

#InTheSameBoat

Internal good practice, Crossing Borders.

What is it?

#InTheSameBoat is a concept that Crossing Borders has been developing since June 2015. We have organized parallel events in Aarhus and Copenhagen to raise awareness for the refugee crisis: first in the form of street campaigns, then by participating in #RefugeesWelcome and finally by organizing our own events under the same title – “In The Same Boat”. The idea behind this project is to make people aware of how globalized the world is and how the refugee crisis is everyone’s business – we need to get together to debate, open space for dialogue, and find solutions together, involving the whole community.

Who makes it? What is done?

We can say the project has had three phases, which were co-coordinated by the office in Humlebæk and the Aarhus hub to make sure to reach more people.

Danish Constitution Day Campaign, the 5th of June: raise awareness for the migrant crisis in the Mediterranean under the hashtag #InTheSameBoat. In two simultaneous events in Copenhagen and Aarhus (Denmark’s two biggest cities) we have engaged with passers-by interested in showing their support for the cause. For this, we approached people with a poster posing the question ‘Are we all in the same boat?’ and we encouraged them to show their

support by taking a photo with the poster and sharing it on social media under our hashtag. Additionally, we have developed a pamphlet with facts about the migration crisis which we distributed on the streets and we invited refugees to tell their stories. By making the connection between personal stories and social media, between the global and the local we were able to show our support and demonstrate our vision: an intercultural global dialogue respectful for all parts involved. (see more here: <http://crossingborders.dk/in-the-same-boat-event/>)

#RefugeesWelcome: With a new Aarhus internship starting and new volunteers on the way, we went to the streets as our task together. Our interns helped in coordinating the volunteers for a day of discussion and poster-making. The 12th of September we all got together and marched along with thousands of Aarhus people as Crossing Borders. Online, we used the trending hashtag #RefugeesWelcome along with our own - #InTheSameBoat (see more here: <http://crossingborders.dk/2015/09/crossing-borders-at-refugeeswelcome/>)

#InTheSameBoat Symposium: We have organized twin-events in Aarhus and Copenhagen, the 18th and 19th of November, with the purpose of opening up space for dialogue about the refugee crisis. We have received scholars, journalists, activists, politicians and refugees to take the stage and share their stories, and gave the audience a chance of discussing the situation with its stakeholders. (see more here: <http://www.jutlandstation.dk/human-suffering-is-universal/> and here: <http://modkraft.dk/kalenderopslag/crossing->

[borders-same-boat-moving-forward-refugee-crisis\)](#)

Since when?

From July 2015 to December 2015

Facts of method

300-500 participants

Target groups

Aarhus and Copenhagen communities

Performed daily since March 2015

20 staff involved

11 partners from 7 countries

Target groups, national, international or local focus?

Our main target groups for this campaign was the local youth community in general (in Aarhus and in Copenhagen), both Danes and non-Danes.

Digital aspects of good practice

The use of hashtags has been essential to this project. We started our own hashtag #InTheSameBoat in the beginning of the campaign in June, and when #RefugeesWelcome became a trending topic we used both of them in reference to the event and to articles we wrote and shared about the refugee situation. In addition, much of the communication between Aarhus and Copenhagen (and within each hub) is done via Facebook and email. Finally, the fact that our event and its

full programme was on Facebook brought the audience to us and we had a full house in both November events.

Pedagogic/methodological aspects of good practice

The different activities carried in CB for this campaign included youth empowerment and capacity building and were based in our story-telling approach to conflict resolution. We had our staff, interns and volunteers working to raise awareness for the refugee crisis in the way that they thought was best and all suggestions were heard and incorporated in some way, regardless of the person's position in CB. On the other hand, during the events, all the focus was on refugees and them telling their stories in their own terms, giving them too a sense of empowerment and a better 'community feeling'.

Strength, weakness, opportunities and threats of good practice

Strength

High participation and motivation from all volunteers, staff and interns

Weakness

Low budget to fulfil all activities without deficit

Opportunities

Sponsorships from local businesses, such as bakeries, supermarkets, and universities, that have supported the final events.

Threats

There are a lot of initiatives involving refugees now, so we need to make sure we are presenting something new to the discussion

Which aspects are transferable?

Empowerment and capacity building are fundamental when working with volunteers and interns: to let them know their opinion and work matters and to make the best use of their abilities. This keeps people motivated, happy, and with a better feeling of belonging to an organization.

Story telling is one of CB's pillars and it can be adapted to any organization: giving people a chance to share what they want and how they want, in their own terms, which is good for the person (in the case, refugees) sharing their story and for the audience:.

people are tired of numbers and percentages, they want to hear real people sharing real stories; this offers a different perspective that what's available on mainstream media.

A success story of the good practice

All the refugees thanked us later for the chance of sharing their stories with the Danish community. Khalil, a refugee from Palestine came from a Copenhagen refugee camp to Aarhus just for the event because he wanted chance to share his story with the audience.

Final summary: what makes it in your opinion a good method?

This method is good for different reasons: the use of online tools for communication, which facilitated the events' coordination; the story telling aspect which built a bridge between the refugees and the Danish community; and empowerment and capacity building in youth.