

Certificate



Mr. Jose Manuel Garcia, born on november 29.1974, resident in LOC Montelfi 18, Loppiano CP 63, in 50064 Incisa in Valdarno (FI), Italy, has collaborated in our violence-prevention-project STARK OHNE GEWALT (Strong without violence) and later STARKMACHERSCHULE from october 2006 to dicember 2014. The work in this project makes high demands on the people involved, because the target group are young people from difficult social backgrounds with high interculturality and migration proportion, whose life stories and living conditions are individually accompanied.

To strengthen youngsters against violence, social marginalisation, mobbing and the many other subtle and massively violating experiences form every day life – this is the goal of STARK OHNE GEWALT (Strong without violence), the violence prevention project that has reached over 500,000 young people worldwide up to now. Core of the project is the musical "Streetlight", that tells the true story of Charles Moats, who had grown up in a ghetto in Chicago and remained faithful to his beliefs despite all hostilities. He decided against violence and even risked his life for this ideal.

In a project week young people work together with the professional artists in different workshops. In workshops like dancing, singing, instrumental music, acting, stage design, sound and light the youngsters elaborate a contribution to the musical and will be on stage in two concert evenings in a row.

In the year 2006 the project was funded by the Diocesan Caritas of the Archbishopric Köln in different locations in the region North Rhine-Westphalia. During 2007-2008 the project was supported by the EU within the program DAPHNE and a implementation of the project in Germany, the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania and Hungary followed. Since 2009 to 2014 the project is funded by the German Ministry of Labour and Social issues within the program XENOS. Mr. Garcia was involved in the implementation of the project in 58 locations in five European countries. He helps also to bring the project to Latin America Country's from 2013 – 2017 to Brazil and Argentina.

The target group are mainly disadvantaged youngsters. This is why a narrow collaboration with schools for children with special needs, secondary modern schools and youth institutions was implemented. Youngsters who have been marked by experiences of social marginalisation, apparent inefficiency at school and an uncertain future, had the possibility to show their talents and abilities in other areas than the normal school life.

They discovered themselves to be talented, they experienced their peers in a totally different way by working together as a team and were sensitized to positioning themselves against marginalisation and acting in a violence-free manner.

Another target group were criminal youngsters. STARK OHNE GEWALT (Strong without violence) was implemented in various penitentiaries and allowed young detainees an insight and experience in strategies to solve conflicts, respect and acceptance despite of their background-story and the experience to be

acknowledged despite being “Marginalised and Locked in-persons“ with applause by the audience.

The tasks of Mr. Garcia included the management of a percussion and instrumental band workshop. Under the overall subject of performing arts he elaborated different artistic numbers together with 25 youngsters per location during the project weeks and taught the participants social competences and teamwork through the workshop. The artistic numbers were shown to the broad public during two live shows of the musical Streetlight in each project week.

Mr. Garcia paid very much attention to the individual needs of the youngsters and interacted with them in a sensitive and amicable manner. He helped them to solve their conflicts, but also allowed them room for finding solutions themselves. He invited the youngsters to act independently and encouraged them to develop their own dancing steps, rhythms, own ideas and to discuss in order to take a decision.

His artistic and pedagogical work was very differentiated and costumed for the different ages and capabilities of the participants. His pedagogical concept and the work method was diversified and fitted to the various situations always paying attention to the needs and capabilities of the young people. They accepted him as a person of trust and he showed understanding for their life situations.

The planning for the contents of the workshops were implemented in an accurate and reliable way. Mr. Garcia showed a high sensitivity for the project as a whole and put himself at disposal for further tasks.

Mr. Garcia collaborated very actively with the colleagues. He was very capable of reflecting his pedagogical actions during the periodic team-exchanges. He contributed new ideas and concepts and showed to be cooperative and helpful. With the translators of the workshop he had a cooperative relationship, treating them as equal partners in the project. He encouraged them to act independently and to participate actively in the group.

Mr. Garcia was an esteemed colleague and his behaviour was exemplary. He acted in a responsible way and performed his duties above average to our complete satisfaction.

Mr. Garcia leaves us at his own request. We are very sorry and thank him for his precious collaboration. We wish him good luck for his future professional plans.

Sincerely,



Matthias Kaps
1st. Chairman



Mannheim, 08.12.2018

