

Meet'In EuroMed

SALTO YOUTH EUROMED QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

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SALTO-YOUTH
EUROMED
RESOURCE CENTRE



Education and Culture

The Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures: A new instrument for the Young people in the region

The Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Foreign Ministers in Valencia in April 2002 (Barcelona V) included in the conclusions the principle of creating a Euro-Mediterranean Foundation to promote the dialogue between cultures.

After the work done during the Euro-Mediterranean Conferences of Foreign Ministers the Foundation is now a reality.

The Headquarters is based in Alexandria, Egypt. The main objectives of the Foundation are:

- to identify, develop and promote areas of cultural convergence between the countries and peoples of the Mediterranean, with the aim in particular of avoiding stereotypes;
- to hold a close and regular dialogue between cultural circles often kept outside the main diplomatic and cultural exchanges;
- to serve as a catalyst for promoting exchanges, co-operation and mobility between people at all levels, targeting in particular the young and activities relevant to young people.

Therefore it is clear that the main "clients" of the Foundation will be the young men and women of both sides of the Mediterranean. The main elements of the structure of the Foundation are:

1. The Board of Governors of the Foundation, which shall be composed of representatives of the 35 members of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and will, in the initial stage, be the Euromed Committee itself (the Euromed Committee is the body representing the governments of the 35 Euromed partners 25 EU + 10 Southern Mediterranean countries).
2. The Advisory Committee consisting of 12 members (with a balanced representation of the Euromed partners and respecting gender equality) has been established with personalities, mainly from the civil society, chosen for their background in the field of intercultural dialogue and their independence. Their main task is to give advice to the Executive Director for the preparation of the work programme and other issues related to the work of the Foundation.
3. The Network of Networks is a key aspect of the Foundation. Indeed each country has identified institutions and organizations that at national level are working to develop a dialogue between cultures within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean societies.
4. An important aspect of the co-ownership of the Foundation is the financial commitment by

the Euromed partners. Indeed, it will be financed on the one side by the European Commission that will provide a grant of € 5 million under the MEDA programme and, on the other side, by the members of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. In total more than € 11 million. The conditions for private donations will be determined in the near future.

The draft programme, prepared by the Executive Director of the Foundation M. Schöfthaler, includes many ideas in which the youth will be the main actors and notably:

- **"Our Common Future"** aiming at reach out the largest possible number of young people and invite them to share experiences and work together without frontiers. This programme could include actions like a Euro-Mediterranean Popular Music Project (Collection of popular music for dissemination), a Euro-Mediterranean school magazines project and Euro-Mediterranean schools network and Teacher-Training Programme (for twinning of schools and related subjects)
- **"Opportunities for Multiperspectivity"** inviting the young generation for learning together throughout life. Focus is on translating universal values such as non-discrimination, justice and tolerance into attractive learning and teaching resources. It will be based in ideas like a Multilingual Education Server for human rights, democratic citizenship and sustainable development a programme for comparative research on school textbooks and curricula and others.
- **"Our Creative Diversity"** on the concept of cultural diversity in the Euro-Mediterranean region, including Euromed Heritage in Young Hands making accessible results of Euromed Heritage programme to formal and out-of-school education and other education actions and selected workshops on independent artistic creation in fields such as theatre, music, modern dance and arts, and, very important, including identification of mobility schemes and travel grants for young artists.
- **"Science without Frontiers"** designed as synergy mechanism promoting participation in the emerging global higher education and science space and including ideas like the launching of a "Braudel-Ibn Khaldoun Higher Education Network" (as proposed by the Prod's High Level Advisory Group mentioned above),

co-operative trans-border research groups and a Euromed Model University Programme.

■ **"Euro-Mediterranean Information Society"** including educational and cultural journalism actions, a follow-up to the Civil Society Forum at the World Summit on Information Society (Tunis 2005) with focus on the interrelationship between emerging learning, knowledge and information.

■ **"Empowerment of Women Programme"** in co-operation with international women networks and women universities or relevant programmes and particular attention to gender issues will be mainstreamed across the whole programme of the Foundation.

Under this scenario, that has created already great expectations in the region, the main challenges for the Foundation could be summarised as follows:

- The civil societies of the region need and specially the young generations need to be reflected in the Foundation ideas and works. The Foundation can not appear in the eyes of the Euro Mediterranean public opinions merely as an instrument of the Governments. We need equilibrium between the two.
- The Foundation should, especially in the first year, combine credibility with visibility in order to make known all the efforts not only of the Foundation itself but as well of the Barcelona Process.
- The mobility for all actors of the Foundation should be guaranteed. No intercultural Dialogue action could have success if we do not guarantee the free and independent movement of ideas, artists and actors in the framework of this intercultural dialogue.



Rafael DOCHAO MORENO
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The Euro Mediterranean involvement and strategy of the French National Agency

EUROMED DEVELOPMENT: A STRONG WILL OF THE FRENCH AGENCY

Referring to the "French NA strategy" concerning the "Euromed Youth Programme" is an impossible task without mentioning the work done by one of its greatest supporter, Catherine Leseve Nicolle, former Head of the French National Agency.

