



Education and Culture DG



European
Youth Week

YOUTH IN ACTION

European good practice projects

European Youth Celebrations, Brussels, 5 November 2008



European Year of
Intercultural Dialogue 2008

More information on what Youth in Action has to offer and the conditions for participation can be found in the Programme Guide at the following address: <http://ec.europa.eu/youth>.

Foreword by Ján Figel' European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth



2008 is a special year for the Youth in Action programme, as it marks the celebration of 20 years of fruitful cooperation in the area of youth through the implementation of European programmes benefiting young people and youth workers. It all sprang from the strong belief that in addition to formal education, non-formal learning experiences are also valuable: spending some time abroad to develop a specific project with young people from other countries is an enriching and educational experience. Since the launch of the first programme, called Youth for Europe, in 1988, more than 1.5 million young people and youth workers have participated in tens of thousands of EU-supported projects!

Many of the participants in these European Youth programmes had never been outside their home country before: the programmes have provided them with an invaluable opportunity to acquire a first taste of a 'foreign' culture and a direct feeling of being a European citizen. Youth programmes can thus draw Europe into the daily lives of young people across the Union, demonstrating in a practical way what Europe can do for them and how close it can be.

I am delighted to share with you the exemplary projects presented in this booklet, with its specific focus on intercultural dialogue. The intercultural dimension has always been central to the European Youth programmes, notably because it is inseparably linked with mobility, which represents one of the programmes' main benefits. These examples of good practice, which are only a small selection from among many others, illustrate the rich contribution made by young people, through projects supported by the most recent Youth (2000–2006) and Youth in Action (2007–2013) programmes, to this European challenge: enhancing intercultural dialogue, to contribute to mutual understanding and better living together for Europe's citizens.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan Figel'". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. Above the signature, there is a horizontal line that extends to the right, and a vertical line that descends from the end of the signature.

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BELGIUM (DE)

Interkulturelle Schulung (Intercultural learning)

Action 4.3: Training and Networking of those active in youth work and youth organisations



Youth work organisations from Luxembourg, Germany, France, Liechtenstein and the German-speaking community of Belgium got together and developed an intercultural learning programme that different countries will take turns implementing. The young volunteers who take part in the programme are given the opportunity to learn about diversity and differently-minded people in Europe, while getting in touch with their own cultural identity. Contributors to the programme described “intercultural” as a common, constructive effort taking place in a heterogenic group, where three different elements work together:

- Development and the gradual adaptation of an individual's identity through challenges faced in an intercultural context;
- Analysis of the similarities and differences between different groups and individuals in terms of collaboration and conflict;
- “Meta-communication” through interaction, i.e. working together to analyse different outcomes brought about by different situations of communication. For example, examining misunderstandings and conflict, or development and cooperation schemes.

Participants acquired methods and techniques they can use to develop a transnational exchange project, which will be accredited as a subsequent concomitant traineeship. The project greatly impacted the youth, both personally and professionally, as they became more active in intercultural youth work and more open and tolerant in their daily actions.

Organisation:

Jugendzentrum x-dream

Participating countries:

Belgium, Germany, France, Luxembourg

Contact:

jz.x-dream.eupen@rdj.be



BELGIUM (FL)

Solidarity within LGBT Europe

Action 4.3: Training and Networking of those active in youth work and youth organisations

The seminar brought together a multicultural group of 28 young people from 14 European countries sharing an empowering experience both on a personal level and as members of the LGBT network (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender). Various workshops enhanced the participants' skills in networking, communication, fundraising and lobbying, and contributed to the seminar's aim of strengthening the network of European LGBT and developing future cooperation. Moreover, a visit to the European Parliament provided the group with an insight into how LGBT issues are dealt with at a European level.

The participants had the opportunity to actively participate in the Euro-games, the biggest sport and cultural European happening for LGBT groups. The Eurogames provided visibility to the seminar and emotional moments for participants coming from countries where their sexual identity is not accepted. Soul mates were found and for some of the participants, the seminar enabled the expression of their real identity.

The seminar led to the empowerment of young people in their fight against discrimination and strengthened their local and international activism for tolerance and openness towards LGBT youth. The intercultural dimension of the seminar was experienced both by participants as well as young people in Flanders, as WJNH organised a multicultural event with Flemish LGBT youth.



Organisation:

Wel Jong Niet Hetero

Participating countries:

Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Ireland, Spain, France, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Sweden, United Kingdom

Website:

www.weljongniethetero.be

Contact:

ilkejaspers@gmail.co

BELGIUM (FR)

Traverse (Cross)

Action 1.2: Youth Initiatives (project supported under the YOUTH Programme)

This project gave disadvantaged youth from the culturally diverse Malibran/Boondaal neighbourhood in the Ixelles municipality the chance to express themselves and portray their neighbourhood through photography. Young workshop leaders taught participants everything about photography, from selecting a scene and developing film, to framing and exhibiting the photographs. The workshops not only brought together young people from four continents and richly diverse ethnic backgrounds, but also integrated them further into the neighbourhood by providing a space for them to engage in a dialogue with the adult community. By participating in the project, the youths gained useful knowledge, stimulated their creativity and enhanced their self-esteem through the recognition of their achievements.

A shift of perspective occurred within the community, as parents, neighbours and shopkeepers saw beyond the former image of youth as a “nuisance” and changed their opinion in this regard. The project greatly and positively impacted the community with the display of photographs in shop windows enabling a dialogue between the youths and the shopkeepers and beginning the reconciliation process. The youngsters not only gained a new place in the heart of their community but also in the municipality, as the photographs were also displayed in a famous exhibition hall in the heart of the Brussels region.

Organisation:

Out of Focus

Participating countries:

Belgium

Website:

www.outoffocus.be

Contact:

aureliegrim@hotmail.com



BULGARIA

DESTINATION: EUROPE – Perfecting European youth through art

Action 1.1: Youth Exchange

Two youth exchanges, interactive art methods, creativity and an intercultural atmosphere, were all elements under this multi-measure project which gave participants confidence in their unique European identity. The project encouraged the personal growth and development of young Europeans through active citizenship, informal exchange and art-dialogue. Twelve NGOs representing eleven countries partnered up in this project, which offered activities such as social games, theatre and pantomime, dance and workshops on everything from sand animation to music. The main actors were the young participants themselves.

