

Meet'In EuroMed

SALTO YOUTH EUROMED QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

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3



- éditio
- NA's perspective
- NC's perspective
- Event
- EuroMed good practices

SALTO-YOUTH
EUROMED
RESOURCE CENTRE



Education and Culture

>> Partnership on Euro-Med Youth Cooperation in the field of training

A joint effort for further quality training in Euro-Mediterranean youth work

It has become a commonplace to state that the history of Europe has been shaped by the exchanges and interaction between peoples and cultures across the Mediterranean Sea. What is less obvious at present is to what extent and in which ways and in which spirit such exchanges will happen in the future.

The interdependence and solidarity among peoples and societies bordering the Mediterranean is an important motivation for youth workers and youth leaders to venture in Euro-Med youth projects and constitutes the ideological and educational ground to Euro-Med youth cooperation. The process set forth with the Barcelona Declaration may have its shortcomings in many areas, but there is agreement that there is substantial progress in the areas of cultural and youth cooperation.

The Council of Europe is a pan European institution for whom the promotion of human rights and the development of democratic forms of participation are crucial objectives to further consolidate pan-European co-operation.

In the youth field, through both the North-South Centre and the Directorate of Youth and Sports within the Council of Europe has developed programmes and projects that address issues of common concern for young people across Europe and beyond, notably a process of Euro-Arab dialogue and Global Education projects.

With many common values and objectives in the youth policy field, it was natural for the Council of Europe and the European Commission to develop partnerships of interest to the two institutions and their partners in youth work. The Partnership on Youth Worker Training was the first to be set up, with results now accessible to all, such as the T-Kits and the training programme on European Citizenship.

This has been followed up recently by two other partnerships, on Youth Research and the other on Euro-Med Youth Training.

The Partnership on Euro-Med Youth

Cooperation was set by the Council of Europe and the European Commission to put together their experiences and resources in order to develop further the quality (and quantity) of training for youth workers, multipliers and trainers in Euro-Med youth work. A particular concern is paid to the need to explore the thematic objectives and priorities of the Euro-Med Youth programme, especially integrating them with the experiences of the Council of Europe in the fields of human rights education, intercultural learning and training.

Initiated in May 2003, the programme of the Partnership has thus had an emphasis on human rights education (including minorities rights and the participation of women) and intercultural learning, with two intensive courses being held in Molina and Alexandria. A more in-depth work has been initiated with a long-term training course on youth participation and intercultural learning, under implementation.

This course will produce also useful guidelines and indicators regarding the sustainability of Euro-Med youth projects. The programme of the partnership, running until May 2005, covers also the production of a T-Kit on Euro-Med youth work and the beginning of the Training for Trainers in Euro-Med.

The participants on the Partnership activities should play the role of multipliers, by passing on the information they receive to others within their organisation or local community. The activities in this covenant are complementary to the activities of both organisations, notably the activities of the Euro-Med Salto centre.

The focus of the Partnership activities on thematic matters and intensive training seems to appeal to many partners active in the area. The number of applications exceeds by far the number of places available and the evaluations carried so far are very positive.

One of the added values of the Partnership is to bring in a pan-European dimension to the issues (i.e. including virtually all European coun-

tries) and, similarly, to take into account experiences in Euro-Med youth work that go beyond the Commission's Euro-Med Youth programme. If Europe is more than we often think, Euro-Med youth cooperation is also more than the Euro-Med Youth programme.

This being said, it is obvious that the future of the Partnership is closely linked to the Euro-Med Youth programme. The Partnership beyond 2005 will probably keep the thematic focus it has at present, plus a possible addition of activities involving partners in youth policy, thus bridging the perceived gap between the practitioners in youth work and involved in designing or implementing policy for youth. This should contribute to support cooperation between the governmental and non-governmental sectors of youth work the sustainability of many local Euro-Med youth projects.

The activities of the Partnership are open to all interested in attending them, individual applications (supported by an organisation) being accepted at the secretariat of the Partnership's programme at the European Youth Centre Budapest. The programme is administrated by the North -Centre of the Council of Europe in Lisbon and monitored by a group representing the various partners in Euro-Med youth work, including the Salto Youth EuroMed Resource Centre, the Youth Forum and the Euro-med Youth Platform. This should secure that the activities in the Partnership are truly complementary to the valuable work of all other organisations and partners. Thus guaranteeing that, like in the rest of the programme, we do together what we cannot do alone.

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On behalf of the Euro-
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Training for trainers active in Euro-Mediterranean youth work

Aims and objectives of the training:

The aim of this training course, organised in co-operation with the Euro-Med Salto Resource Centre, is to develop and strengthen the know-how and skills of 30 trainers involved in projects in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The trainers selected to attend the course must be involved in national or regional training courses, for Salto or other organisations involved in Euro-Med projects, in order to contribute to the qualitative development of the Euro-Med Youth activities.

Placed in the context of non-formal education and its role in youth work, the course will cover the priority themes of the training activities of the Euro-Med Youth Programme and the Council of Europe. This training for trainers is part of a process of synergy and complementarity between the different partners involved in the project that includes the production of the T-Kit on Euro-Med Youth work, the Euro-Med Salto Resource Centre Training bag and other European Commission and Council of Europe activities.

Methodology and course structure

The training will take place in five phases:

1. an initial training seminar (November 2004),
2. a practical phase,
3. a consolidation and development seminar (September 2005),
4. a second "optional" practical phase and
5. an evaluation and follow-up seminar (September 2006).

The course is designed as an open learning process, based on the participants' experience and the exchange of views and fuelled by the contributions and proposals of the team of trainers and the guest experts.

