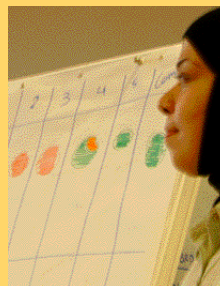
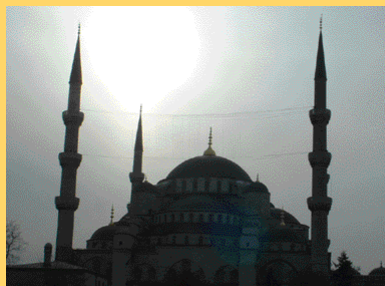
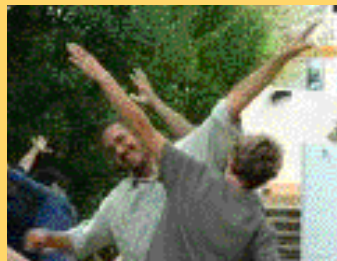


Meet'In EuroMed

SALTO YOUTH EUROMED QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2003

1



- édito
- NA'S perspective
- NC'perspective
- Events
- EuroMed good practices





>> Salto Euro-Med Magazine

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome this magazine as a new means of communication for all of us working in various ways and in different countries at the implementation of the Euro-Med Youth Programme. This second phase of the programme has been one of consolidation: we are increasing the number of projects, improving their quality, focussing more and more on our specific priorities and reinforcing the supporting structures of the programme. We have now National Coordinators in 11 out of 12 Mediterranean partner countries, we have efficient cooperation and twinning between National Coordinators and National Agencies and we can count on the support of 8 SALTO Resource Centres, including one dedicated entirely to Euro-Med. We have also made an effort to improve the visibility of all our initiatives at EU level

and in the Mediterranean countries and will continue to do so. The launch of the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Platform in Malta, last September, was another important step towards the establishment of a permanent network and forum of youth organisations in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Furthermore, the Covenant with the Council of Europe is providing additional resources to enhance the quality of training in Euro-Mediterranean youth work. We can therefore say that we have built a solid base for the Euro-Med Youth Programme to stand on, in terms of management and support structures. In January 2004, our programme will enter the last year of its 2nd phase. Our wish is of course to get the chance to continue in order to see the fruits of the efforts and the investments made until now. We want to reach a critical mass and maximise the impact of the programme. Negotiations for the 3rd phase are already underway at Commission level. As the enlargement of the EU is approaching, political attention is increasingly focussed on the "new

neighbourhood policy". In this context, the dialogue between peoples and cultures in the Mediterranean region is going to play and increasingly important role. Our programme uses non-formal education as a vehicle for learning about diversity and transmitting knowledge of the "Other". In this respect, I am quite confident that we stand a good chance of being able to carry on our work in the framework of a new Euro-Med Youth Programme. Let me take this opportunity to wish you all, your families and organisations a healthy, happy and successful new year.



Pierre Mairesse
Head of "Youth" Unit DG "Education and Culture"
European Commission

>> Why Meet'in EuroMed?

While discussing about a valuable communication strategy we decided that we could offer to ALL EuroMed Youth programme actors (participants, national coordinators, national agencies officers, trainers...) the possibility to contribute to the "EuroMed cause" by writing! Therefore, for our first issue, we proposed to some EuroMed "actors" to contribute by sending us a genuine article relating about their own experience while running, organising or participating (into) a EuroMed activity. More concretely, we asked them to tell us about a specific EuroMed fact or event they

lived focusing, when possible, on a more personal level. We wanted them to communicate their hopes and fears, their feelings, memories, impressions...and whatever they considered a meaningful moment to be shared with others. What we received was an amazing and very diverse collection of events seen under very personal angles by its authors. As you may imagine, the red line is the EuroMed Youth Programme and this "puzzle" of experiences represents what we mean by richness through diversity! To conclude, we invite you, dear readers, to

send us an original article expressing what EuroMed means to you, how did you benefit from it or just a simple impression you want to share. Together with your written contribution you should include some pictures (one of yourself and other "worth watching" images related to the activity you are writing about!!) which we will automatically add to the text. We hope you will have plenty of adventures to share with us!

Enjoy your reading!

The Salto YouthEuroMed
Resource Centre's Team



The challenge of the Euromed Cooperation

Why is cooperation crucial? Why is it a challenge? I will try to answer these questions with relation to my experience within the Euromed Youth Programme.

In my case, as you may know, everything started while cooperating with the Salto Youth EuroMed Resource Centre team's, which is in charge of the Euromed Youth training strategy as well as of the training contents of all Salto EuroMed training courses.

