

ALL'IN GUIDE

Inspiration on how your city can build the next generations of safe city changemakers

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PART I: WHY

YOUTH AS A KEY TO PROVIDE SAFE CITIES

Young and vulnerable

Youth have often proven more vulnerable to extremism as they grapple with questions of identity and their place in the world. At the same time they are of an age in which they are more inclined to take risks and challenge status quo.

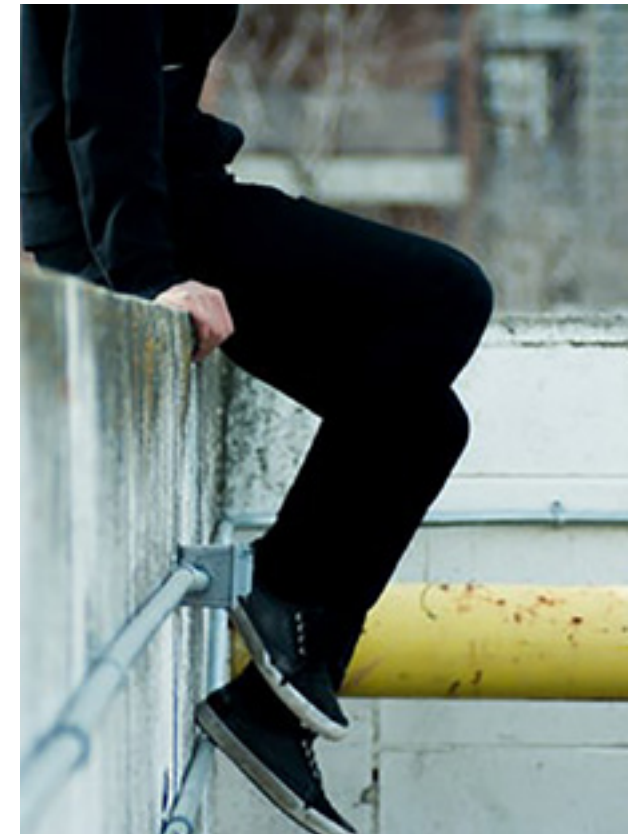
Psychological and cognitive factors, such as one's self-image, a sense of identity and belonging, expectations, as well as beliefs and attitudes, are created when a person experiences and reacts to his or her environment. If the interactions are negative this can impact on the development of emotions such as displacement, exclusion, rejection, humiliation, injustice, frustration, revolt or even superiority if not dealt with and supported. Such emotions and experiences can also push someone to be more susceptible to the appeal of radicalisation, hate crimes, violence, and in the worst case, terrorism.

Social inclusion and belonging

Consultations with a range of Nordic cities have shown that one of the main issues facing young people in cities today is a lack of social inclusion and belonging. Young people feel disconnected from the local government, public life and in some occasions, from one another. On several occasions, this has led to scenarios of tension and prejudice.

Amongst the Nordic cities, a voiced concern to counter these scenarios have been a lack of opportunities where young people can share experiences, strengthen collaboration and build positive relationships between the youth, local stakeholders and the city.

Cities have the ability to support and empower the voices of young people by listening to what their needs are and responding with structural and financial support. Young people should be included in political conversations as a critical partner in policy design and sustainable localised resilience efforts. Their voices hold creative and credible solutions to the challenges they face.



PART II: WHAT

ALL'IN

Platform and message

ALL'IN is a creative platform designed to engage and train young people to develop concepts that can contribute to a cool and safe city for all youth. The key message is inclusion.

The ALL'IN concept was developed in collaboration with Nordic Safe Cities, Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) and Larvik Municipality. Since fall 2017, more than 150 ALL'IN ambassadors have participated and developed +20 online and offline concepts.

The ALL'IN Guide is based on this work and provides tangible tools, recommendations, inspiration and ALL'IN best cases. It goes out to city actors who wish to mobilize and engage young people in an action and community orientated course to create a cool and safe city.

Safe city changemakers of tomorrow

ALL'IN Nordic Safe Cities aims to build the next generations of safe city changemakers in the Nordic region. We strive to activate young people by strengthening their voices and equipping them with the knowledge that they can play a central role in preventing and mitigating acts of radicalisation and hate crime amongst their peers.

On a political level, the ambition is to integrate youth participation, leadership, and empowerment as a centralized theme in the Nordic cities' local action plans to prevent violent extremism (PVE). As well as pursue and reinforce social inclusion, and the promotion of peace and security among all youth.

The Nordic Safe Cities has a vision by 2020, more than 10.000 young people will be engaged in the ALL'IN movement as a safe city changemakers of tomorrow.

Welcome on board.

The Nordic Safe Cities Secretariat

ALL'IN DEFINITION

It is implicit in the word - ALL'IN - we must bring everyone together with the aim of making safe cities. In this context, the main target group and producers are the youth living in and around the cities. This means at-risk young people, the often silent majority of resourceful young people and groups of active young people. All their voices must be heard and integrated into the acts and policies of a city.

With inclusion as a keyword, the name was developed together with Larvik Municipality as KomINN, meaning, come inside. The English translation is ALL'IN.