During the three seminars the multicultural group – composed if possible of as many participants from Europe as from the Meda countries – will be an intercultural learning forum in its own right and an opportunity for personal development. The programme and content of the seminars will be so organised as to optimise the group's participation by using active, participatory methods. A team of experienced trainers will organise the learning process. Whenever the need arises, they will be assisted by resource people and guest experts.

During the practical phases the participants will have access to the advice and support of the training team and, if necessary, of the national agencies and co-ordinators in the Euro-Med Youth programme.

The role of the practical phases

The learning process in this training course relies largely on the practical phases and the resulting evaluation. The practical part of the course includes at least one training activity in the planning and implementation of which the participant plays an active and direct role.

These practical phases – in addition to the practical work experience – also serve to identify the participants' training needs (strengths and weaknesses) and to "verify" the educational principles and approaches of the course and how the participants develop them.

The two practical phases have different functions and are therefore subject to different conditions.

The "compulsory" practical phase - to be organised between January and August 2005 – is:

- compulsory for all participants
- planned in the course of the initial seminar
- prepared and implemented with the advice of the team of trainers
- to last between 5 and 10 days, excluding travel
- conducted by a multicultural team, if possible with other trainers on the course
- evaluated during the training course (during the consolidation and development seminar)
- to be used for preparing the consolidation seminar programme.

The "optional" practical phase:

- is to be planned by the participants themselves (whether or not they ask the trainers for advice is up to them)
- may consist of different types of training activity
- will receive remote support, according to the participants' needs and interests.

The projects developed in the practical phases will be implemented by the participants with the support of their organisations and/or in co-operation with the National Agencies, the national co-ordinators or the Salto Euro-Med Resource Centre. Financing the projects is the sole responsibility of the participants and their organisations. The Euro-Med Partnership undertakes to support the participants in their efforts to ensure the feasibility of their projects, but not to fund the projects.

Deadline for participation September the 10th 2004



Spain in EuroMed

Cooperation with countries of the Mediterranean basin has always been one of Spain's main priorities not only because this is a European Commission main priority in the framework of the YOUTH Community Action Programme, but also because of the historical and geographical ties which have united us throughout the centuries in the past and present times.

Within this context, the Spanish National Agency (ANE) has always had a dynamic and active role by undertaking activities that help to create a framework for practical and efficient cooperation. Similarly it has shown its hospitality in regard to several events organised by the National Agencies and/or Resources Centres set up by the European Commission. It could be said that all activities in which the ANE has collaborated in provided a great enrichment on both professional and personal development level.

The first main challenge that the ANE faced in the context of its collaborations in the EUROMED framework had undoubtedly been the "EUROMED Seminar" carried out at the CEULAJ (Youth Latin-American Centre) situated in Mollina (Málaga), from the 12th to 28th November 2001.

While the idea of establishing contact between organisations to create partnership networks had been forged quite a time before, the determinant factor that supported our choice of proposing this event was the confused situation after September the 11th. This Seminar was carried out exactly when the international context made the Youth Programme's general objective even more important : promoting peace, dialogue, tolerance and solidarity on a universal level among young people.

For the seminar organisation we counted on the support of the European Commission and the Salto-Youth Euromed RC coordinator, Mr Bernard Abrignani, who invited by the Spanish National Agency showed his willingness to actively cooperate to this project. The event brought together 60 participants, 10 countries from the Mediterranean basin and 10 European countries as well as 19 Spanish participants from 10 Autonomous Communities and Autonomous Cities in our country.

The seminar's objective was multi-purpose. On the one hand the intention was to offer to participants the possibility to establish personal contacts, in order to create a space for joint collaboration and for future projects. On the other hand, we wished to develop the required training tools for elaborating those projects in the Youth Programme context.

Not meaning to be disproportionate, we can frankly affirm that these objectives were fulfilled.

Furthermore, on a more personal level, all the seminar participants (as well as I do!) keep recorded in their minds "that magical spi-

rit" experienced throughout the seminar. To illustrate this point I have recompiled several participants' testimonies:

"The seminar has brought people close together as representatives of their organisations and also as ambassadors of their peoples. For many participants it entailed the basis for beginning to discover unknown countries and peoples. It made us think about the difference between "what the country really is" and the idea that conveyed by mass media.

Prevailing stereotypes are constantly reinforced without having the opportunity to discuss."

"It made us feel as one more "seed", ready to germinate, in the wide field made up of people willing to do something to achieve a more human world".

"We can all understand, work and promote peace, tolerance and collaboration."

"The fact of participating to this seminar and feeling myself as one link in the chain of solidarity that we are anxious to make, gave me, and I believe to all of us, great satisfaction.

The essence of all the testimonies was included in the Statement that was drawn up by all participants here below.

Statement - EUROMED Seminar

Representatives from territorial and youth organisations from the EU and from countries from the North and South of the Mediterranean Basin, grouped at a Seminar held in Mollina, Málaga, Spain, under the auspices of the YOUTH-EUROMED programme, issue the following S T A T E M E N T:

- There is always a space for sharing, respect and peace among people, and we must make it prevail.
- In front of such a turbulent beginning of a century, we make common cause to re-establish dialogue and to reject any kind of violence in the resolution of disputes.
- We, as young people, are responsible for the role we have to play in the defence of these values, and we are aware of it, and we will make it meaningful by disseminating it within our organisations and countries of origin.
- The Earth is a single country and all men and women are its citizens. We will continue to make it a more fair, more free and more solidarian place.

In Mollina, well in the Autumn, in close harmony under the intense light of Andalusia.



This event would not have been possible without the active contribution of the participants themselves, the close collaboration with National Agencies and National Coordinators colleagues, as well as the people responsible for the programme in the Autonomous Communities. I wish to thank everyone for their valuable collaboration one more time!

