



## PARTNER ACTIVITIES

### According to SOCIAL MEDIATION

- *Partner: Foundation For Society*
- *Target group: young people*

Which is, for your organisation, the most successful action of social mediation concerning young people with limited employment opportunities who dropped out of school in order to provide better them career opportunities?

<b>Project title:</b>	Let's be together!
<b>Description:</b>	<p>If we define the social mediation as a way of solving conflicts at an early stage, perhaps before they reach the level of overt conflict, then one of most successful and recent activity that Foundation For Society has implemented could be the workshops about the future career possibilities for youngsters from orphanage houses.</p> <p>During the first workshop, orphans from 2 orphanages (at the age 16-24) participated in the meeting with career consultants who helped them to decide which profession and why would be the best for them and where it's possible to study the subject they are interested in. In addition, they did different writing tests to understand their strengths better.</p> <p>During the second workshop, youngsters in groups reflected their experience from career consultations. Afterwards, together with staff members, they discussed the information they had just learned, expressed their thoughts about future or current professional or study possibilities, and evaluated their possibilities to enter the labor market. At the end of this workshop, there was a discussion with 5 profession representatives of the workshop, they were asked to point out what professions they are interested in. During these discussions, youngsters got answers on many questions they were curious about.</p> <p>These were not just workshops were pupils listen to tutor, but implementing the methods of popular education, these workshops were</p>



	<p>more like meetings, discussions and mutual exchange of opinions and knowledge with beneficiaries and tutors. Students gained the possibility to learn and understand their options in current labour market, but practitioners from different professions gained the better understanding of the problems youngsters are facing, better understanding of the way youngsters think, their motivations, expectations and values.</p> <p>Because in Latvia one of the main problems in labour market is the high level of unemployment rate amongst youngsters, this is one of the ways to look for solutions for this problem situation, where students participate in problem solving situation.</p> <p>During these discussions representatives from different professions had to face the fact that youngsters are not motivated to enter the labour market. That this generation has a different value system. For example, that their personal freedom is more valuable for them than the self-assertion and achievements in certain work place.</p> <p>Therefore the future employer must think how to attract, engage, involve and integrate potential employees. On the other hand, the tutors of orphanage houses realised that more effort needs to be addressed in the motivation of youngsters to get education. One of the options to solve the social problem could be using popular education methods and with the methods of non-formal education.</p>
<b>Strengths:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to engage the beneficiaries in the problem solving process,</li> <li>• Equality of members,</li> <li>• Opportunity to discover different angles of the problem situation,</li> <li>• Non-formal way of problem solving process.</li> </ul>
<b>Weaknesses:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the method of the social mediation is not supplemented with the certain actions, it might not be effective and will not lead to positive results.</li> </ul>