



NEWSLETTER

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Regional Youth - Congress of Productive Learning in Germany



In May about 41 students and five educators of *PL* met for one week in Kägsdorf, a village near the Baltic see. The students and educators came from four German counties. The programme was designed by *PL*-students from different regions in a workshop in Schwerin in November 2006 (*PL* - Forum). Workshops for dancing, rapping, drawing and sports were offered. The workshops were mainly moderated by *PL*-students. Moreover discussions about the future perspectives of the youngsters in the different regions took place. The following pictures and notes may give some impressions of what took place.



Workshop dancing: Some really "professional" kids led the workshop and worked on a group performance.



Workshop drawing: The drawing experience was really "free"; the sprayers offered good advice concerning letter types, perspectives, shades etc.



Workshop rapping: The two rappers found their inspiration in all workshops. They composed songs and prepared for a "battle".



Workshop sports: The group played Volleyball, Football, Indiaka and Ultimate Frisbee. We were really lucky with the weather, sometimes "only just".

"Future talk": In the afternoon the discussions took place.

The youngsters reported and discussed e.g.:

- How school was for them before *Productive Learning*,
- Why they decided for *PL* and how they feel with this decision now,
- How they get along at the practice placements and in school,
- What their future wishes are and what they are ready to do for that (or what they should do, want to do...)

The participants were very attentive and serious during the discussions. They compared the experiences in different regions (e.g. in cities and villages) and reported openly about hopes and fears. Some quotations may help to illustrate the spectrum of topics and statements:

- *"I missed many lessons before"*
- *"I hated school and I was bad like hell"*
- *"It was the practical activity in PL that attracted me"*
- *"It is exhausting sometimes, but it is fun, when the practice place is a good one"*
- *"You do not learn less, but it is more easy"*
- *"I am still too lazy"*
- *"I have applied for so many apprenticeships... without success"*
- *"My mentor at the practice place offered me an apprenticeship"*
- *"My mentor really takes care"*
- *"I will continue in a college"*
- *"I don't know how to go on"*

Finale

The last day the youngsters presented their results. They danced, rapped, and showed their pictures. The "sportsmen and sportswomen" organised a tournament with different "disciplines". The teams were formed by random choice and fun was the main goal. Not bad for three working days, isn't it?



Holger Mirow