In 2000, Catherine initiated and supported the application of Injep (Institut national pour la jeunesse et l'éducation Populaire) - already hosting the French National Agency - to receive also the Salto-Youth EuroMed Resource Centre. This was the first indication of her strong will to take into consideration this geo-political area of the Youth Programme.



View of Marseille.

The second significant sign underpinning this will was the implementation of the Euro Mediterranean Youth Forum in June 2002, initiated by the Regional Direction for Youth and Sport of Marseille, with the support of all national

and local authorities. This event gathered more than 300 participants from Meda countries and a majority of the E.U countries.

The Forum of Marseille aimed at developing "youth exchanges" and the "action 5" and it can be considered as the starter and the booster for more cooperation opportunities among youth Ngo's from the two shores of our common sea, translated into quantitative results as from 2003.

NETWORKING AND QUALITATIVE WORK

After this first period of quantitative development, we benefited from the support of the Salto-Youth EuroMed Resource Centre to organise a long term training course on "action 1" called JUMP INTO EUROMED YOUTH EXCHANGES (see article signed by the Jump trainers).

This cycle of two consecutive training courses (the first near Bordeaux - France, the second at Injep) within the same year enabled participants to build new partnerships, to deeply prepare their youth exchange and evaluate their cooperation.

We do hope that these new partnerships will be solid and sustainable and that youth leaders will deepen their activity on common under-

standing in order to transfer the work done to the young people involved in the youth exchanges.

PRIORITISED PARTNERSHIPS:

Egypt and Lebanon are our "twin countries" from the beginning of the EuroMed Youth Programme. Therefore, together with eight youth organisations, the French NA undertook a "study visit" to Cairo and Alexandria in 2003 in cooperation with the Portuguese NA (also twinned with this country) in order to build partnerships between our two countries.

This twinning means also that we confer a special attention to the monitoring of projects including partnerships with those countries.

It also means that we systematically invite youth NGO's from the 10 Meda countries to all European events organised by the French Agency. For instance, we associated Meda youth organisations leaders to our last "Autumn Workshops" an event which dealt with exchanges including young people with disabilities. (www.injep.fr/prog/actu/ateliersautomne2003.html)

FOCUS ON EVS:

The "EuroMed Voluntary Service" is used in a homeopathic way. To further develop this action - unfortunately underexploited in France as in many other countries - we organised by the end of 2004 - with the support of our colleagues of the dynamic Marseille region - a "Euromed contact-making-seminar" for hosting and sending organisation. This seminar held in France (19-24 November 2004 in Arles) gathered more than twenty project promoters from France and from our prioritised Meda countries working on real projects. The outcomes of this Evs networking should be visible in 2005.

PERSPECTIVES

During the two years to come, the French NA will be focusing on the evaluation of the impact of Euromed activities on project holders and as well as on new partnership events with Salto-Youth EuroMed Resource Centre at Injep.

We think that the EuroMed Youth Programme is a great opportunity to restart a "people to people" relationship on new basis introducing new concepts of cooperation, for instance the "Voluntary service", but also a "south-south" relationship.

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Jump into Euromed Youth Exchanges



Cyprus in Euromed



Source http://europa.eu.int/abc/maps/members/cyprus_en.htm

The history and geographical position of Cyprus plays an important role in the implementation of the Euromed Youth Programme in the area.

This offers more opportunities to young people and encourages youth cooperation in the area between countries with long history of conflicts.

During the first year of the Euromed Youth Programme (Phase I), Cyprus had very low participation in (mainly concerning "sending projects") but in the last two years we noticed a remarkable increase in participation, especially in relation with hosting projects.

In June 2004 (12-16 June 2004) Cyprus hosted its first "Salto Euromed training course". It was the "environment and human ecology" training course.

This training course has been conceived on the assumption that each culture is a whole with the surrounding environment (natural, sociological, historical, traditional...), and that "exploring the environment" can offer young people a good opportunity to "explore the local culture" and undertake intercultural learning paths.

In this regard, the youth leaders participating to this course acted as human ecologists, e.g. first exploring the local environment of Cyprus and then setting up activities suitable for the group of young people they might involve in future youth exchanges.

This event had a positive influence on Cyprus future youth activities and in addition, as a new member state, the role of Cyprus is even more important in the promotion of dialogue and democracy in the area.

Youth 2000 Profile

Total Population:	783,000
Youth Population:	121,000
Youth Population (15-24) in %:	15.4%
Median Age (years):	32.8

Source: *World Population Prospects (United Nations, New York, 2002)*
<http://esa.un.org/socdev/umyh/country1.asp?countrycode=cy>

Further readings

- *Cultural policy in Cyprus - National report prepared by the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus Strasbourg: Council of Europe, 2004*
 - *Cultural policy in Cyprus - European experts' report Christopher Gordon, Strasbourg: Council of Europe, 2004*
- PDF versions available on the Council of Europe website
www.coe.int/T/E/Cultural_Cooperation/Culture/Policies/Reviews/Cyprus.asp



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1 - "Human ecology is an interdisciplinary study that focuses on humans and their environment. You can define environment in a lot of different ways, which is why you end up with a lot of human ecologists who study very different things."
 (Kate Porter, www.humanecology.org)



The Euro-Med Youth Programme in Lebanon:

Cooperating to further promote tolerance
and mutual understanding

After a year of vacancy, the Lebanese National Coordination of the Euro-Med Youth Programme was re-established late 2002.



