

## Euromed Meeting – Injep June 2006

## General framework

The European Commission, in collaboration with Salto EuroMed Resource Centre held a 3-day meeting to discuss the launch and implementation EuroMed Youth III.

## Main aims:

- Inform about the structural organisation of the third phase of the programme
- Illustrate the role of the RCBS Unit (Regional Capacity Building and Support)
- Discuss about the role and importance of the Euromed Youth Programme in programme countries.
- Gather together main actors involved in the Euromed Youth field (see below)
- Exchange good practice and testimonies
- Focus on future developments: twinning, project proposals (in preparation of the forthcoming TCP Meeting)
- Illustrate and discuss Action 3 of the Youth in Action Programme

## Participants:

European Commission's DGs EAC and AIDCO, EU National Agencies (project officers in charge of Euro-Med Youth), representatives of the newly established EuroMed Youth Units (EMYU) in Meda countries, Salto EuroMed RC, the Anna Lindh Foundation, the EuroMed Youth Platform, the European Youth Forum, the Council of Europe and the Regional Capacity Building and Support unit, recently created by the Commission, to support implementation of the EMYUs.



## EUROMED MEETING PROGRAMME

JUNE 8th-10th - INJEP – FRANCE

	THURSDAY 8	FRIDAY 9	SATURDAY 10
from 7.00		BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST
9.15/9.30		MORNING ENERGIZER	MORNING ENERGIZER
	PARTICIPANTS ARRIVAL	THE EUROMED DIMENSION IN PROGRAMME COUNTRIES: STATE OF PLAY	TWINNING: introduction to the concept, testimonies, past experiences, how to realise sustainable twinning..
	WELCOMING DRINK AND SPEECH Served at 12.00	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK
		EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES AND TESTIMONIES	FUTURE COOPERATION: ideas, proposals
12.30	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
14.30	INTRO by DGEAC/DGAIDCO/INJEP PRACTICALITIES  GROUP DYNAMYC	MAIN EUROMED ACTORS PRESENTATION: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PARTNERSHIP,</li> <li>• EUROMED PLATFORM,</li> <li>• ANNA LINDH FOUNDATION.....</li> </ul>	YOUTH IN ACTION ACTION 3
15.30	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK
16.00	PICTURE OF EUROMED YOUTH TODAY  PRESENTATION OF R.C.B.S (Regional Capacity Building and Support)  + DEBATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• .....YOUTH FORUM (and last but not least..)</li> <li>• SALTO YOUTH EUROMED</li> </ul>	CLOSING + FINAL QUESTIONS/ANSWERS  ALL ACTIVITIES WILL BE OVER BY 17.30
19.00	DINNER	COLD BUFFET + ICL EVENING	EVENING IN PARIS

Welcome speech by **Herve Mecheri, INJEP general director**, who underlined the fundamental role played by "Euromed Youth Programme" to reinforce the cooperation between the two shores of the Mediterranean in the youth field. He explained that INJEP is highly involved in contributing to the making of youth policies on the European level. He wished this could help to build a future of peace and stability. "It is important for us – he stated- that young people learn how to live together".



**Claire Kupper ("EuropeAid" DG AIDCO)** mentioned that her first contact with the Euromed Youth Programme occurred during the "Euromed Youth Awards"<sup>1</sup>, event promoting the Euro Mediterranean youth cooperation which offered her the opportunity to better approach the rich world of the Euro Mediterranean youth activities. Since its beginning, the Euromed Youth Programme proved its usefulness as vehicle for transmitting values of peace and democracy through its multiplying effect.



She stressed the importance of this information meeting gathering Euro-Med Youth desk officers from the Youth Programme's National Agencies, officers from the new Euro-Med Youth Units in the Mediterranean partner countries and other stakeholders of the programme. This gave the opportunity to better inform colleagues about the new programme and its procedures and will probably allow NA/EMYU to well prepare the forthcoming TCP meeting.

The two Directorates General "EDUCATION and CULTURE" (EAC) and "EuropeAid" (AIDCO) contributed to the budget in favour the Euromed Youth Cooperation.

