

What's up?

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Dear SAPERE AUDE-friends and supporters,

Currently all project partners are busy implementing and monitoring the SAPERE AUDE mentoring pilot activity, which aims to improve the educational opportunities and results of children and youngsters in residential care. Since autumn 2017, mentors and mentees from five different European countries are having weekly meetings through which they are developing a mentorship relationship. Until this important step was made, it was a long and challenging way to go for the involved organizations. With the following, we want to outline some central steps and crucial difficulties we have faced so far in the process of mentoring pilot activity implementation.

And if we win for once, then it is not only the game,

but rather new experiences from each other's living worlds ...



Cooking, gaming and more: Personal perspectives on the mentoring

The following dialogue of a mentor and a mentee illustrates, that social mentoring is never a perfect process, rather it arises through a variety of funny, exciting and difficult situations. In many cases, it is the little things in life, that create a valuable mentor-mentee relationship. This aspect is also reflected in the practical experiences of the mentor Jenni Heidelin, who wrote some of her impressions down for us:

„For me as a mentor, the SAPERE AUDE mentoring project began with a first contact through phone calls and messages. The few linguistic or cultural barriers we faced during this start led to funny situations, rather than serious difficulties:

... - When do we meet? - In January?

- So next week? - No January.

- So during the second month?

- That's February.

- It's December!

...

Nevertheless, some differences between me and the mentee became clear quite quickly. While I suggested an exotic, vegan, low-fat vegetable pan for a joint dinner, he preferred chicken wings. Or, when we are on the way to common activities, he is always the one who guides me around, while I follow him through the streets of Hamburg, because of my bad sense of orientation. However, the real challenge in our mentoring relationship only becomes apparent when we play table soccer against his roommates: then it's time to win or lose our honor ;). And if we win for once, then it is not only the game, but rather new experiences from each other's living worlds.“

(Mentor, Jenni Heidelin)

Experiences from the project realization

Finding motivated and qualified mentors and mentees was one of the most important steps before mentoring could get started. Especially regarding the search of mentors, partners had to use different publicity campaign tools, like advertisements on specialized websites related to volunteering and social work, advertisements for students at universities, TV-spots in local public transport. These methods were meant to integrate mentors from heterogeneous social backgrounds. Hereby the experiences and success of searching process varied strongly between countries and organizations.

After the selection of potential mentors, the interested candidates had to pass different training activities, to proof their eligibility and motivation for the process. Besides that, the mentoring candidates had to comply also with formal and legal requirements, like the provision of their criminal record. In terms of the mentee selection, their social environment (e.g. parents, teachers or care givers) have been contacted and informed about the project and willingness of the child/youngster, to participate in the social mentoring. All these requirements and standards which mentors and mentees had to fulfill are part of the SAPERE AUDE framework, which was developed within a substantive exchange among the partners' organizations from five European countries participating in the project.

The AUDE mentoring pilot activity has been constantly accompanied by scientific research work of the University of Girona. Through evaluation surveys and other analytical methods, the SAPERE AUDE project ensures that the international experiences are comparable and will therefore help to answer questions about the role of social mentoring within the educational development of children/youngsters in residential care.

The SAPERE AUDE partnership has gathered its so far experiences from the ongoing social mentoring process, which will be published in a practice-oriented handbook. The inducement of this handbook is, that other external organizations can be motivated to use the document as a guide to their own social mentoring initiative. The document will be available soon on the SAPERE AUDE website.

Save the day! International multiplier conference in Zagreb, Croatia

All project partners are very pleased to invite you to the international multiplier conference at the 5th of July 2018, in Zagreb, Croatia.

With this final conference, we want to get together, to evaluate and discuss, and last but not least celebrate, the scientific results of the nine-month mentoring pilot project.