Beirut



"Inter Regional Seminar for Euro-Med Multipliers"



More Lebanese participants

It was high time for Lebanon to get back on the saddle and join the ride of the Euro-Med Youth voyage which held promises of good friends, unforgettable memories and a unique experience.

For most of the people working within the Programme, the word "challenge" is often used.

Indeed such a task is a challenge when you come to think of the obstacles that you may face as a National Coordinator or as a project promoter because of the many aspects one needs to take into account: national context, political situation, international partners, managing a national strategy and a sustainable policy towards youth.

2003 was therefore an experimental year for the Lebanese Coordination: the idea was to conduct some research and to get acquainted with potential partners, to participate in international training courses as well as to introduce the activities suggested by the Programme.

The enthusiasm surrounding this campaign was immediate: young volunteers and head of NGOs were keen on improving their knowledge and their technical skills in order to develop Euro-Med Youth projects.

Grasping the consequences of national obstacles, some of the beneficiaries progressively constituted a permanent support network for the National Coordination and, after a while, the network became larger and larger and the message behind the Programme was starting to take shape in terms of projects and partnerships beyond the borders.

It was therefore important to constitute a team of recognised multipliers who could act on behalf of the National Coordinator.

One year and a half ago, Lebanon took on the challenge to host in

NC's perspective

September 2004 the "Inter Regional Seminar for Euro-Med Multipliers", a unique operation in terms of South-South cooperation. The idea of the seminar was to gather some 30 Euro-Med multipliers coming from Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Algeria, Tunisia and Lebanon, who had attended national training courses throughout 2003 in their respective countries.

One of the objectives of the event was to evaluate, test and exchange about the many experiences they had gained as multipliers.

The process was coordinated with SALTO Euro-Med Resource Center and the twin National Agencies which had answered to the calling of National Coordinators: the need to have reliable persons who can support the NCs in terms of promoting the Programme on the national level. And there were the Euro-Med multipliers!

The result was – oddly enough – both unexpected and expected: the Jordanians, Egyptians, Syrians, Algerians, Tunisians and Lebanese multipliers assisted their respective National Coordinators in optimising the impact of the strategies as well as the visibility of the Programme.

Information sessions and training courses were hence organised and coached by the same persons who were – a couple of months ago – trainees!

Talk about feedback! Talk about impact!

In the spirit of cooperation, the seminar was not exclusive to the Euro-Med Multipliers: NAs, NCs, SALTO Euro-Med RC and the Euro-Med Youth Platform also contributed to the work which tackled four distinct axes:

- to evaluate the experiences of the multipliers on the national level
- to test the Euro-Med Training Bag
- to elaborate the Charter for Euro-Med Multipliers
- to identify expectations for the upcoming phase

The challenge for such a mission might in fact be important considering the general political context in which our societies – both European and Arab – evolve.

No one can deny that the spirit of the Euro-Med Youth Programme lies within the richness of the many cultures surrounding the basin of the Mediterranean Sea: to preserve that characteristic and to maintain it alive and vibrant is often challenged and defied by some political events threatening the region.

Nevertheless, it is during these encounters and exchanges where common work is conducted by committed and determined individuals that the challenge does not seem so impossible: that is "Meet" in Euromed!

Team work remains a key concept: working together, sharing experiences, exchanging ideas, building bridges.

Within the Euro-Med framework, such a concept takes a whole new dimension: facing different cultures and identities, coming in terms with whom we are and who we can all become collectively as partners.

What is then the added-value of this Programme?

On the personal level, the Euro-Med Youth Programme enabled me to look beyond the stakes of raw politics which may dim



"Inter Regional Seminar for Euro-Med Multipliers"

the brightness of our future as citizens of the planet. It also motivated me to contribute in supporting youth initiatives which are not always taken into consideration. "Youth is source of suspicion and worries", says an old saying...

The mission of the Euro-Med Multipliers should not be seen through "technical" lenses: I would say they are the agents of change by promoting not only a Programme but also a way of thinking: meeting each other, dialogue of cultures, promoting tolerance, encouraging the democratisation of our societies and, most of all, motivating young people to become active participants, concerned citizens and alert individuals.

Indeed, projects may come and go but the sense of partnership which is forged and deepened day by day should be everlasting.

It is in such contexts of cooperation and collaboration that we get a grip of "what could be" instead of "what is" and that we get a glimpse of all the possibilities which are offered to the youth of the "Euro-Med space" and the many opportunities from which they can benefit and enrich their lives by.

As the National Coordinator of Lebanon I have had the chance to witness the impact of the Euro-Med Youth Programme on Lebanese young people not only as an instrument which facilitates the mobility of youth across borders, but also as a unique experience in which we come to realise who we all are and to reconcile among ourselves and with ourselves as human beings.

Call me a dreamer... I would say I am the owner of ideals...