### EURO-MED YOUTH PROGRAMME in 2005-2006

In December 2004, Euro-Med Youth II came to an end. Before launching phase III, the Commission decided to carry out a review of the centralised management mode of the programme to bring it in line with the principles of decentralised management in the context of the reform of external aid and cooperation. In order to support the decision-making process, the Commission's Cooperation Office "EuropeAid" (DG AIDCO) launched a feasibility study. The selection of projects submitted by youth organisations based in the Mediterranean partner countries was therefore suspended until the new management mode would be in place.

Following the recommendations of the feasibility study, **the Commission envisages to decentralise the MEDA part of the programme**. Such decentralisation will entail the transfer of the management – that is, the selection, issuing of contracts and financial management of the projects presented by youth organisations from the Mediterranean partner countries – to new structures which will be identified by the authorities of the relevant countries.

The decentralisation process includes two phases: the first one will focus on the creation and capacity building of the new structures. The second one will consist in re-opening project selections, which will be managed in a decentralised fashion by the new structures. The process is now taking place under the supervision of DG AIDCO, which is responsible for the implementation of the Commissions' external aid. Directorate General « EAC » continues to manage the part of the Euro-Med Youth programme regarding projects presented by youth organisations from the EU Member states through National Agencies as well as the centralised selection of projects presented by Europe-wide youth NGOs. It will also continue to manage the programme's support actions (Resource Centre SALTO YOUTH Euro-Med, Euro-Med Youth Platform, and Partnership on Euro-Mediterranean Youth Co-operation in the field of Training with the Council of Europe).

<sup>1</sup>"Euro-Med Youth Awards" for best projects, held in Cairo, Egypt from 12 to 16 October 2005  
This event wanted to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration and significant achievements of the Euro-Med Youth Programme. It was co-organised by the Egyptian National Coordination Office, Salto Youth Euro-Med RC and the Euro-Med Youth Platform, under the patronage of the European Commission, and in cooperation with the European Youth Forum. It aimed at sharing good practices amongst actors of the Euro-Med Youth Programme by presenting a selection of significant Euromed projects, awarded during the closing ceremony. More info: <http://www.salto-youth.net/winners/>

During the decentralisation process the EU commission will transfer the management of the Euromed Youth Programme to the Euro-Med Youth Units appointed through the local authorities (Ministries). The financial convention (for the management of the programme at national level) between the EC and the MEDA youth national authorities has to be signed before the end of 2006, if not the money will be lost.

Those MEDA countries which did not sign during 2006 may apply to the next budgetary phase in 2007.

The Euro-Med Youth Units will:

- introduce new rules in their daily work
- set up teams/activities
- launch their "Call for Proposals" (3 dates/deadlines)
- employ experts



The programme will still offer three main actions 1, 2 and 5 and will involve participants from 15 up to 25 years old.

The following chapter will explain in detail how the decentralisation process will be implemented and its phases.

### **European Neighbourhood Policy**

*The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) complements the multilateral "Barcelona Process", which continues to be a key element of EU relations with the Mediterranean countries.*

*The ENP was developed in the context of the EU's 2004 enlargement, with the objective of avoiding the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and our neighbours and instead strengthening stability, security and well-being for all concerned.*

*The EU offers our neighbours a privileged relationship, building upon a **mutual commitment to common values** (democracy and human rights, rule of law, good governance, market economy principles and sustainable development).*

*The ENP goes beyond existing relationships to offer a deeper political relationship and economic integration. With many of the same general objectives, the ENP offers additional bilateral incentives and opportunities, responding to individual countries' reform efforts.*

*Originally, the ENP was intended to apply to our immediate neighbours – the ten MEDA countries plus Belarus, Libya, Moldova and Ukraine. In 2004, it was extended to also include the countries of the Southern Caucasus with whom the present candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey share either a maritime or land border (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia). Although Russia is also a neighbour of the EU, our relations are instead developed through a strategic partnership covering four "common spaces".*

More info:

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/world/enp/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/world/enp/index_en.htm)

## THE DECENTRALISATION PROCESS IN EURO-MED YOUTH III<sup>2</sup>

### • **FIRST PHASE**

A significant change in the management of the programme for the Mediterranean countries is taking place, as a consequence of the decentralisation of the management of external aid towards the MEDA national authorities. The long term objective is a better ownership of the programme by the Mediterranean partner countries.

The management of the programme is being transferred to the Mediterranean youth authorities, and will be operated by separate units within each MEDA ministry, the **Euro-Med Youth Units (EMYUs)**.

