

Newsletter of the SALTO Eastern Europe & Caucasus RC 1/2011

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 1st/2011 issue of the Newsletter published by the SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus Resource Centre. In this Newsletter you will find information about activities aimed at the development of non-formal education and youth cooperation between Programme and Eastern European and Caucasian countries, within the framework of the European Union YOUTH in ACTION programme.

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1. OUTLOOK on previous activities co-organised by SALTO EECA

1.1 International Tool Fair in Venice, 16-21 November 2010

The 5th edition of the TOOL FAIR was a combination of "laboratory" and "market" to discover and experience educational tools developed under the YOUTH IN ACTION and EUROMED YOUTH IV programmes. 44 tools were presented, more than 100 youth workers and trainers had opportunity to share, to experiment, to discuss and further develop educational tools used within the different actions (e.g. youth exchanges, EVS, youth initiatives, seminars, training).

This event was co-organised by the Italian National Agency for the Youth in Action programme, and the SALTO-YOUTH Network. During the Tool Fair 5th has been created the working group on Tools for Learning which will work on strategy of development of different resources for Tools for Non-Formal Learning (e.g. Tool Box, Tool Fair, etc.)

More information about this event you can find at: <http://toolfair.eu/>

1.2 EVS accreditation visits in EECA countries, November - December 2010

The European Commission has decided to implement EVS accreditations and training cycle in region of Eastern Europe and Caucasus in summer of 2010. SALTO EECA Resource Centre become responsible to take preliminary measures to prepare both support systems to be operational from beginning of 2011. EECA organisations were invited to apply for EVS accreditations in beginning of September 2010.

In November and December 2010, 22 accreditors (NA officers, NA accreditors and trainers as well as youth workers from different Programme countries and [exceptionally] EECA region) performed on-spot visits to organisations.

The accreditations' decisions are made between December 2010 and January 2011 after short consulting phase with organisations, when they have a chance to upgrade their Expressions of Interests (EIs). First organisations from EECA region are expected to be officially encoded into European EVS Database in February 2011.

130 organisations submitted their EIs in 2010.

82 organisations were visited by accreditors in 2010

Every EECA organisation interested in EVS, should apply their Expression of Interest to SALTO EECA Resource Centre.

2. UPCOMING activities in 2011

2.1 EC TC-IT, European Citizenship Training Course in Italy

Deadline for applications: 1st February

This training course was developed to encourage the development of a critical, democratic and European Citizenship and in doing so, to support the implementation and quality of the "Youth in Action" Programme.

The training course on European Citizenship aims to support the professional development of youth workers and youth leaders by extending their critical understanding of European Citizenship, exploring and experiencing its potential and by enabling them to recognise and integrate European Citizenship in their youth work.

More info can be found on the European Citizenship website at: www.salto-youth.net/tools/training/find-a-training/1792.html

Organisers: Italian National Agency and SALTO

Working language: English

Age limit: none

Participant's fee: none

Deadline: 1 February 2011!

2.2 TICTAC UK - Multilateral Training Course to Support Quality in Action 4.3

Deadline for applications: 21st February 2011

The overall aim of the TICTAC TC is to develop participants' competences for implementing projects as support measures in an organization's long term strategy within the Actions 4.3 and 3.1 of the Youth in Action programme.

The specific objectives of the course are:

- to promote the YiA Programme as an Educational Tool;
- to explore the YiA Programme with a special focus on the aims of Action 4.3 and its activities;
- to understand the role of Action 4.3 & 3.1 projects within a long term strategy;
- to simulate the first steps of organising an Action 4.3 & 3.1 project within an international team;
- to develop participant's competences in Planning Non Formal Education and Intercultural Learning Processes;
- to promote Youth Participation and European Citizenship as key elements when designing a YiA Project;

More information and application form: http://www.salto-youth.net/tools/training/find-a-training/1772.html?&search=TICTAC&termin_von=2011-02-01&termin_bis=2012-12-31&partcountries=&pagerCurrentOffset=1

Organisers: UK National Agency and SALTO
 Working language: English
 Age limit: none
 Participant's fee: none
 Deadline: 21 February 2011!

2.3 SOHO France

Deadline for applications: 28th February

The training course is designed for those who are directly involved in the support system around the EVS volunteer (mentors and task-related support persons) on the hosting, sending and coordinating side. The participants from Sending and Hosting organisations should already have some experience in EVS (minimum of being in the process of sending or hosting a volunteer, better having been already sending or receiving the first volunteer).

The overall aim of the SOHO TC is to increase the quality of EVS activities through development of competencies (knowledge, skills and attitudes) of key actors involved in the support system around EVS volunteer. The specific objectives of the course are:

- to get a better understanding of the concept of EVS as “learning service” and related quality aspects in EVS.
- to improve the ability for co-operation and working in international partnership.
- to reflect on the roles, responsibilities and challenges within the EVS volunteer support system.
- to raise awareness of the learning dimension in EVS and provide tools for learning support.
- to support the recognition of non formal learning in EVS through the implementation of the Youthpass.

More info can be found at: http://www.salto-youth.net/tools/training/find-a-training/1762.html?&search=SOHO+France&termin_von=2011-02-01&termin_bis=2012-12-31&partcountries=&pagerCurrentOffset=3

Organisers: French National Agency and SALTO
 Working language: English
 Age limit: none
 Participant's fee: none
 Deadline: 28 February 2011!

3. Info desk

3.1 SALTO EECA plans for 2011

2011 will be a year of voluntarism also for SALTO EECA. We work hard at harmonisation of EVS training cycle and accreditation system. There is over 100 EVS organisations in EECA region to be accredited. More than 600 volunteers need either pre-departure training and final evaluation meeting or on-arrival training and mid-term meeting – this turns to be around 30 EVS trainings in 3 separate cycles throughout the region.