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Challenges for my country

In the age of globalisation, culture represents the essential cornerstone when dealing with groups of people. At least this is what we perceive in our EuroMed office (based within the Egyptian Ministry of Youth) and this became the main pillar of our mission.



More recently we experienced the success of our 'Capacity Building' strategy, through the "EuroMed Multipliers" training course which took place last December. There our main motto was: "There is no weak person, but

Our daily work reflects this great commitment to improve all forms of cooperation between Europe and Mediterranean countries. In view of the large young population of our country, we have to take young people into greater consideration with their hopes, needs, expectations and dreams.

These expectations are really what mean the most to the national coordinator.

Our main mission is to give young people the chance to fully express and assert themselves in the "real world".

Gladly we managed to fulfil many of these expectations thanks to our training courses, as it was the case for the "Training course for Youth NGO" (60 different NGO from all over Egypt) organised in July 2004 in Sharm El-Sheikh.



This "multi levels" training course, organised in partnership with the Portuguese National Agency and the SALTO Youth EuroMed Resource Centre, combined a practical training for the nine Egyptian "EuroMed

Multipliers" coached by Salto-Youth EuroMed team plus Altino Barradas (as you can see here by my side in the picture!) – acting on the behalf of the Portuguese National Agency - and a "first level" training course for the sixty participants.

An original feature of this training was that the main group of sixty was divided into three different training groups. These three trainings ran simultaneously in the same place and with common parts. I consider this training event the result of a very positive cooperation between the EuroMed Egypt Office and SALTO Youth EuroMed Resource Centre. I expected this training course to be a real challenge and so it was!

there is a person who doesn't know the strong parts of his personality" (Nietzsche).

This "national level" training course supported the creation of a network of "resources-person" able to support locally the National Coordination in its work. During this week the participants got to know the EuroMed Youth programme and its specificities, they tested training tools and they created new ones. The peculiarity of this training course concerned the "training part" led exclusively by former Salto trainees, now active multipliers and trainers in Egypt and abroad. The Salto Youth EuroMed Resource Centre worked, once again, as support "to coach" these trainers in action.

The "fresh" Egyptian multipliers will supervise the next national training course (due to July 2005) where the training educational coordination will be led by their "predecessors".

On the national level we succeed in organising the "International Voluntary Day" (IVD) an event that gathered 800 people representing different NGO's from all over Egypt under the patronage of our First Lady Suzan Moubark.

In her opening speech she praised all the efforts done by our youth NGOs to support the development of their local community and also to enhance their competences through these international cooperation opportunities.

To conclude, we would like to thank all those who contributed in making the "EuroMed experience" an extraordinary one... Actually a life time experience!

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Jump into EUROMED youth exchanges

On this "long-term training course" the participants were encouraged to Jump into Euromed rather than Step into it.

The aims of the course were:

- To develop Euro Mediterranean cooperation
- To reinforce the quality of Youth exchanges as well as ensuring the involvement of young people and youth workers as actors in the Euromed process

So why was this training course different than any others?

The training course was organised in five stages:

- the preparation process
- the training course
- the realisation of the exchange (through to...)
- the evaluation of the whole process (and...)
- the exchanges

As trainers this was a very satisfying and inspiring process, as we witnessed the idea being born, growing in the womb of Euromed and giving birth as a youth exchange and showing the growth of the young people and youth workers.

Coaching and support was given to the exchange partners throughout the whole process, some of the coaching was more successful than others for various reasons which we can learn from in the future.

The evaluation took place at INJEP (France), the mood from the beginning was relaxed and familiar, none of those "getting to know you games" were really necessary, as most of the group already knew each other, and it was obvious who were the partners of who

as the partnerships were firmly established and the partners in tight knit groups.

There was time for real reflection of the process and the youth exchange. As trainers, youth workers and youth exchange leaders we thought some questions were fundamental to the quality of the exchange and to follow the YOUTH programme criteria, we asked ourselves to the following very basic questions.

- Is it possible to track trainees from a training course to see how they used the training ?
- How many actual projects are conceived and realised with the end result being a learning and often amazing experience for young people ?
- Were the young people really involved in the whole process?
- Do the young people feel they own the exchange?
- Is it possible for partners to work together equally and democratically in the preparation and realisation?

The Jump process answered all these basic questions.

Most of the participants went on to actually do an exchange with young people, with four projects being realised and one taking place right now; there were three projects in Meda countries and two in European countries.

As a youth worker we felt inspired by the project presentations, these people had had little or no exchange experience before JUMP and there we witnessed them confidently and proudly presenting their projects, they were very different people now, they gave each other confidence and had achieved what they set out to achieve.





Their youth work skills were apparent: we saw on the video from one of the exchange, French street, hip hop young people arriving in Jordan without a common language and the obvious developments and friendships formed throughout the week; we witnessed also from another exchange how Israeli and Palestinian participants knew each other for the first time and managed with other groups to cooperate during the youth exchange, while tackling in their own creative way the daily experience of a heavy geopolitical situation!...

This is youth work at its best and proves the benefits of Euromed without writing long academic reports!