These units will be set up by the national authorities with the support of a **Regional Capacity Building and Support unit (RCBS)**.

During the first phase of the decentralisation process, DG AidCo selected the external RCBS unit following the tender procedures. INJEP was nominated to run the RCBS Unit.<sup>3</sup>

Within the new programme framework, the responsibilities of the EMYUs will go beyond the traditional tasks assumed by the National Coordinator (restricted primarily to promotion, information and support to project promoters) and will include the tasks carried out previously by DG EAC.

The new EMYUs will be responsible for all managerial tasks of the programme in its different phases: application, selection, contracting, monitoring and payment procedures, as well as for the traditional tasks assumed by the national co-ordinators of programme.

The deployment of RCBS together with a close monitoring is essential to ensure the proper transfer of responsibilities, the satisfactory expected performance of the new Euro-Med Youth Units (EMYUs), impact and visibility of the programme.

**Financial agreements** (for the management of the programme at national level) between the EC and the MEDA youth national authorities are being prepared, negotiated (Delegations/National Authorities) and will finally be signed.

Parallel to the decentralisation process, the **deconcentration process** will also take place. A number of responsibilities for the management of the Euro-Med Youth Programme will be transferred from the Commission headquarters in Brussels to the respective **EC Delegations** in the MEDA countries. The process should be fully completed and operational at the end of 2006.

### • **SECOND PHASE**

This **phase** will concern the organisation of selections and the start up of the projects selected and financed under the programme Euro-Med Youth III. The selection panels' calendar will respect the calendar of the Youth programme (3 annual selections, probably by sub-regional panels). Delegations will also accompany the process of selection and will follow the implementation of the projects within each country.

As responsible for the management of the European Youth programme, DG EDUCATION and CULTURE (EAC) are fully cooperating with EuropeAid (AIDCO) in order to guarantee coherence and consistency between the two parts of the programme.

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<sup>2</sup> Information available of the EU webpage:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/youth/priorities/euromed\\_decentralisation\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/priorities/euromed_decentralisation_en.html)

<sup>3</sup> The RCBS Unit: Bernard Abrignani, Team Leader and Marc Muller, Project Manager

**PROVISIONAL CALENDAR FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Approval of Euro-Med Youth III project document by MED Committee	11 July 2005
Publication of restricted call for tender for Regional Capacity Building and Support (JO S 159)	19 August 2005
Evaluation committee established shortlist of candidates for call for tender	10 October 2005
Sending of full call for tender to 5 short listed consortia	24 October 2005
Formal Commission decision on Euro-Med Youth III	27 October 2005 SEC (2005) 1385/6
Deadline for reception of proposals for Regional Capacity Building and Support	20 January 2006
Evaluation committee	End of January 2006
Date foreseen for start of RCBS contract	March 2006
<b>Creation of new national Euro-Med Youth Units (EMYUs) in Mediterranean partner countries foreseen to start</b>	<b>Progressively, as from 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2006</b>
<b>Date foreseen for likely reopening of project selections in Mediterranean partner countries</b>	<b>Progressively, starting from Mediterranean partner countries that are ready, as from June 2006</b>

## • CURRENT SITUATION

The creation of the EMYUs depends on many different factors that are difficult to estimate (negotiations with National authorities, signing of agreements, recruitment and training of personnel, etc.). Nevertheless **Lebanon** and **Egypt**, which have recently signed the financial agreement, should be ready for the November deadline.



The new units will have a two years contract starting, as mentioned, from the signature date. Their work plan will instead be annual and a final report will be requested. The budget allocated to each MEDA country will be different and it will depend on the number of projects granted in the past and, of course, on the youth population rate.

Some of the MEDA countries are slower (or less interested) in joining the process and appointing a responsible person but the Commission hope that signature of Lebanon and Egypt will have a "locomotive effect". During June 2006, RCBS has scheduled some preparatory visits in Israel and Morocco. Syria will probably be following.

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## • DEBATE

During the presentation of the new Euromed Youth Programme some doubts/questioning have arisen about *modus operandi* to finance local NGO and their projects. Some MEDA youth NGO fear that they may be victim of "unjust treatment" and not financed.

