

Guideline for the development of a target and action plan of one's own facility for cooperation and networking with external persons/institutions

Focus: Improved coping ability regarding the complex challenges in residential care of young people

(Created by R. Enzenhofer/K. Mahrer, based on experiences of Tartaruga, a residential crisis intervention facility for young people, Graz, AT)

Residential facilities that support young people are part of a network. Whether or to what extent the employees are actively involved in the "networking" depends on the interest and the conditions (specifications, possibilities etc.). Networking that is not case-specific allows for professional development, information exchange regarding responsibilities, limits and possibilities for action, joint positioning (technically, politically etc.) of individual disciplines or several institutions, agreements on future cooperation, etc.; it is a good basis for targeted cooperation in individual cases.

In order to decide on what networking activities and forms of cooperation to initiate, the current situation should be analysed. Ideally, several team members or the entire team are involved in this process.

- ✓ **What kinds of** cooperation and networking activities **are already in place** - both within the own organisation as well as externally?
 - a) regularly
 - b) occasionally

Which ones

 - a) are helpful, and in what way are they helpful?
 - b) need to be improved, and how can they be improved?

- ✓ **What further** cooperation and networking activities **would, on a general level, make sense in order to, if necessary, quickly create** the best possible cooperation in individual cases?

- ✓ **Should there be a cooperation agreement (orally/written) between the own facility and** individual external institutions/persons (e.g. youth psychiatrist in the region, hospital, drug counselling, school psychology)? What advantages or disadvantages would be the result?

- ✓ **What** persons/institutions (internal/external) **from the socio-pedagogical or other areas/disciplines** could/should **be contacted for (regular) networking** in order to reach the goal of (improved) **cooperation opportunities of the own institution?**

- ✓ **What other persons or institutions for young people** could/should be **helpful** for professional and interdisciplinary cooperation and networking?

- ✓ **What** cooperation and networking activities would promote **professional development and more interdisciplinary understanding** in dealing with the complex challenges in the care of young people (in the own institution or in residential facilities (RYCHs) in the region)?