



**Dr. phil. Anna Katharina Schmid**

**International Federation of Educative  
Communities (FICE) Switzerland;  
President FICE International**

## **CREATING FUTURES - JÖVŐTEREMTÉS**

Participatory development in youth homes in Switzerland and Hungary for the promotion of young people's self-empowerment

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## How it started

- In May 2015, Anna met Hungarian colleagues at the Federal Council of FICE International in Belgrade, Serbia
- They shared concerns about the chances of young people from youth homes to build sustainable lives for themselves
- Two results:
  - The Hungarian colleagues founded NENESZ in Hungary which became a member organisation of FICE International and started collaboration with FICE Switzerland.
  - Swiss colleagues joined the group. In mutual visits and collaboration with leaders, staff and young people as Young Experts from the youth homes, we started to develop a project together.
  - From 2015 – 2018, we designed and tested goals, methods of working together and project organisation.
  - From 2019 – 2022 we implemented the project successfully, involving two youth homes in Switzerland and three child and youth homes in Hungary.
  - From 2023, all partners together want to establish the methodology sustainably in their organisations and want to help spread it out to further youth homes in Switzerland, Hungary and, later, internationally.

## Goals

Young people (Young Experts), Leaders and Staff from 2 youth homes in Switzerland and 3 child and youth homes in Hungary together develop organizational innovations to better promote the self-empowerment of young people: their ability to take charge of their own lives, create their own ideas of their future and realise them actively and sustainably.

They collaborate in a way which is empowering for all of them and for each of their organisations as a whole.



# The Community of Practice (CoP)

A community of practice is a group of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do, and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.

*Wenger-Trayner & Wenger-Trayner (2015), p. 1*

## The Creating Futures CoP 2019 - 2022

- Cseppkő Gyermekotthon, Budapest
- Gfellergut Sozialpädagogisches Zentrum, Zürich
- Stiftung Jugendnetzwerk, Horgen
- Mátészalka Gyermekotthon, Mátészalka
- Szilágyi Gyermekotthon, Budapest

2015 – 2018 also Bolyai Gyermekotthon and Bokreta Gyermekotthon (Budapest).

	Switzerland	Hungary
Ages 2-13	0	60
Ages 14-17	78	230
Ages 18-24	35	40
<b>Total youth</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>330</b>
<b>Total staff</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>211</b>
<b>Total leaders</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
Total / country	240	550
Total / all	790	

Persons involved in / affected by the project 2019 - 2022 (approximative numbers)

# Creating Futures Approach (1): Four Modules

1. Raise own knowledge of organisational aspects that generally promote the self-empowerment of young people in youth homes
2. Analyse own youth home: which aspects of our organisation contribute already to self-empowerment, and where do we see need or potential for innovation?
3. Develop concrete innovations and try them out in practice.
4. Establish the Creating Futures approach sustainably in one's own youth home.

## Creating Futures Approach (2): Four Ways of Working

### 1. Participation:

- Young people as Young Experts, experts of their own lives and life contexts
- Voluntary for young people, leaders and staff in different roles
- Support to participation, joint evaluation and development of participation

### 2. Collaboration as Community of Practice:

- Leaders, staff and Young Experts work together as equal experts/partners with different roles in daily life, perspectives, ideas, energies etc.
- They co-create and co-organise and co-implement their Creating Futures activities

### 3. Focus on the organisation:

- Using an organisation model to help locate „blind spots“

### 4. Focus on learning and empowerment:

- Using the organisation as joint social learning space
- Using diverse perspectives to stimulate self-reflexion and innovation
- Learning and developing by doing and reflecting, based on a resources-oriented approach

## Innovations and learnings

- Great number of concrete innovations, from gardening to a totally new pedagogical concept. Many concern ways of collaborating.
- Leaders, staff and Young Experts see each other, their possibilities and their collaboration differently.
- Young Experts' Codex, codex of leaders and staff, continued work.
- An approach of organisation and quality development for the self-empowerment of young people emerges which can be used by further youth homes (external support necessary)

## Detailed information

- As part of this presentation, a documentary film (15 minutes) gives detailed insights into the Creating Futures approach, the Swiss-Hungarian project and its results: <http://fice.ch/video/22%20EN.mp4> This and further films are also available in German and Hungarian under the link below.
- <http://creating-futures.net> . Currently website in German only but can be read by using google translate in the browser.
- <http://creating-futures.net/films-and-texts/> contains all publications of Creating Futures available in English, German and Hungarian, including 3 films and the Creating Futures Rap.
- Contact: Project leader: Dr. Anna Schmid, FICE Switzerland, [anna.schmid\(at\)fice.ch](mailto:anna.schmid@fice.ch)