**Claire Kupper** explained that the Commission is aware of this risk and it is taking all the necessary measures to guarantee transparency and equality. Moreover:

- the project selections will normally be carried out by a "selection panel" which will include external experts and member of the local EU Delegation in order to help maintaining transparency in a total the respect of the procedure
- in this regard the selection guidelines are strict
- the EU Delegation will validate the process and report malfunctioning
- RCBS will coach step by step to ensure that rules and regulations are followed properly

It has been given the example of Syria where the existing NGOs are mainly "governmental NGOs"! What will then happen in this country? How will the project selection take place?

Some replies were proposed:

- a) It must be noticed that to host (or participate to) any youth activity whatever MEDA NGO does not need to be "recognised".
- b) "Trust" should be the key word. New MEDA EMYUs and its selection procedure should be trusted.
- c) This procedure mode may not work today but may change the local policy on the run.

It has been asked how the new application form would look like in order to avoid complexity and create applying difficulties to youth NGOs.

Some NAs project officer stated that their NA have a little budget to dedicate to finance 3<sup>rd</sup> countries activities (so even Euromed). NA colleagues fear that for the first year it will be hard to finance a large amount, so it has been suggested that the Commission may increase the “partner countries” budget.

Following **Bernard Abrignani (RCBS / Salto Youth Euromed)** shortly introduced RCBS and its main tasks, which includes:



- staff selection
- staff training based on the organisational rules set by DG AidCo and consequent financial regulation
- guidance on information
- dissemination/production
- expert recruitment
- monitor mechanism
- and coaching till independent

In general, new EMYU will include three officers: a Haed of Unit, responsible for the implementation of the Euromed Youth Programme, an assistant and an accountant. This scheme may vary. (For more details on RCBS see box, page 4)

