

WORKSHOP N° 4

Youth Participation

Presented by
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16th of November 2022



Youth Participation Workshop

- Introduction to Participation
- VRAC at SAAMO
- Participation in Norfolk
- Activity

Roger Hart's Ladder of Young People's Participation



- Rung 8:** Young people & adults share decision-making
- Rung 7:** Young people lead & initiate action
- Rung 6:** Adult-initiated, shared decisions with young people
- Rung 5:** Young people consulted and informed
- Rung 4:** Young people assigned and informed
- Rung 3:** Young people tokenized*
- Rung 2:** Young people are decoration*
- Rung 1:** Young people are manipulated*

**Note Hart explains the last three rungs are non-participation*

Adapted from Hart, R. (1992) Children's Participation from Tokenism to Citizenship. Florence: UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre
Created by The Freechild Project - <http://freechild.org>



What is Participation?

Definition: *the action of taking part in something.*

What do we mean when working with the community and young people?

Why is it important?



VRAC - SAAMO

PARTICIPATION at home, in school and in the community context

- Traject: Donkerlei



What did we do?

1. Why this neighborhood?

- Intersectoral network New Authority
- Social problems + opportunities

It takes a village to raise a child (VRAC) organiseert:
Woon jij in de buurt Donkerlei?
Zin om je buurt een boost te geven?
inschrijven voor 4 februari

3 GRATIS workshops in februari en maart:
Je leert in gesprek gaan met politici en politie om vragen, bezorgdheden en ideeën met hen te delen. Daarna brengen we jullie samen rond de tafel.

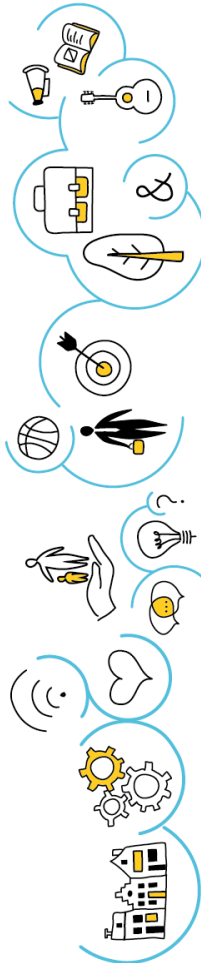
Ben jij +12?
Zin om mee te doen?
Kan jij je **engageren** en de komende maanden **tijd** vrij maken?

Na al dat werk verdient onze **buurt** een **feestje!**
Er zal een spetterend buurtfeest plaatsvinden, dat we de maanden daarvoor **samen** in elkaar steken.

Inschrijven? Sms of bel Mathilde van SAAMO naar 0485 93 86 61

2. What did we do?

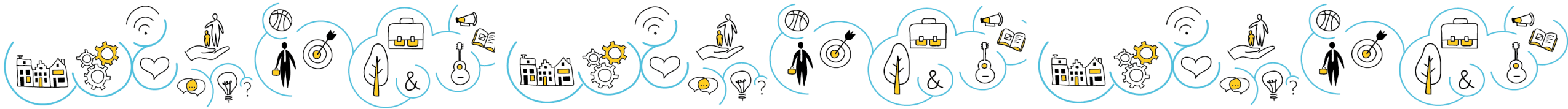
- **Listen** to the young people
- **What to do** with their ideas?
 - the elected member of Mechelen **Rina Rabau Nkandu** and the elected member of Mechelen **Abdrahman Labsir**
 - with the **police**
- **Prepare them** for two important meetings
 - workshops: (non)-verbal communication
- Organize a **neighborhood party** before the summer of '22 (together with adults of the neighborhood)
- Organize a **neighbourhood network** of adults and young people



Lessons learnt Donkerlei



- Start to inform and/or engage neighborhood organizations
 - ✓ Survey the target group
 - ✓ Informal interaction
- Increase your own involvement in the neighborhood
- Hang some posters in places where young people chill





Lessons learnt: Donkerlei

- Take **enough time to form the group**
 - Kick-Off: communicate purpose and their + your expectations
 - Activities to promote positive group dynamics
- Make it **attractive** to young people: what are the benefits of joining:
 - skills for school/work
 - free food (always works!)
 - find a warm cozy place to get together
- **Prepare** them in groups and individually (increases confidence)



Lessons learnt: Donkerlei

How to engage the voices of young people in politics?

Youngsters: shared understanding + prepare them

Politicians: also prepare them

1. After a few weeks/months: **prepare the second party**
2. Make **clear agreements**
3. Keep **chasing** the politicians / partner organisations

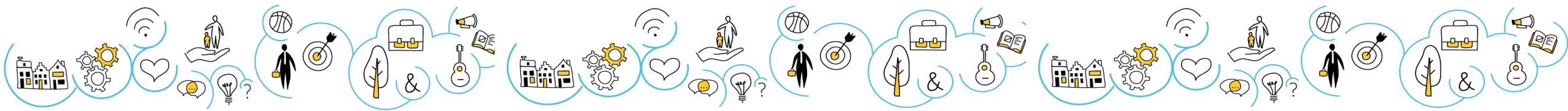
What did we **accomplish** with these meetings?
What actions are sustainable?



gesprek met de schepenen



gesprek met de politie



What were the experiences of the young people from this process?



"Ik vond het gesprek leerzaam en ook goed dat we direct feedback gekregen van de twee Schepenen: wat er wel en niet van toepassing kan zijn. We kregen te horen wat de toekomstplannen zijn voor Donkerlei: de wegen in en rond Donkerlei gaan veranderen."

