Civic formation, supportive structures and building of longterm partnerships

Norwegian and Nordic experiences with Citizens' Participation

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The Ideas Bank Model: Best practices - new dialogues - futurepictures

Local sustainable community development

Professional assistance to National programs such as:

- Local Agenda 21
- The Frontrunner Community program
- Livable Communities

Our contribution:

- Pedagogical presentations on sustainable community development
- Methods for dialogue and partnership
- Collecting and dissemination of best practices







Our methods focusing on:

 Promoting sustainable practices and cross sectoral work between the local authorities, the civil society and the local private sector

Such as:

- The Future scenario workshop
- The Cafédialogue and other creative methods promoting equal and democratic dialogues



Citizens' Participation - A continual project

- People can shape, and reshape societies
- Democracy is about a shared community of people. It is about us and ours, not about me and mine
- The normative basis for a democratic system is that everyone is competent to participate in governing



Foto: Namsdal avis

Professor Audun Offerdal in Report on Local Democracy in Norway 2006

The Norwegian Context – the Nordic Model?!



What do the the Nordic Countries have in common:

- > Equality
- > Trust
- > Flat hierachies
- > Social inclusion
- > Flexibility
- ➤ Values of democracy and civil society deeply rooted in the Nordic societies

The pedagogic platform of the Nordic civic formation

Grundtvigs concept of civic formation: Formation of the individual – formation in

community

Embraces the formation as an:

- Individual
- Member of the society
- World citizen

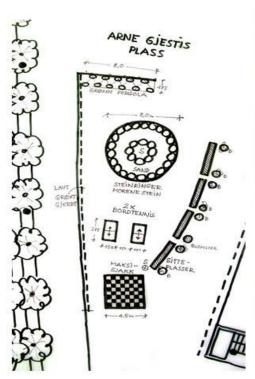
«Lifeskills and a school for life» - "Shapers and makers"







Sagene Lokal Agenda 21 forum







A Futures News Paper



Young people making the future (Øvre Eiker)

The Values Manifesto: «Together for Øvre Eiker»



Fredrikstad – A community developer at local and global level

- Local democracy model: –
 organising smaler local
 committees with own
 budgets, involved in
 planning processes
- Participatory budgetting
- Handbook in methods for citizens participation "Dare to do something new"
- Twinning and exchanges networks North-South since 1985



Lessons learned from the Norwegian and Nordic examples:

- Professional mediators to facilitate the democratic and formative dialogue
- A flexible structure in the public administration that can meet citizens in a comprehensive way
- Participation at all levels as early as possible and in a continuous process
- Dialogue between experts knowledge and the lay knowlegde

«Ecological loops of learning»



In partnerships

Literature

- NORDIC Success stories in Sustainability
- SIGNALS local action success stories in Sustainability
- Citizen Education, Municipal Development and Loval Democracy in Norway

Available in electronic format at:

www.idebanken.no/publikasjoner

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