

Come to SEE Youthpass Training course

18-23 April 2010
Belgrade, Serbia

Final Report

This report is based on the following sources:

- Pre-questionnaires and post-questionnaires filled in by participants at the beginning and the end of the training course
- Feedback from participants during the training course
- Feedback from the National Agencies staff and the trainers given during the team meetings
- The evaluation session organised at the end of the course
- The list of participants

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Background of the course

Currently, there is no systematic support available for the Youthpass in the Neighbouring Partner Countries. SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre and several National Agencies (French, German, Hellenic, Portuguese and Slovenian) identified a need for further support and training on Youthpass in South East Europe, following the region's active involvement in the Youth in Action Programme. The need to increase the knowledge and awareness of youth organisations for Youthpass, its technical use as well as educational and political contexts, was the main motivation for organising this activity. SALTO Training and Cooperation, responsible for overall development of the Youthpass, was integrated in the preparation of the activity in order to ensure the coherence of the process with the developments and priorities in the European level. The training course 'Come to SEE Youthpass' was organised by the The French, German, Hellenic, Portuguese and Slovenian National Agencies in cooperation with SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre and SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre during the period of 18-23 April 2010 in Belgrade, Serbia . 21 participants took part in the course coming from different countries. The course was delivered by the international team of trainers: Nerijus Kriauciunas, Tadej Pugelj and Vojislava Tomic Radivojsa.

Aims and objectives

The main aim of the training course was to improve the quality of Youth in Action Projects involving organisations from South East Europe, by raising the participants' awareness on the principles of non-formal learning and its validation, and training them to implement Youthpass in their future projects (EVS, Youth Exchanges and Training Courses). The objectives of the course were:

- To create possibilities for sharing experience among youth leaders from different countries in SEE and develop expertise in non-formal education;
- To explore the concept and exchange practice of non-formal learning in youth work, especially in the context of South East Europe;
- To raise awareness on the potential and educational value of youth work in the frame of eight key competences for life-long learning;
- To promote and deepen the understanding and knowledge of Youthpass as a tool for recognition and validation of non-formal learning in youth work;
- To raise awareness of the wider recognition context of non-formal education and learning through reflection on recent developments in youth and education policies in the region;
- To provide the participants with a possibility to experience Youthpass by integrating self-assessment of competences and issuing of the certificates in the programme of the training course;
- To train the participants on the technical use of Youthpass and facilitation of self-assessment of competences, with the aim of enabling them to issue Youthpasses for participants in their future projects under the Youth in Action Programme (EVS, Youth Exchanges and Training Courses).

Evaluation methodology

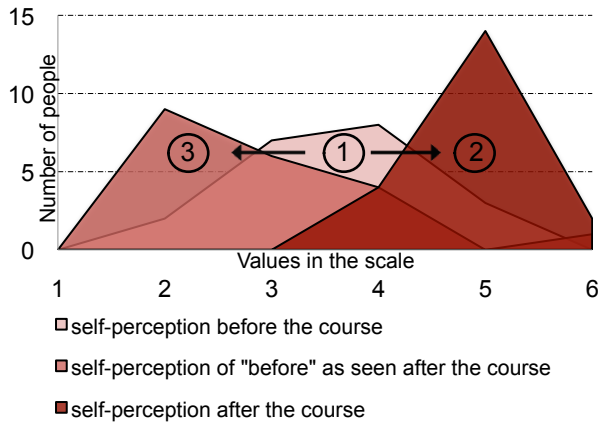
The course evaluation was based on the pre-then-post evaluation system. At the beginning of the course, participants were filling in the pre-questionnaires. At the end of the course, participants were filling in the post-questionnaires, including their self-perception of their knowledge, skills and attitudes before the course. The evaluation form was used to collect the feedback from participants on the quality of the training course and its organisation. Mid-term and final evaluation with participants was implemented during the course. Training team was meeting for daily evaluation. The final team evaluation was done after the training course was finished.

Further information

For further information, please contact Maija Lehto, representative of SALTO South East Europe Resource Center (Maija.Lehto@mva.si).

