

BERLIN, GERMANY

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A PROPOSAL:

**“MODELLVERSUCH”
GERMAN & INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN BERLIN
CITY YOUTH PROGRAMS - INTEGRATION**

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**LIFESTYLE CENTERS AND SPORTS FACILITIES FOR YOUTH
POPULATION**

**YOUTH CULTURE AND SPORTS CENTERS – NEW CONCEPTS IN
SECURING THE SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF
YOUNG PEOPLE**

**BY DAVID GWODZIK, ED.M. (USA)
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The social and psychological development of the youth population in Germany is a very important issue that requires immediate attention and support. In order to meet the challenging demands of how to reach the youth sector with effective and popular programs depends on city implementation and professionals who are involved in creating optimal and dynamic activities. The **Senatsverwaltung für Bildung, Jugend & Sport – Berlin**, is the most important government body to offer new and innovative changes in delivering desirable changes.

As a Psychologist and Personal Management Consultant for improving the mental health and wellbeing of children/teens, I have developed Youth Centers that promote culture and sports globally. In my research here in Berlin, Germany, I have come to the conclusion that there is a major requirement for building city youth centers and implementing new Student Life programs in schools – including bi-lingual schools.

Youth Centers and Student Life school programs that are managed and staffed by qualified professionals can offer young people invaluable life and intercultural experiences that will benefit their intellectual and social development. Youth Centers and Student Life activities in schools will teach young people skills that they will use every day. The new “**modellversuch**” will enable German and foreign youth populations to integrate into German society with far greater results than what we are witnessing today.

Youth Centers should be managed and designed to teach young people self-discipline and leadership skills that they will use in everyday life situations. The mission of a youth center must emphasize positive regard and respect for personal, group and multi-cultural involvement.

Motivating young people today is a challenging responsibility that government must engage.

CREATING A SENSE OF BELONGING BEGINS IN A STRUCTURED SETTING: YOUTH CENTERS ARE SPRINGBOARDS FOR PROVIDING AFTER SCHOOL & SUMMER-WINTER PROGRAMS.

YOUTH CENTERS ARE IDEAL SETTINGS FOR MOTIVATING AND DIRECTING THE NATURAL TALENTS OF CHILDREN.

A “GENERATION PLAN” PLANTS THE SEED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF CHILDREN/TEENS .

CREATING A SENSE OF BELONGING – MAKING DECISIONS TOGETHER

Successful key program designs must include individual and group participation. The Youth Center Manager and Staff direct the activities, but the key to motivating young people is to get them involved in the “decision making process” as it pertains to their specific interests. In essence, they learn how to communicate, plan, manage and appreciate their experience! This process is the fundamental key issue in maximizing the creative and genuine talents of young people.

The passion for excellence is an invaluable lesson and the only way for young people to experience their hunger for information and knowledge is to guide them through the process. Learning how to be part of the group in an unselfish and positive environment develops character and responsibility. Young people are very impressionable and if their influence is negative the consequences will have long lasting detrimental effects on their moral and personal development.

Therefore, I believe it is prudent and wise to examine how government can participate and offer young people more opportunities where each young person can be part of an organization that gives him/her a sense of belonging.

IDEAS ENRICH THE PURPOSE OF OUR GOALS

Enriching young people's lives today with multi-creative and multi-purpose cultural and sports activities will lead them to their eventual profession. Their involvement in the Youth Center will expose them to professionals in the community. For example, professionals in the community will be asked to sponsor many of the Youth Center activities and will be involved in offering unique "Pre-Job Training" experience where children and teens will learn to appreciate the importance of work and skill development. The experience will also teach them the value of education and income that is received for their work.

The "**Generation Plan**" will link all Germany with standardized government sponsored Youth Centers. Each Youth Center will exchange and participate in **Annual Event Calendar Programs**. Youth groups in each city will develop a sense of pride and develop a sense of belonging and personal achievement.

The following youth services program is an example of what can be offered in a YOUTH CENTER:

Key Program Design – Individual & Group Participation, Pro-Active Involvement

The direction and guidance of each center will be delivered by professionals who have the ability to communicate effectively and responsibly. The professionals appointed must deliver their programs with a high degree of interest and creativity. Young people will respond in a positive manner when they trust and respect the individual who is leading them.

Constructive and enriching programs will encourage the youth sector to want to be a member of an exciting, adventurous and welcoming Youth Center.

The Youth Center facility complex / building have to provide excellent resources and space.

Youth Services Center Activities:

Multi-Purpose Areas

Multi-Purpose Area / Rooms for Individual and Group Activities – Lounge & Refreshment Area, General Reading Rooms / Library / Resources, Job-Training Information, IT – Computer Networking Club, TV/VCR Movie Zone, Billiards, Ping-Pong Tables, Club Rooms, Counseling Office, etc.

The Multi-purpose area is designed for special activities that create an atmosphere where each individual has an opportunity to express their interests under the supervision of qualified staff and a Center Counselor.

Youth Committees:

Members will have the opportunity to be involved in the creative process of designing their own club activities. Each club will elect a representative for the group. Planning and events scheduling will be administered by the elected youth official with the guidance of the professional staff. Each committee member will be part of the decision making process and budgetary requirements for the proposed activity.

Youth Center funds can be created by membership dues, newsletter / magazine, club merchandise, sponsorships and government subsidies.

Actively engaging the members to participate in their own special interest planning teaches discipline, responsibility, communications development and organizational business practice.

It also stresses time-management skills, management effectiveness, interpersonal communications and the responsibility of funding / monetary value.

CLUBS:

A weekly planned activities schedule will be provided by the staff based on each member's interests: Computer Club, Crafts Club, Music Club, Drama Club, Photography Club, Youth Services Journalism & Press Club – Newsletter and Magazine, Chess Club, Pets Club, Debate Club, Volunteer Organization Club, Young Professionals Club, Fashion Club, etc.

SPORTS:

Intramural Sports Club and Inter-City Youth Center League: Daily activities will include Basketball, Football, Cricket, Tennis, Swimming, Bowling, Chess, Skating, Billiards, Ping-Pong, Volleyball, Karate, Equestrian, Polo, etc.

If a sport is not available directly in the Center, arrangements will be made to have the child participate with an affiliate sponsor.

All of the above activities will promote individual and team talents. The Youth Center will ensure that exceptionally gifted members will be recognized so that they may become world class competitors.

Special Programs:

Tutorial / Educational Assistance, Work Experience Program / The Job Corner – Earning Extra Money During the Holidays, Annual Youth Center Fine Arts Festival, etc.

Lifestyle Management Counseling Program:

Teens on Teens Forum – Let's Talk About It; Weekly Peer Group Discussion Sessions On Current Issues, Inter-Cultural Issues, Managing Stress, Managing Money, Being Responsible, Planning A Career, etc.

Individual and Group Wellness Support - Youth Members / Parents, Parenting Skills Support Group, Counseling Trouble Youth, etc.

Special Youth Center Community Services Projects:

Volunteers – Tomorrow's Leaders! Monthly community services projects organized by the individual club members.

Teaching the importance of serving the community and being thankful for the opportunities our country and government is giving us to be responsible citizens.

To begin, for example, the Youth Service Model can be tested with one prototype center. Based on the success of the Youth Center, future plans can include the “5 -10 Year Generation Plan” which would have a standardized format throughout Germany – Youth Centers in each region.

In closing, thank you for your time in reviewing my **City-Wide Youth Center** proposal. I look forward to your reply and how to initiate the “modellversuch” and gain governmental funding – resources.

Sincerely,

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