

EU Project “Non- violent Resistance in Europe”

There are four different European countries who are working together for 2 years in a EU- Project which is financed by the **European Commission¹**, **Leonardo da Vinci Partnership**, part of the Lifelong Learning Programme. We applied twice to get approved and as we were lucky last year, the project started in July 2012. Participants are Psykcentrum, Copenhagen, **Denmark (Rikke Lyngdam)**; Familjemottagningen, Göteborg, **Sweden (Paul Johansson)**; De Bascule, Amsterdam, **Netherlands (Ber van der Stegen)**; and SOS-Kinderdorf e.V. Hamburg, **Germany (Laura Mans)**. Of course the project is created by many more very committed colleagues in each country. Our partnership project aims to exchange European good practices of Non Violent Resistance and wants to develop NVR within the partner organizations. We would like to share experiences regarding different ways of working with NVR in different settings, create new innovations and also spread the experiences in larger networks on a local basis as well as around Europe.

After we already have met in Gothenburg, Sweden in November 2012 we just had our 2nd meeting of all partner organizations in Hamburg at the end of April. We had very interesting days with many opportunities of mutual exchange and the ideas of developing, deepening and expanding the knowledge and utilization of NVR this time especially focused on Hamburg and Germany. The German delegation had invited different families to share their way of working with NVR and to share their experiences in working within the German Youth and Welfare System. We also shared our experiences with body work and horse ground work with the colleagues and last but not least we had a wonderful day with our friend **Uri Weinblatt**, (Marot Therapy Centre, Tel Aviv). His input enriched our meeting very much, people were inspired and curious.



As one of the functions of the meetings is to share ideas of how NVR can be applied in different settings, all participants can start using what they learn from the meetings as soon they get back

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home. Between each meeting the participating organizations will give feedback on their experiences of using new ideas.

We are going through an interesting process of learning about different European settings and contexts for families, children and adolescents as well as schools and other institutions. We also compare how NVR is/can be adopted in the different cultural contexts. We compare different countries to learn how different legislations and regulations influence the work with children, youth and families. Even though we are all working in different countries and different settings it is our common aim to improve living conditions for young people and families and on how to adapt new NVR ideas in our own cultural context.

The text was written by Laura Mans, Paul Johansson and Ber van der Stegen.