This was echoed in the other exchanges, the young people benefited, barriers were broken down and the youth workers grew both personally and professionally.

As trainers we found this a satisfying training course as we were able to see the training being implemented, as youth workers we were able to see the actual youth work being achieved to a high standard as youth exchange leaders we were able to gain new ideas and methods to put into practice, as persons it gave us hope for peace when we saw the people from Euro and Med countries saying Goodbye with great affection and sadness at leaving - so we believe we all went on a steep learning curve, learnt from each other and will work together again the future.

To conclude, we would like to mention that the whole process of Jump has been followed by a complete report, as a testimony of what happened in this one year time and even more... Cathy Baccamo, our reporter, is presently working together with the SaltoYOUTH EuroMed Resources Centre to finalise it.



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Common Memory Common Heritage training course

Background

The culture of a group expresses itself partially through its popular tales which provide information related to the place and the time of a given culture, to its values and to the behaviour of its members.

Wladimir Propp wrote in 1928 in his book "Morphology of the tale": "And finally, as well as all the rivers go to the sea, all the problems of the study of the tales must finally lead to the solution of this essential problem which remains always posed: that of the similarity of the tales all over the world. How to explain that the history of queen-frog in Russia, in Germany, in France, in India, at the Indians of America and in New Zealand is alike, while no contact between the peoples can be historically proved?"

Participants will try to find answers to the question of similarity between our memories, to establish possible connections between the different cultures and to highlight common and shared values. Starting from this "common memory" they will try to establish bases for a common heritage and reflect on how to transfer this knowledge into concrete youth work because, to quote Federico Mayor, former Director-General of Unesco: "All the work of the memory is finally turned towards tomorrow rather than towards yesterday."

This course aims at providing participants with a self-reflected intercultural learning experience. It will stress common features and differences of our heritage, inheritance, values and memory starting from the examples of the popular fairy-tales.

It further aims at reinforcing the quality of the EuroMed YOUTH exchanges, increasing the participants' competences in dealing with cultural aspects in their projects.

The following concrete objectives have been set in order to reach the aims as described above:

- To know more about European and Mediterranean oral traditions;
- To reflect on the participants' own cultural identity through traditional fairy tales;
- To identify and analyse common elements in relation with each others cultures;
- To create and perform new fairy tales starting from things we have in common;
- To develop useful tools for translating this topic in youth exchanges (Action 1) within Euro Med YOUTH programme

Methodology

The course will be based on the principles and practise of non-formal education and is conceived to allow a learner-centred approach based on active and interactive methods. Participants need to self organise part of the activities and thus take a personal responsibility for their learning process. They should be opened for an experiential learning experience.

The participants are expected:

- To enrich their knowledge and awareness regarding common memory and common heritages;
- To develop a project a project within the EuroMed YOUTH Programme as result of the course.



Once upon a time....

Put together thirty four storytellers, trolls, fairies, magicians, witches, princes and princesses, heroines and heroes, monsters, Cyclops, old women and men, kings and queens coming from all civilisations around the Mediterranean sea.

As of their arrival, these characters were plunged in the mysteries of this fairy region.

Even if they had to push taxis until 4 a.m. they manage to arrive to the venue: Tozeur, the pearl of the Tunisian desert.

The following day the great mess started. Bernard and Taoufik, the two great "magicians" who imagined this event, will be known from now on under the name of: the S.T.A.R.R. Agency.

During ten days the participants coming from thirteen different countries exchanged and analysed their "fairy" cultures in order to understand the mechanisms behind them and to create tales by mixing the various ingredients in order to obtain a "magic potion of dreams". To allow these "Masters of Imaginary" to compose their magic mixture, the S.T.A.R.R. Agency explained the four pillars from the "Great Book of mutual understanding": **S**olidarity, **T**olerance, **A**utonomy, **R**esponsibility and **R**espect.

And then magic worked!!!

During these ten days, let me add, I lived a little as in a dream, an unforgettable experience of exchange and sharing!

This explains why today back home; we all feel a STARR... even in a remote corner of our spirit ... which is still shining.

Of course, being STARR may mean madness and disproportion.

"You are crazy" my family and friends said to me when I suddenly left them at the Spanish border to go to see what was happening near the Belgian border, at the time of my first youth mobility intercultural experience !



So, ladies and gentlemen, young and old people do not hesitate: be crazy! Proclaim yourself STARR! And be STARR! Look in the heart of your neighbours to check the image they have of you.

You will see that beyond our beliefs, our cultural/religious belonging or colour of skin, you will then notice that our "flying" brooms and/or carpets, trolls and princesses are as like "as two peas in a pod".

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If you wish to read more about this event the quarterly magazine EUROPA edited by the Tunisian Delegation of the European Commission available on-line www.deltun.ccc.eu.int/fr/news_publications/News_3eme_2004.pdf dedicated some pages to this original training course.

Shadows of Human Rights



It is not easy to speak about "Human Rights" to young people. This is even more difficult if you want to do it with an international group composed by people not speaking the same language. What a challenge!

Since the very beginning, when we started to think about a project with Mediterranean partners, we were looking for something meaningful but, at the same time, not too tricky to be understood and not requiring complicated speeches.