KomINN



KomIN



KomIND



TuleSISÄÄN



KomduINN

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

ALL'IN key principles

The key to success is the ability to involve and engage the main target group - the youth. They must experience that their voices and efforts are taken seriously. So what to do?

Reach and speak out loud that the municipality recognizes the youth as important stakeholders in the city, with credible voices and valuable experiences and ideas.

Include youth representatives in the ALL'IN project and message from the beginning to ensure that they feel and have the ownership and responsibility on how to run it.

Create a fun and social atmosphere the youth want to be apart of. Listen to their needs and interest when planning the framework and settings in collaboration with the youth.



Let the youth pitch their ideas for a panel of professional people when having the camp (see step 3). Qualified inputs will help them improve their concepts and they have something concrete to work towards.

Make a plan for how the municipality and other city actors can support the development and the implementation of the concepts together with the youth.

ORGANISATION AND RESOURCES

The city must be able to support the whole process with resources ranging from funds, time and personnel, materials, and network to relevant local stakeholders. Make sure there is strong leadership placed within the municipality, as there will often be multiple companies and areas within the municipality that is affected.

A working group should jointly outline local partners and resources to address the core challenges. The analysis should include what role the municipality will take and where additional partners and non-municipal stakeholders will be drawn from. Ideally, this would cover a range of different actors from municipal stakeholders to local influencers and role models.

The pre-work should concentrate on securing:

- Interest amongst the most engaged youth to kick-start the ALL'IN movement.
- Finance and workforce to realize and support process and outputs (the concepts).
- Support and recognition from local politicians and administrative decision-makers.
- A team of engaged employees from the relevant departments in the municipality (e.g. SSP/SLT coordinators, socialworkers, teachers, administrative consultants, projektmanagers) in the city that can manage and support process and outputs.
- Interest amongst different local stakeholders (e.g. public and private organisations, associations, institutions, businesses) as collaborators and concept partners.

ALL'IN CONCEPTS

Young people develop ALL'IN concepts on a creative camp and further developed afterward on focused pit-stop sessions.

A concept can come in the form of a campaign, an event, a hashtag, competitions, awareness campaigns, relays, blogs, series of photos, videos, animations, quizzes, discussion forums, public kitchens, city walks, APP solutions, and so forth.

Online and offline

In many cases, a concept can make use of both online and offline platforms. For example, it is obvious to communicate about an event at the local sports club via social media. On the contrary, a campaign on social media can also take place offline with specific activities that support the purpose of the campaign. Depending on the concept, communication channels and other platforms, concepts have the potential of being scaled from a local to a national level as well as a Nordic or international stage.

DEVELOPING CONCEPTS

ALL'IN key principles



Identify your purpose.

- **Why** are you creating the concept, what is the challenge and the vision you want to reach?
- Focus on issues that are relevant to your community.
- Be specific. Do not try to take on an issue that is too broad.



Craft your idea.

- **What** is your idea?
- Think creatively and make it fun to be involved.
- Be aware of making concepts that is realistic to implement, also financially.
- Create a visual and communicative identity.
- Give a call-to-action that emphasizes some solution to the challenge or your vision.
- Make the concept as simple and concrete as possible, so it is easy to understand for others and to get involved.
- Know the outcome of what you want to achieve, e.g., inform, create debate, get people to act, influence stakeholders, etc.
-



Define your target group.

- **Who** are you trying to reach?
- Having a well-defined audience can be crucial for a successful concept.
- Know who your audience is and what motivates or de-motivates them.
- Choose the platforms connecting your audience and support the content and actions of the concept.



Create a project plan.

- **How** will you make sure you go from words to action?
- Identify strategic partners that can help promote your concept on a short and long term basis.
- Outline what content and actions are to be produced and published in the short and longer run. This will also make your audience more familiar with your concept.
- Define who will do what and when.

A simple idea can be of great value and provide profound impact.

ALL´IN BEST CASES

ONE STAMP FOR TOLERANCE AND INCLUSION

THE CITY OF LARVIK

Larvik Municipality initiated ALL´IN (KomINN) on the basis of their Action Plan Against Radicalization and Violent Extremism with one focus point being youth involvement. The municipality wished to engage the youth's voice in the preventive work concerning what needs to happen in Larvik for it to be a cool and safe city where generosity, inclusion and diversity makes everyone more prosperous.

"I felt that we actually made a difference because a Larvik without prejudices seemed impossible to achieve. To hear from so many inspiring people made me think in new ways, get new ideas and become even more engaged."

Youth participant, KomINN Larvik



ALL'IN BEST CASES



#hilsforfaen

The concept #hilsforfaen was developed at the ALL'IN camp in Larvik and launched in collaboration with the local festival, Stavernfestivalen in 2018. 3000 young people were "tattooed" with a sticker saying #hilsforfaen and discussed how tolerance and inclusion could enrich them. To promote the campaign they made a #hilsforfaen competition, where the winner got 2 tickets for the festival next year.

Purpose:

- Engage the youth to get to know new people.
- Saying "hello" can be a simple act which makes the day so much better for others.
- Prejudices can be prevented while inclusion, friendship and belonging can be improved.

