

Best Practices

Grouss Botz' community volunteering

Volunteering is often associated with involvement in an association. But local authorities can also define missions and therefore promote volunteering for the benefit of the local community. A classic example is the 'Grouss Botz' activity, i.e. collecting rubbish abandoned in nature or along roadsides.

Objectives

Promote social cohesion, conviviality and solidarity in the neighbourhood or village.

village.

To enable citizens to create social links through meaningful activities.

To create a sense of belonging to local society.

Methods

1. Define a day in the spring or summer, invite all the residents, provide them with the materials and draw up a plan for each group showing the roads/places to be cleaned.
2. On the day: distribute numbers randomly to form teams of 6 people. The idea is that people don't necessarily know each other but can take advantage of this opportunity to work together to forge links.
3. Use communication media to motivate your residents to take part in this action (flyers, posters, sharing posts on social networks, badges, etc.).
4. Provide logistical equipment: pliers, bags and a plan of the area to be cleaned, with places to leave the filled bags. Arrange for the technical service to come by with the van to remove the filled bags.
5. At the end: a convivial moment, drinks, sandwiches, soup or barbecue offered by the municipality (remember to take a photo of the group of participants).

Budget

500 – 2000 €



Materials

Equipment: bags, gloves, tongs, cards, logistics for the meal/drinks.

Venue: a central location in the town, preferably the place where you will be returning for the meal/drinks.

Periodicity

Once a year

Evaluation indicators

Number of participants. Could be supplemented by a mini-survey at the end on satisfaction with the activity. (Remember to do the survey in several languages and ask which language is preferred to measure the intercultural dimension).

Practical advice - DO's

Have a person in charge who can provide everyone with his/her mobile phone number to deal with any problems that may arise.

Provide vegetarian and non-alcoholic options for meals and drinks.

Ask a local association to look after the meals (preparation and/or distribution).

Practical advice - DONT's

Be careful not to include dangerous stretches of road (there will probably be families taking part with children).

Avoid registering groups made up entirely beforehand, as this takes away the opportunity to make new acquaintances during the activity.

Additional information

<https://www.infogreen.lu/traditionelle-grouss-botz-aktion.html>