"Ik vond het ook positief dat Schepen Labsir het gesprek, dat we gaan doen met de politie, wil bijwonen. Zo kan hij ook langs onze kant luisteren en voor een oplossing zoeken. Ik vond het dus een geslaagd gesprek."

Younes, 20 jaar

"Ik vond het zeer leuk. Ik was wel echt zenuwachtig, want ik wist niet hoe die mensen waren."

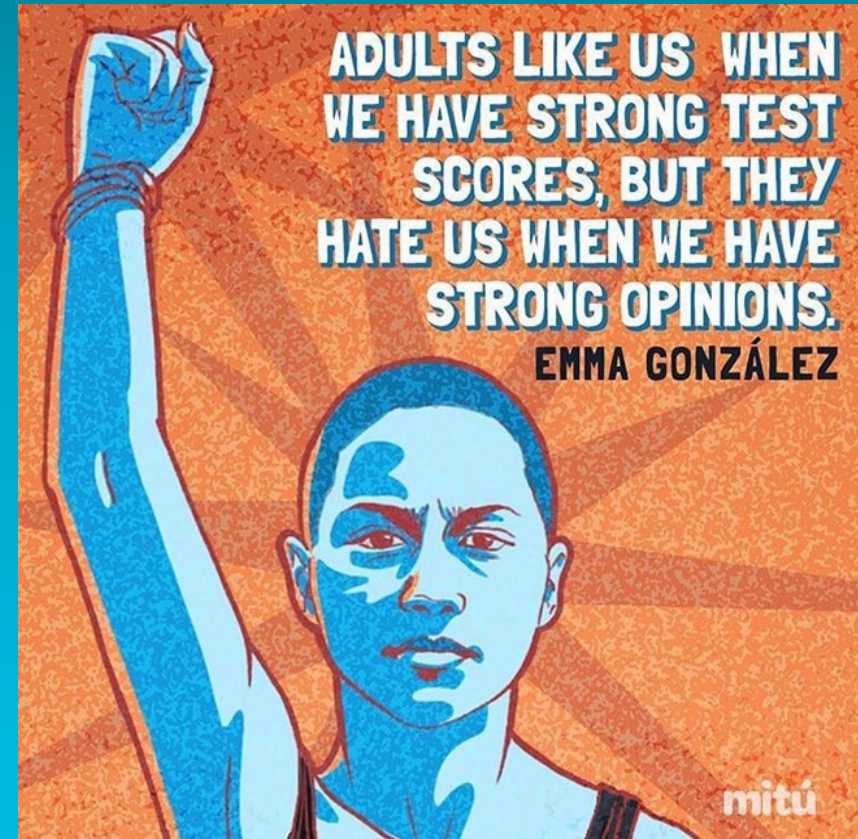
Maar ik ben trots over hoe het is gelopen en ik ben blij thuis gekomen."

Aya, 14 jaar

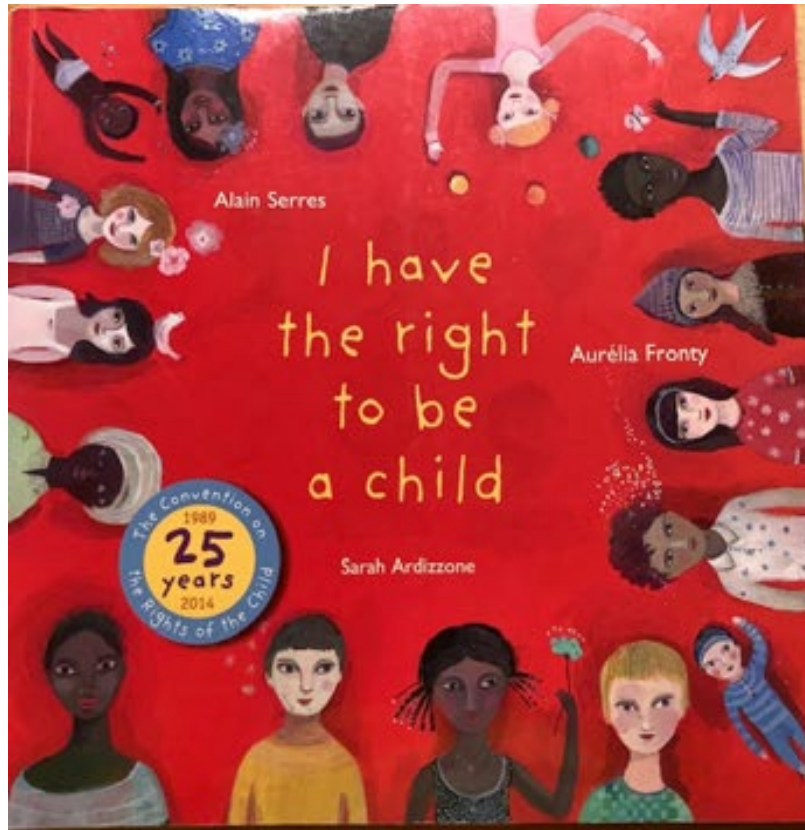


Youth Participation in Norfolk/Norwich

- UNCRC article 12
- Hear by Right
- UK Youth Parliament
- Youth Advisory Boards
- Youth Banks
- Commissioning



Youth Participation in Norfolk/Norwich



UN – Charter of children's Rights

§ 2 Respect for children's rights

§ 12 Consideration of the child's will

§ 13 Freedom of expression and information

§ 14 thoughts - conscience and religious freedom

§ 17 Access to information



Activity



“our brains are fresh and they work better - no offence”

Please discuss:

- Youth/Community Voice in your organisation
- Thinking about Article 12, how well is this applied in your organisation?

Finances / staffing / policy setting / curriculum / leadership





THANK YOU!

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