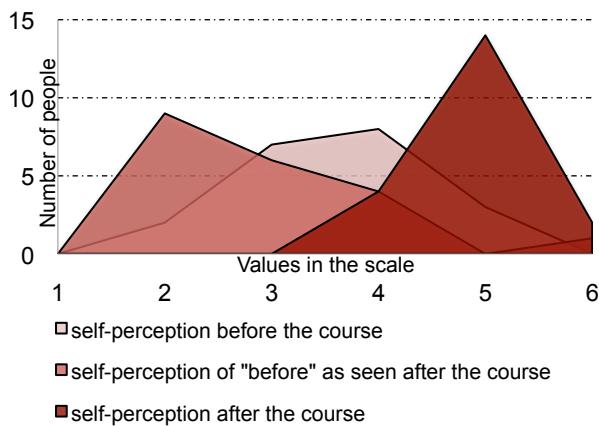
2. GROUP LEARNING PROCESS AND RESULTS

Example: Ability to carry out an evaluation of the project

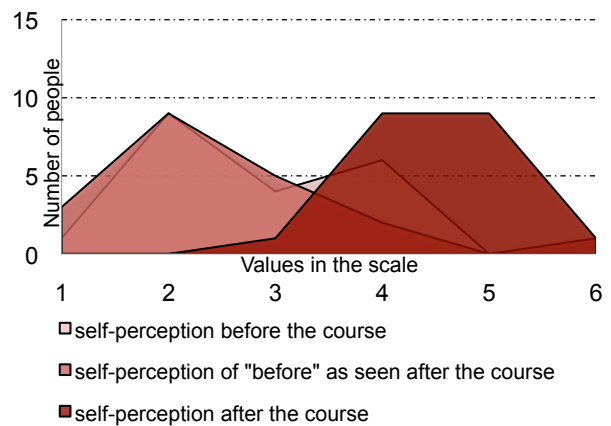


INTREPRETATIONS: The graphs display the data from the pre- and post-questionnaires. The shift of the area 2 to the left comparing with the area 1 reveals the positive impact of the course as perceived by participants and expressed in pre- and post-questionnaires. In addition, the shift of area 3 to the left comparing to the area 1 expands the impact of the course by eliminating possible overestimation in one's self-perception done at the beginning of the course.

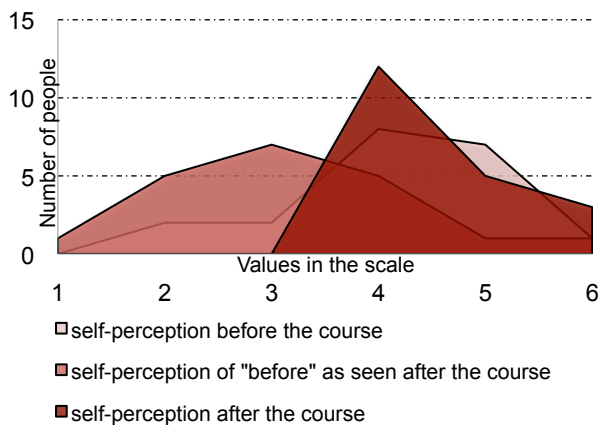
2.1 Idea and philosophy of Youthpass in the Youth in Action Programme



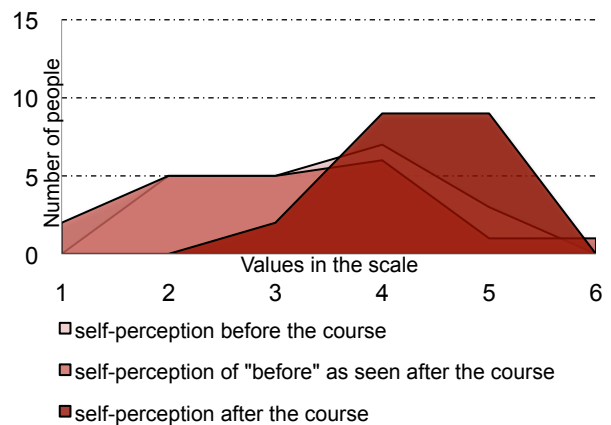
2.2 Knowledge of Youthpass process in different Youth in Action activities



