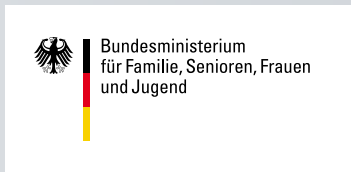


Funded by
Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens,
Women and Youth (BMFSFJ)

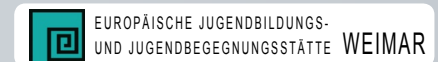


> A History Chronicle 1988 – 2006

Authors: Uli Zeuschel

Format: Documentation

Forscher - Praktiker
} Dialog {
Internationale
Jugendarbeit
www.forscher-praktiker-dialog.de



Researchers'-Practitioners'-Dialogue International Youth Work (RPD) originates from a small group of people, who attended the conference „Barrieren der Zusammenarbeit“ (Barriers of cooperation) in 1988. The conference, which was carried out by Thomas-Morus-Akademie, brought various representatives of youth encounter institutions and researchers, dealing with youth encounters to Walberberg. The conference focused on aims and possible transformations of a dialogue between the two parties. Ever since, the RPD has organised and facilitated an inter-disciplinary and cross-institutional dialogue between academia and practice in an international youth work context. The RPD's objectives are: a) development of qualified international youth encounters and b) provision of advice and consultancy to their members.

Pivotal topics and developments

A large variety of events and subjects has been covered during the RPD's 20 year long history. Following projects have been particularly formative:

- **“Kulturstandards in der internationalen Jugendbegegnung” (Cultural standards in international youth encounters), 1990 – 1995:** A series of conferences dedicated to a multi-disciplinary survey on intercultural learning concepts and their implementation. A special focus was applied to critical situations and culturally determined conflicts within youth encounters.
- **Pilot project on scientific support and evaluation of three short-term youth encounters, 1990 – 1992:** A project aiming at the qualification of education and members of staff. So called “mediators” coordinated the cooperation between researchers from different working fields (cultural anthropology, social pedagogy and psychology) and representatives from practice (work camp, scouts, language school).
- **Expert-hearing “Intercultural Learning Online”, 1996:** A project focusing on previous experience and future trends regarding new information and communication technologies for international partnerships.
- **Project series on media competence in longstay student exchange programmes, 2000 – 2003:** Development and testing of preparation courses.

- **Project series on the evaluation of further education and training concepts in international youth encounters.** Coordinated by transfer e.V., 1998 till today. Sub-projects:
 - Development of a self evaluation concept for an intercultural communication training for Internationale Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste (IJGD) e.V.
 - Conditions for successful intercultural team work in management teams
 - Preparation of supervisors for international youth encounters
 - Two-year modular training course “Coaching in international youth work contexts”. The course was realised through the project “Training Courses for Child- and Youth Travel and International Youth Encounters” (TIB training courses), which is run by transfer e.V. and IJAB e.V. Other educational institutions participated as cooperation partners.
- **Conference series on migrant specific research** (realised within the framework of “Bensberg Colloquia”), 2002 – 2003: A series focusing on coherences between migration experiences, societal changes and intercultural learning / awareness of young people.

Furthermore, RPD provides **workshops and a test bed for examination of academic tools and their relevance in a practical and real life context** of international youth encounters. Following projects have been discussed so far (a selection):

- Assessment centre for development of members of staff of international youth encounters
- Intercultural simulation game Atlanticon
- IPP conflict mediation strategy for multi-cultural teams
- Modules from the postgraduate course “Intercultural Competence”
- Concept for a training course on inter-religious competence in the context of international youth work

A study on long-term effects of exchange programmes and their influences on the personalities of programme participants was published by IJAB e.V. in 2005. This study was based on previous work by RPD. A conference dealing with school based and extracurricular youth exchange programmes started a new discussion on the integration of school based exchange work (November 2003). Several follow up projects were dedicated to a systematic use of exchange experiences in a school related context.

RPD initiated several **conferences dealing with project conclusions and new perspectives** for international youth work in 1993, 1997, 2000 and 2008. An annual “consultation meeting” is carried out under participation of important partner organisations. Thanks to a continuous funding through the Federal Ministry of Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ), RPD has provided a stable and successful framework for the collaboration of academia and praxis for 20 years.

Current developments from 2006 to today can be viewed (together with some substantial material) on www.forscher-praktiker-dialog.de

Contact

Coordination Forscher-Praktiker-Dialog:
Dr. Werner Müller, transfer e.V., werner.mueller@transfer-ev.de