

## EMIL Case Study – JAU/YOS



### Project name

JAU (Jung und Alt im Unterricht) engl. YOS (Young and Old in School)

### Lead organisation

August-Claas-Schule (Secondary School)

D – 33428 Harsewinkel (Germany)

### Contact details

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### Brief Summary

*Many pupils with or without a secondary school degree have several problems in their transition to working life. Therefore it seems reasonable to improve the curriculum for vocational orientation and preparation in schools. The August-Claas-School (Secondary School) in Harsewinkel (Germany, North Rhine-Westphalia) shows the potential of an intergenerational approach.*

*The first step to an improvement of this situation was the extension of the school area with an external workshop. A former nursery was found in close proximity of the school, including 20,000-square-metres of land and a former greenhouse of 450-square-metres with ideal conditions for many activities in the industrial and technical training.*

*The expansion of the working field brought up another problem: staff and time. The school had to face the challenge, to find specialized staff within a short period of time, which could be included into the process of the school with only a short training period.*

*The thought leading to the answer to the problem was based on the participation of retired craftsmen and industrial experts in the technical instruction lessons at the August-Claas-School. The inclusion of pensioners into the school processes offers a great potential, because a huge amount of expertise can be implied into the school curriculum and therefore a larger and more profound range of offers can be made. Soon workgroups in the following fields could be offered: gardening and landscaping, drywall installation, building construction, bicycle mechanics, engineering, metal, processing, carpentry, roofing, photovoltaic, automobile technology, warehouse logistics, commercial practice and agriculture.*

*The main conclusion is that the cooperation of young, middle and old generation works to everybody's contentment. This project has been awarded several times.*

**3/4 keywords:** retired craftsmen, industrial experts, vocational preparation, school

## **Case Study information**

### **Location/ venue**

Managing institution: August-Claas-School (own idea, own organization)

Location: former nursery, including 20,000-square-metres of land and a former greenhouse of 450-square-metres

**Duration** since 2007, steadily developed

### **Evidence of need**

*New learning fields for the pupils, instruction by skilled experts, low costs*

## **Purpose**

Transition to working life, socio-pedagogical aspects, integration of higher professional competence

## **Participants**

10 pensioners, 30 pupils (age 15 to 17 years), 4 teachers

Pensioners were directly approached and asked, if they wanted to take part. The recruiting was carried out in two steps: first former workers of the Claas Company, manufacturer of agricultural machinery, were approached. Then well-known former tradesmen in town were asked. Communication and organization between pensioners and teachers were early prepared.

## **Activities/ events**

*Bench construction, cottage construction, bicycle repairing, supply of the own retail shop, pew construction, brazier construction, mobile photovoltaic trailer, playground equipment*

*Organization plans, arrow diagrams, evaluation plans, engineering drawing, commercial papers, technical material*

*Working groups meet every Thursday (additionally frequently Fridays)*

*Local enterprises, community, local general public, foundations*

## **Evaluation**

*Since 2008 the pupil/pensioners-cooperation is the practical example of the action research as a part of the postdoctoral studies of Dr. Wolfgang Strotmann at the University of Osnabruck exploring conditions schools should offer to make an intergenerational project possible and durable.*

*Schools have to provide an efficient structure of organization for intergenerational projects, this shouldn't be a mission for the pensioners. The August-Claas-School*

*makes a point of these conditions.*

*The school as a „real part of the community“, cooperation and communication between four generations (pensioners, teachers, pupils, kindergarten children)*

*Process evaluation: Excellent organization, motivated pensioners, pupils and teachers, high participation of the pupils; in the future only little modifications.*

### **Lessons learned**

Excellent reputation for all participants, pensioners as local opinion formers, all participants are very content

In the future: current evaluation, comparisons and improvements

**Outputs** (e.g. leaflets, photographs, DVDs, toolkits, training resources, policies)











**Other applicable information** (e.g. *any other relevant information you wish to share*)

**Funding** (e.g. *public, private, public-private partnership, no funding*)

Public: Community (part of lease costs)

Private: enterprises, general public (financial support, contribution in kind)

Foundations: competitions, support programmes

Honorary office: pensioners with time and drive

**Sustainability/ Developments**

*Harsewinkel community is planning more intergenerational cooperation in several action fields (e.g. community intervention, sports clubs).*

**Date of case study: July 2011**

Start: 2009

End: 2012