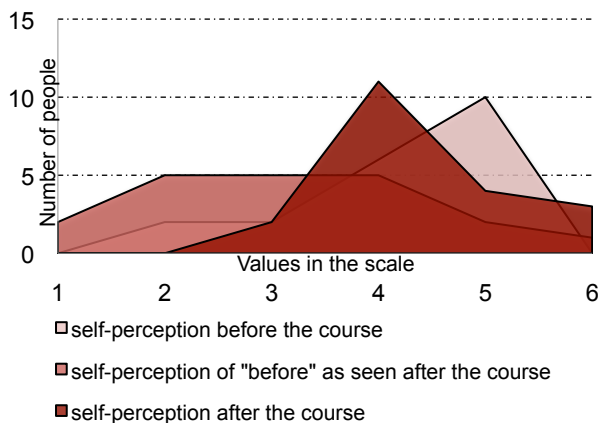
2.3 Ability to reflect on own learning in non-formal learning context



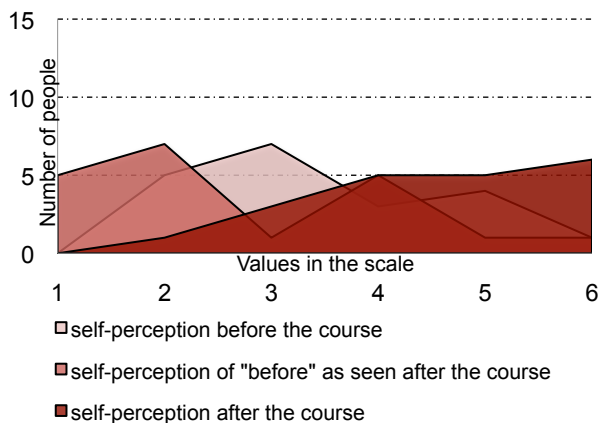
2.4 Awareness about the broader context of recognition



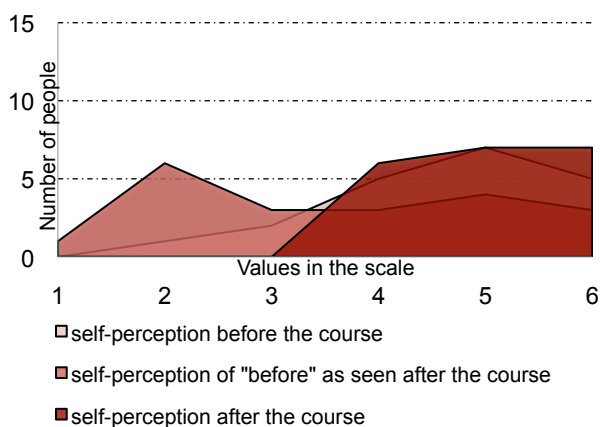
2.5 Ability to recognise and describe your learning outcomes



2.6 Confidence to implement Youthpass process in different Youth in Action activities



2.7 Confidence to implement non-formal learning in different Youth in Action activities

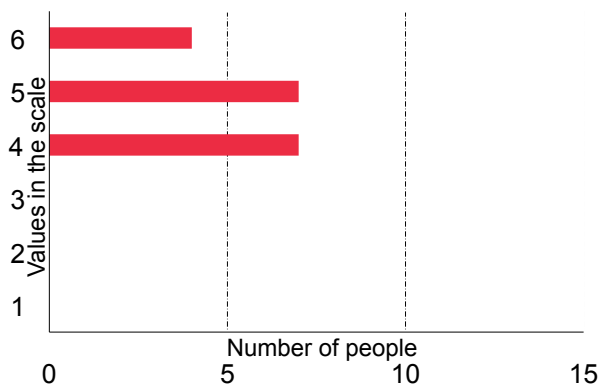


General conclusions:

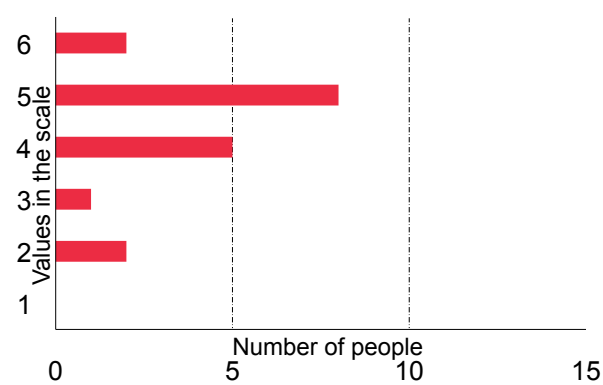
Participants expressed that their knowledge on Youthpass significantly increased. Several peoples' self-perception changed, showing they were overestimating their knowledge at the beginning of the training. Most of participants expressed their skills were significantly developed. For most of them, self-perception also changed, showing that their initial perception overestimated their skills. In oral evaluation people confirmed that most valuable learning happened in the areas reflected in the graphs 2.3 and 2.5. The fact that participants kept their confidence to further implementation of Youthpass, no matter how the initial perception were changed, team explained by the strong support and motivation that was provided by the program. Participants were most realistic in the self-assessment of their knowledge on recognition. Since the level of their knowledge was low, the team concluded the objective of exchanging practices in the recognition field was not feasible to achieve with this group of participants.

3. QUALITY OF THE TRAINING COURSE

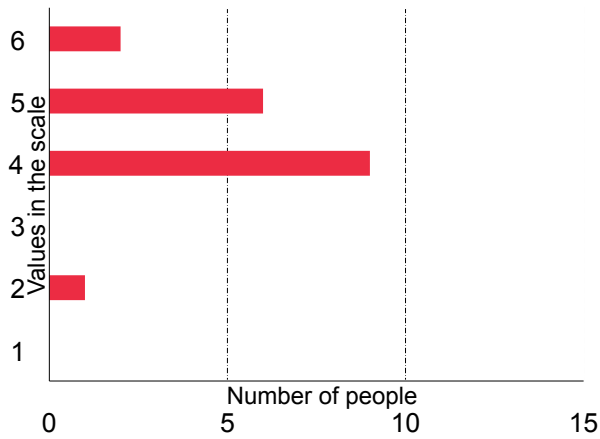
3.1 Environment was comfortable to learn



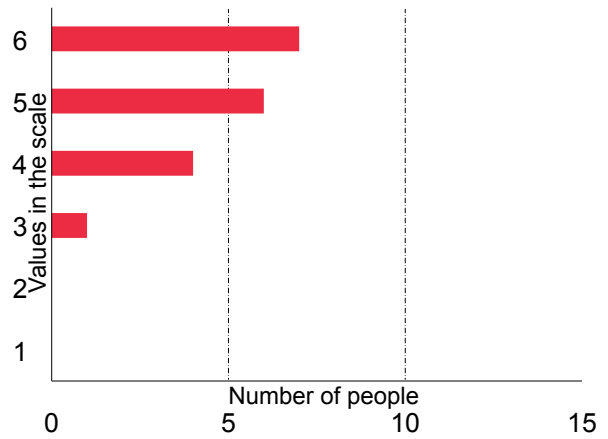
3.2 Experiences was taken into consideration