Solution:

- Say hello to a stranger you meet and take a selfie together.
- Upload on instagram, tag each other and type #Hilsforfaen.

KomINN KINO

Since summer 2018 Larvik Municipality has used the ALL'IN message and logo for concepts that they believe concerns tolerance and inclusion. The most recent concept developed and implemented in the city is KomINN cinema.

Purpose:

- KomINN (ALL'IN) cinema is an inclusive cinema challenging children, youth and adults to invite someone they haven't been to the movies with before and to encourage people to get to know new people.

Solution:

- The ticket prices are kept low and easy to buy through the cinemas' website.
- The offer was posted on Facebook, the municipality's website and an internal network for the municipality, the school websites and posters printed in the classrooms on 14 schools reaching 5000+ students.

YOUTH CONCEPTS IN PROGRESS

THE OF CITY OF KRISTIANSAND

In August 2018, Kristiansand Municipality held an ALL'IN camp. The camp was initiated within an already existing framework and action plan, the SNU-project, and supported common themes such as safe city, youth violence and crime prevention. At the camp, nearly 100 students from upper secondary schools in the center of Kristiansand developed 12 different ideas to preventive violence and criminal activity amongst youth. Subsequently, the municipality invited the participants to participate in the further development of some of the ideas developed at the camp.

Youth Voices

In preparation for the ALL'IN camp, student representatives from the high schools in Kristiansand were invited to talk about the challenges that affect the young people in the city. Below are some excerpts of the young people's reflections.

What challenges do you see in your city?

"Violence - against others and oneself. Self-harm also creates victims. Many young people use drugs like alcohol and hash. It can also be a problem if you do not have a leisure activity or job. Too many young people already quit school at an elementary level."

What do you think about it?

"It's sick and sad."

Where does the violence and use of drugs start?

"There are a few young people spreading the negativity, like rings in the water, in their attempt to create a community."

Is it a matter of attention?

"It is a quest for fellowship, for social cohesion. In the secondary schools, there are several people who step out of school and who do not become a part of the larger group. The young people who step out find some sort of understanding towards each other, and therefore, it becomes their own group."

How can young people mobilize something positive?

"With more focus and more activities that can create unity and connection with other young people. There is also a need for adults to take care of those who are outsiders, even when they have moved away from home or orphanages."

On the drawing board

After the ALL'IN camp, Kristiansand Municipality and a group of young participants have continued its work with three of the ideas developed on the camp. The concepts include an APP on leisure activities, a video campaign about prejudice and a youth café. The municipality supports the process by involving relevant local stakeholders who can help facilitate, develop and finance the concepts. In this way, the concepts can be realized and shared with other young people in the city.

ALL IN BEST CASES



APP on leisure activities

One of the concepts is an APP, which gives the young people in the city an easy overview of all the leisure activities in the area.

Purpose

- Every youth are always updated on current leisure activities in the city.

Challenge:

- Many young people complain that there are too few leisure activities offered by the municipality. This is often referred to as the reason why youth groupings occur in the main shopping street.
- The municipality does provide a diverse and varied set of leisure activities, but the communication does not reach the young people well.

Solution:

- An APP where the public, private and volunteer actors in the municipality can upload their leisure activities.
- A filter based on the user's age, placement location, and interests.
- Teachers at schools encourage students to download the app.
- Push/pop-up messages when the user pass an area that offers an activity.

PART III: HOW

THE PROCESS

The ALL'IN process is divided into 5 steps which are considered necessary to ensure the progress and pace needed to reach the vision of creating cool and safe cities for all young people.

The youth are actively engaged in all parts of the process to the best extent possible. This includes setting the focus, developing concrete concepts, planning the implementation, and carrying out the concept at a launch.

To ensure accessibility and ownership within the city, the concepts are matched with local stakeholders to drive the process forward after the camp, and into reality.

Step 1: Framework

Qualify challenges, themes, city arenas, and local stakeholders.

Step 2: Planning

Prepare the ALL'IN camp as the creative platform and working space for the development of concrete concepts by youth.

Step 3: ALL'IN camp

Carry out the ALL'IN camp with young people developing online and offline concepts.