In the framework of the Euromed activities, I can also highlight the programme of visits fitted into the bilateral cooperation and the twinning between Mediterranean countries - Spain, Tunisia and Morocco.

In this regard, we received the Tunisian delegation at the head office of the Youth Institute in Madrid and at the central offices of several Autonomous Communities from the 2nd to 6th of February 2004. This delegation was composed by the National Coordinator, Mr. Taoufik Fathallah and four country organisations' representatives. The objective of the visit was to create a "learning space" between agencies and to visit Spanish projects of interest to the participating Tunisian associations, according to the priority : art and animation, folklore, education through sports, volunteering.

Judging from the testimonies feed back of the Tunisian delegation, these objectives were fulfilled and it was possible to create a "core" for future collaboration in an atmosphere of personal friendship.

Let me include by quoting Federico García Lorca - as one of the participants pronounced while saying goodbye: "I am interested in the people that live in a landscape more than in the landscape itself."

In relation to Morocco a reply is pending to the invitation to host in Spain a delegation from this country.

More recently, I would like to recall the training course "Let's Meet

The training course's project aimed at being an educational proposal for the promotion and the development of peace dialogue, the non-violent coexistence among different cultures and religions and the youth cooperation through artistic expression among the people of the Mediterranean and Europe. Similarly to Euromed seminar held in Mollina, this training course was marked by the terrorist attacks that occurred in Madrid on March the 11th, which was tacitly present as a "backdrop" throughout the entire seminar. During the course, trainers and participants worked together to achieve the following objectives:

- Study the Euromed cultures and their relations with Christianity, Islam and Judaism
- Think about the cultural identities of the participants.
- Identify the common elements in relation to other cultures.
- Be capable of creating together, using the past to prepare a better future.
- Prepare the framework and guide the participants in carrying out concrete projects within the Euromed Youth Programme.

The training course was attended by 30 representatives of youth organisations from 19 EU countries and from 11 countries of the Mediterranean basin.

Once again the objectives were attained under a technical and personal point of view. The contacts made between youth structures to work together in the Programme, were constantly surrounded by a halo of friendship and personal enrichment that promises to have a multiplying effect for the future.

Even today, thinking back to those moments of work (formal and informal) full of good vibrations I can still feel instants of happiness, expectations, joint effort, interest and constructive discussions creating a small intellectual paradise.

To conclude, I have the pleasure to say that all the activities carried out by the National Agency have been fruitful. These "fruits" can be illustrated by the number of projects received and financed by the programme. We could say, without risking to err, that more than 50% of the projects developed with countries not belonging to the EU are related to Mediterranean countries. Judging from the experience of each event, we are expecting a progressive increase in this sense.

We would like to express our gratitude to all those who contributed and contribute daily to make our objectives a reality.



Participants of the training course "Let's Meet the Three Cultures".

the Three Cultures" organised by the ANE in Cordoba from April the 27th to May the 5th of this year, in collaboration with Regional Government of Andalusia and the SALTO-EUROMED Resources centre with its team of trainers, coordinated by Mr. Bernard Abrignani.

The chosen venue has been, the city of Cordoba, a symbol of coexistence of different cultures across the centuries.

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A desire for something new

...it is not necessary to make people build ships and weave tows for raising their will to go for sailing... You just have to create a desire for beauty and wide expanse of the sea...

Even before the beginning of 2004, when Latvia together with other new EU member states joined EuroMed Youth Programme, several organisations and youth workers from Latvia showed their interest for more cooperation opportunities with Meda countries asking questions like: when, how, with whom? Those who have been active in the youth field as well as the "old" European partners would like to go further now and discover new cultures, people and impressions.

The countries from the Mediterranean region with their different culture, traditions and exotic nature and geography tempt many young people here in Latvia. We have snow and woods, they have sand and desert, we have storks and wolves, they have camels, and again we eat potatoes, they have couscous, Midsummer Jani traditions for us, Ramadan for them... These are just few images Latvians have learned from touristic commercials or heard somewhere.

The truth is that we know so little about your rich culture... By the way, to learn about each other and live it through is there any better way than working around the same idea and realise common projects ?!?!

Although the YOUTH programme funds allocated for EuroMed cooperation in Latvia are far too little allowing us to grant just reduced a number of projects per year, the National Agency understands the necessity to inform young people about these possibilities, to help in establishing successful partnerships and give all possible support for potential project managers. These are the priorities for the first phase of the EuroMed cooperation within the Latvian National Agency. Several youth leaders have already participated in some SALTO training courses, the information work have started, the organisations are using the EuroMed Youth Platform in addition to the support they can get from the agency. Some organisations are taking advantage of the existing networks and partnerships with experienced EU countries and some are already planning to take part to EuroMed projects which hopefully will generate new ideas for the future.

At the same time you can also feel caution and concern as the Mediterranean countries are something, unknown and rarely

met so far... How it this going to be ? Will it work out ? Luckily young people love challenges!

So, go ahead! The national agencies and coordinators networks are made to provide a backstop for you!



SOURCE : WWW.LID.UTEXAS.EDU



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Moroccan governmental youth policy and the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation

The governmental policy in the youth field aims at:

- > *Young people education*
- > *Young people training opportunities (vocational, sport, informal field, etc..)*
- > *Young people full social integration.*

To this regard, our national policy covers all social aspects concerning the individual (education, health, employment, leisure activities, environment, culture etc.)

Founded on the principles, spiritual and moral values of Islam, it seeks to reach the Moroccan society as a whole without differences based on age, gender or social origin.