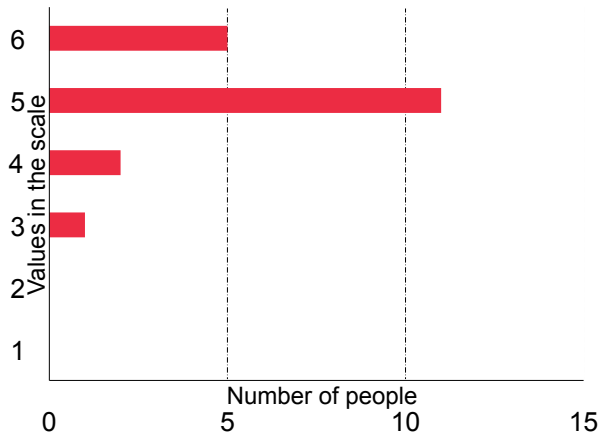
3.3 Learned from other participants



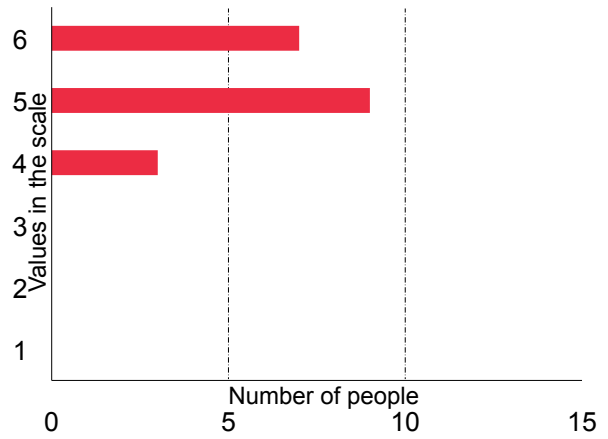
3.4 Appropriate resources were available



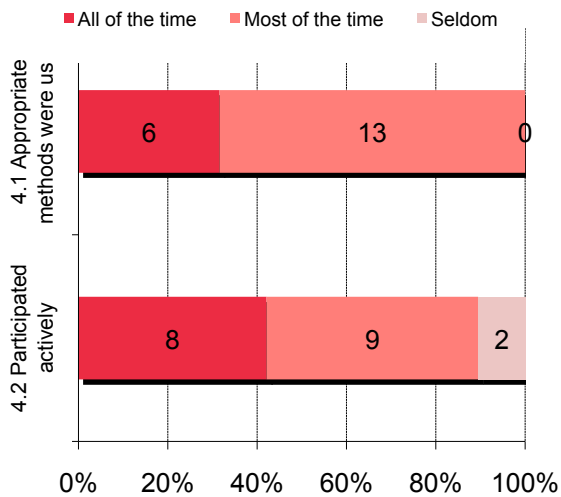
3.5 Will apply learning back home



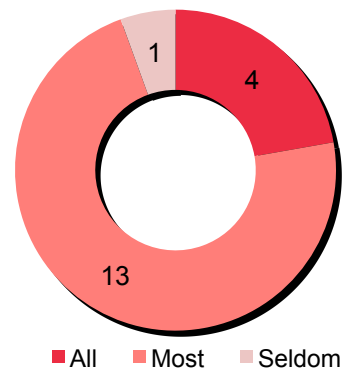
3.6 Course met aims and objectives



4. METHODS AND INDIVIDUAL LEARNING



4.3 Learning needs were addressed



5. LEARNING EXPERIENCE DURING THE COURSE

For participants the most relevant in learning experience were: a) self-assessment process b) implementing reflection tools and developing skills for using it in practice c) implementation of their own Youthpass process d) raising awareness and developing knowledge on learning to learn. As weak points of the learning process participants stressed they were missing sometimes their full commitment and effort. The team was aware of various levels of experience of participants therefore there was a big diversity of approaches in order to address the individual and group learning needs and to ensure participants fully involvement. The group specificity was that most people spoke common language. This was both, positive for group dynamics but also required special attention for use of English as main working language and for inclusion of people who could not follow common language.

6. FEEDBACK ON THE TOPICS TACKLED DURING THE COURSE

Participants expressed their satisfaction with the content of the course finding all the topics being useful. They mentioned as the most relevant and useful topics: a) general introduction of the Youthpass b) knowledge and skills on 8 Key-competences c) implementation of the Youthpass within the Youth in Action projects e) understanding of wider context of the Youthpass process and its implementation f) experience of local organizations in Youthpass implementation. Team concluded there was a clear flow of the content and methodology, including guests from local reality. The fact that there was no topic considered as least useful, team related to the low level of expectations of the participants or lack of previous experience. Team pointed out it was very useful to start the training with providing knowledge and information on Youthpass. The session on the last day was redesigned in order to support describing the learning outcomes using the 8 Key-competences framework and was highly evaluated by the team.

