



FORM BEST PRACTICES CONTEST

MunicipalityYanyang..... CountryChina.....
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Name project

Gray Haired Orchestra (Orchestra members are all aged over 60)

Category Certification Criteria: mark the category of your project

- Energy and environmental policies (politiche energetiche e ambientali);
- Infrastructure policies (politiche infrastrutturali);
- Quality of urban life policies (politiche per la qualita' urbana);
- Agricultural, touristic and artisan policies (politiche agricole, turistiche, artigianali);
- Policies for hospitality, awareness and training (politiche per l'ospitalita, la consapevolezza e la formazione); (
- Social cohesion (coesione sociale).

Summary project

Meixian District, where Yanyang Town is located, is named as a longevity city in China. So there are many senior citizens aged over 60 living in Yanyang. In order to enrich their lives and enhance the social cohesion, we established an orchestra named Gray Haired Orchestra, which consists of over 50 senior villagers in Yanyang, and the combined age of orchestra members is over 3000. In Gray Haired Orchestra, members can play Erhu (Chinese traditional music instrument), electronic organ and many other music instruments without charge. There is a specialized activity center for the aged to have a rehearsal and their rehearsal programs are often performed in Yanyang's traditional festivals.

Goal project

1. Before the gray haired orchestra was set up, we conducted a survey on the old people and found that more than half of them felt lonely and isolated. They spent every day on taking care of grandchildren, family cooking and cleaning...but had few chances to communicate. In order to enrich their lives and enhance the social cohesion, help bridge the gap between the young and the old and challenge common misconceptions, we established this orchestra.
2. Most of the music instruments they play are Chinese traditional music instrument or those played in Han opera such as Erhu and Touqin and they can also sing Hakka folk song here. Most importantly, what they perform could contribute significantly to the protection of our intangible cultural heritage such as Guangdong Han opera and Hakka folk song.

Result project

At present, Gray Haired Orchestra is highly appraised by local families in Yanyang and more than 50 senior people would go to the activity center to have a rehearsal or other performance everyday.

Finance (costs and benefits)

It costs about RMB 100,000(€14.200) for government to buy music instruments and other related



devices.

Staff (staff involved and use of time)

Yanyang government and the village committee, with five staff, are in charge of this project and the whole project lasts for about five years.

Additional information (if necessarily)



(The rehearsal performed by Gray Haired Orchestra and their interaction with Cittaslow International Former President Mr.Marconi)

Link website(if available)

Once filled in this form please send it to: info@cittaslow.net

- Participation Deadline 15 May 2015 -