Furthermore, it aims at providing the fullest development of young people personality and their social integration as citizens aware of their belonging to a social whole, part of this territory and this culture.

To reach these purposes, a series of actions has been adopted notably to:

- Endow young people with useful means to release themselves from any form of oppression and to build their own destiny by being aware of their rights/responsibilities and of human dignity.
- Simplify access to education and reduce the inequality between rural and urban areas to fight against illiteracy without gender discrimination.
- Take into greatest account all difficulties linked to vocational training and employment, to facilitate youth integration in society for a real participation in the economic and social development of the country.
- Simplify access to culture and develop inner cultural freedom.
- Facilitate the opening of the young people to technology and sciences

In parallel with these national objectives the Moroccan governmental Youth policy favours the opening of our young people to other countries not only get information or share cultural features, but

also to encourage young foreigners to come and discover Morocco and weave links for further exchange and cooperation.

Concerning relations connecting Morocco with other countries, we are proud to affirm that the Euro-Mediterranean countries occupy a privileged place in many sectors (one of which is the youth field!).

Within this context Morocco adopted a national strategy aiming at promoting and supporting a range of programmes to encourage Euro-Mediterranean youth work and to build a common future of mutual understanding.

Since 2002, Morocco is part of the EUROMED YOUTH PROGRAMME. During this first year and a half of hard work, in association with the of Salto Youth Euromed resource centre, we managed to promote the EUROMED YOUTH PROGRAMME by training sixty youth officers and youth leaders as well as by financing roughly thirty projects (until February 2004) prepared and presented by Moroccan youth structures together with their Euro-Mediterranean partners.

Currently "in progress" other projects whose impact would have certainly positive effects towards a better tomorrow!



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Follow the women - Cycling for peace

18 - 25 April 2004 - Lebanon-Syria-Jordan
Women cycling in the Middle East? Not very common.
And yet, it has been done!

In April, over 200 ordinary women - but, in fact, extraordinary women - from 23 countries, cycled 240 kilometers from Beirut to Damascus to Amman, showing solidarity towards women in the region, as well as raising awareness by bringing media attention to the world that the Middle East is a safe place to visit. The participants of Follow the Women came from the Middle East, Europe, and even as far away as the U.S.A.

Sponsorship for the Cyprus Team came from both the National Agency of the Youth Programme in Cyprus, as well as The National Machinery of Women's Rights, which is a body within the Ministry of Justice and Public Order, promoting gender equality and the protection of women's rights.

Months before the event, participants of Follow the Women were cautioned by "Westerners" that if women cycled through these particular countries, the local people would laugh and even throw rocks at them, inevitably making it unsafe to travel to the Middle East. Instead, young boys and girls, older women and men, threw rose petals and flowers at the cyclists, welcoming them to their homelands with open-arms and warm hospitality, continuously calling out, "Ahlan ou sahlan!" as they cycled through the streets of

Beirut, Damascus, Busra, Ramtha, Zarqa and Amman.

During the cycle rides, the Cypriot women were able to exchange and share experiences about their lives, culture, history, traditions and the

"Referendum" with their fellow-cyclists from the other countries.

The Palestinian and Iraqi women gave personal accounts of what they must endure in their daily lives, in comparison to the lives of women from the West.

A spontaneous learning process took place, which inevitably led to a greater understanding and bonding between those who took part in this first-time event.

Misconceptions about the region, and especially of Arab women, were replaced by the certainty that women, regardless of geographical location, ethnic background and religion, all have the same needs, dreams and aspirations.

Mr. Ziad Nassar from the organisation "Progressive Youth Union" (PYU) Lebanon - also actively involved in Euro-Med youth initiatives - was the Follow the Women coordinator for his country. The PYU offered unforgettable moments, which included visits to the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatilla. Through this event, sisters who had not seen each other for years had the opportunity to be reunited. Other sisters had the chance to revisit Sabra and Shatilla, their birthplace right before the massacres.

The participants were speechless, wondering if they were in the 21st century, as they witnessed the hardship of the Palestinians in the camps!

For the Cypriot women, this visit brought to the surface bitter memories of the 1974 Turkish invasions, the missing ones, the refugees and suffering of the Cypriot people.

Mrs. Andre Lahoud, the Lebanese First Lady, showed her support towards the women by attending the Opening Ceremony, held at the UNESCO Building. The Minister of Culture, Mr. Ghazi Aridi, saluted the 250 women for their initiative.

The Follow the Women Syrian coordinator was Mr. Fares Kallas and the local major sponsor was Spacetel 94, Syria's leading Telecommunication Company.

On the western outskirts of Damascus, Syria's First Lady, Mrs. Asma





Al Assad, came to meet and talk to the women. She encouraged them on their initiative for peace, before they set off on their ride through Damascus. Imagine

Damascus, a city of eight million people, having its major streets blocked off to traffic in order for the 250 women to cycle for peace. The most amazing part of the ride in Damascus was having the women cycle through the colourful Souq.

The experience of riding into Busra, in southern Syria, with masses of people lining the streets, waving, clapping and cheering happily at the participants, showering them with flowers was very moving for each member of the Cypriot team. On one occasion, when one of the Cypriots had a minor accident, local people rushed to help her get back on her feet. Suddenly, Gabriella saw a middle-aged man in front of her, humbly offering her Arabic coffee and a place to rest. The women cyclists, even the men who were part of the Technical Team, could not control the tears in their eyes, as emotions from the unexpected reception overwhelmed everyone. The overall welcoming and hospitality they received was unprecedented, truly fit for Heads of State.

In Busra, the Governor of Daraa, Dr. Nabil Omran cooperated with the Mayor of Busra, Engineer Kasem Khalil, for the reception of the local people waiting to greet Follow the Women into their city.