The hosting NA/NC has to take into account several organisational aspects mainly the whole logistic part. In my opinion, the challenge is clearly visible: both programmes and the logistical aspects must be sharply adapted to the selected participants by taking into consideration differences in cultures, age, religion, food habits, background, etc. Nevertheless, to be successful, all participants must be eager to take part in it !

In order to make this event pleasant and interesting, it is necessary to propose real opportunities for cooperation and to involve everybody. Thus, it is worth repeating that participants' cooperation is vital. At the same time, we should not forget that cooperation involves other entities too like the Salto RC and the NA/NC; if one fails, everybody fails.

According to my experience, these challenges have been very stimulating: in March 2002 we hosted the training course "Step IN", during April 2003 we participated in a "study visit" to Egypt in collaboration with the French NA, in May 2003 we hosted a "Step TO" and last but not least we will host a training course for "EuroMed Project Officers and National Coordinators" in December 2003.

To conclude, we will participate to a training course for "EuroMed Multipliers" in Egypt (December 2003).



Ana VIDEIRA
*Project Officer - Action 5
National Agency for the
Youth Programme
Portugal*
E-mail: ana.videira@ipj.pt

Seeing people committed and focused on "what is common" rather than on "what is different", motivated and willing to do more and better by cooperating with others is the best reward I could receive. I hope I will keep getting these strong feelings from my participation into the EuroMed Programme.



Cooperating over the Borders: a Training Course on Project Management in Alexandria, Egypt.

>> Introduction

This article describes the planning and execution of this activity and the lessons learned.

As stated above during February 2003, a joint EuroMed activity, a cooperation between Egypt, Denmark, Jordan, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom, took place in Alexandria, Egypt.

The activity was initiated already 2001, when all the involved countries were "twinning partners" (Egypt-Denmark, Jordan-Sweden, Turkey-United Kingdom). There was a desire to create a mutual activity between the twinning partners where a framework for further cooperation could be developed.

The activity, which mainly consisted of a Project Management Training Course and a Contact Making Seminar, had a number of goals:

- Develop project management skills among the participants
- Develop concrete projects within the framework of the EuroMed Youth Programme
- Develop intercultural awareness between the Mediterranean and the European region
- Develop a network between National Agencies and National Coordinators to promote further cooperation

>> Preparation of activity

In order to prepare the activity, a meeting was held in October 2002 in Alexandria, where the National Agency of Sweden, the Egypt National Coordinator and the trainers participated. During this meeting the programme of the course was planned, the profile of participants was decided and the work was divided within the project team.

An important role in this project was the role of the Swedish Institute in Alexandria (SIA), an institute under the government of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. SIA is actively working to promote dialogue between the Mediterranean countries and Europe and one of their priorities is young people. SIA was early chosen as a partner for the training course both based on their skills and knowledge of the region and because they had excellent facilities for the course activities. They also sponsored the project with facilities and some meals for participants during the training course.

▼ Event

- **Partner countries: Egypt, Denmark, Jordan, Turkey, Sweden, United Kingdom**
- **Participants: 26 youth workers**
- **Team consisted of National Coordinators of Jordan and Egypt plus National Agencies representatives from Denmark, Sweden and the United Kingdom.**
- **Trainers from Egypt, Sweden and the United Kingdom.**
- **Training concept developed in SALTO-UK, 2001**
- **Venue: The Swedish Institute in Alexandria (SIA), Egypt.**
- **Date: 19th - 27th of February 2003**





>> Preparation of participants

The preparations of the selected participants were thorough; a national meeting was held one month before the course in each country to prepare the participants for the course. Information about the EuroMed Youth Programme, intercultural learning, the political situation in the region, practical arrangements and the expectations on the results of the course was discussed with the participants.

A web-based forum (an e-group), was created on the Yahoo portal to facilitate communication between the participants and the project team before the course. All these preparation tasks were done with the expectation that actual projects would emanate from the course.

>> Project methodology

The project methodology was partly based on a training concept developed by SALTO-UK during 2001. By using simulated cases, the training sessions activated all participants to practice newly developed skills.

The participants were divided in small groups with mixed-country participants and had to learn how to cooperate, plan and execute activities and evaluate the results.

Particularly interesting were the evaluation of the case-based training, where participants discussed and learned a lot about the views on planning, responsibilities, risks and participation from an intercultural perspective.

The last and most important session involved actual project planning where participants interacted to create actual projects within the EuroMed Youth Programme.