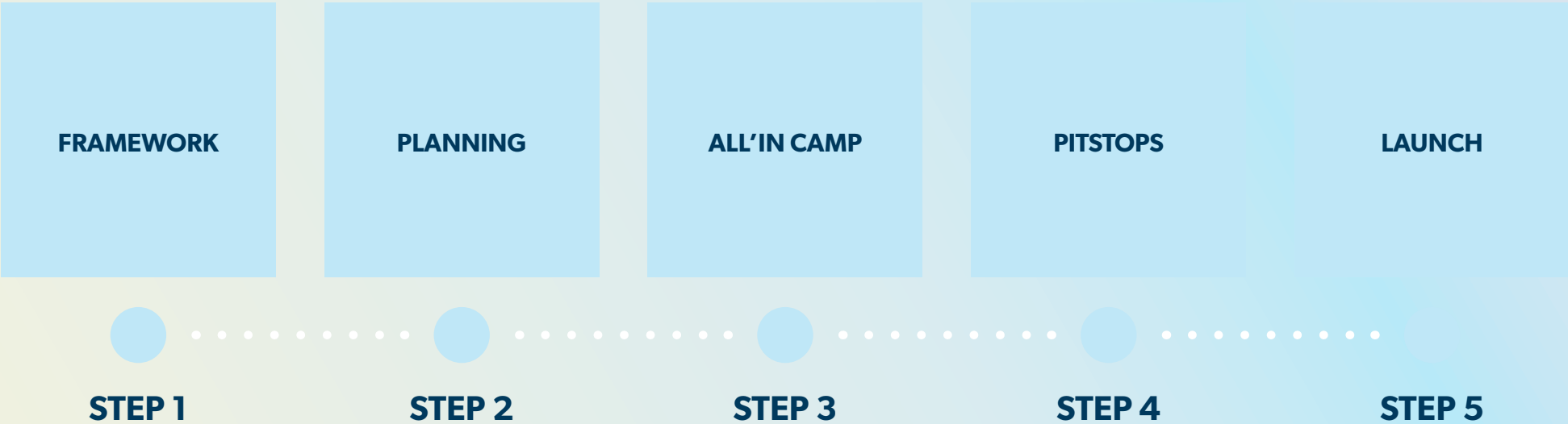
Step 4: Pitstops

Improve the concepts, and prepare them for launch and implementation.

Step 5: Launch

Share the concepts for the public and the target audience.

PART III: HOW



STEP 1: FRAMEWORK



WHY

Qualify challenges, themes, city arenas, and local stakeholders.

WHAT

- Overview of existing youth concepts and communication channels within the city.
- Framing the focus and themes, e.g. problems or challenges relevant to the youth.
- Mapping potential local stakeholders, e.g. private and public, organisations, associations institutions and businesses for further development and potential receivers of the concepts.
- Inputs to program and format for the ALL'IN Camp e.g. how to engage youth to participate, inspiring speakers, an attractive venue, etc.

WHO

- Working group: 3 employees from the municipality.
- Youth representatives: 10 students from different schools in the city.
- Local stakeholders: 3 local stakeholders who can support the dialogue and further development. Examples of stakeholders could be the local youth club, the cinema, the local festival coordinator, sports clubs etc.

HOW


- 2-hour focused brainstorm meeting.
- Invite people in advance and prepare them on the purpose.
- Place the meeting in good advance before the ALL'IN Camp.



STEP 1: FRAMEWORK

RECOMMENDATIONS

Appoint a leading project manager from the working group to guide the entire process. They should work across various departments within the municipality and have a close relationship with both the youth and local stakeholders.



We asked the young people how an ALL'IN city should look like. Here is a selection of their answers.

“A city where people can walk past each other on the street and say hello.”

“A city where one is not afraid to make contact with new people.”

“A city without prejudice, racism, and xenophobia.”

“A city where diversity is flourishing, and where everyone respect each other and recognizes that we are different.”

“A city that is cool and safe.”

STEP 2: PLANNING

WHY

Prepare the ALL'IN camp as the creative platform and working space for the development of concrete concepts by youth.

WHAT

- Overview of the working group with a designated name, organisation/department, contact information, role, tasks, and responsibility outlined.
- Overview of camp partners including venue, caterer, speakers, experts, panel, press, and so forth with a name, contact information, deliverables, price, responsibility cleared.
- Prepare and finalize project plan with the do's and deadlines on each section of the planning from recruitment to the last details before the camp.
- Prepare a budget of funds and expenses.

WHO

- Camp partners
- The working group
- With the possibility of drawing on extra resources e.g. local stakeholders.

HOW

Content:

- Prepare program with speakers, modules, and content.
- Prepare invitations for youth participants, experts, the panel, speakers and audience.

Recruitment:

- Identify communication channels that are the most effective in regard to the target group.
- Decide how the participants will sign up for the camp.

STEP 2: PLANNING

Location:

- Find a location that is easily accessible and identifiable for the participants (e.g. a cultural youth house). You need a large space for everyone to fit throughout the whole camp.
- Prepare the location based on the amount of participants, the program, staging and clearing, technical equipment and other support.

Cater:

- Prepare provision (food, snacks, drinks), based on the number of people, time schedule, serving and clearing space.

Media:

- Provide local media, the municipality's communication channels, schools and local stakeholder with a communication package with a press release. An invitation, logo, pictures and contact information.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Create an online platform (e.g., google docs) with the overall project plan in which the working group have access to.

Prepare meetings in the working group, for example, every second week. Make a status on each part of the working processes and set the next steps.

STEP 3: ALL'IN CAMP



WHY

Carry out the ALL'IN camp with young people developing online and offline concepts.

WHAT

ALL'IN camp as a creative platform for youth to share ideas and opinions, and develop online and offline concepts that can support a cool and safe city for all young people.

WHO

Youth participants:

- 50+ young people aged 15-21.
- A diverse participant group ranging in sex, nationalities and socioeconomic status.

