



Regional Youth Service 'Meetjesman'



# Regionale Jeugddienst Meetjesland

- The Regional Youth Service = Unique in Flanders and Belgium
- Regional cooperative between 13 local communities
- Region 'Meetjesland' = Meetjesland is a historical region in the North-West of the province East Flanders in Belgium, located between Ghent and Bruges





# A Short History

1995

Start meetings between youth workers of the region “Meetjesland”

1995-2002

- Some things could be done more efficiently if they were done together
- Great Ideas → Lack of time

**The idea/solution = A regional youth service**  
(Gradually politicians became more interested in the concept)

2002-2003

- The Regional Youth Service “Meetjesman” was born
- Employs 1 FTE, sometimes supported by project employees



# Financial

- Every local community pays € 2 500/year
  - A larger city has to pay less per inhabitant than a smaller town but a smaller town receives more benefits
  - Every 3 years the 13 local communities have to decide if they still want to participate in the Regional Youth Service
- Flemish Government € 30 000/year



# Mission & Goals

- Integrated and diverse regional youth policy
- Meet the needs of all children and youngsters from our 13 communities
  - Support and connect local youth workers and youth services (monthly meeting)
  - Provide an expertise and support platform in youth policy
  - Develop and maintain a network in the region and the youth sector and represent the region and the target group on different forums
  - Develop and guide initiatives for the 13 communities (=projects)



# Project: 'Young blood in Meetjesland'

Regionale Jeugddienst Meetjesland

## JONG GEWELD IN 'TMEETJESLAND

EEN BELEVINGSONDERZOEK BIJ 15-16 JARIGEN



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# Project Idea

- Investigation: question the young people from the second grade of high school (15-16 year olds) about their experience of living in Meetjesland
- Focus on: spare time (sports, culture & recreation), mobility and the influence of cities (Ghent & Bruges) around our rural area
- By researching young people in 13 different towns/cities we can adjust/influence the policy of each local government and of the 13 governments together



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# Investigation plan

## Quantitative phase

- Online survey
- **11 Schools** in our region
- Reach **1.500** (of 3.700 15-16 year old)

## Qualitative phase

- **Interactive sessions** with specific methodologies
- Classrooms & youth movements
- Think & discuss about the **future of their local community** and the living circumstance of youth



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# Goals of the project

- Identifying bottlenecks and potential in terms of quality of life in Meetjesland and the needs of the youngsters
- Create attention for the target group within the design and implementation of the municipal policy plans
- Stimulate collaborations between the local communities and local government services



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# Timing

2018

Investigation (project employee)

2019

Implementation of the results (FTE)



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# Budget



Total € 102.696,98

2018 € 78.720,00

2019 € 23.976,98

3/4 Personnel cost (full-time)

1/4 Personnel cost

1/4 Coaching by professional youth research organizations

- Promotional purchases
- Supporting purchases (software survey tool...)

3/4 Operational budget

- Promotional purchases
- Supporting purchases



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## ‘Young blood in Meetjesland’ Regional Youth Service ‘Meetjesman’



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