



SALTO YOUTH Good Practices Newsletter

Focus on “Inter-religious dialogue”

“The dialogue between the Muslims and Christians is as old as Islam itself...One should also mention the so called golden age, a period in which Cordoba under Moorish rule facilitated a unique situation where Jews, Christians and Muslims could have discussions in complete harmony”.

Klaus Schünemann¹

“Politics begins with the way we use words, George Orwell reminded us. At a precarious moment for relations between Muslims and their ‘others’ it is important to recall that Allah is not the name of the Muslim god; that God, Allah and Yahweh are different words for the same deity.

Darius Kamali²

□ INITIATIVES

“Exclusion, anti-Semitism and Islam phobia in Europe” within the 6th Summer University on Youth and Development 12-19 October 2005 - Spain

This training course is intended for youth leaders, social workers and trainers focusing on the issue of social cohesion and prevention of racism, anti-Semitism, Islam phobia and social exclusion. This workshop in particular will bring together 20 experienced youth workers, trainers and youth researchers that are linked to Youth Express Network and engage them in an overall discussion on the related issues under the light of their experiences in the field. The workshop participants will also have the possibility to take part in the joint activities of the university which will be organized in cooperation with all partner institutions. The “Summer University on youth and development” is being organized for the 6th time and is already one of the most prestigious and influential youth events in the field. Each year the summer university brings together prominent organizations working in the youth field together and provides the opportunity for around 250 young people from Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa to work together on issues that are of importance for all. On top of that it ensures the establishment and strengthening of partnership and cooperation among the youth organizations from Europe and other continents. **The deadline for sending the applications is 7th of September 2005 by midnight.**

More information: Youth Express Network: www.y-e-n.net or North South Centre: www.nscentre.org

International Conference: “Euro-Islam - Mixed or Separated?” - 2-8 October 2005, Romania –

This event is part of a broader AEGEE project on “Euro Islam”. Its main partners are AEGEE Europe, AEGEE Ankara and the Romanian-Turkish Business Council. It aims at promoting values of mutual respect and understanding between different cultures and religions and to fight against intolerant and xenophobic attitudes. Between 2nd and 8th October, 75 participants from over 30 countries, both European and Non-European will have the chance to ask questions and find answers about the Euro Islam phenomenon, to discern between myth and reality. 30 out of the 75 participants can also take part in a 3 day pre-event on The Role of Women in the Islamic Society (September, 30th - October, 2nd). The pre-event is organised in collaboration with Women Development Foundation-WDF Romania.

Deadline for sending the applications expired!!! Sorry!! Anyway, for more information refer to AEGEE Bucuresti www.aegee.org/euroislam/fileadmin/final_conf/ or contact them at euroislam_bucuresti@yahoo.com.

“Let’s meet the 3 cultures training course” - Jerusalem (Israel) - December 4th - 12th, 2005

“The three cultures, Christianity, Islam and Judaism, have been present in Jerusalem since early times. Jerusalem today reflects the rich and intrinsic relations between the cultures along the times, showing in itself meeting points as well as the result of conflicts along the years.” **Last year edition took place in Cordoba** (Spain) another very significant venue for this kind of event!! As its title explains, this training course - which dealt with very sensitive subjects - allowed all participants to share cultural and religious traditions in a climate of tolerance and mutual understanding.

During this training course, organised in cooperation with the National Coordinator for the EuroMed YOUTH Programme in Israel, participants get to know and experience different aspects of these cultures and religions (ex: art of living, thinking, economy and politics as well as the role of women) in order to **create tools to be applied in intercultural work and to include what they learnt in future projects within the EuroMed YOUTH Programme.** www.salto-youth.net/euromed
Deadline for sending the applications expired!!! Sorry!!

¹ Source: *Moslemische Revue (Muslim Review)* January-March 1990, Pages 55-59.

² Source: “God, Yahweh, also known as...Allah” in “*Open Democracy*” 10 - 7 - 2003 www.opendemocracy.net

International Congress on intercultural and inter-religious dialogue: "New challenges in a world longing for peace" 11 – 13th December 2005 - Bilbao, Spain.

Barandiaran Kristau Alkartea – Pax Romana (International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs) in collaboration with UNESCO Etxea is organising this "International Congress" on intercultural and inter-religious dialogue. "The promotion of dialogue among different communities and civilizations is, at present, a priority for the international community. It is only in dialogue that communities can truly meet and understand one another. Choosing the route of dialogue however, involves facing a number of difficulties and challenges. For more information about the programme and about how to participate..." www.ici-bilbao.org/en-conjunto.htm

□ INSTITUTIONS

Unesco

The main aim of the **Unesco programme on "Inter-religious dialogue"**, which is a vital dimension of intercultural dialogue, is to promote such dialogue between different religions and spiritual traditions in a world in which intra- and inter-religious conflicts are on the increase due to ignorance or lack of understanding of the spiritual traditions and respective cultures of others. Find here a list of resources, events and news (not always the most recent but still useful!).

http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=11680&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

World Conference of Religions for Peace

This is the largest international coalition of representatives from the world's great religions who are dedicated to achieving peace. An interesting chapter is dedicated to the situation in South Eastern Europe: "The warfare and instability that dominated Southeast Europe in the last decade, most notably in the former Yugoslavia, divided the people of the region sharply along lines of ethnicity and nationality. **Though the wars were not religious by definition, the close association between national and religious identities in the Serb, Bosnian, Croat, and ethnic Albanian communities** led to the misuse of religious officials, symbols, and language to further the war aims of political and military leaders." www.wcrp.org/RforP/Conflict/SOUTHEASTEUROPE.html#top containing the Final Communiqué by Bosnia and Herzegovina on "Inter-Religious Youth Event"

Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures

The Foundation promotes a dynamic concept of **dialogue between cultures** through co-operation between civil society partners in education, culture, science and communication and it contributes to shaping the Euro-Mediterranean space as an area of co-operation, exchange, mobility, mutual understanding and peace.

For more information: http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/euromed_foundation/index.htm

□ RESOURCES

○ WEBSITES

Open democracy

In the section "**Faith and ideas**", this portal hosts debates on values, ethics, philosophy, spirituality, religions, and belief systems. "There has never been a more important time to understand ourselves and one another better!" www.opendemocracy.net/faith_and_ideas/index.jsp

Comparative religion

This British site for religious resources is devoted to proposing the key books and writings of human spiritual and religious thought. It covers the major world religions, alternative spiritual systems as well as ancient mythologies **for comparative analysis**, religious study and spiritual reading. The site includes a multi-faith discussion forum www.comparative-religion.com

○ READINGS

"Fresh" articles by Qantara

The Arabic word "qantara" means "bridge". This Internet portal aims at promoting dialogue with the Islamic world. Many of these interesting articles are dedicated to **religion and to inter-religious dialogue**. www.qantara.de

Coyote article: "How? A training course during Ramadan" by Heba Al-Taibi Coyote no.9, (August 2004)

This article deals with **making allowance for Ramadan without disrupting training courses**. The author describes the specific needs of Muslim participants in courses and presents the "Jump into Euro-Med youth exchanges" course (organised by the Salto Youth EuroMed Resources Centre and the French National Agency for the Youth Programme) as an example where these needs were successfully met. The key to running a successful course during Ramadan hinges on scheduling, definition of tasks and preparation in advance.

www.training-youth.net/INTEGRATION/TY/Publications/coyote/coyote09/index.html

