

Making a dialogue cinema

Gjilan/Gnjilane youth sharing their stories of engagement



The audience at the dialogue cinema watching the film about Prishtina Hackerspace.

We engaged more than 100 young people from Gjilan/Gnjilane to join us for a night of films and shared stories of youth engagement.

The codesigners from KADK, University of Prishtina students and the Gjilan/Gnjilane students transformed the local sports hall in Gjilan/Gnjilane into a temporary cinema and showed five films about youth engagement (see “Youth engagements on film”), followed by a documentary about Kosovo rural life from the 70’s.

With the documentaries as an inspiration, the audience, who counted more than 100 young people, shared their own stories of engagement on pieces of paper and hung them for display around the cinema screen. The process of engaging the audience with dialogue cards was facilitated by Bardha from University of Prishtina. The result was 24 different stories of youth engagement in Gjilan/Gnjilane.

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“I hope people can see that they can do something simple. I think we tend to over-complicate youth engagement”

– Bardha, University of Prishtina

Why is this valuable?

The term ‘youth engagement’ can be both abstract and complex and therefore difficult to talk about. We used the cinema as a format that was both well known and had connotations of something social and fun. We made the subject of ‘youth engagement’ approachable through telling the concrete stories of local young people and anchor the event in a local setting transformed to serve a new purpose. This served as a foundation for the audience to reflect on their own everyday activities and share their own stories of engagement. The collection of stories is also a great tool for the UN in regards to broadening their horizon of what youth engagement can be.