1. “NATUR (EU) PHORIA”: Young artists for a healthy Europe

The Bulgarian coastline region of Kavarna Town hosted the first stage of the project. This was the perfect location for themes such as the environment, European health and the role of youth in their preservation and development. These subjects were explored through informal outdoor workshops.

2. TEMPER YOUR TEMPER: Chiming together through art-dialogue

The second stage of the project took place in Kotel. With a perfect location came an inspired title for an intercultural project, namely one based on the musical term “temper”. It means, “to adjust different instruments or parts of a musical instrument in such a way that they sound in harmony” and is deeply rooted in the word “temperament” which was essential for the project. During the project, youth discussed ways to inform people about diversity by softening cultural, religious and personal differences, and establishing a friendly co-existence between the different tempers and cultures in Europe. Participants learned a lot about themselves and others, as well as gaining cooperation and communication skills.

Organisation:

FIRE theatre-art-culture FOUNDATION

Participating countries:

Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Lithuania, Northern Ireland, Romania, Sweden, Turkey

Contact: firefoundation@gmail.com



CZECH REPUBLIC

Doduhy (Reach the Rainbow)

Action 2: European Voluntary Service

The “Doduhy” (Reach the Rainbow) project was organised by Duha – an NGO and one of the Czech Republic’s largest organisations. There were ten volunteers involved with the organisation of the project, who came from Lithuania, Italy, Poland, Bulgaria and France, as well as a support team from Portugal. Volunteers learned about Duha’s work and were introduced to both how the NGO benefits communities and the challenges it faces. The project led to lasting friendships between the international volunteers and the local members and communities, and helped them to embrace their common European identity and citizenship.

During the first stage of the project, the volunteers spent two months engaging in daily contact with the local groups, personally interacting with many youngsters and participating in children summer camps. Through this peer-to-peer approach, the European Voluntary Service (EVS) volunteers stepped into the limelight and raised awareness for the project and the EVS programme in general.

After their excursions, the volunteers reunited at the NGO’s main headquarters, where they shared their experiences and got to know the international side of Duha. This provided a genuine multicultural experience, as the volunteers were representing different countries, languages and cultures.

Organisation:

Duha – Children and Youth Association for Leisure Time, Nature and Fun

Participating countries:

Bulgaria, France, Italy, Lithuania, Poland

Website:

www.duha.cz

Contact:

munarijo@gmail.com



DENMARK

East meets West for community volunteering

Action 3.1: Cooperation with the Neighbouring Countries of the European Union (project supported under the YOUTH Programme)

The project reunited the best from the East and West, as 40 young participants from Sweden, Denmark and the Russian Federation gathered for community volunteer work in Cheboksary, in the Russian Federation. All of the young participants were disadvantaged. Four different projects were identified and the young volunteers were put into four international groups, each responsible for one of the projects in a local community. The young people were the main organisers and facilitators of the projects.

The four projects included:

1. Pollution of the River Volga. The team made a leaflet to be handed out and organised a petition. They arranged an event to help clean up a beach and forest at a popular tourist site.
2. Children's Home. From gardening to leading workshops for children, and talking about fashion and culture with teenagers, the team actively participated in the activities of the children's home.
3. Volunteering at a Juvenile Centre. Playing games, learning about each other's languages, hosting a dinner or a soccer match.
4. Work at a School. The volunteers introduced kids to different countries, their languages and cultures. When they found out that the school needed a bus, they organised a music concert at a market to raise money.

This project gave participants the opportunity to work on different social problems with a multicultural team, resulting in an eye-opening experience that inspired them to look at their own life from another perspective.



Organisation:

Esbjerg Ungdomsskole

Participating countries:

Denmark, Sweden, the Russian Federation

Website:

www.ciriusonline.dk/Default.aspx?ID=10078

Contact:

amu@esbjergkommune.dk

GERMANY

Theater muss wie Feuer sein (Theatre has to be like Fire)

Action 2: European Voluntary Service

The Theaterpädagogisches Zentrum der Emsländischen Landschaft e.V. (TPZ) Lingen is an academy for theatre, dance, and circus arts in Germany, whose aim is to enable the participation of youth in cultural activities, to cross cultural boundaries and to enhance intercultural dialogue and European awareness. The project centred on intercultural learning and brought together people of all ages, cultures and ability. TPZ focuses mainly on workshops, courses and advanced education. In addition, the theatre academy organises regional, national, and international festivals, such as the World Festival of Children's Theatre, and the International Festival of Senses, an event for people with and without disabilities.

Hanna, a volunteer from Estonia, assisted in a wide range of courses and workshops for TPZ. She was especially involved in the circus groups for children and youth, as well as actively participating in the rehearsals of a senior drama group. She assisted a group of students from the University for Applied Sciences called "Kaffeekommune" which organises cultural events in the Professorenhaus – a TPZ residence.

Hanna also took over the stage direction of a show entitled "YOUMEDOO! – a Magic Meeting Show" and assisted in organising the European symposium "Amateurtheatre – A multi-generational model in European comparison" where she had the honour of welcoming the President of the European Parliament, Dr Hans-Gert Pöttering.

Organisation:

Theaterpädagogisches Zentrum der Emsländischen Landschaft e.V. (TPZ)

Participating countries:

Estonia, Germany

Website:

www.tpzlingen.de/mitmachen/europ_freiwilligendienst

Contact:

lilo.hentschel@tpzlingen.de



ESTONIA



European Universities Debating Championships 2008

Action 5.1: Meetings of young people and those responsible for youth policy

500 students and graduates were involved in an event which touched on numerous European issues and introduced participants to competitive debates and a truly intercultural experience. European Universities Debating Championships 2008 included 320 debaters, 140 judges, more than 30 pro bono organisers and 70 other volunteers who ensured the smooth running of the event. Over a five-day period, they debated topics relevant to Europe, such as politics and the economy, euthanasia, capital punishment, cultural relativism in Western democracies and the mechanics of democracy in the European Union. The primary goal of the debates was to share perspectives and get an idea of what may come in Europe's future while the numerous cultures and ethnicities represented gave participants a sense of the European identity.