Some of the local women and children were dressed in traditional clothing, handing out individually wrapped red roses to the arriving guests. Dinner and spectacular entertainment, provided by traditional Syrian dance troupes and musicians, was offered under the bright stars of that magical night at the 2nd century Roman Amphitheatre.

In closing the ceremony, the Mayor presented the President of Follow the Women, Mrs. Detta Regan, a silhouette painting of the ancient columns which line Busra's colonnaded street and are symbolic of the historic significance that this city holds.

The next day, the participants were given a guided tour, walking back in time through ancient Hellenistic, Roman and Islamic periods. The women were also taken to visit a newly opened computer learning center, which was funded by the UNDP, and inaugurated by Mrs. Al Assad.

Cycling over the borders from one country to another was representative of how the Authorities of Lebanon, Syria and Jordan cooperated together to smoothly facilitate the entrance and exit of 250 cyclists from border to border without any major difficulties.

Among the countless memories of the week-long activity, being hosted twice in large tents near the Syrian and Jordanian borders,

the participants were given the opportunity to feel and experience the Bedouin hospitality and generosity first-hand.

In Jordan, the event was pioneered over a year ago by Ms. Sahar Al Fayeze, the National Coordinator of the Euro-Med Youth Programme and Vice-President of the FTW organization.

Her Royal Highness, Princess Basma Bint Talal, was among the first to immediately believe in the vision of Follow the Women and wholeheartedly endorsed it over a year ago.

Through Ms. Al Fayeze's efforts and determination, a



Jordanian women's

cycling team was formed. It should be noted, that over a year ago, most of the 25 women in the Jordanian team had never been on a bicycle before. Week after week, they practiced in

order to take part in the project.

The bike ride culminated in a two-day women's seminar in Amman, which was under the Patronage of Her Royal Highness, Princess Basma Bint Talal, and hosted by ZENID - the Queen Zein Al Sharaf Institute for Development.

The Conference was partly funded by the European Commission as an Action 5 Activity. The aim of the seminar was successfully reached when the 250 women from around the globe were allowed to learn, respect and build from the non-formal learning process. Women who had never heard about Euro-Med were praising the E.U. Youth Programme for providing youth the opportunities to learn about 'the other', facilitating increased relations between Mediterranean and European youth. Cypriot women along with others from Europe, the Middle East and the United States came up with concrete future action plans, which included follow-up projects such as planning the establishment a much needed Youth Counseling Center in Ramallah, and writing up proposals for youth exchanges, trainings and contact making seminars through the Euro-Med Youth Programme, so as to raise awareness and tolerance of the young people from Europe and the Middle East, building enhanced relations through understanding and cooperation.

To conclude, one could not help but to be proud of each and every one of the women taking part in this unique event. The women cycled the road for peace, singing for women around the world. We certainly look forward to seeing these women again cycling for peace and solidarity!



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Impressions of a Salto TC participant

• • • They came from different countries of the Euro-Mediterranean area, they didn't know each other at all. They met, they laughed, they played, they did workshops and their only physical borders were those of Marrakesh, this amazing place with its yellow ground and those bright colours looking more like shooting stars! You just need to look at them to feel the warmth even when it is cold.

Gathered here young men and young women, from 15 countries (Egypt, Morocco, Palestine, Algeria, Lebanon, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Portugal, Finland, Estonia) met, shared common goals and worked hard to achieve them.

This was "Education and civilisations": a training course designed to open new channels for cultural encounters between Arabic, Mediterranean and European youth, organised within the framework of the cooperation between the ministry of youth and sports in Morocco and the E.U.

A rich team of trainers (France, Italy, Belgium, Morocco) was there to break barriers, to facilitate the general flow and to encourage the discovery of different cultures and educational working methods.



BASSAM from Lebanon said: "I think this TC is very important to everyone regardless of the country of origin. I met a new group of young people, some living in Arabic countries with conditions similar to mine and some completely different. This enables me to deal with different mentalities and to create common understanding even when the language used is not Arabic".

TAGHREED from Palestine said : "I believe this kind of TC is a real chance for every Palestinian youth suffering from marginalization and poverty inside the barriers of his own town. It helps reinforcing the personality in an indirect way thanks to certain values. Especially it deals specifically with Arabic and European countries and this offer an opportunity to explain the Palestinian situation like I did in my presentation".



JACOB from the Czech said: "My personal evaluation to this TC will go beyond what I will write in the questionnaire. A lot of things will remain in my thoughts which I would not be able to express by words. Take for instance Morocco with its traditional costumes, its red colours, palaces, mosques, patios and the great harmony between Moroccan people.

This feeling is not just related to Morocco; I feel now that I already know a lot more about Egypt, from its songs that I hear everyday in markets and from what Egyptian participants explained us (Pyramids, Nile, Pharaohs, Alexandria).

RITA from Germany said: "It was not my first trip to Morocco, but I do feel that this visit is different. Living with different people for one week, all discussing the same subject, interested in the same goals... This is literally an opportunity for all to get over problems. After this TC hosting Arabic youth in a European country we reached a clear vision based on greater knowledge instead of "cheap" stereotypes.



BRAHIM from France said: "Within this TC I felt a "dynamic" that never rested. Everyone was constantly working to express participants' feelings from fears like cultural shock or language barriers to hopes as new friendships and greater respect for cultures.



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Action 1

Youth Exchange : "Arts and crafts within the Euro-Med Area"

RADES, TUNISIA 12 - 22 DEC. 2003

Our organisation "North African Youth Centre" (la Maison de Jeunes Maghrébins) located in Radés (Tunisia) contributes with eagerness and interest to the development of the "Euromed Youth Programme" either by participating to various activities (notably Action 1 and 5) with partners from the Euro-Mediterranean area, or by organising exchange projects or training sessions.