Myself and the other members of the team were going to host, for the first time, young people from the other shore of the Mediterranean sea and, even after different training courses, we were not sure to be able to do it properly.

The topic of the youth exchange was not so easy. Even the partners'



research was going to be hard because of the language. The main idea we had about how to overcome this barrier was related to the methodology we decided to use.

"Shadows theatre" is something simple that everybody can do: you just need a big white sheet, a spot light and your body. So we thought it was going to work quite well. And it did!

The group was composed by French and Tunisian participants (speaking only French), Italians, Swedes and Palestinians. Of course it was hard to communicate, but this technique facilitated a lot the process of knowing each other and working together.

We used the "Declaration of Human Rights" and we asked them to represent it, using shadows, through short scenes and gestures, giving their interpretation of the different articles of the "Declaration". In order to make this activity more challenging, the working groups were mixed and even if it was sometimes stressful, everybody enjoyed the efforts done to achieve a common result.



I would like to share some personal considerations after this first Euromed experience as a hosting organisation.

It was the first time - after many projects - that we managed to host in Italy a group experiencing their very first intercultural event and I would like to stress my great satisfaction - on the behalf the whole team - while observing the remarkable impact the of the project on them. Thus, we are very grateful to all partners because of the care they put in selecting their participants. Another reflection - quite personal - concerns my encounter with Palestinians.

I am used to listen to daily, "normal" stories of war and I have already met someone coming from that area but for the very first time, their eyes, their voices, made me feel responsible, as a member of this powerless Europe unable to avoid the drama of a people like the Palestinian one. Since the beginning of the exchange - due only to the fact that they arrived two days later and they told us about their incredible trip filled of checkpoints and borders - they were "different".

I will cut this story short. After the first week of the exchange in Matera - this amazing town protected by UNESCO - everybody was happy and fine.

We were having a nice evening out to eat a pizza. One of the Palestinian guys received a call his hometown. Seven of their childhood friends had been killed during an uproar. One by one they left the table. The Tunisians did the same and when I arrived to the hostel I found them praying all together.



This tragic episode made me really think how essential and thorny is to work with young people in the frame of EuroMed and I feel there is a lot of work to be done in this direction.

Sometimes during the exchange I felt I did not have the appropriate tools to deal with different cultures and I know for sure, now, that attending a course is not enough.

I would like to conclude this article with a suggestion to my friends from Salto: I would appreciate to have topics like "conflict" tackled during your training courses.

Even if I can easily understand this is a sensitive topic, I would like to receive more information on these issue, more criticism, and discussions, especially in those contexts where people "in permanent conflict" are involved into projects.

This article can be a kind of "post-evaluation" of the STEP IN Training Course I attended in February 2004 in Sweden. That time I said that for me something was missing in the training. Now, after this personal experience, I am aware that a training for "EuroMed youth workers" does not make sense if issues about peace and war, freedom and oppression, death and hope are not brought up.

I know everybody likes to have good memories of international events but we have to be aware that all of this is a part of the reality and we cannot close the eyes or "put the rubbish under the carpet"!



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EDITORIAL TEAM REMARK: No training course can bring all the answers we need and prepare us to face tragedies. It is up to us to find the appropriate human tool and adapt it to the situation.

Nevertheless "TOTEM" (Training of trainers in EuroMed) will dedicate a module on "Conflict Management" (16/26 March 2005). www.salto-youth.net/euromed

SEMINAR ON "CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND PEACE"

Conflict is an inevitable aspect of everyday life. The world we live in today is one in which human interaction has grown, accelerated and intensified at an unprecedented scale. As a result of this growing fluidity, which itself must be regarded as an outcome of the globalisation process, the roles people play and the responsibilities they undertake either by themselves or by virtue of being involved in a larger community have increased, diversified and become differentiated. The most concrete consequence of all these developments is the

fact that conflicts and disagreements between people have become more acute. In a world where human interaction has grown, the peaceful and democratic management of conflicts is crucially important.



The seminar on "Conflict Management and Peace" took place in Ankara between the 14th and the 18th of July 2004 in Ankara -TURKEY. Thirty five young people and youth workers participated from 11 different European and Mediterranean countries. The participating countries were: England, Malta, Spain, Israel, Algeria, Greece, Jordan, Germany, Lebanon, Palestine, Turkey. By this seminar we aimed at bringing together youth leaders and young participants to discuss conflict management issues and real-life problems and to develop communication and negotiation skills.

THE IDEA....

In recent years we have made some attempts to find ways to improve internal working mechanisms of our association. With this aim we set up a committee that would work on the ways of making the decision making and negotiation process within the structure more effective. In the end, we came up with the idea of organising an international seminar on "Conflict Management and Peace" which, as we mentioned above, is of primary importance for youth and NGO-related matters. What we initially did in the context of this project was to scan the topics of previous projects to see if we could come up with a new concept.

SEMINAR ON "CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND PEACE"

Once we formulated the topic of the project, we came together with our group and held meetings to share our visions and create new ideas.

