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IO1.A2: Collection of Good Practices

“Som da Rua”



Project n°: 2020-1-PT01-KA204-078631

SAFE SPACES FOR LEARNING



SAFE



“Som da Rua”

A short presentation of the project:

An orchestra, many lives. Singing against loneliness. "Som da Rua", under the command of Jorge Prendas, is a social inclusion project where music is an escape from many difficult lives.

With strong support from professional musicians and social educators, the members of this group, mostly homeless people, assisted by social solidarity institutions, rehearse weekly and perform concerts, following a routine similar to that of many other amateur musical groups.

“Som da Rua” was created by Jorge Prendas, in 2009, after his experience in a musical project in the prison establishment of Custóias, for one year. Jorge Prendas thought of a new project, which for him would be the most challenging and inclusive until then held at Casa da Música: «the principle was to include the most excluded of all [...], working with people who are on the street, homeless, homeless, in risk groups, in hostels, in pensions [...] and with all the institutions that wanted to join us and did a fully inclusive musical work» (said, in an interview, Jorge Prendas in 2011).

Jorge Prendas seeks to put into practice his democratic conception of how a group works, giving each one the power of expressing himself / herself through music. Whoever arrives is welcomed. Open to participation by all who identify with the concept, this inclusion ensemble social group is made up of dozens of men and women who know the streets of the city well. In common they have difficult stories and the desire to mitigate them through music.

Interpersonal relationships between director and employees and between director and participants are informal, cordial, showing mutual respect, trust and some complicity. The director says who feels 'like a friend of theirs'. Everyone is called by name and sometimes some participants call the director. He is careful to greet all members, especially greeting new ones or those who have been absent from rehearsals for some time. The atmosphere in the rehearsals is calm and conducive to learning and involvement of the participants.

The space that has been chosen as the local for the rehearsals is not the «Casa da Música» for being an important and maybe scary and intimidating place for the public the project tries to reach. So the space is a room in a stone house, in the historical area of Porto, in Rua dos Comerciantes. A room provided for rehearsals by the Foundation for the Development of the Historic Area of Porto. The doors of the house and the room are always open.



A short presentation of the organization / association:

This project was developed by the Serviço Educativo da Casa da Música in partnership with Liga para a Inclusão Social – Portugal.

Aspects that make this practice a good example of safe learning space:

This project uses the benefits of musical practice as a mean of intervention in disadvantaged social contexts, with vulnerable people. They feel empowered and able to express themselves through music. Planning the activities in a place that is not intimidating for the participants is also a positive aspect of this project: it leaves to the participant the freedom to participate or not; they have the right not to come during a while.

Exploring the cross-border transferability:

This project is easily transferable to other places and also to other kind of "artists". The concept of freedom and the idea of no one pointing the finger are important. The space is also important: by choosing a space more close to their livings can give the participants this feeling of cosiness / comfort / safety that they might not find in a more imponent building (as they are – most of them – homeless people).

Contacts and links for further reading:

<https://www.casadamusica.com/>

<https://www.rtp.pt/play/p2183/e218228/sons-da-rua>