The competitive element of the debates had the effect of getting students to closely research the debated topics, thus giving them a more rounded perspective. It is a horizon-broadening, intellectual activity, which develops both language and social skills and empowers non-formal learning. By enhancing verbal and analytical skills in a multicultural environment, the debates supplemented formal education, which, particularly in Estonia, is focused on factual knowledge and writing skills. 225 students involved in the debates were from project partner organisations, and the participation of the other students was financed with the help of numerous sponsors.

Organisation:

Eesti Väitlusselts MTÜ (Estonian Debating Society NGO)

Participating countries:

Ireland, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, The Netherlands, Slovenia, Finland, United Kingdom

Website:

www.debate.ee/eudc2008

Contact:

helina.loor@debate.ee



IRELAND

An Sanctoir

Action 4.3: Training and Networking of those active in youth work and youth organisations



The liberating experience of theatre and a culturally diverse group of youth workers got this project on the right track towards multicultural dialogue. "An Sanctoir" is an interactive, intercultural training programme that allowed youth workers to learn about and share theatrical teaching methods that explore intercultural understanding. The participants consisted of professional youth workers from nine different European countries who had little or no experience with the Youth in Action Programme. Some of them were not fluent in English, but they overcame their linguistic barriers and cultural differences by working together in various workshops and training sessions.

Through theatre, participants felt free to share their views on intercultural learning, putting their cultural misunderstandings and communication challenges aside. The methodology offered a safe environment for them to express their feelings and ideas on intercultural issues. The participants actively engaged in the training workshops and, despite the occasional challenges, they found it rewarding and beneficial to share their knowledge and experience with each other and the youth. The project was not without an audience, as it also included a performance and workshop that was open to the public. Over 70 people from the local community showed up to take part and learn about intercultural teaching through theatre. At the end of the project, the group produced a workbook with training modules that has been made available at no cost through each participating organisation's website.

Organisation:

An Sanctoir Ltd.

Participating countries:

Bulgaria, Germany, Ireland, Spain, Hungary, Austria, Poland, Romania, Turkey

Website:

www.galliprojectoffice.com

Contact:

ansanctoir@eircom.net



GREECE



Rehabilitation Centre for Handicapped Children

Action 2: European Voluntary Service

The PIKPA project tells a heartwarming story of international friendships, loyal volunteers and a deep commitment to put a smile on the faces of 90 children with disabilities. The project is organised by an Athenian public institution called KAAPV, a foster home for children with disabilities. Established in the 1950s, it has 150 employees and has hosted over 60 international volunteers. Among them were 10 with mental or physical disabilities. The current group of 10 to 15 volunteers live in the institution and help the shorthanded staff in all five of the facility's wards where the children live. They assist with daily tasks such as bringing the children to school and accompanying them to physical and occupational therapy. Each volunteer has made its unique mark on KAAPV by implementing new activities, some temporary, such as karate and bicycling, others lasting for years, like swimming or cooking.

Although challenging at times, the volunteers always find the cooperation with the KAAPV staff rewarding and appealing. It offers a unique cultural experience to the international volunteers, who give much needed support to the children. All of this happens with the help of two full-time coordinators who encourage, support and help volunteers implement their ideas. The project organises youth exchanges and the yearly highlight is a two-week summer camp for 50 children, 40 staff and former EVS volunteers. Children also occasionally go on excursions and vacations with volunteers and the latter encourage their friends to do EVS at KAAPV. This EVS project primarily aims at helping the volunteers and children grow personally by developing relationships, sharing responsibilities and connecting with people from all over the world.

Organisation:

“TANDEM” (Coordinating Organisation for KAAPV – VOULAS)

Participating countries:

Spain, Italy, France, Russian Federation

Contact:

tandemngo@gmail.com



SPAIN

From strangers to citizens

Action 4.3: Training and Networking of those active in youth work and youth organizations



The October 2007 “From strangers to citizens” seminar brought together a group of young professionals and volunteers from Spain, France, Germany and Poland who had the opportunity to learn more about the lives of minority groups in Granada. The project focused primarily on the different situations of immigrant and Roma youth, and their place in the Andalusian community. The seminar’s activities were directed towards inclusion and participation, and were based on the combined experiences of several organisations, workshops and conferences. An element of intercultural learning marked the entire week due to the cultural and ethnic diversity of the participating group.

Considerable support was provided by translators in both formal and non-formal learning situations, so that no communication problems arose, which helped conversation flow more naturally and allowed everyone to share their ideas more effectively. The seminar raised awareness about the possibilities of the Youth in Action Programme as a way of communicating with even more people and getting them involved in follow-up seminars and activities supported by the project.

Organisation:

Asociación Gitana Anaquerando

Participating countries:

Germany, Spain, France, Poland

Website:

www.anaquerando.com

Contact:

seminariogranada@gmail.com



FRANCE



Breaking stereotypes and xenophobia via art

Action 3.1: Cooperation with the Neighbouring Countries of the European Union

An ancestral village in the Caucasus represented the ideal meeting point between East and West and was regarded as a perfect setting for theatre, dance and music to come together in order to overcome stereotypes. The project took place over the summer of 2007 in Tzagveri, a small village roughly two hours away from the Georgian capital Tbilisi. 16 young people and four youth leaders aged 17 to 23 were involved in the project, representing Basque Spanish, France, Georgia and Ukraine.

These 20 young people, all belonging to different cultural backgrounds, had eight days to organise workshops, design a set, compose a song, and create choreography for a play to be presented to the local public. Although they faced major challenges, by working together the members of the theatre group rose above their stereotypes and the complex geopolitical situation of the region. The project touched on the 1991 independence of Ukraine and Georgia, on the diversity of the alphabet and the common use of the Russian language by both countries. The political developments which arose between the Russian Federation and Georgia during the exchange evoked the tensed relation between the two countries.

