

**Time frame**

From 2012 to now

Stakeholders

Political legislative
Political executive
Extra-curricular education

**Institutional framework****Structure-related quality criteria**

Strategic orientation
Designing the provisions/
living spaces
Collaboration
Coordination
Efficacy review
Participation and identification

The starting point

The Megafon 05 youth parliament conference took place in 2005 and gave voice, among other things, to the wish for more coordination between the youth work centres in the Baden region. A regional youth work concept was then developed, suggesting the creation of a regional support centre. This support centre would guarantee a basic level of continuity and improve the overall coordination between public youth work centres in the region. At the heart of the support centre are network meetings with youth workers, which take place six to eight times a year and provide a forum for discussions, exchanges and decisions.

Aims

Establishing the regional support centre. It is intended to help prevent duplications in the region, thus saving resources which can then be used to directly benefit young people in the community. As there is a central contact person, it is easier for external people to get in touch. This good networking means that the centre's management can provide information directly or triage it to the correct agency.

Target group

- Primary: youth workers themselves and thus indirectly the young people of the Baden region.
- Secondary: members of government authorities, network partners at regional, cantonal and national levels

Costs

Total 2018 budget 160,000 Swiss francs, 1.45 francs per resident at 110,000 residents

Project progression

In 2012, the nine communities of Baden, Bergdietikon, Birmenstorf, Ehrendingen, Ennetbaden, Fislisbach, Neuenhof, Turgi and Würenlos launched the three-year pilot phase of the Baden region youth work support centre. The canton provided start-up funding of 40%. After the positive evaluation of the pilot phase, the participating communities passed a community contract from 2015, in which the city of Baden was contracted to implement the centre.

An action plan was created by the centre management at the beginning of the pilot phase. There was a second strategy and action plan for the introductory 2015–18 phase and another for the 2019–24 phase. They were each created as part of workshops with the youth worker network and the strategic committee of the steering group, which includes one political representative from each community.

Measures include the jobs4teens.ch, Sportnacht and Garten Eden regional projects, for example. As part of the networking tasks, the centre management work together with the regional police force, alongside many smaller networks within the Board of AGJA [Argau youth work centre] or within the setting up and implementation of the cooperation. Multiple training events for youth workers and regional government authority members also take place over time.

Success factors

- The three-year start-up funds from the canton convinced the communities to “give it a go”.
- Generous attitudes within the steering group: no penny-pinching, instead it was much more “one timethis community benefits more, next time another”.
- The centre management is lateral, which means it has no formal authority. This requires stronger commitment from the staff and co-responsibility on decisions taken.
- A strong core of youth workers with plenty of pioneering spirit, great professional attitudes and a low staff turnover, who always critically analysed the centre as a construct and thus helped it develop further.

Challenges

The centre management is lateral, which means it has no formal authority. Because of this and the cooperation of the 14 communities, it is sometimes unclear who actually has the authority to make decisions. A solution is being sought for this challenge as part of the forthcoming strategy and action plan.

Conclusion

The proven success of the centre meant that further communities joined over the course of the year, these being Wettlingen, Gebenstorf, Obersiggenthal, Untersiggenthal and Spreitenbach, so that the centre now serves 14 communities with 12 youth support centres. This addition also allowed for the increase of the centre management staff from the initial 65 to 70, and to 8 FTE from 2015. The centre’s development of the “Participation of children and young people in the community” brochure meant that awareness of the issue could be raised among government authority members as part of a training event and further participation tools are currently under discussion in multiple communities, with some being put into use.

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