Hereafter we have the pleasure to introduce the achievement of a recent youth exchange: Arts and Crafts within the Euro-Mediterranean area.



The participants to this exchange were some young artists and craftsmen willing to highlight the artistic and craft heritage and potential of the European and Mediterranean countries represented in Radés.



Their artistic "special talent or field" (painting, sculpture...) had been previously announced by their sending structures in order to adapt the exchange to this variety of "talents".

The main working technique we applied (as you may imagine!)

was the workshop mainly steered by craftsmen having a large experience on the subject.

In this way we allowed the participants to :

- get and exchange craft and artistic technical practices
- employ these practices supported by professional craftsmen especially invited for the occasion
- experience the real "production phase" with a view to the final exhibition (the "creation" of this exchange!) inaugurated by a the Tunisian State Secretary to Youth and the Leisure activities. Tunisian mass-media promoted the exchange too (radio, TV...).

Participants put into action these professional learning offered by experienced North African artists/craftsmen (plait of palm trees, clay decoration

and leather preparation for clothing business) coming from southern and central Tunisia as well as from Tangier in Morocco.

Apart from the technical assistance, these outside experts discussed on the role played by craft and arts in relation to the economic and social development in their own countries.

On a more "personal development" level, this exchange gave to participants the occasion to test their artistic and craft skills and to improve the practices and acquire new art related techniques. They had the opportunity to pass from the "learning phase" to the "development phase", in our specific case the production of a piece of art!

The good result of this exchange had been facilitated by our experience in the artistic field. Our organisation has a large workshop for "artistic creation" which has already set up several "arts and crafts training modules". Let me add that the personal talent and commitment shown by our participants contributed to this success!

The final exhibition itself constituted a sort of "directory" of the artistic and craft richness expressed by the participating countries and the content of the exhibition had been truly appreciated by all visitors.

Indeed, this diversity of creations showed not only the remarkable artistic qualities of the "Euromed" youth but also their commitment towards the development and the protection of the art and craft common heritage.

This exchange ended with the acknowledgment of the immense variety and richness of the artistic and craft heritage of the Euro Mediterranean area.

To conclude this short account, we can say that the hosting organisation fulfilled the participants' expectations by proposing a rich programme which included intercultural evenings, some visits to famous artistic sites, contributions from professionals, workshops and, last but not least the final exhibition.

I am glad to thank all those who took part in this exchange (people in charge of the organisations, partners and participants) as well as the national coordination office for the Euromed youth programme in Tunisia.



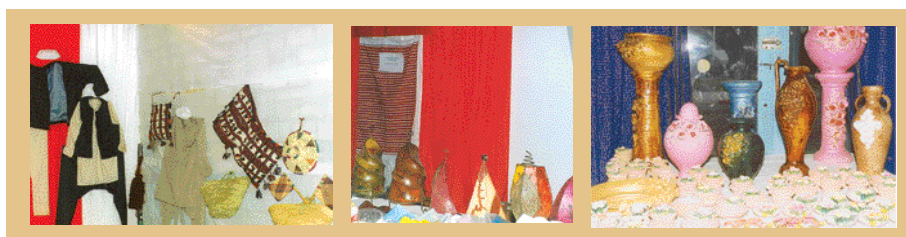
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Euromed Voluntary Service : from Portugal to Jordan

My name is Bruno Neto, I am 25 years old, of Portuguese nationality and a real citizen of the world! My active participation in the youth field started when I formed – together with some other 30 friends - a youth organisation in Tramagal, a small village in central Portugal.

This organisation, Cistus consists in a group of young people working “not for youngsters but with youngsters”, in order to better understand their needs and to empower their knowledge using different means as sports, Internet, computing skills, theatre, music, intercultural learning and so on.

This is the reason why we decided to join some of the activities proposed by the Youth Programme and later on by the EuroMed Youth Programme. Presently we are considered one of the most active organisations in the youth sector by the Portuguese National Agency.

Personally I decided to do an EVS after finishing my BA in Development Studies. I was beginning to work in Portugal when I decided to gain more personal, professional and “curriculum” experience through a different and more international working opportunity !

Therefore I started to think about my EVS, first about the possibility to go to another European country (I had contacts in Italy or France) but I knew that I was looking for “something else”, for something less “conventional” (pardon me this expression!) than another EU country, I wanted a real change of scenery!

I believe in the “Vitruvian Man” - (painting by Leonardo da Vinci), the perfect but unreachable human being. Keeping this model in mind (e.g. pushing one's limits) I suppose that one can achieve something in life.

My “adventure” began last year in July, I went to Jordan to take part to a multilateral youth exchange “Peace, concept and meaning”, organised by the Jordanian Mount Nebo Organisation and coordinated by Sakher Al-Fayez. I was the leader of the Portuguese group.

On the spot I met some interesting people - just “good partners” who became “very good friends” – to work together and to share life experiences, opinions and projects, as the follow up phase of this 1st youth exchange held in Jordan.

This will take place in Portugal (August 2004). As you may see, from the concept we moved to “Ways 4 Peace” (title of the follow up project)!

My second significant experience in Jordan was a seminar organised by the “Queen Zein Al-Sharaf Institute for Development”, where I met some new partners as well as my former Jordanian

one Sakher Al-Fayez from Mount Nebo.

Here I took a very important step towards my decision of choosing this Middle Eastern country as my EVS destination. In Jordan – I said to myself - I could count on this organisation quality as well as on the quality of the people that I would work with. Thus we discussed about this idea and, on November the 1st 2003, Mount Nebo applied as EVS hosting association.