>> Project results – Lessons learned

About ten actual and approved projects have been, so far, the result of this course. The e-group is still alive and the participants are discussing future projects. Also, as a result of the project, an initiative to create a project manual for youth leaders using the EuroMed Youth Programme was initiated.

This English manual, when completed, will be translated to Arabic, courtesy of the Swedish Institute in Alexandria.

Perhaps not so tangible, but nevertheless very important, are the lessons learned about how to cooperate and understand each other over the borders. This project had its fair share of communication difficulties between different nationalities due to cultural and language differences.

We experienced that a clear communication about roles, responsibilities and expectations within the project team is a key to a successful project and that cultural and language differences makes this a challenge - something that needs to be addressed early on in a project.

My personal experience is that this cooperation has been a very strong experience. Meeting people from many cultures, cooperating, discussing, sharing experiences, laughing and crying together was both a joy and a challenge. I truly believe that EuroMed brings a great opportunity for personal development to its participants!



Åsa GUSTAFSSON,
Programme Officer
National Agency
for the Youth Programme
Sweden

UNGDOMSSTYRELSEN
The Swedish National Board
for Youth Affairs
e-mail: asa@ungdomsstyrelsen.se
website: www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se



This is the story of the EVS- Meda Training in Finland 2003

“The Mediterranean area is regarded as the cradle of civilisation; the teeming meeting-ground of cultures from time immemorial, the Baltic by contrast is usually seen as a chilly, peripheral backwater on the very edge of the civilised world (David Kirby)”

David, David*, where were you in the end of September 2003 when Finland organised the first ever EVS-training course in MEDA-framework?

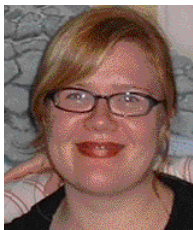
This is the story of the EVS-MEDA training in Finland 2003

Since 2003 - when funds for third country projects had been decentralised to the national level in Finland we felt that “little door” that the European Commission had opened for cooperation outside programme countries was closed to small countries such as Finland. It was not a “big bang” and maybe you didn't even hear it!

But for us it meant that only three projects - per year and per action - could become a “funding reality” for the over 40 countries which might have been available for youth projects.

More concretely, it meant that we were only able to send a handful of participants to many of the interesting training courses organised within this context.

So, when we sent some participants, we told them to find some possible partners from countries that can finance the project. In order to initiate projects about cooperation this situation was hardly an equal one!



Kati INKINEN,
Programme Coordinator,
Action 2 and EuroMed Youth contact person
National Agency for the Youth Programme - Finland
kati.inkinen@cimo.fi
Centre for International Mobility CIMO
EU Youth Programme SUOMI-FINLAND
http://www.cimo.fi
http://www.maailmalle.net
http://www.eurodesk.org

The ten Finnish youngster thank you,
European Commission, for being able to participate
in the MEDA Youth-programme!

Living at one side (or at the opposite one) of Europe means that the travel costs to/from any MEDA - country are extremely high and approximately 60% of the total cost. One solution would be encouraging youth exchanges in bicycles!



Team building activity



Family life:

The task was to find out what is does "family" mean in each participating country and then make a statue/play of a family in south/north.

*David Kirby is a historian who has written about the Baltic world. "Northern Europe in the Early Modern Period. The Baltic World 1492-1772". London, 1990

Or, since most of the MEDA budget remained centralised in the Commission, it would be wise for the MEDA partners to apply, so one should facilitate the partnerships between MEDA and EU partners.

Why not organising then a contact making seminar in order to promote partnerships? The idea was proposed 2002 in the Training and Cooperation Planning meeting and many agencies expressed their interest to a directly action related training and CMS.

So we wanted to develop the partnerships between MEDA and EU partners, between grass root level organisations and people working with young people who then could possibly give birth to a long term cooperation sending and hosting EVS volunteers.

We wished to allow participants to gain a wider understanding of how MEDA Youth-programme and especially EVS works. We wanted to take this challenge even if we had no natural links to the area, nor linguistic neither historical.

Focusing on partnership

The 27 participants came from Egypt, Jordan, Tunis, Turkey, Belgium (FL), Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom and Finland.

The Tunisians came for the first time to a non-French speaking training and they were very glad to start slowly using their English...and that "slow" became very fast by the end of the training course!

We spent four and half intensive and full training days exploring EVS. We wanted to keep the seminar quite concrete by using the living experiences of the EVS-volunteers plus knowledge and good practises from the participants already involved in the programme. We focused on different kind of useful point which must be taken in consideration during the different steps of EVS when project is in a "MEDA context". We wanted to underline one of the key elements in European Voluntary Service - the partnership.