We then contacted - through the internet - the likely participants to have their opinions on the project topic and organisation of the seminar. The co-ordination team was in constant communication on all related subjects via fax, phone and the internet in order to be able to agree upon the methods that would be used in the activity. We also got in touch with other local institutions and NGOs to ask for their involvement. AFSAD contributed towards the financing of the project by organising a cocktail on the opening day, providing stationery and computer equipment required before and during the project, and internet access to participants, and by providing support personnel on a voluntary basis.

We have come to understand from our previous experiences that teamwork is the key to success for a project. We set up a project team within our organization to provide constant support to the host organization.

The most visible and concrete objective of the project is to make sure that the participants will undergo a learning process within an international group and provide a platform for discussion and exchange of good practice. We wished in the end to improve participants' knowledge on "Conflict Management and Peace", and ways of communicating and negotiating with others. Since successful management of conflicts requires in the first place an ability to understand and communicate with others, we plan to create and simulate real-life cases during the seminar, which we hope would lead an increasing awareness on the part of the participants.



Our other direct and indirect objectives may be summarized as follows:

- To promote future co-operation and communication between Mediterranean and European countries;
 - To discover and explore the similarities and differences between cultures
 - To use "European dimension" in our project;
 - To have the opportunity to increase exchange, partnership and cooperation;
 - To create chances for establishing face-to-face contacts and discover new opportunities for further and long lasting relationships between different countries;
 - To increase the number of youngsters who are capable of communicating with others, of handling tension in different circumstances, of having communication skills;
 - To ensure that better projects are prepared in the future;
 - To increase the communication within and among local NGOs;
 - To make voices of disadvantaged groups heard, whose voices would remain unheard in cases where conflicts are not managed;
- In the short run the direct beneficiaries were the members of Turkish, other European and Mediterranean organisations that participated in the activity. In the long run, with the increasing cooperation, exchange and partnership more and more people are likely to benefit from the results and output of the seminar. The local community of NGOs is also another beneficiary of the project in the sense that they had a new point of view and new opportunities will emerge for future cooperation with other countries.

....AND THE IMPLEMENTATION

Two international trainers (Derya Büyüktanır and Hakkı Çamur) worked during our project. At the beginning of the Seminar, after some

▼ MY ORGANISATION

AFSAD, Association of Ankara Photographers, was founded in 1977 to support cooperation and solidarity of professional and amateur artists and giving them a free platform to discuss theoretical, technical and aesthetic subjects about photography. AFSAD organized a large number of seminars, exhibitions, courses for photography training, theoretical studies and social activities. It also took part in recent in exhibitions and meetings in countries like USA, Holland, Belgium, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kuwait and China. AFSAD has organised various workshops and exhibitions on the following themes: Youth, Peace, Human and The Habitat, Men at Work, Turkish Artists and Scientists, Arabesque, Creative/Nature, Money.



energisers and ice breaking games the participants had chance to know each other better. We made group building activity: Capture the Conflict. And by Communication/CL Skill workshops we stressed the importance of Communication. With the case studies we stressed on the importance of the conflict management in the individual level. In the "Mini UN Summit" the participants had the chance to express their feelings about the conflicts on the international level.

In the "Panel on Peace", the first secretary of the Bilateral Economics Relations Department Middle East gave a speech about conflict and how we can manage them.

During the last day we made a plenary session: Role of NGOs & International institutions to discuss what are our problems in organisational level in the youth works in Mediterranean and European countries.

The seminar itself was composed by two parts: during plenary sessions, we wish to inform the participants on theoretical issues related to conflict management. For this part of the project, experts and academicians specialised in conflict management delivered speeches.

During the workshops, the participants were given a real-life problem and then asked to propose a solution for that problem. Having finished the discussion within each group, we asked participants to share their experiences with others about conflicts that emerged within the group while discussing the problem, and how they managed to resolve these disagreements.

Our purpose was therefore two-fold: to ask the participants to develop a solution for a real-life a problem and, on the other hand, to experience the process of conflict resolution, negotiation and fruitful communication while solving this problem. There were also some "role-playing games" with the purpose of improving the skill of understanding others and developing a feeling of empathy for others.



The project evaluation was an integral part of the entire Seminar. The evaluation process during the program was carried out in different stages and levels.

I am glad to thank AFSAD, all partner organisations and participants who took part in this Seminar. We are ready to make new projects in the future to be more active in youth works and we hope that the number of youth projects will increase in the future all over the world.

▼ MY BACKGROUND

I am currently a Master student at the European Studies Department in Middle East Technical University. At the same time (and beside my university studies for the last three years) I have been working as a project coordinator of various EU-supported projects: "Mosaic of Cultures" (Euro-Med Action-1 Project), "Urban Photo-Safari" (Euro-Med, Action-1 Project), "Conflict Management and Peace" (Euro-Med Action-5 Project), "Cultural Reflections in Photography-me/the other" Seminar (Youth For Europe, Action-5 Project). "Urban Photo-Safari" is selected by the European Commission as one of the best projects in Euro-Med (2000-2003). I also attended study sessions about human rights and the "Training for Trainers courses" organised by Council of Europe. As I had experiences about these projects, I started to work in Turkish National Agency (State Planning Organisation) as a promoter in Turkish Youth National Agency.