As a group, the youths decided each other's role in the production and voted on the issues to be dealt with in the play. Some issues were so delicate, such as religion and homosexuality, that the production had to be rearranged due to the resistance of some of those involved. In the end, the process was very enriching, friendships were made, and people from very different background learned about each other and their cultures.



Organisation:

Centre des Sureaux

Participating countries:

Spain, France, Georgia, Ukraine

Contact:

centredesureaux@wanadoo.fr

ITALY

Un Ponte Ai Diritti Culture Giovanili E Cittadinanza Attiva A Ponte Di Nona (A Bridge to Rights: Youth culture and active citizenship in "Ponte di Nona")



Action 1.3: Youth Democracy Projects

For this still ongoing project, 24 disadvantaged youth from the suburbs of Marseille in France and Rome, got together to learn how to take an active role and express themselves in their communities. Three of the youth were trained as group leaders and facilitators using the methodologies developed by the Université du Citoyen – an association experienced in getting people to take action. The 24 youngsters met together in three meetings – two in France and one in Italy – and discussed the topic of youth participation in city suburbs .

The programme aimed at empowering youth and supporting them in making a difference in the lives of the people around them. The project was not without an intercultural dimension, as youngsters gained a sense of Europe and its identity.

Organisation:

Cooperative Sociale DATACOOOP

Participating countries:

France, Italy

Website:

www.datacoop.org/unponteaidiritti/

Contact:

datacoop@datacoop.org



CYPRUS



Body language – Youth communication

Action 1.1: Youth Exchanges

The project got hearing impaired children from three different countries with three different sign languages involved with theatre, myths and dance as an alternative means of communicating. These activities focused on bridging communication barriers between students with and without hearing impairment. The projects were based on addressing the participants' needs concerning the following issues:

- Communication difficulties with others without hearing impairment, others with hearing impairment from a distance and youth from other countries without opportunities for mobility;
- Importance of everyone's inclusion in the activities;
- Low self-esteem;
- No common sign language.

The participants were separated into three international six-member groups with two randomly selected members from each country. Each group was provided with a mobile phone capable of video conferencing and was responsible for each group member knowing how to use it. Each group created its own story from scratch, which emphasised the importance the collaboration between individual group members while they shared myths from their country. At the end of each day the groups and the workshop organisers discussed and reflected on the day's activities. Feedback was then used to organise the following day. At the end of the project, participants put on a play influenced by the theatre workshops, entitled "Μύθοι Αγάπης" (Myths of Love).



Organisation:

Politistiko Ergastiri Ayion Omoloyiton (Cultural Workshop)

Participating countries:

Cyprus, Czech Republic, Hungary

Website:

www.politistiko-ergastiri.org/

Contact:

info@politistiko-ergastiri.org

LATVIA

I am not dangerous, I am different!

Action 1.1: Youth Exchanges

Deeply rooted in an intercultural atmosphere, the project reunited youth subcultures, such as break dancers and emo, who used art as means of expressing themselves. The project was international and multilateral, and brought together 24 participants aged 15 to 25 and six youth leaders from Latvia, Lithuania, Germany and Spain. The participating youth had little or no international experience, mainly because they feared their lifestyles would be frowned upon.

Youngsters from different subcultures were involved with art, media, music, theatre and dance, with the aim of giving them a more tolerant outlook on cultural diversity.

They had discussions about what it means to be "different" and on how everyone can be respected and treated equally for who they are. At the end of the project, the youth presented a performance that they wrote and directed entitled, "I am not dangerous, I am different!". During the process of putting the performance together, the youth shared their stories about times when they had felt misunderstood.

All of the participants were given the opportunity to express themselves regardless of their background or subculture. Participating in this project made it clear that people can cooperate with others despite their differences or who they are in their daily lives.

Organisation:

Youth Initiative Centre "Šķūnis" of Saldus Children and Youth Centre

Participating countries:

Germany, Spain, Latvia, Lithuania

Contact:

r.muraseva@saldus.lv



LITHUANIA

Street educator. Murad Al-Quaraan

Action 2: European Voluntary Service
(project supported under the YOUTH Programme)

The European Voluntary Service (EVS) project, "Street educator", took place in the small town of Naujamiestis, in the Panevezys district in Lithuania. The idea was to bring people from Lithuania and Jordan to work together, and to encourage them to develop their understanding of each other's countries and cultures. A volunteer from Jordan was hosted by a Lithuanian family and he had the opportunity of staying at the town's parish. During his stay he and the local priest had many interesting conversations which helped both sides get to know each others religions and cultures. They even shared their discussions with other people in universities, schools and a prison for women in Lithuania. Together with the catholic priest they visited Siauliai university several times and gave seminars about Islam and Arabic culture.

The young Jordanian also gave Arabic lessons, as well as sharing his culture with members of the community, including disadvantaged children at local schools.

Organisation:

Panevezys County NGO Information and Support Centre

Participating countries:

Lithuania, Jordan

Website:

www.panoipc.lt

Contact:

panoipc@hotmail.com



LUXEMBOURG

Luxpaltou

Action 3.1: Cooperation with the Neighbouring Countries
of the European Union

This project brought together two groups of Muslims: Touaregs from Algeria and Moslem Palestinians from Nablus, in the Northern West Bank. Together they lead inter-religious, ethnic, and cultural dialogues with participating groups from Austria, Germany, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Portugal, and the United Kingdom. This made for interesting dialogues that lead to discoveries about the similarities and differences between their cultures.

The groups all took part in discovering each other's cultures through music, dance, and cuisine. They learned about their musical instruments, traditions, and ways of life. The discussions and workshops touched on everything from differences of language and writing style, to the standing of women in society. Participants came out of the project with a heightened sense of European cultural diversity, and an awareness of the importance of leading a life of active citizenship.

Organisation:

Jeunes Européens/Ecole Européenne

Participating countries:

Luxembourg, Algeria, Palestine

Contact:

marieyvette.delbos@education.lu



HUNGARY



Kincskeresés (Cultural Treasure Hunt)

Action 1.1: Youth Exchanges (project supported under the YOUTH Programme)

Participants in Youth for Europe are excited to see and learn about other cultures – how they celebrate their national holidays, how they live, and what their traditions are. For seven days, groups from six participating countries got together to take part in two activities for this project.

