. Throughout the project period, the local policy makers,

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<sup>1</sup> Yvette Vervoort will work together with Serv Vinders and Anki Duin.

represented in the City Network, will collect and exchange experience and inspiration and make a publication which can contribute to the further development of the issues in focus.

#### *Working method in the Erasmus+ project*

Based on an application The Hogeschool van Amsterdam (HvA), together with 10 partners received an Erasmus+ grant for a period of 3 years: from September 2016 till September 2019. The HvA is the project beneficiary and drs. Kirsten Nøhr, The HvA, is coordinating the project together with the Daily Management.

The City Network has a responsibility especially within one of the intellectual outputs (IO #5) as described in the program. The Intellectual Outputs are:

- #1. A literature review: Ljubljana/Pedagoski Institut
- #2. A competence profile: Copenhagen/University College Capital
- #3. A film about the inclusive pedagogue: Hogeschool van Amsterdam
- #4. A framework educational program: Hogeschool van Amsterdam
- #5. A publication for local policy makers: Childcare International/ the City Network

#### ***Transnational meetings***

Every 6 months one city will be hosting a transnational meeting. The goals of these meetings are:

- exchanging good practices
- discussing one of the topics: input by research studies; political perspectives and choices
- reflection on plans/situation per city
- development of the program of the City Network
- working on the Intellectual Outputs of the Erasmus+ project

The first transnational meeting will be in Berlin in March 2017, the second in Ghent in October 2017.

It makes sense to combine the Erasmus+ transnational meetings and the meetings of the City Network. The agenda of the City Network might be broader than the agenda of the Erasmus+ project with more emphasis on the policy and political aspects but most of the themes are relevant to both partners.

At the first transnational meeting in Berlin in March 2017 the collaboration between and coordination of these two projects will be elaborated further.

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