

Report of Austria 2012

Austria



• We are proud of

1. Lower Austria



District Authority St. Pölten
District Authority Amstetten

2011 pilot project family group conference with 10 families, scientific evaluation „Family Group Conference in Lower Austria. Possibilities of participation in the helping process“

Seven Master Thesis

Bauer-Unzeitig, Carina (2012): Taking children and youth serious! About participation of young people in the pilotproject FGC in Lower Austria. Masterthesis University of Applied Sciences St. Pölten

Geyerhofer, Michael (2012): Family Group Conference. A method of family care in Lower Austria. Masterthesis University of Applied Sciences St. Pölten

Hagenauer, Nina (2012): We are the World, we are the Children. Child Protection and Children's Rights in the Context of Family Group Conference. Masterthesis University of Applied Sciences St. Pölten

Haslbauer, Julia/ Richter, Veronika (2012): Skills not being a too colorful person. Coordination of Family Group Conferences. Masterthesis University of Applied Sciences St. Pölten

Hinterbauer, Timo (2012): „If there was a next one, I certainly will participate again!“ FGC experiences. Masterthesis University of Applied Sciences St. Pölten

Krgo, Edina (2012): Pilotproject FGC – Social workers tell their stories. Masterthesis University of Applied Sciences St. Pölten

2. First Training for Facilitators

Start March 2012

Since september 15 certified facilitators, also in Vienna and the province of Styria, mainly Graz



More eight finished conferences

3. Spread to other fields of social work



Project „SocialNetworkConference“ at NEUSTART, Austria

NEUSTART has more than 50 years broad experience in the work with delinquency. We guide, look after, support and take care of both, offenders and victims in different kinds of our social work portfolio.

The goal is the implementation, the adaptation and the realization of the method “Family Group Conferencing” as an extension and diversification for our actual repertoire of methods. Of course adapted for our target-group and our circumstances.

The project will be realized on four locations in Austria, as there are Carinthia, Upper Austria, Styria and Vienna operating with 16 trained facilitators - restaurativ justice Prof. Dr. Otmar Hagemann and Family Group Conference FH St. Pölten, Excursionen to NL, B and D

The project will last for two years, till the end of 2013.

Target-group are juvenile delinquents up to the age of 21, who are already on probation and looked after by the probationary service of NEUSTART.

Three different kinds of conferences should be implemented:

1) Problem Solving Conference: "SocialNetworkConference" is a possible way to solve, reduce or alleviate a problem (or a bunch of problems).

2) Conference to prepare release from prison: is a special form of Problem Solving Conference. Goal is to prepare the social surrounding as optimal as possible for the release from prison.

3) Restorative Justice Conference: Offender(s) and victim(s) will be supported to reach an agreement for redemption. The offender can admit responsibility and also apologise.

We plan, that we have performed 60 conferences at the end of 2013.

Accompanying research is organised from the University Vienna.

Current status: We started in all four counties with the preparation for the first conferences. First dates and talks with participants took place. The first conference will be held soon.

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4. Social Group Conferences

Network (re)activating processes in the context of long-time social assistance recipients, unemployment and labor market in counseling and training.

The pilot project, funded by the European Social Fund and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs & Consumer Protection, aims at implementing the concept of FGC in the context of adult long-term social assistance recipients as a means to enable occupational integration, to democratize help and welfare as well as to strengthen social inclusion.

Information workshop and training of referrers and facilitators were set up, five conferences are planned.



"Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development", Stockholm 2012

• That helped

Networking, patience, keep on going, power, enthusiasm, conviction, courage, future workshops

• The costs

energy

• The goals for next year

- implementing FGC in the youth welfare system in Lower Austria
- Starting in the province of Styria
- Networking in Austria – first Austrian Network Meeting
- Implementing the UN convention about the rights of people with disabilities – the way to assist decision making