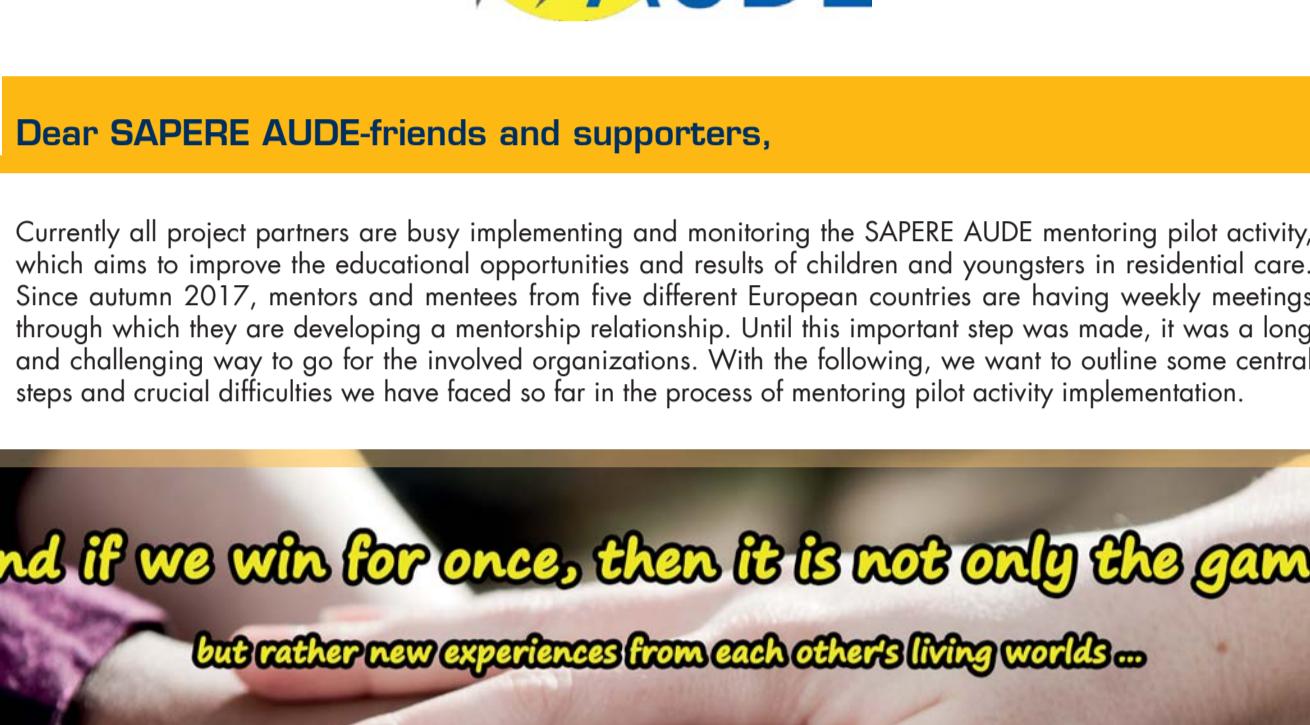
Therefore, the diversified program offers expert lectures and workshops with external guests as well as the unique opportunity to network with colleagues from the child and youth welfare services on an international level.

For further information : <http://sapereauude-project.com/conference/>

See you all in Zagreb!

Overview of the partners

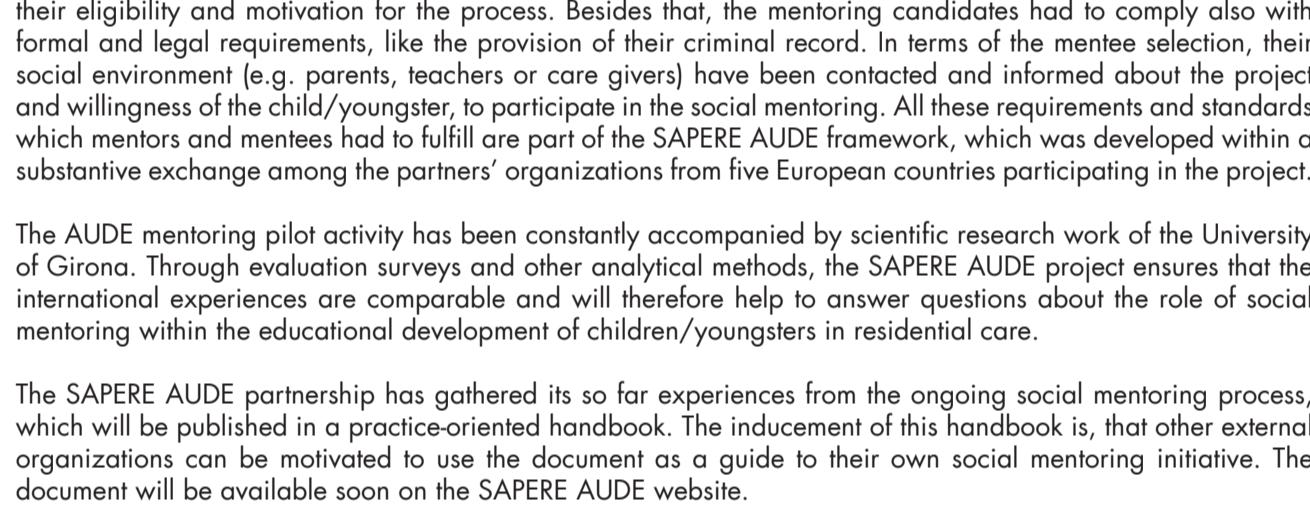
The running process



A project from social institutions from across Europe, financed by Erasmus+

For further information
please visit our website:

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