Working group:

- Facilitate the process and practicalities.
- Support the groups.

Support group:

- 2-4 inspirational speakers and experts supporting the groups with their specific competencies.

Feedback panel:

- 4-6 local actors with different profiles give feedback to the group's ideas.

Audience:

- 50+ people from the city, e.g. politicians, police, administration, classmates, local stakeholders.



STEP 3: ALL'IN CAMP

HOW

Introduction and inspiration:

- Introduce the purpose, framework, and program for the day.
- Short inspiring talks on the topic, e.g. a real life story from a former radicalised youth or an activist working for equality.

Masterclass:

- Experts e.g. a professional social entrepreneur and a graphic designer can give a short masterclass (examples, tools, and methods.) on how to develop concepts on both online and offline media.

ABC working session:

Participants will be placed in groups of 5-8 people. Each group will develop one concept.

Session A

- Be concrete on purpose, idea and content.

Session B

- Prepare a project plan.

Session C

- After feedback from the panel improve ideas, content and project plan.
- Prepare a 5 minute presentation.

Feedback session:

After working session B, each group will have 5-minutes to present their idea to a feedback panel.

- Each group will receive 10 minutes of constructive feedback.

Presentation:

- Each group presents their idea on stage in 5-10 minutes to the invited audience.



STEP 3: ALL'IN CAMP

RECOMMENDATIONS

Prepare the panel and the support-team before the camp on roles, content and expected results and what preparation is needed from them.

Strive to achieve; that the participants feel safe, especially by knowing someone in their group.

Be aware that disadvantaged participants require professional attention.

Create a common understanding of how to follow up on the results after the camp.

Clarify which ideas to continue with. How can similar ideas be fused together?

Set up a follow-up meeting with;

A) participants who wants to develop a concept. To keep the youth engaged and motivated, the meeting should be done just after the workshop;

B) relevant local stakeholders who want to support further development, launch, and implementation of concept(s). The panelists can be potential stakeholders in the further development, launch, and implementation of the concepts.

"It was really great to see 68 young people taking part in a two-day ALL'IN camp and we got a lot of great inputs and concrete concepts for what the municipality should focus on and what the youth want to see happen in the city."

Erica Gutterød Dabe, SLT coordinator, Larvik Municipality

STEP 4: PITSTOPS

WHY

Share the concepts for the public and the target audience.

WHAT

- Engage local stakeholders
- Secure youth engagement and involvement
- Qualify and further conceptualize the concepts

WHO

- Youth who wants to continue after the camp
- The working group
- Local stakeholders

HOW

3 x 3 hour pitstops

The pitstops should have an additional training element that matches where the group is with their concept. By making the workshops themed, progressive and focused on tangible training, it will be more likely to keep the young people engaged. They should know exactly which direction they are going and what they will get out of it.

1. pitstop

The first pitstop could be around finalizing ones idea and the important steps of carrying it out into reality. Bring in professionals with experience in project planning and creative processes within online and offline concepts.

2. pitstop

The second pitstop could be around creation. Bring in graphic designers, filmmakers, and other creative professions, whom can sit with each team and not only create their content for themselves, but teach them how to use / create the basic foundation. It should be modeled on

STEP 4: PITSTOPS

shoestring production and focus on free or cheap programmes with a low learning threshold and materials they are likely to have, such as a cell phone.

3. pitstop

The third pitstop could be around execution and the launch focusing on social media strategy. Bring in experts who can help them to understand what is working, and how to improve. This will be helpful after the concept has been running for a short while, as there will be something for the experts to check and the participants will have more specific questions.

In between the pitstop workshops, the groups will work on their concept with:

- Access to a working space, resources, and materials.
- Support with a concrete project plan after each pitstop workshop.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Designate a mentor that matches each group to support them throughout the whole process.

Establish a full-time 'helpline' where participants can ask questions or get advice on the process. For example, this could be initiated through a private Facebook group where the young people have access to experts, mentors and local stakeholders for sparring.

STEP 5: LAUNCH



WHY

Launch the concepts targeting how to make cities cool and safe.

WHAT

- Reach out to the city with clear communication about ALL'IN, the launch, and the concept.
- Engage relevant stakeholders to take part in the launch.
- Establish ownership and responsibility with the stakeholders and the youth to move the concept forward.

WHO

- ALL'IN youth participants
- Working group
- Concept partners (private and public stakeholder)

HOW

Action:

- Prepare and finalize budget and project plan with the do's and deadlines on each section of the program, set the format and develop the content of the activities, and finalize the last details before the launch.
- Create an online platform (e.g. google docs) with the overall project plan in which the working groups have access to.

Communication:

- Design and prepare communication materials such as posters, invitation, press release, etc.
- Make a clear communication strategy and be aware of where and how you want to reach out to your target groups.
- Communicate at the online platforms to all the stakeholders taking part in the launch of the concepts.