The project's first event was a cultural treasure hunt. Young people from all over Europe spent several weeks putting together an array of cultural elements from food to performances, and presented others with some of their cultural traditions that have been disappearing.

The second event was a book exchange, where each participating country introduced a historically and literarily significant book to the other groups. Through the book exchange, they had the chance to get to know the country, the people, their culture, and each other. At the end of the project, six short films about all the represented cultures and traditions were produced.

The overarching goal of the project was for participants to get to know each other, their cultures, and learn tolerance by finding common ground. But the real reason that the program was such a success is because everyone made friends for life and had great time learning about each other's traditions.

Organisation:

Angol Műhely Kulturális Egyesület

Participating countries:

Bulgaria, Latvia, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia

Contact:

galnike@freemail.hu, okros_zsolt@freemail.hu



MALTA

The Ripple Project: Striving for a Healthier Environment



Action 1.2: Youth Initiatives

This project was facilitating the construction of a professional kitchen to be run by the residents at the Young Offenders Unit of Rehabilitation Services (YOURS). The residents of YOURS have their food delivered in stainless steel containers prepared by adult residents who cook for the whole facility. The food's preparation is not taken care of by the residents, and therefore the quality of the food does not meet their desired standards.

The project allowed the young residents to apply for funding, plan the kitchen set-up, choose the best offers, work with professionals, such as from the Health Department and various food suppliers, and to be physically involved in the kitchen's construction under the guidance of qualified tradesmen. At the end the participants managed to run the kitchen successfully because food was provided for the whole facility. Therefore it significantly improved the life of the members of the institution.

On a personal level this process aimed to empower participants and develop a sense of whilst motivating them to integrate into their community and wider society. This project also increased the participants' skill set and chance of becoming employed afterwards. It is these kinds of projects targeting youth that truly address their needs.

Organisation:

YOURS (Young Offenders Unit of Rehabilitation Services)

Participating countries:

Malta

Contact:

joanne.battistino@gov.mt



THE NETHERLANDS



Am I a European?

Action 1.3: Youth Democracy Projects

The project, “Am I a European?”, is a documentary put together by two groups of migrant youth in Amsterdam and Antwerp who got involved in their neighbourhood and decided to produce a film. It gives insight to common experiences and perspectives shared by young people who are in the process of trying to get EU citizenship.

The youth, who are from varying cultural and ethnic backgrounds, interviewed parents, friends, and local politicians about the changing neighbourhood and the role they could play in it. One of the main reasons why the project reaches a high acceptance among the participants is that it is not only concrete but also challenging. It also gained the attention of local decision makers who were interested in developing close contact with the migrant youth.

The premiere of “Am I a European?” at a conference in Brussels is foreseen. The project is still ongoing.

Organisation:

OE Foundation

Participating countries:

The Netherlands, Belgium

Contact:

info@youmeetoe.org



AUSTRIA

Unterwegs – (N)irgendwo daheim (Nowhere at home)

Action 1.2: Youth Initiatives



The youth who organised this project learned a lot about human rights, the daily life of asylum seekers, other cultures, and problems around integration. They all contributed their individual experiences to put together an awareness campaign, using their creativity and innovation to produce a short film, take photos, and publish a brochure.

In addition, an exhibition and information stands were set up in Innsbruck's main station, showing the daily life and the many obstacles faced by asylum seekers and Romani people in Austria. Visitors gave positive feedback about the exhibition because they had the chance to have close contact with the respective cultures by enjoying typical food being cooked by asylum seekers and music played by Romanians. The exhibition stayed up for two weeks and will go on to be displayed at train stations in Tirol and Vorarlberg.

At the end of this project the participants got a deeper understanding for the situation of asylum seekers and Roma people because members of these groups were involved into all projects.

Organisation:

Project group “Asyl”

Participating countries:

Austria

Website:

www.jugendinaktion.at

Contact:

n_irgendwodaheim@gmx.at



POLAND

Let's talk about the future – Euro-Arab Youth Workshop

Action 3.1: Cooperation with the Neighbouring Countries of the European Union

This project focused on what connects and divides Europe and the Arab world. Over a five-day period, youth took part in activities and discussions related to art and culture, combining workshops around dance, singing, storytelling, and craft in an effort to understand the cultural backgrounds and traditions of other countries. During some workshops, they found parallels between their fables, songs, and dances, while at other times the discussion revolved around finding similarities in their mother tongues, the challenges faced by women in their individual countries, and the role of religion in society. They learnt about the current political and social situations abroad, as well as in Poland.

During one of the days, the youth visited a school in Warsaw where all the national groups put together a presentation for the children about their respective countries. Each group spent an hour in two classrooms talking with students, and afterwards, lead a joint activity in the gym, where they presented their cuisines, played games and made handicrafts with the students. After the school visit, the groups went to the International Euro-Med Singing Festival where the children and the public were invited. Six of the groups presented songs from Poland, Algeria, Germany, Egypt, Jordan, and Palestine. The participants got a better understanding of not only each other's cultures, but also their own. By working together and learning about everything from other cultures from art to politics, they broke down stereotypes and found respect for the similarities and differences of the other participating countries.



Organisation:
Arabia.pl

Participating countries:
Germany, Greece, Spain, Lithuania, Poland, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine

Website:
www.arabia.pl/content/view/290198/132/

Contact:
Kgs@arabia.pl

PORTUGAL

European Citizenship, By the Sea We learn ...

Action 1.1: Youth Exchanges



This ten-day project was a multilateral exchange involving 53 youth from nine different European countries. The participants spent four days on land and an additional six at sea on the vessel "Crioula," a training ship of the Portuguese Navy. This was definitely a high point of the project and a unique experience for everyone involved.

The young participants were divided into four multinational groups on the ship where they worked together and learned basic navigation skills and ship maintenance. Through cultural and recreational activities that promoted cooperation, they strengthened their ties and learned teamwork in an intercultural environment.

