| Good Practice General information | |
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| Title | **Meet your Neighbors – A lesson of community cohesion** |
| Country,  (region and municipality of implementation) | United Kingdom |
| Organisation | Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council in a unique partnership with Department for Communities and Local Government, Unison North West and the Improvement and Development Agency |
| Timeframe  (start date, end date or ongoing) | February 2007 |
| Level of implementation (local/regional/national/transnational/other) | Teenage girls from three North West schools (Tauheedul Islam Girls High School, Blackburn, Moor Park Business and Enterprise High School, Preston and Upton Hall School FJC, Wirra), in a hotel. |
| Webpage or other online info (link) | <http://citiesofmigration.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/meet-your-neighbours.pdf> |
| Contact Details | Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council [www.blackburn.gov.uk](http://www.blackburn.gov.uk)  t. 01254 585617  e. [rosalind.davies@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:rosalind.davies@blackburn.gov.uk) |
| Brief description (max 500 characters) | The idea began form the acknowledgement that in some places today, despite all efforts for inclusion in the areas of education, work and leisure, many people, still, do not have the opportunity to interact with those from different backgrounds to themselves.  ‘Meet your Neighbors’ attempts to engage young girls from very different backgrounds to meet, engage, share experiences and develop friendships. |

| Good Practice Analytical description | |
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| Summary:  -main objectives  -challenge and goals  -activities  (max 1000 characters) | The aim of the project: To bring girls from different backgrounds together to learn from each other, to engage with each other, to talk together about their different beliefs and cultural traditions; but most of all to discover the many things they had in common.  The project is based on ‘Community cohesion’, which focuses on the principles that everyone is a core part of the community, have equal opportunities to live in peace and security, enjoy a decent standard of living, share resources, and equal opportunities in life and wellbeing.  Challenges and goals: Designed to bust myths, create understanding, build friendships across communities and to build bridges across faith groups through intercultural dialogue.  18 teenage girls from three different schools – one Islamic, one Roman Catholic and one secular- left the comforts of their familiar surrounding for a weekend away in Darwen, Lancashire, where they spent two days getting to know one another.  The main activities are:   * Experiential Exercises (Such as Ice- breaking) * Team games * Drama and art activities * Debates about cohesion and difference * (After the trip) Share the experiences with funders, teachers, school, governors, their parents and their peers |
| Problems which aims to tackle (max 1000 characters) | The project aims to combat racism and intolerance of difference; creed, color, gender, ability, age, sexuality, race or background By involving teenage girls into active engagement activities, including a two days away trip, attempts to break down barriers and stereotypes. |
| Target groups (max 500 characters)  -short description of target population  -expected coverage of the programme in terms of the number of persons reached | 18 teenage girls (aged 14-15 years) from three different ethnic schools around the North West and from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds, accompanied by a teacher from each of the schools. |
| Elements of innovation  (max 500 characters) OPTIONAL | City and community leaders learned that opinions are often shaped by misconceptions and stereotypes and that it is important that people from different backgrounds have the opportunity to meet. Open and honest dialogue builds understanding and relationships across perceived differences and, by focusing on shared experiences, interests and aspirations, it is possible to move beyond previously held preconceptions. |
| Results achieved  (max 1000 characters) | The success of the project, and its capacity for fostering lasting inter- faith friendships, is evident in the fact that the girls who participated in 2007 initiated a reunion later that summer.  The program was rolled out again in 2008, but this time with 24 boys from four different schools. The boys would not take so well to a program which relies on social mixing and conversation however, feedback was overwhelmingly positive.  The project produced a toolkit that can be used by other local authorities and has potential for building lasting links between schools. |
| How could this intervention be improved  (max 500 characters) |  |

| GP transferability | |
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| Prerequisites for the adoption / implementation of GP  (what are the specific elements or conditions that must be present to allow the implementation of the GP; Would this action work well in another European context? What local / national conditions should be met to allow the transfer?) (max 700 characters) | The specific action is fully transferable to other countries. The philosophy behind it is to promote social justice and cohesion nationally.  Schools, all over the world are multi-cultural so projects like this offer important opportunities for young people to meet and learn from each other.  Making it work for other young communities (ex. Schools)/ programming a residential like this:   1. Clear vision, mission, purpose and objectives. 2. Selection of appropriate staff. Teachers who act as ‘mentors’ rather than leaders create opportunities for students to open up and actively participate 3. No ‘correct’ answers or ‘sensible’ questions. Students and young people are more likely to contribute to open, honest debate. 4. Take care that participants are students who will share what they have learned confidently with their peers on return. 5. Selecting schools- different demographics 6. Adopt a low-key introduction to the issues of racism and cohesion. |
| Resources needed  (Please specify the amount of funding/financial resources used and/or the human resources required to set up and to run the practice)  (max 500 characters) | For the setup of such centers, the funding should include:   1. cost of accommodation 2. cost of transportation 3. staff salaries 4. advertisement/publicity |

Σε ορισμένες περιοχές, παρά τις προσπάθειες ένταξης των μεταναστών στους τομείς της εκπαίδευσης, της εργασίας και του ελεύθερου χρόνου, πολλοί άνθρωποι, ακόμα, δεν έχουν την ευκαιρία να αλληλεπιδράσουν με αυτούς από διαφορετικό υπόβαθρο. Το πρόγραμμα «Γνωρίστε τους γειτόνες σας» στοχεύει στο να εμπλακούν νεαρά κορίτσια από πολύ διαφορετικά υπόβαθρα σε κοινές δραστηριότητες για να συναντηθούν, να συμμετάσχουν, να μοιραστούν εμπειρίες και να αναπτύξουν φιλίες.

Στόχος του έργου είναι να φέρει μαζί τα κορίτσια από διαφορετικά υπόβαθρα για να μάθουν το ένα το άλλο, να αλληλεπιδρούν μεταξύ τους, να μιλάνε μαζί για τις διαφορετικές πεποιθήσεις και τις πολιτιστικές τους παραδόσεις. αλλά κυρίως για να ανακαλύψουν τα πολλά πράγματα που είχαν κοινό. Το έργο βασίζεται στην «Συνοχή της Κοινότητας», η οποία επικεντρώνεται στις αρχές ότι ο καθένας αποτελεί βασικό κομμάτι της κοινότητας και όλοι έχουν ίσες ευκαιρίες να ζουν σε ειρήνη και ασφάλεια, να απολαμβάνουν ένα αξιοπρεπές βιοτικό επίπεδο, να μοιράζονται πόρους και να έχουν ίσες ευκαιρίες στη ζωή και ευημερία.