

Example of good practise

The orchestra HOPE

Denmark 2018



Concert by the Hope Orchestra

Social Inclusion - Social Cohesion - Active Citizenship

SUMMARY

Name	Integration and engagement by the HOPE orchestra
Summary description of idea and activities	The idea is to establish a music school orchestra for children – Danish/ethnic and immigrants - who for financial reasons could not otherwise attend.
Country observed	Denmark
Year observed	2018
Programme area (Social inclusion/ Active Citizenship/Environmental sustainability)	Social inclusion Social cohesion Active citizenship
Specific topic	The purpose of the ensemble is - through empowerment and performance in music, song and dance - to give children and young people general education and life skills.
Beneficiaries of the activities	The co-play promotes respect for the expressions of others and mutual interaction and cohesion and inclusion in the broadest sense. You learn to respect each other's statements - here the musical and listen to each other. It also gives a sense of togetherness and mutual engagement.
Can these activities be applied to other beneficiaries: yes/no	Probably – but easiest to develop in the frame of music schools for children (and their families)
What type of beneficiaries: ALL, or specific ones?	The engaged children and their families, and thereby also the wider communities.
If specific ones, which?	The engaged children and their families

The orchestra HOPE

The interviewee was Andreas Vetö, leader and conductor of the HOPE orchestra. Hope is a cultural and integration-promoting initiative that reaches out to children, who would otherwise never have put their fingers on an instrument and tried to move into the world of music.

The HOPE case

In Denmark, it is mandatory for all municipalities to have a music school. The music school is for everyone, but since the parents must pay for the lessons, there are many children who do not have the opportunity to attend the school.

The lack of opportunities for children from less affluent homes to get music education made the conductor Andreas Vetö angry, therefore he took the initiative to establish a music school orchestra for children – Danish/ethnic and immigrants - who for financial reasons could not otherwise attend.



New members in the HOPE Orchestra

This challenge Andreas Vetö wanted to change with the HOPE initiative. The purpose of the ensemble is - through empowerment and performance in music, song and dance - to give children and young people general education and life skills and to teach children and young people to become independent, conscientious citizens who have an impact not only on their own lives, but on the whole community and also thereby strengthen democratic understanding.

Type of activity

HOPE is a project that has succeeded on many levels. Getting started with an instrument can be a daunting task when you initially don't even know that a music school exists. Or know what a saxophone or trumpet is. Most of HOPE's members did not. Today it is a completely different matter.

Not only as a successful collaboration between schools and music school, but also as a children's community that gives the children the music to be together about, says Andreas Vetö, conductor and music teacher and leader of the HOPE orchestra. An orchestra worth fighting for because it's useful. The coolest thing is to experience the development of the children - also socially.

The method of HOPE is to gather the energy around an orchestra, where all pupils participate and play an instrument. Very few of the participants have played on a musical instrument before, but already after a month the orchestra gives a concert at the school.



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Perhaps the empathy was lacking in the first place. Or it was difficult for the individual to enter a context, difficult to observe and respect our rules. When they come to us, many were used to just start talking when they wanted to. But little by little the children develop, and then you suddenly find yourself with a group of children, who give each other hugs and manage to play really well together, says Andreas Vetö about the 80 students who are part of HOPE, and who in the in recent years has diligently given concerts and garnered great recognition.

Added community values

The general life competencies that the Music School focuses on include concentration skills, networking and motivation skills, ability to self-evaluate, ability to set goals, empathy, ability to collaborate and join a community, ability to create trust and self-confidence, ability to make decisions and have critical thinking, interpersonal communication skills.

When playing in an orchestra, the seeds of democratic understanding are always present, as you must respect your fellow players (and the conductor) so that the music sounds as intended. By participating in HOPE, children and young people learn to become independent, conscientious citizens who have a voice and who have an impact not only on their own lives, but on democracy and society as a whole.

For more info, contact dfks@dfks.dk