"An unusual experience in an unusual environment" was how the participants commented on the project at the end. This may also be the reason why this project received a considerable amount of media interest, going beyond the ship and impacting local communities as well. Especially interesting was the closing event, where the participants gave cultural presentations about their respective countries in the streets of Portimão, in the South of Portugal.

Organisation:
"H2O" – Associação de Jovens de Arrouquelas

Participating countries:
Portugal, Spain, Italy, Estonia, Poland, Latvia, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary

Website:
www.h2o.pt

Contact:
alex.jacinto@netcabo.pt



ROMANIA



Cultural clusters – to be discovered

Action 2: European Voluntary Service

An on-going adventure is how one could describe the project “Cultural clusters – to be discovered”: a project whose ideas of intercultural communication, involvement, action, and friendship brought together 52 volunteers from 16 countries, along with 26 local volunteers from Romania. “Cultural clusters – to be discovered” is the largest European Voluntary Service project financed by a national agency, uniting 20 different languages and traditions from Europe and neighbouring regions. The activities are taking place in Arad along with other towns and villages in Arad and Alba County, as well as in several villages in western Romania. The volunteers are involved in a wide range of activities, such as film and photography workshops, ecological activities, and volunteering at youth centres. The volunteers actually create cultural clusters in their local communities. Working together, they’re producing documentaries on youth organisations and local communities in Romania.

All the volunteers are involved with the administration of the project as well as in the promotion of its website, newsletter, a dance workshop, and a local campaign about the importance of donating blood. For instance, one of the 13 activities currently going on is a workshop on film and photography, in which the volunteers edit reportages, conduct interviews, and make documentaries. All of the materials they produce are posted on the project’s website. The participants learned a lot about other cultures, personalities and how you can quickly adapt to a new environment.

Organisation:

MILLENNIUM CENTER Association

Participating countries:

Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, Spain, France, The Netherlands, Austria, Romania, Finland, Sweden, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Russian Federation, Turkey

Website:

www.clusters.evsromania.ro

Contact:

sorinvroman@gmail.com



SLOVENIA

Youth TV Magazine

Action 2: European Voluntary Service



Cécile, a volunteer from France, was an active participant in a group of young people who run a monthly youth TV magazine in Slovenia. During the nine months of her European Voluntary Service, she introduced youth to the world of media, leading video workshops, helping them develop ideas, and direct films. The youth involved in the workshops generally had fewer opportunities and many were of Roma origin.

Roma youth’s active participation in media gave them the opportunity to express themselves through film in a society where they are a minority. For example, Cécile worked with a young girl on a documentary called Grandmother Told Me, which portrayed past and modern Roma ways of life. In making the video, they not only learned about film production, but also about other cultures. She also assisted in planning and realising performances and workshops for children.

Organisation:

DZMP Krško

Participating countries:

France, Slovenia

Website:

www.drustvo-dzmp.si

Contact:

drustvo.dzmp@guest.arnes.si



SLOVAKIA

Jollieworkshop 2007

Action 2: European Voluntary Service

Jollieworkshops, held in Žilina, is a great example for a project that develops solidarity and promotes tolerance among youth. This project emphasises work with a group of individuals that have mixed abilities. One activity of this project was to host Tomáš, a young man with trisomy 21 from the Czech Republic. During his European Voluntary Service (EVS), he was involved in various activities that gave him great learning opportunities and a place to develop and discover new interests. By living and working in a foreign country, the young volunteer had the chance to practice independence. A main attraction of this project was a festival, which included cultural events, workshops, and much more. After the festival, Tomáš presented his project to the public followed by a discussion about new programmes for the future and a meeting with other volunteers and participants. Along with an assistant, Tomáš worked especially on masks for participants in the festival. But during the project he became interested in theatre, music and dance, and had several opportunities to perform.

In this project, and especially in Tomáš's case, the inclusion of people with disabilities into community life has been quite successful. Tomáš improved his skills in everything from arts and crafts to communication, and his message at the end of his EVS was: "I recommend to others to go ahead and take advantage of this great opportunity for themselves." The project was considered a great success because it gave participants with fewer opportunities the chance to spend time in another country, meet new people, learn another language, and develop new skills. By doing so a bridge was built between people with and without disabilities.



Organisation:

Land of Harmony Foundation

Participating countries:

Slovakia

Website:

www.nkh.sk

Contact:

nkh@slovanet.sk

FINLAND

Kansallinen nuorisokonventti (Finnish National Youth Convention)

Action 5.1: Meetings of young people and those responsible for youth policy



The challenges Europe and the EU will be facing in the future were the overall topics of the Finnish National Youth Convention where dozens of young people from all over Finland came together to discuss this important issue in a structured dialogue. The debates were wide-ranging and fascinating with highly motivating young people actively taking part in it.

The young people, organised and non-organised, and many outstanding speakers and decision-makers discussed in particular important issues such as employment, youth participation, environment, immigration, developmental cooperation as well as education and democracy in EU which concern almost all young people these days. One highlight was surely that the last day of the convention was held in the Finnish Parliament. Proposals and initiatives made in the workshops were discussed and voted, and the final outcome was the Youth Declaration on the EU.

The process was so encouraging that it will continue in the following years. What made the Finnish National Youth Convention so exceptional was that it managed to activate young people and make them discussing European issues while keeping a strong focus on the future.

Organisation:

Finnish Youth Cooperation Allianssi

Participating countries:

Finland

Website:

www.alli.fi/

Contact:

jarkko.lehikoinen@alli.fi



SWEDEN

The BANGOL Five. One: The future of youngsters, the youngsters' future

Action 5.1: Meetings of young people and those responsible for youth policy

Soon after its beginning, the project BANGOL (Baltic Sea Region Non-Governmental Organisations and Leisure) grew into an extensive working-group and network. Participants set up structured seminars and discussions in Frederiksberg, Hamburg, Lund, Kaliningrad, Vilnius, and Riga. The project's main event was a week long workshop and dialogue held in Lund, Sweden, in which more than 100 youth workers and youth took part. The main topics discussed were the future of Europe, active citizenship, employment, and social integration. Furthermore the participants visited the Cultural Centre Skane and performed for disabled young people which led to a better understanding of their situation. The seminar entailed the use of methods such as 'Me too', collage and 'Happy citizen'. The participants were encouraged to show creativity and draw a happy citizen for the future of Europe.

