

Project / Initiative: Moinho da Juventude – Cultural Association

<http://www.moinhodajuventude.pt/>

Summary: The Associação Cultural Moinho da Juventude is a non-profit organisation located in the Cova da Moura neighbourhood of the municipality of Amadora, a Lisbon suburb. It was officially registered in 1987 and was founded and is guided by the inhabitants of the community. It all began with a small library, started up in the early 80's by the inhabitants, who worked at the same time on social, cultural and economic matters of the neighbourhood.

The neighbourhood was constructed illegally in the late 1970s in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area. The houses were built by the people who live there. It is a place where a sense of a “proper way of life” is growing stronger and with it, a desire to combat poverty, crime and social exclusion that have been closely linked with the area. Cova da Moura is one of the 3 “critical neighbourhoods” who have a special intervention from the government, declared by the RCM 143/2005.

The inhabitants created “Moinho da Juventude” and started providing neighbourhood services, training youngsters and adults to run and develop these services. The association runs a nursery for 60 children. 20 nannies that work in their own houses are responsible for the care of 80 children. A kindergarten for another 84 and a youth centre for 205 children and youngsters working in areas such as school support, sports, camping, philosophy, cultural dances and manual skills and activities. It is also a centre where youngsters come to receive advice and guidance. Social, cultural and economical aspects are always linked in the objectives and activities of the association. There are 84 collaborators working full time at the association.

The Portuguese Parliament awarded the association in December 2007 with the Human Rights Prize for the work developed in the neighbourhood, respecting the principles of communication, empowerment, solidarity and respect for differences in politics, sexual orientation, religion, gender and culture. For more information visit our website at: <http://www.moinhodajuventude.pt/>

Suggestions for the Basic Text: Challenges

All the partners of the Missing Link Project have very rich and complementary experiences in the three areas of social exclusion: poverty, migration and mental health. One of the main challenges of this project is to find a way to capture all this tacit learning of the partners, to explicit it and to transform it in powerful instruments that enhance the training and employment of experts by experience.

Location / Address: Travessa do Outeiro, n.º 1, Alto da Cova da Moura – Buraca, 2610-202 Amadora, Tel.: (351) 21 497 1070, Fax: (351) 21 497 4027, dir-moinho@mail.telepac.pt

