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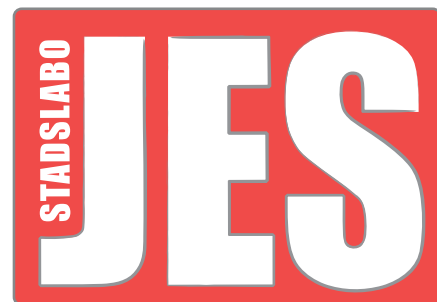
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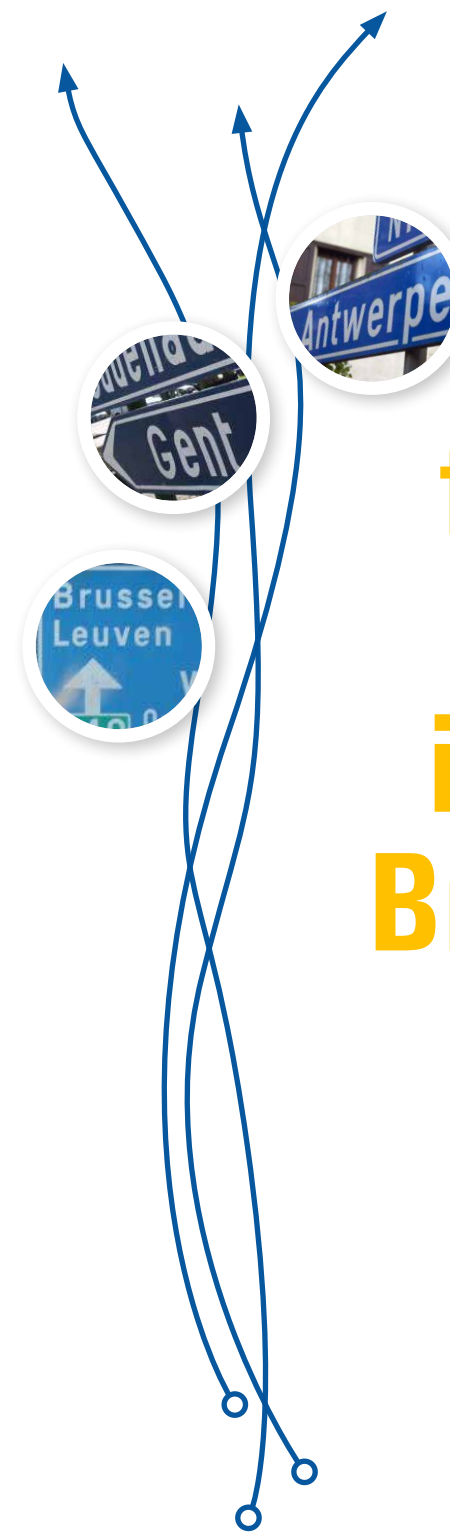
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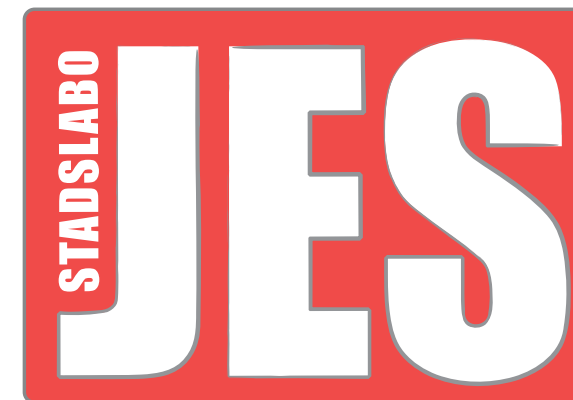
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An urban laboratory for children and youth in Antwerp, Brussels and Gent



The 7 basic principles of JES

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1 The city grows, rejuvenates and changes colour

Cities will grow, rejuvenate and change colour. Youngsters will look for their own spot in the heart of this dazzling and multicultural society. Antwerp, Brussels and Ghent seem the perfect soil to us to allow children and youngsters to get going in an urban context and its resulting opportunities. We are well aware of the city-related problems, but we consider them as an extra motivation to get cracking.

2 Innovative urban laboratory

Whether it involves a public space, the labour market or culture,... the cities will always be on the go. And the dreams and needs of the young urban population will evolve and change accordingly. By means of new projects and methodologies, JES will continue looking for new solutions to respond more efficiently to the demands of her target group. Consequently, we will attach - with a lot of enthusiasm - great importance to the designation "urban laboratory", both in the name as in the activity area.

3 An integrated approach

A person is not only just his work, his hobby...but has a lot of talents and ambitions in several areas. For this reason, JES will tear down the walls between her partial activities and will work out plans flirting with culture, sports, well-being, education and employment. In this way, we will not only be limited to new JES-concepts, but we can also combine and use the best of different areas in stages we go through with children, youngsters and young adults.

4 To meet youngsters where they are

JES will focus on all children, youngsters and young adults in the city. Instead of waiting till they approach JES, we will go to the spots where they are, play and hang out,... In this way, we are able to stimulate them in their aspirations in their familiar surroundings. Joint decision making, participation and co-ownership are essential in this context. If possible, we opt for activities reinforcing the collective spirit and experiential learning.