The project helped people to further consider the needs and interests of young people who had been directly involved in all phases of the programme. In discussions the participants came to many conclusions through their exchanges, including that there needs to be a higher international standard for social and youth work. Therefore, a more intensive dialogue between youth, adults, politicians, and youth workers is necessary. Many of those who participated in the conferences are looking forward to doing more international youth work.

Organisation:

Lunds Ungdoms- och Hemgård

Participating countries:

Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Russian Federation

Website:

www.bangol.net/fiveone.php

Contact:

Jorgen.Wellsten@lund.se



UNITED KINGDOM

The Big Hope Global Youth Congress

Action 5.1: Meetings of young people and those responsible for youth policy

Liverpool Hope University is Europe's only ecumenical university. Its contribution to the European Capital of Culture and the European Parliament's Year of Intercultural Dialogue was a project entitled The Big Hope. The overarching themes of The Big Hope were integrity and public life, developing a more humane global society, and the active role individuals can play. Through sports, art, culture, education, human rights, and sustainable design, these themes were addressed by young people between the ages of 18 and 35. During the week, there were formal lectures, discussion forums, six art exhibitions and excursions to local places of interest.

The Big Hope started with celebrations at Catholic and Anglican cathedrals and, on the last night, The Big event filled the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Hall with over 1500 people (including the Archbishop and the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside who danced in their boxes) and watched a concert performed by members of the music, dance, art, creative writing, and public speaking strands accompanied by world-famous pianist Joanna MacGregor, for instance. During the final celebration at the Anglican Cathedral, the Liverpool declaration Leading Change in our Times written by Big Hope delegates, was read aloud to the congregation. The Big Hope attracted 21 nationally and internationally famous keynote speakers from a wide range of countries, faiths, and cultural backgrounds. They addressed over 600 young people from universities, NGOs, faith groups, employers, charities, and governments, and represented 63 countries in all. In addition, there were 18 forums lead by 90 speakers from the UK, Europe, and around the world. All events attracted audiences of over 1500 people.

Organisation:

Liverpool Hope University

Participating countries:

Belgium, Lithuania, Hungary, The Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, United Kingdom, Turkey

Website:

www.bhff.org

Contact:

chambew@hope.ac.uk





ICELAND

Menningarbræðsla – LungA (Cultural Fusion – LungA)

Action 1.1: Youth Exchanges

LungA was an international project that involved six countries with participants aged 15 to 25. The project was organised with the intention of opening doors to different countries through art and culture. LungA put the project together to create a space for participants to be introduced to and discuss different cultures in an unprejudiced environment.

The groups took part in a series of workshops and the project concluded with a final event where each participating country gave a presentation of another country's culture. It was with this activity that the fusion of the six countries really became clear. To get an idea of their different cultures, they presented each other's fairytales and folklore, which have played a role in each country's history.

Learning about tales from the past can help to understand why certain superstitions and beliefs exist in the present. Furthermore, by introducing and explaining another culture, they not only got a deeper understanding of it, but also saw how their own culture can be perceived through the eyes of someone with a different background. After all the young people kept an ongoing relationship with each other which has led to a transnational youth initiative.

Organisation:

LungA – Listahátíð ungs folks, Austurlandi

Participating countries:

Denmark, Estonia, The Netherlands, Finland, Norway, Iceland

Website:

www.lunga.is

Contact:

lunga@lunga.is



LIECHTENSTEIN

Liechtenstein geht FREMD (Liechtenstein goes intercultural)

Action 1.2: Youth Initiatives (project supported under YOUTH Programme)



Liechtenstein geht FREMD encouraged new pedagogical methods using an intercultural approach. Over a four-day period, 40 workshops took place in 13 schools around Liechtenstein, where children learned about art, intercultural learning, gender, nature, and technology. Approximately 670 children and youth from different schools were involved in the project. Workshops were moderated by 16 speakers from eight different countries with the help of teachers at the schools. The project closed with a one-day seminar open to the public where the workshops' results were presented. A brochure and DVD were produced detailing all the project's events.

The project enabled intercultural learning. The young adults, who started the project and organised it, came from different cultures. The project was a real challenge because of the cultural differences, the different ways of communication and the diverse languages. But all wanted to achieve the same goal: learn more about other cultures, about similarities and differences, and understand that all cultures are equal.

Organisation:

Verein Nudos

Participating countries:

Liechtenstein

Website:

www.nudos.li

Contact:

hilti.laura@gmail.com



NORWAY



Youth Culture in a foreign country

Action 2: European Voluntary Service

Arbeidsinstituttet Ringerike is a public training centre for disadvantaged young people between the ages of 16 and 22 who have dropped out of the regular educational tract. The centre offers a one-year practical work experience programme in areas such as mechanics, carpentry, and media, as well as courses in conventional subjects like math, English, and Norwegian. With both European Voluntary Service (EVS) and group exchanges, the centre has been getting their students engaged in international activities for several years now.

Since the youth programme started, the centre has been sending volunteers to other organisations, as well as hosting them at home. This exchange programme benefits volunteers by not only allowing them to experience a foreign country, but also giving them the opportunity to spend time away from what sometimes is a negative home environment. Until recently, the volunteer exchange programme has only hosted students on a short term basis. The educational centre felt it would be more valuable to host volunteers for a longer period, so that the local youth could become better acquainted with them. This is where a volunteer from Germany came in. She was involved in the centre's daily routines and assisted in all the workshops, focusing mainly on media courses. She helped out some of the special-needs students, organising volleyball classes, and a Photoshop course for girls.

Many of the young people were inspired to try volunteering and have an international experience for themselves. Therefore, it was a great experience for both sides.



