

Fondazione Centro Studi Villa Montesca – Città di Castello, Italy



Project "Knowing for growing up" (Conoscere per crescere) – a path towards social services

Why we selected it

The project is interesting because it is a very original attempt to involve VET students in creative and entrepreneurial activities related to the social economy and management. Knowing directly not just the theoretical dimension, but the operative situation of the social economy was a very positive experience for students that have to take into account the opportunities represented by this still emerging sectors in Italy. In particular, they can discover what is peculiar in the social economy and what are the differences with volunteering and commit themselves in a free social activity. In Italy the social activities are very relevant, and most of the youngsters dedicate their free time to it. The project intends to show that the social economy requires very huge technical competences and can represent a very relevant way of thinking to the future.

Interesting stories

"I was a volunteer in an organization for poor elders with the project I discovered the meaning of the managerial approach to the organization of services for people" Mario, 16

"After the project, having discovered the real dimension of the social management , I decided to apply for the Bocconi Milan course in social economy" Cora, 18

" Now I have the instrument for understanding the operative dimension of the social economy" Federico, 19

"I'm very interested in the social service for people and now I have the opportunity to use this personal interest for professional purposes" Frida, 17

"Now I know what means to be part of a professional staff in a social company" Luca, 19

Photos



"Knowing for growing up" is a project realized by the Municipality of Città di Castello together with the social cooperative called "La Rondine".

The project is addressed to the students of the secondary schools (aged 14 to 17) and foresees the involvement of the students during the summer period (for two months) in the activities of the "La Rondine" social cooperative. That has a really important role in the social sector of the Alta Valle del Tevere.

Its main activities are: socio-economic activities; home assistance for disabled, old people, mental patients, children, drug addicts, seropositive people; play -sporting activities with horses for disabled; organization of initiatives for the promotion of the solidarity and the diversity in order to aware the public opinions about the social themes.

The project "Knowing for growing up" in at its third edition and this year 120 students, on a voluntary basis, were involved.

Program

The project starts with 10 days of preparatory didactic activities related to the following topics:

- What are and how are managed the different social services
- The role of the social operator
- Elements of social management
- How to behave with disadvantaged, marginalized and other people in need
- Managing people and performance

Then the Students are involved, for one and half month, in different social services managed by the cooperative *La Rondine*:

- adults and old people:
 - services in residential structures;
 - animation activities;
 - management of a Day Centre for Alzheimer patients;
 - activities for the free time;
 - organization of sea and mountain excursion;
 - social secretariat
- disabled:
 - Day Centre *Il Flauto Magico*;
 - project law 162/98;
 - services for the autonomy of disabled people
- services for children;
 - centre for the free time for young people;
 - socio-educational service *Il Cantastorie*;
 - centre *Lucignolo* for help in the homework carrying out;
 - centre *Archimede Pitagorico* for help in the homework carrying out;
 - recreational centre *Marameo*;
 - recreational centre *La Bottega di Merlino*;
 - summer centres
- services for the mental health:
 - family-home *Lo Specchio*;
 - family-home *A.Diaz- Villa Rosa*;
- drug addiction service:
 - road service *Community Worker*
- social tourism;
- horse's activities for disabled.

Of course in any activity the students have the tutorship of experts in the different sectors/activities (field instructors)

Objectives

- to have a general overview about what the work in the social sector means
- to give competences in relation to the different social services, make them understanding of the complexities of the social work
- to favour the experiential learning in the social sector
- to give to the students the opportunity to experiment some values such as altruism, solidarity, comprehension and sharing of the needs, the social commitment
- to make the students understand the central position of the person, the valorization of the differences, the attention for the whole person, not just for the necessities and the needs, stimulating individual changing and growing process
- to provide some operative competences in different services related to the social sector
- to favour a process of participation to the cooperative's life and management, guaranteed through information and communication.

Results

The project is seen as very positive one both from the students and their parents.

The participation in the project gives to the students some college credits.

All the participants are awarded by the major in the Municipality Hall, they also have an attendance certificate and a T-shirt with written "I'm a staff of the social services"