5 Focus on competences

We are absolutely convinced: our cities are filled with young talented people. But all too often, this talent remains unexploited, it gets (too) few chances for development. We work with these young talents and cover long ways to identify and develop their competences together, both in the professional sphere as in their spare time. We will not only confine to our own activities, but will also cooperate with the labour market, education, well-being, sports and culture.

6 Policy oriented

We want to give the children and youngsters a right to speak in their city. For this reason, we will use our vast urban experience to influence and orientate the (youth) policy. The authorities and organisations active in this area are considered as potential allies to structurally improve the social position of our target group. But, if you want to influence the policy, you have to collect, analyse, shape and spread your own expertise. For this reason, we are building our own centre of expertise.

7 In collaboration with other people

You never live alone in a city. Consequently, we look and/or find more and more often organisations carrying the same load that strive with the same zest for the young urban population. We believe that joint project development, raising of matters and starting up coproductions blow a fresh wind of change through the socio-cultural (youth) work. As of now, we seize all opportunities with both hands in this area.



JES: 10 clusters with innovating activities

1. Training centre for the future youth workers

We teach (future) youth workers during the social-cultural training courses for youth workers and specific courses that the city is a large playground. We focus both on youth movements as on youngsters that did not grow up within the context of youth work. We also allow newcomers to get acquainted with and to grow into the role of guide/counsellor. In Brussels, we give, as support, the youth centres a leg-up. We provide training, field consultation, guidance/assistance for (re)starting activities, organisation of activities,...

2. Production house for urban culture

Culture scares a lot of youngsters. JES prides herself in doing her best to allow them to show their work. We facilitate, provide coaching, program and organize... But we encourage youngsters in the first place to get cracking themselves with music, multimedia, dance, photography,... thread characterizing these cultural and more and more often interurban adventures; we welcome everyone with open arms, apart from their talent and experience, to experiment and to create their first pieces.

3. Bridge builder between sports and youth work

A lot of children in the city consider the sports club as an important social living and learning environment. For this reason, we support actively the reconciliation of youth work and sports practice. We will use the JES-method in sports to allow clubs more scope and to provide every chance to youthful talent spending a lot of their spare time to take up a role in his/her sports club.

4. Organiser of employment-oriented initiatives

We dedicate ourselves more and more to support youngsters and young adults in their way to the labour market. We allow them to discover a specific branch, organize trainings and guide our students in their job search. But we also look after youngsters who are not yet ready for the labour market. Some still lack competences to do a work placement within the context of part-time education. And others dropped out due to negative experiences in school or on the labour market. And a part of them is not yet ready to look for a job because they have other problems to sort out. We want to listen, we offer them a helping hand and a little boost to overcome those problems.

5. The street as a working area

Streets, squares, parks, ... represent the working area of our street youth workers. The street workers and counsellors in professional competencies apply a presence policy in public spaces and help youngsters who dropped out or who cannot find their spot. Based on a relation of mutual trust, we look for solutions to reconnect them to assistance, education, the labour market, etc.

The EVC collaborators (competences acquired elsewhere) go to places where youngsters hang out after school and working hours. We encourage them to identify, develop and use their competences they use in their spare time at JES or other organisations.

6. Promoter of child and youth participation in the design of public spaces.

We want to involve children and youngsters in the design of public spaces. In Brussels, Yota! encourages the young citizens to formulate their wishes and needs and to provide suggestions for changes. We see to it that the deciding authorities, architects, project developers,...hear the voice of the children and youngsters and ask them to take them into account. This measure results more and more often in a more child-oriented street, neighbourhood, district and city.

7. Guide for urban discovery and adventure

Unknown-unloved, a saying that certainly applies to our capital. JES wants to change this and allows children and teachers to discover Brussels by means of games, lessons and hikes. We challenge youngsters to experience their living environment in a different way. We take them along on an urban adventure in Antwerp, Ghent and Brussels and present them the city as a huge adventure track. A challenging city discovery by mountain bike, via ferrata, reminder of buildings...not a single challenge will stop us!

8. JCC and JC

In Antwerp, integrated activities are entirely implemented in our youth competency centre De Branderij in Antwerp and 21N in Deurne and (future) youth centres in the districts Luchtbal and Rozemaal. In these centres, we insist on the importance of discovering and stimulating the competency development, both those acquired during leisure activities as during employment. But the JCC are also open houses, where children and youngsters can play, make music, hang out, dance,...

9. Youth accommodation centre De Waterman

With 12.000 overnight stays a year, De Waterman is a lively youth accommodation centre in Brussels. We welcome here groups of children and youngsters who want to explore the capital or follow or organize trainings, workshops, courses. But De Waterman has much more to offer than a bed, breakfast and meeting rooms. Thanks to our link with our other activities and contacts with organisations, we can help you to establish an interesting program.

10. De Expeditie

In Ghent, JES is housed with some social-artistic and cultural partners in De Expeditie, in the old harbour of Ghent. Sharing a house arouses the enthusiasm to work out projects across the borders of the different organisations, integrating culture, social work and youth,...