In how many projects does this partnership really exist? Is it just a signature on the page when the partnership agreement is needed? What impact does the EVS participation bring, on the local level, when an organisation sends young people abroad not knowing them and their needs and not knowing the partner organisation and its needs?

We also got to know Finnish culture by taking off the shoes inside houses, having lunch at eleven and sauna at midnight. By the end of the seminar there were 16 Youth-projects that were planned and half of them were from the MEDA-partners.

There were some excellent EVS initiatives which had only one fault: too many partners, therefore expensive and which will never be funded by decentralised funds!

Frustration grew also inside me, what is the point in training these people and their innovative ideas when they will get a "NO" to their ideas? Also now, as I am writing, I hear that there shall be a funding increase for Programme Countries for 2004. The door has been opened...a little.



From the Diary of a National Coordinator

Since my teenage years, I remember being always very active and never missing an opportunity to be involved in any youth activity (from excursions to national exchanges) within my country, Jordan. During my University studies, I was involved in the Community Service Programme, which I liked very much. From that time onwards, many doors began to open for me and I became more active at the Regional and International level.

Believe me, these youth related activities have completely changed my life as a young woman.

After my graduation I faced the reality of the youth work situation in my country, realizing that young people, after their studies, have fewer chances to be involved in youth activities. There were no well established youth organizations and the few existing ones were run by elderly people deciding everything for the youngsters. So, as young people, we had no choice but to quit or to follow the rules and instructions indicated by elderly people.

Personally, I had the chance to keep operating in the youth field by becoming a Youth Supervisor for the Ministry of Youth. In addition, I was nominated to represent my country in several international youth exchanges, while being aware that only few young people had this opportunity. Therefore I always felt sorry for the majority of those youngsters who had no chances to participate in such events.

During my work as a Youth Supervisor, I kept the dream of doing something to help our young people and I wished to become a decision maker in my country in order to change this situation.

So one day, in 1999, I couldn't believe my ears when I heard that I had been nominated National Coordinator for the Euro-Med Youth Programme.

I wondered where all this luck was coming from? Should I accept it or leave it, especially taking into consideration the present situation of youth work in my country? How will I proceed with this job? Once again it was a great challenge and I decided to go for it!

This position didn't make me a real decision maker, but it gave me the opportunity to work directly on a daily basis with young people. I kept in mind my feelings and my frustration when I was their age even if I had to recognize that youth work national reality had improved during the last decade.

So, as a National Coordinator - and during four years - I have always tried to stand beside young people to give my help and support.

They are the future of our country! I believe in the spirit of Euro-Med and I try to transfer this concept to the local community by organizing different youth events.



Sahar AL-FAYEZ
Euro-Med National Coordinator - Jordan
E-mail: Sahar@euro-medyouth.gov.jo



My dream was to help less advantaged young people by giving them the opportunity to experience other cultures and civilizations through meeting young people from different EU countries.

In the beginning, being a NC was a difficult task.

During working hours, I use to receive many young people phone calls asking questions or inquiring about the programme.

In case of specific needs, we meet together in my office or, more informally, around a cup of coffee and discuss about the opportunities offered by the programme to young people.

Most of them are very enthusiastic about the programme. Sometimes they organize further meetings with their young colleagues and asked me to present them the programme.

I am glad to intervene because they deserve the best I can offer. They are the FUTURE!

Some young people took the initiative to prepare some documents and present the programme to their friends and colleagues and they proudly invite me to be there in case they need any help or further clarifications. Another very committed group of youngsters helped voluntarily the new applicants with the preparation, implementation and follow up of their projects.

While working with young people, I learned that "if there is a will there is a way". One day in September 2001 a group of young people - who had previously been involved in one of the Euro-Med activities - came to my office to announce that they decided to form their own organization. They had realized that it was their time to become decision makers themselves and become more independent and active.

I can't describe how I felt at that moment!! It was in a state of happiness with mixed emotions of great satisfaction, which made me very proud.

We decided to work "hand in hand" to ease the registration procedures, which took one year to finish. This was the first initiative done by a group of young people which helped others to follow. After this first case, we can speak about a "chain reaction" effect since a second group gave birth to their own organization, then a third one and so on...

Beside helping and supporting young people on a local level, I receive a valuable learning process by observing them and learning from them. On a more international level, I had the chance to represent my country in a positive light.

To conclude, the most important impact is the personal one i.e. the continuous interaction with other cultures and religions.

So even if we are different I believe we are still similar.