7. COMMENTS ON THE TRAINING PROGRAMME

Participants stated that the training course supported and motivated them in the further Youthpass implementation. They considered the training innovative, creative and fully understandable. The important element was the practical dimension of the training and the transfer they can easily make to their future work within Youth in Action activities. Team concluded it was a short and focused training course with right amount of time for the topic. The objectives of the training course are fulfilled. Objective exchanging practices on recognition practices was reached partially because of the profile of the participants who did not have much experience in the field, therefore first needed knowledge. Related to this, there was an idea initiated during the training course to create a SALTO SEE RC platform on recognition issues and Youthpass.

8. YOUTHPASS CERTIFICATES

First two pages of the Youthpass Certificate were prepared before and during the training course, since it was planned to print them at the end of the training. Participants had specific time within training programme to finalize the description of their learning outcomes within 8 Key-competence framework. Most of participants entered their individual part of Youthpass certificate using the web-tool as part of their learning process. Since all the official representatives that were needed to sign Youthpass certificate were not present at the training course, participants could not get their Youthpass certificates printed at the end of the training course. They were given time to revise their descriptions after the course with a feedback possibility from trainers side. At the time of completing this report there were 20 participants out of 21 who filled in their individual part of the Youthpass Certificate relating their learning outcomes to the Key-competence framework.

Annex 1: Youthpass Situation in SEE

The data in this annex are based on team perception and reflection, therefore not providing space for any generalization and still might providing some relevant points to take into consideration.

The profile of the participants of the training course was not offering possibility to explore further about the recognition practices in the region and the role of Youthpass within it. On the other hand participants were representative group for the people involved in Youth in Action Program in the region - motivated to work in the European field and having youth work as one of the fields of their work. There was a perception in team it was easier to reach organizations active in EVS and training courses then the ones implementing youth exchanges e.g. when looking for good practices of Youthpass in the region, or if looking at the experience and interest of the participants.

The participants had a pre-assignment for the training course to discuss with their peers, colleagues and associates on the concept of learning and its recognition. (*How they understand "learning", and what is the level of knowledge about non-formal learning and Youthpass in their surroundings.*) During the programme of activities the participants discussed together with a representative of the SALTO South East Europe on the topic. The outcomes cannot naturally be fully generalised, yet they provide an interesting insight on the topic from a perspective of youth workers in South East Europe. Majority of the participants felt that the concept of non-formal learning is either completely unknown in their surroundings or the understanding is very limited. The participants also had an impression, that non-formal learning and -education is often defined only in relation to formal education, as something less valuable or less essential, without really adding any content to it. Many of the participants themselves also expressed for example, that they would hesitate adding a certificate validating a non-formal learning experience to their portfolios or job applications outside the youth field, since they did not believe it would further their efforts. In relation to the understanding of non-formal learning in European context participants found out more similarities than differences in the region.

Regarding the youth field and in particular the context of Youth in Action Programme, the participants perceived the general knowledge and understanding of non-formal learning is better, yet they expressed concern over the lack of knowledge of the Youthpass instrument among the youth organisations, also those very active in the Youth in Action Programme. Yet, it was possible to identify and share some good local practices of the organisations in Youthpass implementation (EVS: Young Researchers of Serbia, Belgrade / www.mis.org.rs and Training courses: BalkanIdea, Novi Sad / www.balkanideans.org.)

Considering the experience of the participants themselves, with regards to the Youthpass implementation, it was pointed out that the organizations would benefit more if they would have information of the content of the EVS, training courses and information on how Youthpass process is integrated within these training courses - it would develop understanding between volunteers and hosting organizations on Youthpass implementation.

The outcomes of the discussion reflect the prior perception of the SALTO South East Europe on the situation. There are organisations and initiatives in the region, familiar with the concept and working steadily on its further recognition. However, for many of the youth organisations, no matter their involvement in the Youth in Action Programme, it is difficult to conceptualise and understand their activities as educational. Continuous support for the overall understanding of the core concepts and principles of the Youth in Action Programme is required, especially for the newcomers of the Programme. In addition to this, more specific support measures for the use of the Youthpass instrument would benefit for the more experienced organisations.