STEP 5: LAUNCH

Organisation:

- Create an overview of the working group in regards to the launch with a name, organisation, contact information, role, responsibility, tasks, and deadlines.
- Create an overview of launch partners, e.g. venue, caterer, speakers, musicians, press and so forth with name, contact information, role, and deliverables.
- Prepare meetings in the working group depending on needs and time frame, e.g. every second week and makes a status on each part of the working process and formulates the next steps.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Appoint someone from the working group as the leading project manager. In order to reach out to as many as possible in a short period of time, it may be an advantage to use an existing event in the city such as a local festival or the likes, as a platform for the launch.

If you need to minimize the costs, you can encourage stakeholders and partners to be a part of the project as sponsors.

ALL'IN BEST CASES

LOCAL FESTIVAL SUPPORTING ALL'IN

Claus Heiberg is the marketing manager for Stavernfestivalen. He was engaged as a panelist in the feedback panel at the ALL'IN camp in Larvik. ALL'IN Larvik and one of the concepts - #hilsforfaen - was launched the following year in collaboration with the group of young people, the municipality and the festival.

About the festival

Stavernfestivalen is a three-day pop and rock festival hosting both national as well as international artists. The festival draws 30.000+ festival participants each summer. The festival is held mid-July in Stavern, a small water-side town in Larvik municipality, in the south-east of Norway.



Why join as local a stakeholder in ALL'IN and what did the festival get out of it?

The Stavernfestivalen is collaborating with Larvik Municipality every year. In 2017/18 the ALL'IN project was in focus, and we were surprised at how well the project was matching Stavernfestivalen. It's about integration, communication, and creativity to create a warmer society. That's basically the values Stavernfestivalen works with on a daily basis. To create unity among all people.

It was impressive to see the energy and clarity of everyone in the ALL'IN Larvik project and to see that it was so clear and easy to communicate. And that works well on analog and digital surfaces. Simply very good ideas that were easy to implement and that also create warmth and humor, even though the main message is serious and important.

ALL IN BEST CASES

What has the response been from your partners and festival participants?

The overall experience for the audience at Stavernfestivalen has only been positive. Our other commercial partners were impressed and we think the audience liked both the overall concept and the #hilsforfaen sticker “tat-toos”.

What does Stavernfestivalen look like next year

Now we have had an evaluation, and everyone agrees that this was a success. We hope we together can further develop this in accordance with the festival.

What is the ultimate collaboration for you?

An ultimate collaboration is a collaboration that first and foremost hits our audience in the heart. And, that we have different activities also different from other festivals. If you manage this, the message is clear, which is positive for the partners and for us.

Why is it important to involve youth in the development of a city?

They are the future. They have new perceptions of the world and other values than older generations. And we should listen and learn from it.



PART IV: INSPIRATION

PART IV: INSPIRATION

YOUTH INFLUENCERS IN THE CITY OF AALBORG

Aalborg Municipality is a member of the Nordic Safe Cities network, and since entry to the network, they have contributed with the exchange of knowledge and experience between the cities. Aalborg is particularly successful with regards to involving and engaging the local youth in political as well as preventive initiatives. The ALL'IN Guide showcases two of the municipality's initiatives in regard to youth involvement.

YOUTH COUNCIL

Why

Aalborg Youth Council's purpose is to promote youth involvement in the municipality of Aalborg. The Youth Council acts as a voice for the young people. They provide input on political decisions and ensure that a large proportion of young people in the municipality are heard. They ensure that a large proportion of young people in the municipality will be heard.

The tasks of the Youth Council range from discussing youth policy issues with the City Council, to arranging activities and events for the young people in the municipality. They talk loudly about the wishes of the youngsters and contribute to a cool youth life. All these actions are grounded with the purpose of anchoring an understanding of democracy, motivation, and commitment with young people in the municipality of Aalborg.

"To me, democracy is about everyone daring to say their opinion, despite age difference and experience. Before we can create something, we need to have a culture where everyone feels like they can express their opinions. This is what the Youth Council is doing. It is our job to secure young people are getting more influence."

Amalie Sofia, Chairwoman, Aalborg Youth Council

What

Aalborg Youth Council is a democratically elected council consisting of young people, chosen amongst all of the 13 to 19-year-olds in the municipality. The Youth Council is a collaboration between youth and the City Council of Aalborg. The young people are democratically elected



PART IV: INSPIRATION

and able to influence, interact and cooperate with the city council. The City Council may make proposals for changes with decisive policy decisions in areas of relevance to young people. In short: Aalborg Youth Council is in order to make a difference!

Aalborg Youth Council works from the following four permanent committees:

- School committee
- Health and Culture Committee
- International Committee
- Sustainability Committee

Who

The Youth Council consists of

- Young people in the age between 13-19 from the municipality's primary and secondary schools.
- A number of committees corresponding to the actual Aalborg city council.
- All schools are encouraged to refer to a least one candidate to the Youth Council. In total, this corresponds to 45 schools in Aalborg municipality that can provide a candidate.

How

Approximately 14 days before the Youth Congress begins, there is an election where the young people vote online for the candidate they wish to see in the Youth Council.