“Follow the Women” chapter

During the above-mentioned seminar Miss Sahar Al-Fayez (Jordanian National EuroMed Programme Coordinator) told me about a project called “Follow the Women”. As soon as I became aware of this project and its impact, I decided to participate !

I immediately felt that through this project I would have learnt more about the Middle East political situation while helping in the coordination of this ambitious peace project.

“Follow the Women” had been for me a starting point to experience a different cultural, religious, and social environment. I came to Jordan two months before starting my EVS especially to work on it.

I have been “deep inside” this project and I lived it intensively. I accompanied it from its beginning to its end. I had the chance to go to Lebanon, Syria and Jordan to coordinate and follow the project and the cycling group of women.

Moreover during my EVS I attended my language preparation at the University of Jordan, (level one of Classic Arabic) and now... I can write and read.

Slowly I am improving my vocabulary and I can have a basic informal conversation. Since then, I participated to several EuroMed, training courses helping in the development and facilitation phase of the programme.

Furthermore the opportunity to promote an “active participation” within the EuroMed Youth Programme – allowing these two regions to meet, to understand their differences and similarities – is very important to Cistus, my organisation.

This is the reason why...

“I'll keep going...” - Leonardo da Vinci

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For more details about Follow the Women, please read Yiota Kamaratos's article and visit this event website : www.followthewomen.com

Study visit : “Integration of women in society in Mediterranean countries”

Tourlaville, France 3rd - 9th May 2004

Within the framework of the Action 5 of the Euromed Youth Programme my organisation N.E.C.N.A.M. Nouveaux Echanges Culturels Normandie Algérie Méditerranée (New cultural exchanges Normandy Algeria Mediterranean) organised during May 2004 a study visit on the theme: “Integration of women in society in Mediterranean countries”.

This event took place in Tourlaville (Manche), a small town in Northern France and it gathered 13 trainers coming from 6 different countries.

This study visit had been co-financed also by FASILD (Fund for Integration and Fight against Discriminations) the DRDF (Regional Delegation for Women rights) and the municipality of Tourlaville.

NECNAM

N.E.C.N.A.M, which I created and I am guiding since 1998, aims at developing and promoting all sorts of cultural exchanges and with all kinds of partners (from local NGOs, or local communities to social or cultural structures) sharing the same objectives either on the Norman soil - where I am living - either in Meda countries.

The most remarkable mean we put into practice is the exchange: youth exchanges, social and educational activities exchanges, language exchanges and all forms of cultural exchanges generally speaking. We do not follow any specific doctrine or religious belief and we do not have political membership. NECNAM is based on some basic principles as tolerance, rights equality, dialogue, dignity and respect of personal values and identity.

The origin of the project

After six years of working experience in the social and cultural field, we thought that in order to deal with Mediterranean societies' problems in depth, it would have been necessary to try and solve the situation of women in those societies. Truly, women difficulties are often link to more general societal issues.

By affirming that in Mediterranean society women are the first victims of archaism, they are also – considering the traditional role they play (as children education for example) – in a remarkable position to fight against their reality.

This implies better women awareness about themselves and a strong motivation for “speaking up”, two conditions that unfortunately women had not claimed yet..

Within this context, I was determined to organise a proper “awareness action”.

In May 2003, I finally had a concrete opportunity by participating to a Salto Youth EuroMed training course (“STEP TO”) which took place in Lisbon.

Thanks to this experience, I managed to extend my “Action 5” knowledge and to meet interesting potential partners. For that reason, I proposed the idea to organise a study visit in Normandy, on the theme I cared about: integration of women in Mediterranean societies.

Once the idea accepted, we started to define a working process to realise this project:

- The organising and hosting structure had to establish, together with all partners, the programme (themes, outside contributors) and the planning of the study visit.
It had to ensure coherence between the participants activity within their own organisations and the programme for the week.
- Within their own organisations each partners had to work on the topic “women integration in your own country” by creating a file including testimonies on women difficulties in society, current legislation, national plans to face women problems (reception centres, etc.)
- The hosting structure had to take care of the technical aspects (lodging, boarding, transportation) as well and the achievement of the event.

In order to ensure an enriching and successful project, we underlined the importance of a strong personal commitment. At the

beginning of the year NECNAM sent a working sheet (in French and English) to all partners recalling the prefixed objectives as well as the three main phases of our study visit: before, during and after.

The proposed planning had to be used as base for further discussion and had to be enriched with remarks, suggestions and proposals from every partners. Participants were clearly informed about what we expected from them in order to create a final project (action 1, 2, or 5) out of the study visit.

Main objectives of the study visit

Participants came from Algeria, Israel, Morocco, Portugal, Tunisia and France. They were mostly youth NGO leader or youth worker. Unfortunately, the German partner withdraw two days before the study visit start.

The general objective of the study visit was to contribute to eradicate all forms of discrimination which lay heavy on young women and to promote equality in society. To fulfil our goals we had to pay particular attention to :

1. Encourage and support exchange of information, experience and competences among youth leaders and youth trainers belonging to countries with different cultural backgrounds.

By comparing methods, techniques and results this study visit wanted to be an enriching occasion for participants. Nevertheless we had to keep clearly in mind the existing gap between social realities peculiar to certain societies.

2. Define together the daily situation and difficulties faced by young women in Mediterranean societies and carry out a collective thought about the obstacles to their full integration in society.

Among the main problems we need to identify : communication between girls and parents, national legislation, family approach regarding girls (school, marriage, work)...

3. Facilitate young women integration in society, encourage their motivation for more accurate information about their rights.

It is important for women to know their rights and to be aware of the laws that, in some countries, limit their freedom in different sectors (education, marriage, divorce, heritage, access to work, etc..)