Training course **Come to SEE Youthpass!**
18-23 April 2010, Belgrade, Serbia

FINAL PROGRAMME

Time	Arrival day, 18 April (Sun)	Day 2, 19 April (Mon)	Day 3, 20 April (Tue)	Day 4, 21 April (Wed)	Day 5, 22 April (Thu)	Departure day, 23 April (Fri)	
8.00	Arrival of participants	<i>Breakfast</i>					Departure of participants
10.00		No introduction to the training course Our youth work context (backgrounds, practices, understandings)	Let's talk about... learning with young people Planning learning in youth activities	Youthpass in Youth in Action Youthpass challenges and benefits for quality in Youth in Action projects	Reflection time – my learning and Youthpass		
13.30		<i>Lunch</i>					
15.30		Non-formal learning and Youth work (in Europe) Crash course on Youthpass Reflection time	Exploring local reality linked to the topic Free time	Non-formal learning - an added value/benefit for young people!? Visibility of Youthpass in the local context Reflection time	Guessing future (from the coffee settlings) Evaluation of the training course		
19.30	<i>Dinner</i>		<i>Dinner out</i>	<i>Dinner</i>			
21.30	Welcome evening	Youthpass techno party			SEE you again evening		

10. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Name and surname (Gender)	Country	Organisation (email contact)
1. Shpetim Dulla (M)	Albania	Youth in free initiative (timkulla@usa.com)
2. Daniela Dosti (F)	Albania	Beyond Barriers (danidosti@yahoo.com)
3. Gojko Kukavica (M)	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Youth center "Zdravo Da Ste"(Hi neighbour) (gojkokukavica@gmail.com)
4. Melina halilovic (F)	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Roma youth initiative "Be my friend" (melina_halilovic@yahoo.com)
5. Aleksandra Đuričić (F)	Bosnia and Herzegovina	NGO Cerebra (djuricicsandra@gmail.com)
6. Binela Agic (F)	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Omladinski centar-Jajce (oc.projekti@gmail.com)
7. Vesna Katalinić (F)	Croatia	Brave Phone-Helpline for Abused and Neglected Children (vesna@hrabritelefon.hr)
8. Katja Trinajstić (F)	Croatia	AEGEE (katja.trinajstic@gmail.com)
9. Aleksandra Podrebarac (F)	Croatia	Carpe Diem (carpe.diem1@ka.t-com.hr)
10. Milcho Duli (M)	Macedonia	Group Felix (milcod@gmail.com)
11. Darko Jakimovski (M)	Macedonia	PEL (zardarko@yahoo.com)
12. Matej Manevski (M)	Macedonia	Center for Intercultural Dialogue (matej@cid.mk)
13. Gjorgji Nanchev (M)	Macedonia	Council for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency - SPPMD (klik_klak2002@yahoo.com)
14. Tijana Trifunova (F)	Macedonia	Center for Local Development - Antigonea - Negotino (tijana_trifunova@yahoo.com)
15. Milivoje Lakić (M)	Kosovo	NGO "School of painting" Ugljare (milivojko@hotmail.com)
16. Dijana Puskar (F)	Serbia	NGO "IUVENTA" (dijana_puskar@yahoo.com)
17. Elena Kragulj (F)	Serbia	OSMEH (elena.kragulj@gmail.com)
18. Kristina Lilić (F)	Serbia	The Association for Protection and Promotion of Mental Health in Children and Youth (kristinavlilic@gmail.com)
19. Zoran Zlatkovic (M)	Serbia	Organization of creative grouping (okoorganizacija@verat.net)
20. Vladimir Budalic (M)	Serbia	Pokret Gorana Vojvodine (budjolini@gmail.com, budjomir@yahoo.com)
21. Jelena Glamočanin (F)	Serbia	centre of multicultural coporation Jules Verne (julesverne@nadlanu.com)