**The Odyssey of Hope**

**Summary**: In order to create social links and to restore confidence in people who are in precarious financial situations in the Roanne region, the Odyssey of Hope has developed a cultural activity based on theatre and the practice of artistic workshops.

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<td><strong>Source and details on funding</strong>: Grants from local collectives</td>
<td><a href="http://OdysseeDeLespoir.over-blog.com">http://OdysseeDeLespoir.over-blog.com</a></td>
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**EDITORIAL COMMITTEE**

- **Date of proofreading**: 2014/09/05
- **Solution(s)**: Culture, sport and leisure activities, Social exclusion and isolation
- **Participant**: Association, ONG
- **Beneficiaries**: Urban population, Bottom Of The Pyramid (BOP)
- **Domain**: Citizen participation, Culture

**BACKGROUND TO THE PROGRAMME**

- A meeting of various organisations: ATD Quart Monde, GRILL IUT (Research Group on Local Initiatives), Cie theatre Air du Temps, ELLIPPS Training Centre and individuals.
- Collective reflection conducted on the work of combining knowledge.
- Questioning of the Committee for the Grand Roanne Agglomeration on access to training, culture and to cultural expression, as a tool for social integration: “How to answer the need for expression and cultural practices by people in difficulty in the Roanne territory...”

**OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME**

- Giving voice to those who don't have one.
- Social inclusion with a cultural tool: theatre
- Develop the power of each participant to act “Empowerment”

**IMPLEMENTED ACTIONS**

- Creation and distribution of theatrical shows - exhibitions
- Artistic Practices in workshops: writing for fun, theatre, slams, song, art, costumes, scenery
- Welcome participants every day from 10h to 17h, with the possibility of shared meals
- Supporting people with their problems (health, employment, family ...) in partnership with our local network
QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE RESULTS FROM THE IMPLEMENTED ACTIONS

- Creation and publicising of a show once a year
- Public reached: all age groups, individuals and families.
- Regular attendance and investment in the Odyssey so it becomes a "lively place"
- Impact on behaviour, reactions and reflections on the future of each person. Evolution to participation outside of the association and with other associations.

ORIGINAL CHARACTERISTICS
The theatre text is written, selected and played by the actors themselves with the aim of exchanging knowledge. Professionals will only support all the stages of the production.

For each person there is an opportunity to participate in various activities in the association. In the artistic creation, in welcoming, associative life and the administration.

PARTNERSHIP(S) DEVELOPED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PROGRAMME
Mobilisation of partnerships and substantive partnerships with organisations in Roanne. Social Organisations (CCAS, Welcome centres, Social Centres...), Cultural organisations (theatre companies, municipal cultural services, Conservatory ...) and institutional bodies (the agglomeration and city services ...)

FEEDBACK

Difficulties and/or obstacles encountered during the programmes implementation:
After 7 years of operation we have identified various difficulties:

- Lack of finances. This problem hinders the pursuit of innovative projects that could serve as assessment tools.
- Lack of volunteers that slows the energy going into management and creation.

Solutions used to overcome the difficulties and/or obstacles:
A strict management process puts some projects on hold. Making the association professional has been considered for two years as part of the DLA, Local Process for Support in Loire.

Suggestions for future improvement:
- Establishment of a working group built up in order to find sponsors or patrons.
- Work on communication.
- Look for volunteers.

Summary of factors responsible for the programmes success:
Teaching: setting up training for social workers about the impact on people in this type of action.
Sociological: Impact of cultural expression on the individual and their daily life.

Ideas for basic or applied research topics, that could be useful to the programme:
See appendix:

- Participant testimonies
- Brochure for the Association
- News Article
- Photos or videos are available on the blog odysseedelespoir.over-blog.com