Organisation:
Arbeidsinstituttet Ringerrike

Participating countries:
Germany, Norway

Website:
www.aib.bfk.no

Contact:
rolf.simonsen@skole.bfk.no

TURKEY

Youth meeting with nature: On the way to discovering a common culture

Action 1.2: Youth Initiatives



The purpose of this project was to document Yörük and Turkmen culture in the Alara valley. The valley, within the borders of Antalya, was one of the most important areas of the Silk Road, and has cultural and historical heritage dating to civilisations as far back as the Romans, Byzantines, Seljuk, and the Ottoman Empire. Using video and photography, youth rediscovered the valley where they were born and raised. They learnt about their ancestors' Yörük culture, which they had not known about before, and which they were inspired to help keep alive. They also rediscovered historical artefacts, such as a Roman bridge and road, which furthered their understanding of the connection between their own civilisation and that of Europe.

The project made a big impression on the young people, who, by the end, felt a true reconnection with Turkey's and Europe's common culture. The general feedback on the project was that the young people consider themselves exceedingly as citizens of Europe and that they would like to contribute to the European Union with their new ideas.

Organisation:
The Support for The Natural Life Club

Participating countries:
Turkey

Website:
www.dogaciyiz.com

Contact:
plaseboserdar@hotmail.com



Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Chances4tod@s e ser feliz – EPA European Youth Exchange Lisbon 2007

Action 1.1: Youth Exchanges

This international youth exchange took place in Portugal and involved youth organisations from Germany, the United Kingdom, Slovakia, Italy, Spain, and Portugal. 68 participants consisting of 59 youth and nine group leaders were involved in the project. More than 50 of the young people were disadvantaged in their communities.

The goals taken on by the project were to encourage social inclusion, participation between youth of different cultural backgrounds, give a sense of European citizenship, and get youth active in physical outdoor activities. The youth exchange provided a context in which young people could share their experiences, become aware of new ideas, challenge themselves, and return home with a heightened awareness regarding gender equality, and, in general, a better outlook on the future. The project encouraged playing, learning, and working together in the spirit of European citizenship and cooperation.

Organisation:

EPA – European Play Work Association

Participating countries:

Germany, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Slovakia, United Kingdom

Website:

www.go-epa.org/

Contact:

epa@go-epa.org



Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Reaching Diversity: Making International Youth Exchanges inclusive for all young people

Action 1.4: Pilot Project on Thematic networking

The project intends to create dialogue among young people about developing strategies and methods to facilitate the inclusion of youth with fewer opportunities in international exchanges. Furthermore, the project attempts to empower and train youth leaders and workers to develop international youth exchanges that raise awareness around diversity. The implementing organisation YEU is specialised in promoting peace, understanding, and cooperation among young people through international youth exchanges and training courses.

They plan on reaching their objective through partner meetings, and a seminar covering the topic entitled “Youth Participation, How inclusive we are.” The project entails a training course aimed at providing youth leaders and workers with the necessary skills to implement youth exchanges, as well as an information day on the Youth in Action Programme in each country involved with the organisation. The project closes with an evaluation meeting.

Organisation:

YEU – Youth for Exchange and Understanding

Participating countries:

Czech Republic, Spain, France, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Finland, Turkey

Website:

www.reachingdiversity.com

Contact:

sg@yeu-international.org



Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Group EVS Austria – European Football Championships 2008

Action 2: European Voluntary Service

The project strived to develop solidarity, promote tolerance, and encourage mutual understanding amongst youth. The project was getting two groups of European Voluntary Service participants together during the UEFA Euro 2008. One group of 25 volunteers was hosted in Vienna and another of 55 was going to be in Salzburg. The groups were involved in organising activities around the UEFA EURO 2008, such as setting up youth centres and an information zone. The 80 volunteers were sponsored by 25 different organisations and hosted by 18 projects coordinated by Akzente Salzburg and Vienna Verein Grenzenlos.

Organisation:

Akzente Salzburg

Participating countries:

Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Latvia, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Romania, United Kingdom, Turkey

Website:

www.eurovol.at

Contact:

b.sieberth@akzente.net



Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Jeunes ambassadeurs d'une citoyenneté planétaire (Young Ambassadors of Global Citizenship)

Action 3.2: Cooperation with other countries of the world

This project has a clear priority: including youth in strengthening civil society, citizenship, and democracy. It aims to reinforce youth's active participation by raising awareness around the challenges involved with global citizenship, communication, and education, as well as by developing values of solidarity, liberty, and intercultural dialogue. The project trains youth to become ambassadors of global citizenship, facilitate a communication campaign, and develop a declaration outlining young people's perspective on active citizenship.

730 young people and 90 youth workers are expected to participate in the project. Through their participation, young people contribute to raising awareness on issues relating to global citizenship, the benefits of intercultural dialogue, and the realities of different political and socio-economic situations. Youth participating in the project develop leadership skills and become more aware of the challenges involved with being a world citizen.

Organisation:

Idées Nouvelles Europe

Participating countries:

Spain, France, Italy, Argentina, Chile, Peru

Website:

www.ideesnouvelles.com/

Contact:

ine@ideesnouvelles.eu





Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Back to the future

Action 4.4: Projects encouraging innovation and quality in the Youth sector

This project supports people who have dropped out of school involving four partners from Hungary, Italy, Greece, and Bulgaria. It aims to create lasting change in the areas of education, employment, and society by integrating youth with fewer opportunities into their local communities. Methods used to achieve this goal include non-formal education based on intercultural and intergenerational dialogue, through which youths and adults share life experiences and jointly impact their communities. Both, disadvantaged youngsters and other local inhabitants are empowered to act as active citizens.

The project is divided into three phases. The first phase features a five-day international meeting bringing 20 young people and four coordinators together. This dialogue entails the organisation of two training sessions that explore methods used by local authorities knowledgeable in the field of educational policy. The second phase develops an intergenerational forum, along with youth activities at the local level. Finally, the third phase is devoted to evaluating the work and following up the activities. Two important elements on the local level are creating employment opportunities within the local labour market and developing support systems for youth activities. A website and four conferences organised at local level are aimed at insuring the project's visibility.



Organisation:

Belvarosi Tanoda Alapítvány

Participating countries:

Hungary, Italy, Greece, Bulgaria

Website:

www.youthopportunity.extra.hu/

Contact:

editbta@interware.hu

Imprint

European Commission
Directorate-General for Education and Culture
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