

INTEGRATING MULTICULTURAL EUROPE: MUSEUMS AS SOCIAL ARENAS

P7, National Museum of Contemporary History, Ljubljana



POSSIBILITIES OF REACHING THE SOCIAL ARENA IN THE MUSEUM

Who are the museum communities?

What needs and what challenges do they represent?

The goal is not merely to integrate
and include society in the museums,
but also to integrate the museums
into society:
for them to become accepted.



Slovenians in the XX. century

SOCIAL ARENA AND MUSEUM INCLUSION

People with a migratory background

Minorities groups

Young adults

A list of different subgroups of people that have a common denominator: *social exclusion*.

To really be as inclusive as the social arena concept demands from museums, we need to be aligning ourselves with the most basic conditions by taking the vulnerable groups into account.

SCHOOL GROUPS

Museums are exceptional places designed for informal learning and interacting with visitors - places of intergenerational interaction, exchange of knowledge, views on the past (and present), and places of discovery about our society.

How to connect with the youngsters?

Creating a youth-friendly organizational culture: strong management, involving the staff to collaborate

Tackling barriers to young participation in museums: Identify the barriers during the planning stage and work towards solving them

GIVE VOICE TO THE YOUNG

In Free2choose young people discover their own human rights, such as freedom of expression, freedom of religion and the right to privacy. Why are these rights so important? Are there limits to human rights? And what happens when these fundamental rights come into conflict with each other? ([Anne Frank: Free2choose Create](#))



Free2choose
Anne Frank House

THE AUDIENCE

WORKING WITH DIFFERENT GROUPS

Museum: a social space of reciprocal exchange and transaction of cultural and social goods, stories, relations, a space of encounters, of social practices and creation of socio-cultural meaning.

Inside and outside the physical borders of the institution

GO OUT! Go mobile! Go POP UP!

THE AUDIENCE

WORKING WITH DIFFERENT GROUPS

| TOPICS | TARGET GROUPS | MUSEUM TYPES | POSSIBLE ENGAGEMENT |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| STEREOTYPES AND TABOOS | IMMIGRANTS SCHOOL GROUPS LGBT | ETNO MUSEUM | PROGRAMME? |
| CHILDHOOD | ELDERLY FAMILIES CHILDREN | CHILDREN MUSEUM | ACTIVITIES? |
| INDUSTRY | ELDERLY UNEMPLOYED IMMIGRANTS | TECHNICAL MUSEUM | EVENTS? |

Key steps to develop when creating a Social Arena:

1. Making museum accessible and letting everyone know that.
2. Training of museum staff.
3. Cooperation with organizations and individuals as cultural mediators – (partner in the community).
4. Working with focus groups – adopted to their needs.
5. Transforming visitors into partners in the exhibition process and events creators.
6. Creativity in museum interpretation and representation and to assure visitors-partners an engaging social experience!

ACTIVITY 2

PLANNING AN EXHIBITION PROJECT

Group work: Planning an exhibition with a selected object, target group, and a museum

Both groups will select:

- a target group

- an object

- a museum

Prepare a detailed exhibition project plan with precise tasks, deriving from the knowledge gained during lectures 1 and 2.

Each of the groups presents their work, the other group evaluates the plan.

SOCIAL ARENA

FAREWELL

Thank you for your attention!