

Acro Park – VET Student Participation

Norway

DESCRIPTION

The Acro Park is a **fellowship for youth aged 13-20 years**, which is located in a **vocational upper secondary school in the south-east of Norway**. This is a large social network arena in the core of the school buildings, next to the students' dining area in the VET school. It consists of many **different spaces where students can be together, for example a makerspace, a podcast studio, outdoor and indoor adventure parks, dancing rooms, music studios, open rooms, homework areas, places to play games and a stage**. The Acro Park is **run by both learners and employed adults**, and they decide together which activities to run, equipment to buy and arrangements to make. The **youth have their own organisation called RÅ** (meaning raw/fierce/awe- some), which is the **formal owner of most equipment**. This organisation is run by young people in co-operation with adults and the youth are **involved with all aspects of the administration of this space, including the financial management**. The Acro Park is **co-financed by external organisations and the VET school**. The park is open from **morning until the evening, during weekends and holidays**. During the opening hours adult employees are available to talk to the young people and make it a **safe space** for them. It is free and its slogan is "**for youth, by youth**".