Regular meetings:

- The Youth Council hold regular meetings every eighth week.
- The regular meetings are held in the City Town Hall, where the chairman of the Youth Council leads the meeting.
- The secretariat of the Youth Council coordinates the meetings until the Youth Council meets, after which the Youth Council itself facilitates the meeting.
- Often external institutions/people have asked for time on the agenda where they wish to consult the Youth Council on a given case.
- At each ordinary meeting, the committees have reviewed the work since last time, and collaborates across committees.



PART IV: INSPIRATION



Meetings in the committees:

- The Youth Council meets in the committees every fourth week.
- All members of the Youth Council choose which committee they want to be a part of, and then prepare the committee's program for the year.
- At each meeting, the committees have reviewed the work since last, and if necessary, they collaborate across committees.

Presidency meetings:

- The Presidency of the Youth Council meets twice a year with the mayor to discuss cooperation, areas of focus and concrete initiatives in the municipality.

Yearly meeting:

- The Youth Council and City Council meet once a year in the youth council's parliamentary term and discuss current youth policy issues and cooperation between the two bodies.

Recommendations

Ask the young people in the preparation of the Youth Council. It is important that they have ownership of such an initiative from the very beginning, as well as get their views on how a youth agency should run with their participation.

Cooperate with the City Council. It is important that the Youth Council has a direct connection with the decision-makers in the municipality. This ensures, amongst other things, that the young people's opinions are heard, where they feel that their opinions are important to the municipality's youth policy.

Concrete projects and products. It is important that any Youth Council's projects are concrete and are built on their ground. The tasks of a Youth Council should preferably provide a final result in which the Youth Council can show and pass on to the institutions where it makes sense.

YOUTH-TO-YOUTH DIALOGUE MAKERS

Why

The overall purpose of the youth-to-youth dialogue makers, is to support the development of inclusive and positive communities among young people in Aalborg Municipality. Aalborg Municipality's prevention work in radicalisation and extremism is based on relational work, thus it is considered important that the municipality strengthens the relationship with the young people who are active and affiliated with ethnic minority communities.

The preventive effort of 'Youth-to-Youth Dialogue Makers' aims at promoting strong communities among:

- Associations
- Youth in schools
- Leisure centers

The dialogue makers facilitate dialogue on different subjects that are part of the young people's everyday lives, from how it is to be young today and what expectations young people set for themselves, to religion and how it is

to feel split between two cultures. Dialogue meetings can help educate young people to think about their attitudes and values as well as build tolerance and respect for each other's differences. The ambition is to teach young people how to communicate across diversity while respecting diversity.

"I just want to take the opportunity of giving young people what I needed when I was in seventh grade, I could not say no to that."

Aida Zujo, dialogue maker

Youth-to-youth dialogue makers are in Aalborg Municipality, anchored at the Center for Interdisciplinary Prevention and co-financed by the Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration. The effort was initiated in October 2017 and ends December 31, 2018.

What

A dialogue process is based on three dialogue visits by educated dialogue makers spread out over a period of three to six months. Dialogue visits take place in the places where the young people are: municipal schools, leisure centers, hometown associations.

The Dialogue Visit:

- The individual modules are of 2-3 hours.
- The initiative is based on the special youth-to-youth educational approach.
- Volunteer youth dialogue makers, aged 18-25, facilitate and plan dialogue visits.
- The composition of the modules will vary from time to time based on close dialogue with the participating young people. They are based on the different subjects that can include; Dialogue, democracy, and citizenship, prejudices and understandings, communities, social scrutiny, culture, religion, etc.

Youth-to-Youth Method:

- Is built on a frame of understanding that occurs when young people discuss a topic, they think is important with other young people.
- Is based on the assumption that young people are better than adults in communicating at a peer level because they know what is going on in the youth culture. They can speak directly into the young people's everyday lives and language, and are thus better at setting the framework for an open dialogue.



“What we do is to create a room where it is okay to say things that you normally do not just share with your friends, school teachers or others.”

Yasmin

Who

The target group for the dialogue meetings is:

- Youth between 13-23 years of age.
- Aalborg Municipality has chosen to focus on young people who come from ethnic minority communities, as these play a key role in the development of democratic and social skills for young people.

Dialogue courses can also take place in primary and lower secondary schools, leisure centers, and other contexts where young people go have their daily lives.

How

Youth-to-youth efforts are based on a voluntary network of 9 resourceful young dialogue makers, which collectively and individually appear as role models for other youth in the area.

“We were never meant to teach or tell them how to think, but we initiated a dialogue, and I think it is in the dialogue that we can learn from each other and more about each other. I ask questions that I myself am thinking about, and here, it is equally relevant to me as it is for them.”

Aida Zujo

The young dialogue makers:

- Have all been on a 6-day training course where they have been educated in facilitating discussions of topics that affect youth’s development, independence and association with community communities.
- Always facilitate dialogue in pairs, and it is usually the same two dialogue makers that facilitate all three visits to the same association, school or leisure club.

A municipal project coordinator has been appointed to plan and coordinate dialogue visits as well as holding network meetings with the dialogue makers. Network meetings are held between the young dialogue makers and the project coordinator approximately every six weeks.