We are all HUMAN BEINGS and it is easy to deal with these differences if we are tolerant to respect and accept each other.

And again, believe me, this experience has completely changed my life as a human being!



Petra (Jordan).



A Euro-Mediterranean Youth Platform

September 2003 gave birth to the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Platform.



The Platform aims at bringing young people from the Mediterranean and Europe together in an environment of tolerance and mutual understanding, facilitating networking between us, assisting in the capacity building of our organisations, increasing youth participation, sharing of relevant information, and exchanging good practice.



Giovanni BUTTIGIEG
*Director of the Euro-Med
Youth Platform*
E-mail: giovanni@euromedp.org
Website:
<http://www.euromedp.org>

Over 100 young people from 34 countries participated in the event. Its main aim was to consult beneficiaries on what directions the Platform should follow. It included also information and sharing of experience on the Euro-Med Youth Programme, and on themes that enjoy priority, namely gender, human rights, employment and the environment.

For many participants it was the first time using "Open Space Technology".

The main device to facilitate networking is an on-line data-base of youth groups in the region. More than 850 organisations have already joined this network that is proving to be very useful when searching for partners in submitting proposals to the Euro-Med Youth Programme.



If you wish to know more about "Open Space Technology" we suggest a useful article you can find on the Coyote issue n° 2 (may 2000):

"Open Space Technology – A New Way of Holding Large International Meetings of Youth Organisations" by Maria Frerichs

www.training-youth.net

The simplicity of procedures, both to join the network and to search through it, has contributed to its success. Apart from youth organisations, in it one can find several other players involved with young people, such as youth publishers and newspapers, municipalities that have specific programmes for youth, associations of youth workers, and the like.

We are also assisting new-comers to youth co-operation in the Euro-Med region. For a number of youth groups the Platform is the first contact to such co-operation, and after explaining what is available we refer these people to their respective National Co-ordinators and Agencies.

The heart of our operations is the web-site. This electronic technology is giving us the capability to communicate with each other fast and reliably. Apart from the data-base of youth organisations with searching functions and facility to join it, it contains simplified information on the Euro-Med Youth Programme with access to the User's Guide and application forms, information about our past and future activities, and the FORUM.

As the name implies, the FORUM is a space for everyone to share her / his views on the Platform, the Programme, and any other topic of interest.

Several discussion groups have already been created.

The Platform has also its Magazine. It is published both electronically and in print. You are welcome to send us an article, information on what you are doing, announcement on what you want to do.

In an effort to include as many people as possible, whenever possible we use three languages for our communications. We are trying to have both the Magazine and Web-site in Arabic, English and French. These three languages are also offered in our encounters.

Our next encounter should be a sub-regional meeting in Jordan in February. It is aimed primarily at engaging more young people from the area in this process.

Together with the Euro-Med Youth Programme, the Platform is an instrument being developed within the framework of co-operation in the youth sector between twenty-seven countries, parties to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Agreement, more commonly referred to the Barcelona Declaration.

These are Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Netherlands, Palestine, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. As from May 2004, the Check Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia will be formally joining this process. However, youth groups in these countries can already join the Platform, and have in fact taken part in the Launching Meeting.



Working time.





Is It Too Late... ?

My name is Sakher Al-Fayez, I am a 41 years old architect from Jordan. During my High School studies I was very active in “non formal activities” related to sports and youth. I had the chance to continue my studies in Athens (Greece). This experience abroad, taught me how to become more tolerant and accepting other people as they are, mainly considering my social and cultural background as a Bedouin young man and secondly as an Arab, who lived in a mixed cultures atmosphere.

Once at home again I felt disappointed by the lack of organized youth work in Jordan. Despite all difficulties, I personally tried to propose some youth activities for youngsters in my community but gradually my motivation fade away while I was busy with my career and family - which included three boys and one girl.

In 1999 my sister Sahar was nominated National Coordinator for the Euro-Med Youth Programme by the Jordanian government.

Consequently, I found myself helping her on different matters - on a voluntary basis - without a real knowledge of the “Euro-Med Youth Programme”.

As you may know, in my culture if a sister is asking her brother for help he will do it without asking why! Then my son Meteb - 13 years old - started helping her on different local activities. Afterwards he involved his younger brother Saif - nine years old – who accepted.

During our family meetings as lunch or dinner time, the discussion was often about the Euro-Med Youth Programme and what they had done that day. These daily discussions opened my mind and I realized that I was involved in something without realizing how intensely. I may say that I was jealous of my sons’ engagement and this feeling brought back my motivation. I wanted to be involved again in youth activities through Euro-Med.