Read more here: <http://www.salto-youth.net/rc/eeca/evs-eeca/>

We have just finished SALTO EECA Resource Centre's activities plan for 2011 year.

First half of 2011:

- Opening conference of the year of voluntarism in Poland
- "Eastern Express" training course in Hungary (with Hungarian and Slovak NAs)
- "Youth work reality in Armenia" study visit (together with Armenian Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs)
- Contact Making Seminar "East West Included" focused on EVS development in rural areas (with Austrian and Danish National Agencies and SALTO Inclusion Resource Centre)

Second half of 2011 (Polish presidency in the European Union):

- 6th Economical Forum of Young Leaders in Poland
- "Let's train with our Neighbours" evaluation seminar in Poland (interregional cooperation of SALTO-Youth Network and the National Agencies)
- "East West EVS" training course in Bulgaria (with Bulgarian NA)
- International Forum on volunteering in Poland entitled "Eastern dimension of volunteering"

And additionally over 10 all-European training courses organised by National Agencies and SALTO Training & Cooperation Resource Centre which are also open for participation of youth workers from Eastern Europe and Caucasus.

Read more here: <http://www.salto-youth.net/rc/eeca/activitieseeeca/>

3.2 New 2011 Programme Guide!

This new version of the **Programme Guide** is valid as of the **1st of January 2011** and replaced the previous one. New version is a little bit different than previous, the most important actions for **SALTO EECA** (Action 2 and Action 3) remain largely unchanged, but we have to notice three significant changes in EVS.

The document is available in English for the moment but the other linguistic versions will follow on European Commission's website soon!

1. Croatia and Switzerland will join to the list of the Youth in Action Programme Countries since 1 January 2011.

2. The European Commission set up the following annual priorities for the year 2011:

- European Year of Volunteering - you can read more about this initiative at the link below: <http://europa.eu/volunteering/en>
- EU-China Year of Youth (only for Action 2 and sub-Action 3.2) - special attention will be devoted to projects aimed at encouraging dialogue, cooperation and exchanges in the field of youth between the European Union and China as a means to contribute to the EU-China Year of Youth 2011.
- Youth unemployment - this priority is intended to encourage projects promoting the access of unemployed young people to the Youth in Action Programme.
- Inclusive growth - this priority is intended to encourage projects addressing the issue of poverty and marginalisation and encouraging young people's awareness and commitment to tackling these issues for a more inclusive society.
- Global environmental challenges and climate change - this priority is intended to encourage projects aimed at raising young people's awareness and mobilization around global environmental challenges and climate change as means to encourage the development of "green" skills and behaviors.
- Creativity and entrepreneurship - this priority is intended to encourage projects - especially youth initiatives - aimed at stimulating young people's spirit of initiative.

3. SALTO Information Resource Centre will implement a new partner finding e-tool called OTLAS. The OTLAS will be launched by 31st of January, 2011. More information is available at www.salto-youth.net/otlas.

3.3 A GapGenc Festival in Turkey

2011 GapGenc Festival will be held in Gaziantep on 06th – 09th May 2011.

The aims of the GapGenc Festival:

- to reach young people who have never comprised a target group for youth work,
- to promote understanding of civil society and provide opportunities for youngsters so they could get actively involved in social life,
- to bring young people from all regions of the world and to promote youth diversity.

GapGenc Festival is organised by Youth and Culture Centres running activities in framework of GAP Regional Development Region in cooperation with 30 youth organisations.

More information about the festival is available at www.gapgenc.org

3.4 OTLAS – the new partner-finding tool is just launching!

OTLAS, the new partner-finding tool for Youth in Action, represents a change: it has been developed for access and familiarity, both in terms of the interface and in terms of being hosted on www.salto-youth.net

Head over to www.salto-youth.net/otlas and join the new wave of youth field work! Why OTLAS represents a step forward? Otlas is a free resource, open to anyone who is searching for contacts or project partners within the youth field. It is run by the SALTO Information Resource Centre and it is the official partner-finding tool for Youth in Action, two factors which guarantee both the quality and the longevity of the resource.

In addition to all of this, OTLAS is part of www.salto-youth.net, a website that already contains important information and other tools for those who work in the youth field. In fact, many of them already have an account on the site.

3.5 Consultation on the promotion and validation of non-formal and informal learning

We are all constantly learning in our daily lives at work and through our leisure, cultural and social activities. But, all too often, the knowledge, skills and competences we acquire through our work and life experiences remain hidden representing a waste of the talents of EU citizens.

The purpose of this consultation is to collect views on whether further action is needed to make the learning acquired through work and life experience visible and give it value and, if so, what type of action is required and which policy priorities should be focused on to ensure future measures are well-targeted, relevant and respond to real needs on the ground.

More information and consultation form is available at:
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/consult/learning_en.html

4. INFORMATION on SALTO EECA RC

SALTO Resource Centre for Eastern Europe and Caucasus (EECA) was established in Poland on October 1st, 2003. The aims of the RC are to raise visibility and awareness of the YOUTH in ACTION Programme opportunities in Eastern Europe and Caucasus, to promote cooperation with EECA neighbouring countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine) and to give support to NAs and youth organizations in the development of contacts, partnerships and expertise in cooperation with EECA region.

You can find this SALTO EECA Newsletter as well as previous issues in PDF version in here: www.salto-youth.net/eecapublications

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Note:

We CANNOT take responsibility for the information and activities published in this Newsletter by parties other than SALTO EECA RC!

Please, forward this NEWSLETTER to anyone who might be interested!

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