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IO1.A2: Collection of Good Practices

Belgrade Urban Running Club
BURT

Project nº: 2020-1-PT01-KA204-078631

Belgrade Urban Running Club - BURT

A short presentation of the project:

BURT was established in June 2014, as an urban amateur running crew, free for anyone to join. Starting with 10 runners (four of which were the team's captains); they grew to 150 permanent members. Through the years more than 400 people have passed through the team. The organization is dedicated to running, training, socializing, events, and traveling, while contributing to the community at many different levels. As the team constantly grows, so does the number of its activities.

BURT is a part of the BRIDGE THE GAP - world runners' movement. 200 half-marathon runners and 50 marathon runners (most of whom started with zero running experience). Co-founder of the international team "442 Crew" with "Zagreb Runners" from Zagreb, whose main goals are promoting peace, anti-war values and raising the reputation and promotion of our countries in the world. The main goals of the 442 Crew is to offer an alternative and to overcome the dividing nationalism – Yugonostalgia, to fight prejudices and to spread antiwar values.

Socially engaged activities:

- Fundraising and a complete bathroom renovation of the Children's Drop-In Shelter in Belgrade, as well as the purchase of all of the appliances necessary to run the shelter
- Collecting funds to help refugees
- Cooperating with the Association of Blind and Visually Impaired
- Participating in the "Stop the Violence" campaign
- Participating in the "Run for Peace" campaign
- Planting 21 trees in the Ljutice Bogdana St. Park

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

The team is open to all people, previous experience is not necessary, therefore people do not feel intimidated to join. Running is a reason to get together, no matter the initial motivation. One of the mission of the club is to make a city safe for sport and recreation. The values they are trying to promote are inclusiveness, multiculturalism, participation, equality and sport as a recreation. BURT is open to all the groups and they organize different socially engaged activities, which make them

visible in the community. For example, they participated in PRIDE 2019, and thus were recognized as a safe sport team for LGBT community.

Exploring the cross-border transferability:

The BURT crew is a good example of how certain values can be incorporated within sport activities. Being visible in public space (running on the Belgrade streets) supports its citizens to be more sensitive and welcoming toward different uses of spaces making them safe for recreation. Although the main focus is on running, different types of learning takes place, particularly transformation of stereotypes and nationalistic prejudece. For that to happen, one needs to feel a sense of belonging and non-judgmental attitude, which is the main characteristic of BURT group culture. Openness toward different levels of experience and acceptance creates a feeling of safety.

https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/blog/crossing-borders-promoting-togetherness-through-sports-and-adult-education

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