In June 2002 I had been selected as participant to attend the “Euro-Med Youth Forum” in Marseille (France). During this event I learnt a lot, I met different people from different countries and I started reflecting about the possibility of hosting a youth exchange organized in cooperation with six countries.



Sakher Al-Fayez
Mount Nebo Association - Jordan
E-mail: sakher_sfouq@yahoo.com



I realized that I lacked the experience in organizing a youth exchange, so I felt the need of knowing more about the "Euro-Med Youth programme". This is the reason why I applied for a National Euro-Med training course.

At the beginning of 2003, I heard about the training opportunities offered by SALTO and I applied for "Step In" in Belgium during May 2003.

There I found trustful partners from six different countries with whom we planned a future youth exchange.

I gained a lot during this training course but I felt that I needed to go further. I knew that there was going to be a "Step To" in Jordan since I was helping my sister in the practical organization of this training! I explained my determination in attending the "Step To". She refused due to the fact that I was her brother. I was so upset that I almost wished she was not my sister

...

I insisted and did not lose hope, so I went to one of the trainers, in this case Bernard Abrignani, asking for his support. The following day he brought me a "present": he told me that I could participate to the SALTO "Step To" in Jordan...

During the "Step To" in Jordan I found out that I could benefit of a third training course: the SALTO "Step At" in France. I attended three SALTO training courses during which I gained the skills I had been looking for.

In July 2003, I hosted the youth exchange "Peace, Meaning and Concept" hosting 48 participants from France, Belgium, Portugal, Turkey, Cyprus and Jordan.

We did our best to have a quality youth exchange and we applied all the methods learnt during the three SALTO trainings.

The participants' evaluation was very positive and some of them felt that this experience had completely changed their life! Further outcomes of this exchange were the development of two EVS projects, one follow up youth exchange and one training course.

While taking part in different activities I met new people who became good friends of mine.

Frankly, I felt that all SALTO participants were a big family... As Bedouin, I am used to be a member of a large family. This feeling makes you feel warm, beloved and supported.

So personally and for my Bedouin family being a member of the SALTO family meant to feel more warmth, more love and more support within the international community. This membership opened my mind; it made me more tolerant and flexible in my attitudes towards other people from different cultural backgrounds.

My dear SALTO organizers, from my own experience together with you during two months, you did a great job so please, keep going on!

Is it too late for me to be involved in such activities? In the beginning, I wished that this programme had already existed 20 years ago when I was in my 20s, (but I still feel in my 20s!!). After my activities in the "Euro-Med Youth Programme", I feel that it is never too late to get involved and to learn in order to give back to young people. So, never say it is too late!



The participants of the youth exchange "Peace, Meaning and Concept" hosting 48 participants from France, Belgium, Portugal, Turkey, Cyprus and Jordan.





In many civilizations, boat and navigation are considered as tools of transformation (i.e. from the tree to the ship) therefore of the passage from a state to another, the key tool for search and discovery.

"Peace Sails" is the name of the project which took on board young participants in search of new symbols of peace, in France and in Tunisia, over land and sea.

This exchange of young people is above all a "human" story, the story of a partnership and of a long-term cooperation between youth NGOs and partners.

It is also the extraordinary story of youngsters left to the discovery of themselves and of each others, over land and on board, crossing the Mediterranean sea.

During 20 days, from July the 19th till August the 7th 2003, 25 young people from 7 different countries (Tunisia, Turkey, Algeria, Greece, Belgium, Ireland and France) met

named Thalassanté - which uses sailboat as teaching support - met those of the AAMJC which develops projects related to peace. Claire Marty, president of Thalassanté and Mohamed Chaabouni, General Secretary of the AAMJC launched the first proposals for a multilateral project, an itinerant youth exchange.

The success of "Peace Sails" is also the result of a previous meeting between us: Mathieu Decq (Thalassanté) and Mohamed Chaabouni, both participants in a training course SALTO Euromed, in May 2001. Forerunner of the current trainings courses SALTO "Step IN, TO and AT", this training course - realised in France - developed a detailed knowledge around the Youth Programme and around some educational and intercultural techniques, which we adapted in "Peace Sails".

Mohamed and I were going to coordinate this project

Sailing for Peace



around this project in three occasions:

1. A first stage in Marseille (France) where the participants learnt to know each other and discovered some basics sailing concepts. They discovered the sailboats - which will take them to the other side of the Mediterranean Sea - and prepared the 7 days navigation to come.

2. Then it came the navigation phase, an extremely intense time when the young group was divided into 4 crews, embarked on 4 sailboats for a deep-sea navigation between Europe and Africa. An adventure through a borderless space beyond usual landmarks!