PART IV: INSPIRATION

The network meeting is divided into two parts:

- The first part consists primarily of gathering the knowledge and experience gained by dialogue makers from facilitating dialogue.
- The second part of the network meeting aims to provide professional inspiration to the dialogue makers.

The network meetings have an aim of creating:

- Practical experience and knowledge exchange between the municipality and dialogue makers.
- Professional inspiration and feedback among the dialogue makers, a process that is facilitated by the municipal project coordinator.

In order to provide the best feedback, the project coordinator should attend some dialog visits during the six weeks between network meetings.

Status

During the first year, a dialogue meeting for more than 160 different young people in the municipality have been facilitated, and 11 different associations, leisure centers or schools have been visited.

The participating young people have indicated that they experience a personal benefit from participating in the dialogue. They report that it has been possible to talk about the topics that matter to their everyday lives, that they do not talk to their friends, girlfriends/boyfriends or family about.

“The internal community is really nice, it gives me so much, and it has affected my willingness to continue with this project. Although we all have different backgrounds, we are together around this and we also get to discuss and talk about all these topics, which impacts each of our lives on an everyday basis. It is really cool!”

Mirela

On this basis, the municipality of Aalborg continues youth-to-youth efforts in 2019 to gain more experience and knowledge about the method, and to ensure sustainable efforts that can meet the demand for dialogue visits. In addition to this, the municipality will focus on how the method can be incorporated into an online agenda focusing on creating positive alternatives to the exchange of extremist messages on social media.



PART IV: INSPIRATION

Recommendations

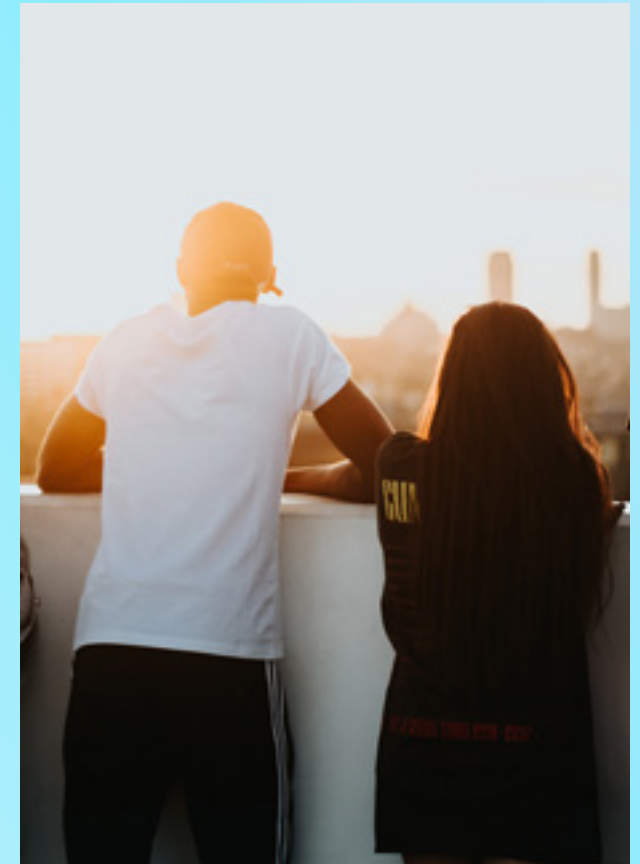
If you wish to work with the youth-to-youth method, the municipality of Aalborg recommends the following points that they believe to be the reason for the success with the effort:

Face to face recruitment. Use time and energy to recruit resourceful young people through the municipal network and invite potential candidates to talk about the project.

Involve the dialogue makers and be courageous. In the municipality of Aalborg, dialogue makers have been involved from the start of the project, and throughout the process to ensure that they always have had the opportunity to voice their own thoughts of the project. At the same time, one should dare to work from the direction that the dialogue makers want – they know youth!

Align expectations on a continuous basis. For most volunteers, it is natural to align the expectations before joining a project. It is not always possible to describe and predict how things are evolving in practice, so it is important that there is always a continuous alignment of the expectation with the youth volunteers.

Prioritize social relations. Dialogue makers must work in close cooperation, and it is therefore important that the social relations between the dialogue makers is prioritized. The same goes for the relations between the dialogue makers and the project coordinator.



ABOUT NORDIC SAFE CITIES

Nordic Safe Cities is a network of all the Nordic countries working actively to ensure trustful, tolerant and resilient cities that can prevent radicalisation and violent extremism. Our open societies and a strong belief in everybody's opportunity to contribute to the community, characterise our countries and we pride ourselves on values such as freedom, trust and a shared sense of community. As a key foundation, we put democracy and respect for human rights as guidelines from which we work to prevent people from radicalisation and extreme violent behavior.

Nordic Safe Cities strives to identify, innovate, accelerate, share and scale best practices to create safer Nordic cities in the Nordic region. The network is open to Nordic mayors, policy-makers, experts, practitioners, and civil society organisations. Nordic Safe Cities has been initiated by the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2015 and is run by the Nordic social entrepreneur agency Nextstep by Bindslev based in Copenhagen.

Read more and become a member at:
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Publisher

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Generations of safe city changemakers