

Tomorrow is Never a New Day

<https://engagenow.eu/case-studies/the-orwell-youth-prize>

Tomorrow Is Never a New Day is a writing workshop project by Ordskælv, a Danish production house focused on empowering young people to make their voices heard through literature, music and art. Young authors write about their personal experiences of growing up in poverty in the Nordic countries, often considered to be the most even and fair societies in the world. Tomorrow is Never a New Day was Ordskælv's first project on a Nordic scale, having previously operated within Denmark only, involving 24 young authors from across the Nordic countries: Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Greenland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands. The project was supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers and Nordbuk and culminated in the publication of the Tomorrow is Never a New Day book, in Helsinki, Finland in November 2016. Ordskælv arranged writing workshops in each country, for a duration of three months. The young writers worked one-on-one with an experienced mentor, dedicated to empowering the young writers and helping them form and shape their stories to create an engaging text of a high literary standard. The authors were also presented with selected texts (differing on a national level) during their workshops, reading everything from folk tales to poetry for inspiration, and welcomed visiting writers active today.

Empowering young people from deprived areas to make their voices heard through literature, music and art

LOCATION: DENMARK, SLANGERUP
WEBSITE: WWW.MIEFREY.DK/TOMORROW-IS-NEVER-A-NEW-DAY/
YEAR THE PROJECT BEGAN: 2016
DURATION: 12-24 MONTHS
ORGANIZER: ORDSKÆLV

ARTS AND CULTURE SECTORS:

- LITERATURE: WRITING
- LITERATURE: READING
- MUSIC
- PAINTING

AGE TARGETS:

- YOUNGSTERS AND ADOLESCENTS (IN GENERAL)
- ADULTS (OVER 18 YEARS OLDS)

GENDER TARGETS: ALL

SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC TARGETS:

- URBAN
- METROPOLITAN
- RURAL

AIMS:

- EDUCATION
- EMPOWERMENT
- LITERACY
- SOCIAL INTEGRATION

MAIN GOAL OF THE PROJECT

The main goal of the project is to spark young audience interest and a love for the written word.

ROLE OF YOUNG AUDIENCES

During July 2016, all participating young authors, project leaders and selected mentors, joined for a week-long workshop at the Biskops Arnö writing school in Sweden, to finish and polish their texts. The young authors met again in Helsinki for the book launch. Ordsækælv's workshop model, and the close relationship with the personal mentor, is aimed at equipping the young writers with writing tools and tricks, and knowledge of the text production process - from the first creative spark to the polished, edited and printed text.

AIMS

The Ordsækælv experience should empower the participating authors - the aim is not only to print their captivating personal stories, but the writing process. The authors are the ultimate authority in Ordsækælv's model - project leaders and mentors are the support system and cheering squad. It's all about the authors: their stories, their passions and dreams. This emphasis fosters a close, focused and joyful atmosphere and community for participants, authors and mentors alike.

WHY IS IT "A CASE OF GOOD PRACTICE"?

Its success can be measured by the fact that many of Ordsækælv's former authors have since returned to other Ordsækælv projects to share their knowledge as mentors or project leaders. Another important part of Tomorrow is Never a New Day, apart from Ordsækælv's mission to empower young creative people and enable them to present their creations to the public, is to provide young writers with a network of like-minded people. Having grown up in poverty, many or most of the young authors have not had the same opportunities as their more well-off peers. For some, the trip to Biskops Arnö is their first trip abroad. During the week in Biskops Arnö, many of the young writers voice the same thought: that having met a group of writers, they no longer feel alone and isolated with their experience. And that they feel empowered by the community. This focus on community and empowerment is at the heart of Ordsækælv and one of the reasons for its success. The young writers leave the workshop with their finished product, but the community and atmosphere lives on, with them.