3. To conclude, the last part took place in Tunisia, where these meaningful experiences took a particular dimension through workshops, necessary to the group to undertake the creation of peace symbols, strictly connected to the experiences of life on board.

This project, identified as "pilote project" by the European Commission, began more than 18 months ahead, during a "Contact Making Seminar" organised in Tunisia by the "Association of the Friends of the Youth and Culture Centre of Metline" (AAMJC).

In this occasion the educational methods of the association

since its origin, Mohamed having more the responsibility for the "Tunisian phase" and Mathieu in charge of "French and over sea part". Carrying out such an operation required frequent meetings and a constant work in narrow partnership!

We had several additional occasions to meet:

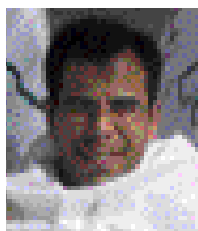
- During "Project market on youth exchanges" organised in Marseille in June 2002, when this experience gave a concrete form to our project;
- In Marseille once again, in September, to work on the financial side of the application form;
- In Barcelona, in January 2003, during the "Salto Evaluation Seminar", where we worked more concretely on the practical aspects of "Peace sails";
- In Tunisia finally, during the feasibility visit, where the last details and the educational aspects were pointed out and settled.

If an intercultural meeting leads - and develops - the aptitude of accepting the others and adapting oneself to others, the management of an intercultural project demands to its organizers at least the same degree of flexibility and openness of mind!



Mathieu DECQ,
Thalassanté

mathieu-thalassante@wanadoo.fr



Mohamed CHAABOUNI,
*Association of the Friends of the
Youth and Culture Centre
of Metline*

Chaabouni_med@yahoo.fr

■ EuroMed good practices



During the feasibility visit - beside uncertainties linked to the date of a partial payment of the grant - we collectively decided about important financial aspects. So, before "sailing" towards the adventure we had to think about technicalities as the necessary amount of money to pay the skippers or as the fact that hiring the boat could not be supported entirely by a single structure...

Thanks to this solid partnership, combined with the supports brought by the French Agency, the Tao (Technical Assistance Office), the Salto Youth Euromed Resources Centre and the European Commission we managed to give birth to our project but not without some last minute adjustments!

As a surprise, we got the news that we could embark on four sailboats instead of a single big one! This unexpected novelty brought an additional positive point to our project:

care of each other by sailing close and by constant radio contacts. "Tere Nui", the sailboat leader of the squadron counted on board Isabelle as coordinator of skippers and Mathieu as leader of quarter and coordinator of the project in charge of the navigation part. During this time Mohamed, in charge of the coordination in Tunisia, checked all details and formalities related to our reception in Bizerte.

When anchors were weighed, after a programme of three days in Marseille, young people and sailboats were ready for the adventure: we learnt to know each others, we assimilated the flexible educational features of this project, some maritime vocabulary in English and French and everyone had the occasion to learn about sailing during bare navigations.

It is worth saying that the experience of living in multicultural groups while sailing revealed all its qualities: we all shared common moments followed by particularly intense interpersonal exchanges, notably during quarters of night navigation.

Crossing whales, dolphins or turtles was a charming experience for everybody and the magic of the sea operated on crews: peace built up in every one of us. This unique experience was similar to a "dream" (evaluation of a former participant). The pictures taken on the ship's log held by the team members "stay as witness of this passage to a new dimension", to quote the team members of "Tere Nui".

During the stopovers on our way, as in Carlo Forte (in the southern part of Sardinia - Italy) or on the islands of "Galitte" (in the northern part of Tunisia) the atmosphere among team members was indescribable. The sea experience, the learning about navigation, the exchanges and the anecdotes were unforgettable moments. A welded group was born among the team members of "Peace Sails".

This atmosphere did not disappear in Tunisia, during the programme over land. The passage from a state to another succeeded and the team members, leaders of quarters or bursars - all became creative - realising their peace symbols during the proposed workshops. At first, we worked individually and then, through a collective construction, we obtained three painted symbols and a performance. This last one proposed self-expression through movement, dance and theatre melted together in order to symbolize peace to the large assisting audience. This show was based on real experiences and ideas born from our original intercultural meeting.

