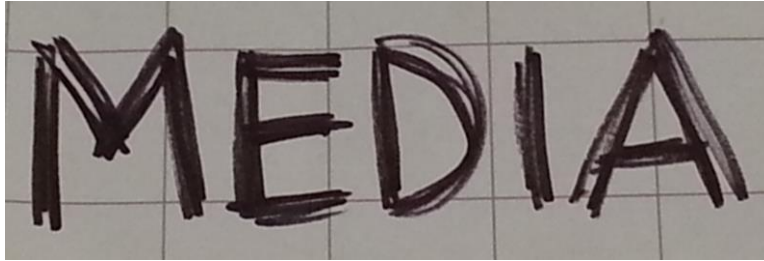


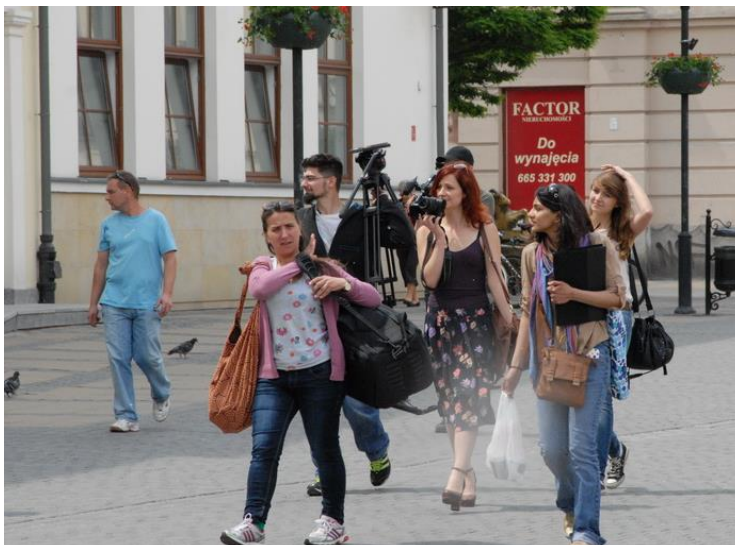
Street Surveys: Article 1

An Interactive Learning Experience: Reflecting on the Youth & Media Inclusion & Employability Project in Nasutów, May-June 2013



We reflect upon our experiences of the whole project where we share our practices related to Youth, Media and Education in a fun atmosphere exchanging our music, customs and we welcome fellow participants to visit our respective countries, too. We also share our concerns as professionals around young people facing difficulties in finding employment and gaining access to more practical training. We identify social issues and vulnerable young people such as teenage pregnancy, people with disabilities, intergeneration, globalization, immigration and many more, as examples of barriers that exclude people from accessing employability. The common goal of this project is to promote strategies found in the media that can break down communication barriers, and open up a new way of thinking for many young people. We are also here to gain new skills and knowledge that can be applied in Youth and Community, Creative and Cultural settings in our respective countries upon our return.

As our group comes together to make a first short film based on the theme 'Escape...!', this reflection will also explore how various situations during the making of the film enabled group members to assert their knowledge, skills and professional personalities, forming roles, primarily to construct a story, artistically using moving image, whilst simultaneously sharing practice, as a way to give and take new informal learning within the group setting.



This workshop was very effective because it was based on the basic principal of sharing information and teaching each other what we know about the topic in question; an opportunity to try and test and see what

happens! This had a beneficial effect for the group participants as peers of one another and as individuals being both 'teacher' and 'student', as we were all in a position to contribute our positive attributes, in order to make an artistic product collectively. The name given to this learning process is known as 'Pedagogy'. The benefit for the student is in gaining much needed information and for the teacher, the benefit is in the opportunity to be challenged and receive questions that can be very difficult to answer, as we suddenly find ourselves in the deep end.

One of the surprises we faced as a group on this task was using analogue based equipment, which pre-prepared us for some slow working, due to the real time conversion, as well as having the restriction of filming without cuts, in the task. However, this was a realisation of how rapidly technological practices are developing, that we simply expect to be in the know and in practice with updated techniques to make the best films. Sometimes going back to the basics is a refresher as we can recall old acquired knowledge and experience that was not valued at the time, but becomes very useful when required for restrictive tasks. It is a matter of getting familiar with the tools of the trade, which help us to progress through our work. The 'Escape...!' activity was an opportunity to do just this.



With a range of background experiences in the group, we were all able to bring something different to the table, whether this was video making skills, artistic, organisational, research, conceptual or sociological perspectives; there has been an array of backgrounds to help to create this film. When you find yourself in a situation where you have to teach, usually you feel the need to be "over prepared" so you push yourself and you rethink your process. Often we learn from experience and we gain knowledge throughout the years that we may not need to share, and especially with people that are totally new to the subject, with no understanding of the professional terminology used. While this experience was

challenging, it was essential for all participants to keep an open mind to the 'learning experience'.

It has been a creative educational and personal learning experience for each of the participants. Having some time to reflect on our team working style

and to better understand where each of our roles could be best used for the making of the main film was an important process for us as individuals and as part of a team. This was a great opportunity to share knowledge among different working professionals since we are in a new age full of messages and tools that we cannot ignore. The 'Escape...!' workshop emphasized that there are many ways to understand ways of teaching and learning, meanings and a great way to encourage creative thinking, too.

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