Future dreams of young people – Tools to promote young people’s civic participation

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Do we hear the voice of the children and the young when developing our society?

- The research project ‘Futures Images 2067 of young people’ (Nuorten tulevaisuuskuvat 2067 – Nuotu) is part of the Finland 100 festivities of City of Hämeenlinna
- City of Hämeenlinna has chosen to have children and the young on the focus: how can we develop a good future for our children?

  http://www.hameenlinna.fi/suomi100/
The target of the project is:

- Encourage and enable young people to participate in the discussion about the future of Finland.
- Bring out young people’s views of possible and preferable futures.
- Engage young people and decision makers to have discussions in common about to which direction and how Finland could be developed in order to make the dreams of young people come true.
- Promote and encourage futures thinking and awareness of many possible futures among young people.

Research process:

- **Planning phase**
- **Seven Future Camps**
- **Analysis of Future Camps material, Creation of Six Futures Images**
- **Survey for 500 young people**
  - 10/2016 – 3/2017
- **Analysis and research report**
  - 2/2017 – 10/2017
- **The Final Seminar with young people collaboration, dissemination**
  - 8/2017 – 12/2017
What is a Future Camp?

- Future Camp combines three different approaches: personal futures approach, scenario approach and future-oriented guidance approach.

- The framework’s main purpose has been to develop a tool especially for young people, helping them to build stepping stones to unknown future, as well as focus on individual capacities to approach the desired future, imagine own possibilities and reflect individual thinking and decision making patterns.

- Framework has been created as a participatory process together with different interest groups (academic workers, students, career counsellors, entrepreneurs...)

Future Camp as a participatory method for young people

- Material for futures images was gathered from Finnish young people by using Future Camp framework as a participatory method.

- In the project Future Camp concept was developed further, so that in addition to supporting ones´ personal futures thinking, it can be applied as interaction based foresight method that is suitable for young people to gather data for the project.
Over 200 young participants from different parts of Finland

Camp sites: Ranua (high school), Tampere (high school), Niittylahti (vocational school), Korpilahti (folk high school), Espoo (vocational school), Helsinki (vocational school), Vantaa (dropouts from Riihimäki and Hämeenlinna comprehensive schools)

Four activity points that had different contents supporting young peoples´ futures awareness:

1. Futures thinking and values
2. Work and livelihood
3. Housing
4. Independence day 2067 (leisure time)
Futures images and the survey

- The material from the Future Camps was analysed and the focus was on the aspects of lifestyle, housing and work

- Six different positive futures images were created based on the material analysis

- Web-based survey for young people 16-19 years of age was designed

The survey in numbers

**About 520 respondents**
- Vocational school students appr. 235
- High school students appr. 285
- Female appr. 250
- Male appr. 270

**Schools represented different parts of Finland:**
- Helsinki, Espoo, Kouvola, Loviisa, Mikkeli, Nurmes, Pihtipudas, Raahe, Raisio, Sodankylä, Tornio, Turku, Tuusula, Vaasa region
An example of a futures image description in the survey

Futures image 2: Living spaciously in the waterfront

- Convenient driving distance from hobbies, work and other services
- Big detached house with space, nature and pets
- Smart technology at home and flexible working life

Analysis still ongoing

- Some views seem to be in contradiction with each other, which is understandable as the question is about images and dreams
- One of the important elements for the respondents is nature
- The survey managed to be inspirational for respondents, since the last open question about one’s own dreams and hopes was the most popular
Some notions and reflection

Future camp as a data gathering method

• Suitable but also demanding for both organizers and participants
• Good choose to outline not to use any dystopias or disasters. Optimism, thinking about your dreams creates the preferable state of mind regarding the future.
• How to make it a bit easier to use?
• Utilizing virtual reality in the Future camp, e.g. possible to experiment your future images in different contexts

Futures images and the survey

• Web-based survey easy to implement, some challenge with the numbers of respondents
• Future camps produced rich material for futures images; some themes lacking though
• Use of photos
• Qualitative analysis of the open questions, results in line with the material from Future camps

Literature:


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Thank you!