4. Use previous experiences while planning and running future projects in order to respond to specific needs.

The study visit (approached themes and development)

Participants arrived on Monday. They had been welcomed at the Espace de Loisirs de Collignon (Leisure Space in Collignon) by the training team (3 trainers and 1 interpreter).

We spent the afternoon presenting the programme and introducing participants through "icebreaking" activities to get familiar with names: Joumana, Rachel, Fathi, Najoua, Rachid, Houria, Marco, Claudia, Djamel, Mebarka, Thérèse, Françoise, Sandrine, Mahdia et Grégory.

We organised the week around to "half days modules" dedicated to a specific theme relying on outside contributions from one or more specialists on the proposed topic.

All workshops were filmed. Topics were as follows :

"Women and war"

Show and debate around the Djamila Sahraoui's film "La moitié du ciel d'Allah". This theme provoked strong reactions due to the current women situation in many of the concerned countries.

"Women and underprivileged urban areas (cité)"

Visit to the "Provincial and social Space" (Cherbourg-Octeville). Participants met some members from an "underprivileged urban area women organisation" as well as few trainers working for local structures favouring social integration. The local deputy mayor honoured us with his presence at the debate which followed this meeting.

"History of Women emancipation in France during the XX century"

Contributor: a history teacher; later participants proposed the information they collected on their own reality in order to compare the all situations.

"Women and violence"

Contributor: a member of the organisation named "Femmes" (Women). This structure creates and is in charge of some reception centres for women suffering from moral and physical violence.

"Women and rights"

Contributor: the manager and a jurist from CEDIFF (Centre for Documentation and Information on Women and Family rights) which objective is to inform women on their rights and on family rights. This structure meets around 200 people per month and intervenes within the whole county.

"Girls and school"

Contributor: the "Academy Information and Orientation Service" manager of the Education Offices in Caen, France.

"Women and health"

Contributor: a speaker from the National Health "Family Planning Service" in Caen offering information, support and listening. It intervenes in schools and proposed vocational training.

"Women and work"

Contributor: a speaker from the "Continuing Education Service" of the Education Offices in Caen and the person in charge of "Social and Human Relations" at PSA Peugeot-Citroën.

For the last four years local "Education Offices" have been carrying out a study on "coeducation at work and professional equality". This institution intervenes on adults continuing education.



"Littoral Women"

Contributor: Françoise Edmonde Morin female journalist and writer, founder of a local female organisation "Les femmes du littoral" (Littoral Women).

In addition we had a half day visit to the famous "Mont Saint Michel" and two intercultural evenings (one of which was "African" due to the Tourlaville Leisure Centre kind invitation).

Evaluation :

Some in-between evaluations (every two days) and a final evaluation had been proposed through a written questionnaire. Participants found very interesting the themes we discussed and, as a whole, they appreciated the quality of outside contributions.

Debates were rich and the visit to the social centre gave a more concrete approach. Some considered the week "too intense" due to the rich programme and wished to have a free day. We regretted that some participants did not focus on the agreed preparatory work.

To conclude, it would be wise to establish a sort of "waiting or replacement list" in case of "late withdrawal" not to trouble the geographical balance between Meda and EU countries (the unfortunate case of our German partner !).

Perspectives

Several participants were inclined to create "listening units" and "info centres" for women within their own organisations. Among the themes that participants wished to deepen it appeared "women and violence". Within the existing exchanges programmes, they would appreciate a specific activity to raise awareness among youngsters on this hard topic.

In this regard, they suggested to organise a "rotating" youth exchange (Action 1) which could take place every year in one of the represented country.

Other suggestions evoked : a youth meeting about "youth volunteering within NGOs" (action 1) or a contact making seminar to find a trustful partner (action 5).

This experience seemed very useful to us. The fact that many NGOs, local and regional structures wished to take part to our meeting showed the importance of this topic.

Useful websites

Women living under Muslims laws
www.wluml.org
(Arabic / French / English)

Association des Femmes de l'Europe Méridionale
www.afem-europe.org
(Spanish / French / Greek / Italian / Portuguese)

"Salto Newsletter" on Gender Equality
(French / English)
PDF version downloadable
on the Salto Youth Euromed webpage :
www.salto-youth.net/euromed



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Work Perspectives 2005-2006



The work plan 2003-2004 is reaching its end and all its objectives have been fulfilled.

SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed Resource Centre is actively working on its work plan 2005-2006.

In order to establish an accurate and suitable work plan responding to specific needs, we sent (June 2004) a questionnaire to all NA, NC and SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed former trainees to determine their needs and requests for the

future. Presently, we received more than 100 trainees' replies, all Euromed National Coordinators and some National Agencies.

From what we received, it emerged that some training courses as "Let's meet the three cultures" "Education and civilisation" has been highly appreciated. Another module, "Ongoing Training for National Media multipliers", will be re-proposed as well as a "version" including also European multipliers.

An additional answer to expressed requests is a "Long term Training of Trainers in EuroMed" (TOTEM) co-organised by SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed Resource Centre, the Italian NA, the Egyptian NC and possibly a new member country NA due to 2005.

More info and application forms will be available this autumn.

For updated infos, visit www.salto-youth.net/euromed

WELCOME DIETRICH (AND SILVIA)!

SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed Resource Centre would like to welcome a European Commission new colleague Dietrich Rometsch who replaced Alejandra Martinez Boluda in March 2004. He joined Silvia Mora (former Alejandra's colleague) to work together on the Euro-Med Youth Programme within this Unit.

SALTO-YOUTH
EUROMED
RESOURCE CENTRE



Education and Culture

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