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1. International Training Courses

> Thematic Training Courses

EDUCATION AND CIVILISATION

DATE: 23/30 July

VENUE: Egypt

Number of participants: 30 (to be selected by the respective NAs/NCs of the 35 concerned countries)

LANGUAGE OF THE TRAINING COURSE: French / English

TARGET GROUP: Youth workers (professional or volunteer) familiar with the EuroMed Youth Programme.

DESCRIPTION: The training course will analyse the existing links between "EuroMed" civilisations and their notion of "education" in order to foster "youth projects" and more specifically "voluntary service" projects.

COMMON MEMORY

DATE: 20/28 June

VENUE: Greece

Number of participants: 30 (to be selected by the respective NAs/NCs of the 35 concerned countries)

LANGUAGE OF THE TRAINING COURSE: French / English

TARGET GROUP: Youth workers (professional or volunteer) familiar with the EuroMed Youth Programme.

DESCRIPTION: This training course aims at encouraging participants to apprehend intercultural learning in order to highlight what is common to both Mediterranean banks: all forms of heritage, values and memories starting from the example of the popular tales.

2. Training Seminars

WATER EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT

DATE: 24/30 April

VENUE: Jordan

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 25 (to be selected by the respective NAs/NCs of the 35 concerned countries)

LANGUAGE OF THE TRAINING COURSE: French / English

TARGET GROUP: Youth NGOs (professional or volunteer) dealing with this topic.

DESCRIPTION: In relation to water resources and reserves, Jordan is one of the 10 poorest countries in the world. This training seminar will raise participants' awareness on this issue and enable them to reflect on an educational approach to water use and respect, by sharing and discovering good practices from different regions of Jordan.

PEACE EDUCATION

DATE: 6/12 June

VENUE: Spain

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 30 (to be selected by the respective NAs/NCs of the 35 concerned countries)

LANGUAGE OF THE TRAINING COURSE: French / English

TARGET GROUP: Youth NGOs (professional or volunteer) dealing with this topic.

DESCRIPTION: This training seminar will deal with the notion of peace by using good practices exchange, testimonies and active methods.

3. National and International Trainings Courses for EuroMed Multipliers

At least two training of EuroMed Multipliers (privileged "resource person" for the National Coordinators while promoting the EuroMed Youth Programme) will be organised in 2005. Only residents of the hosting country can participate to these trainings.

Israel 15/21 May (training before July 2005)
Palestine 21/27 May

Moreover the Salto Youth EuroMed RC in cooperation with the Swedish and Belgian (French speaking community) NAs will organise an international TC for "European and Mediterranean Multipliers". For this exceptional "Multipliers TC", all European and Mediterranean residents are allowed to participate.

Sweden 9/14 May

4. International Training for trainers

LTTC "TATEM"
(Training for Active Trainers in EuroMed)

DATE: Three phased LTTC - Budapest (Hungary) November 2004; Injep (France) September 2005; for 2006 venue and dates to be decided

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 30 (already selected by Salto Youth EuroMed RC and the European Youth Centre/Council of Europe - Budapest)

LANGUAGE OF THE TRAINING COURSE: French / English

TARGET GROUP: Active trainers within the international youth sector

DESCRIPTION: Implemented in cooperation with the European Youth Centre/Council of Europe - Budapest, this training course aims at developing and consolidating the skills and competences of 30 active trainers with projects in the region to develop the quality of training and the existing informal pool of trainers.

Introductory phase: November 2004 - European Youth Centre-Budapest.

Second phase: Injep (France) 17/30 September 2005

Third phase: 2006 (details to be decided)

LTTC "TOTEM"
(Training of Trainers in EuroMed)

DATE: Three phased LTTC - 16/27 March 2005 - Italy; 18/27

November 2005 - Egypt and 13/21 May 2006 - Poland

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 30 (to be selected by Salto Youth EuroMed RC and the training team)

LANGUAGE OF THE TRAINING COURSE: French / English

TARGET GROUP: Youth leaders/workers willing to become a trainer

DESCRIPTION: Training course organised in cooperation with the Italian and Polish National Agencies and the National Coordination of Egypt. TOTEM has been designed to support the learning of those youth workers/EuroMed who manifested their will/need to develop their competences as trainers in this field. More specifically, TOTEM responds to the need of developing specific EUROMED-related competences in the field of training and tries to address to a very specific target group of candidates.

In relation with the recent enlargement of the European Union, which enables eastern European countries to develop projects with Meda ones, TOTEM want to respond to the increased need of transferability of training concepts and experiences, dedicating part of its implementation to the self-reflected acquisition of the necessary competences.

Five subsequent phases:

1. An introductory seminar, 16/26 March 2005 - Italy

2. A period of time devoted - for participants - to finish writing their projects and present them at the 1st June 2005 deadline. During this period of time mentoring should begin.

3. A second seminar, 18/27 November 2005 - Egypt

4. A period of time devoted for participants to implement their training projects. Mentoring should continue.

5. A final seminar 13/21 May 2006 - Poland



SALTO-YOUTH
EUROMED
RESOURCE CENTRE



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