When "Peace Sails" ended each of us returned to his (her) country with his (her) head full of images and memories. The "painted container" of peace symbol exhibited in Bizerte is still there arousing people's curiosity and it testifies what young people suggested as peace symbols for Europe and for the Mediterranean Sea. ■

Mathieu participated in the SALTO EuroMed "Step TO" in Portugal and in the "Step AT" at Injep (France). Mohamed offered logistic support for the organisation of the "First Step" training course in Tunisia in 2002.



the links built up during the navigation in "squadron" (crew composed by six/nine people) were much more important than if we simply were all together on board of a large boat - where one does not have to necessarily participate in sailing operations and in daily life on board.

Here, everybody NEEDED everybody: on board, we worked by quarter of three/four team members (plus the skipper or the leader of quarter). Every three hours the quarter changed: quarter of navigation, then quarter dealing with meals and life on board (rest also!!) and again quarter of navigation. Total turnover in the daytime and at night!

On each boat, we counted a professional skipper - ensuring the good functioning of the boat - a leader of quarter - replacing the skipper, when needed - and one person responsible for the management of the sailboat.

This rigorous organisation appealed to all: "youth leaders" were "bursars" or leaders of quarter (for those who know the navigation basics) and young participants were all team members and fully participate to life on board.

The navigation was carried out in "squadron". We took

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• Salto Training Courses on Inclusion

"How to use sports and outdoor pedagogics as an educational tool to include young people with fewer opportunities in YOUTH programme projects"

Description: The SALTO Inclusion RC will organise this TC Inclusion through Sports course twice in spring 2004, within the frame of the European Year of Education through Sports.

Dates & Venue:
29/03 - 04/04/2004
and 24/05/ - 30/05/2004 - Belgium.
Deadline for applications
31 January 2004

• Salto Youth Training Courses on Cultural Diversity

"Training for trainers on Cultural Diversity 2004"

Description: Developing training projects which promote cultural, ethnic and

religious inclusion within the YOUTH Programme.

Dates & Venue:
Course n° 3:
26/03 - 04/04/2004, Portugal.
Course n° 4:
08/05 - 16/05/2004, Hungary.
Both courses will propose the same content.
Deadline for applications
31 January 2004

• Salto Youth Training Courses on EuroMed

"Step In" : Euromed for Beginners

Description: The training course aims to enable participants to promote the Euromed Youth Programme and to develop co-operations and partnerships between countries of two Mediterranean sides.

Dates & Venue:
23 - 29/02/2004 - Sweden
Deadline for applications
05 January 2004

"Step To" : Why and how to develop and manage

EuroMed support measures projects

Description: The training course aims to reflect on how to use Action 5 of the Euromed Youth Programme as support for a regional and/or national strategy.

Dates & Venue:
22 - 30/03/2004 - Egypt
Deadline for applications
05 January 2004

Education and civilisation

Description: The training course will analyse the existing links between "EuroMed" civilisations and their concept of education in order to facilitate the organisers' approach in the framework of youth projects and more specifically of voluntary service projects.

Dates & Venue:
13 - 18/04/2004
Marrakesch (Morocco)

Deadline for applications
13 February 2004

Three Cultures

Description: The training course will allow participants to discover the three cultures and monotheist religions of the Mediterranean basin and how to deal with them in the framework of a youth exchange, a voluntary service or training.

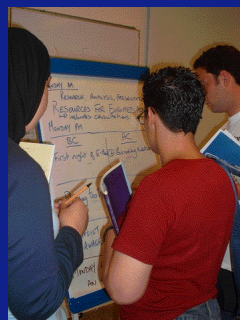
Dates & Venue: 26/04 - 05/05/2004 - Cordoba (Spain)
Deadline for applications
13 February 2004

"Training of Euromed Multipliers" SALTO'TEM

Training of Multipliers, privileged relays of the National Coordinators in the promotion of the EuroMed Youth Programme. Only residents of the hosting country can participate to these training courses.

- Tunisia : 06 - 11/01/2004
- Algeria : 28/01 - 02/02/2004
- Morocco : 03 - 12/04/2004

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EuroMed Resource Centre**

**Institut National de la Jeunesse
et de l'Éducation Populaire (INJ EP)**

Etablissement public du ministère
de l'Éducation et de la Jeunesse :
11 rue Paul Leplat - 78160 Marly-le-Roi - France
Tél. : +33 1 39 17 27 55
Fax : +33 1 39 17 27 57
E-mail: euromed@salto-youth.net
Web site: www.salto-youth.net/euromed

Salto Youth EuroMed team: Bernard Abrignani
(Coordinator) ; Flavia Giovanelli and Marc Müller
(programme officers) ; Director of the Publication :
Hervé Mecheri, INJEP General Director
Editorial team : Bernard Abrignani, Flavia Giovanelli
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