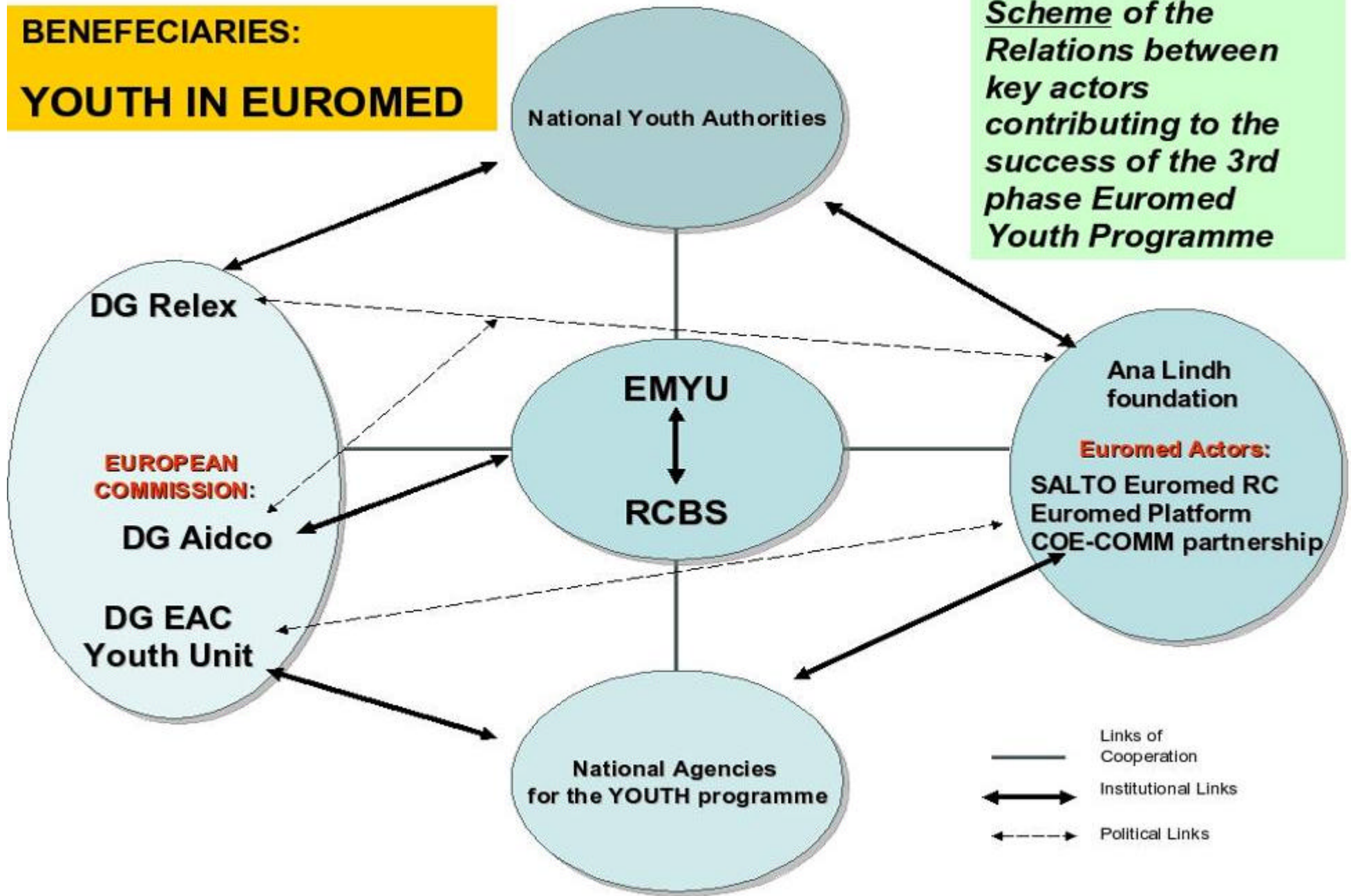
*The role of the RCBS:*

- Support the MEDA youth national authorities to define the profile for the EMYUs (selection of staff, coaching, training etc.) for programme management, financial and communication tasks. They will assist in organising the selection panels;
- Enhance sub-regional and regional co-operation among the different stakeholders through annual meetings and networking activities, guidance and support in the creation of a network of Euro-Med Youth Units (EMYUs), dissemination of best practices and results of the Euro-Med Youth programme;
- Design of the overall communication, information and visibility strategy of the Programme in co-ordination with the European Commission and the EMYUs of the MEDA national youth authorities. This will be necessary to harmonise the different national publications for the promotion of the Programme.
- Produce studies/reports on the evolving situation in the MEDA countries after the introduction of the decentralisation.
- Monitoring activities (different levels).



**BENEFECIARIES:  
YOUTH IN EUROMED**

*Scheme of the Relations between key actors contributing to the success of the 3rd phase Euromed Youth Programme*



## FRIDAY 09 / DAY II

### EUROMED COOPERATION

The second day started with a deep focus on the Euromed cooperation in programme countries through a long discussion phase. All European NA have to face some kind of difficulties while interacting with MEDA partners.

Several inconveniences have been tackled, shared together in order to inform stakeholders about these time-consuming problems.

- **Difficulties linked to MEDA participants' mobility: the "visa" issue.**

This issue has been pointed out as one of the major problem MEDA/EU residents have to face while applying for a visa. European youth programmes aim at fostering international youth mobility while immigration services/authorities. This problem concerns equally students, youth workers, teachers, project officers, etc. How to deal with it? Would some support letters make any difference? Apparently following some colleagues' experiences some initiatives as support letters or further documentation do not improved the situation. Would the EU delegation have a role to play? May their intervention in this regard lead to a positive outcome? Is this their role?

Unfortunately, the issuing of visas is strictly connected to the political situation and it solely depends on national policies of each member state (e.g. Italy and Tunisia seem to have some facilitation thanks to a bilateral agreement on this topic).

Another important factor is "time". Visa should be asked several weeks in advance in order to increase the chances to obtain it. It is then advisable to carefully prepare in advance youth activities including MEDA participants or taking place in MEDA countries.

All hosting NGOs should be aware of this matter in order to immediately inform authorities about their international activities.

Some colleagues affirmed that keeping the Embassies staff informed about youth activities taking place in people's own country will help maintaining good relationship and maybe facilitate the obtention of visas.

Another good suggestion to youth NGOs would be to systematically **invite local authorities** (municipalities, local councils, mayors, press) to local youth initiatives. This may offer in the future local support!

NGOs should well advertise their activity and its local impact!

In relation to the visa issue **Pablo Cameselle (European Youth Forum)** introduced "Get Visible" campaign, a recent initiative launched by the European Youth Forum "against visa barriers".

Mobility is a fundamental freedom recognised and protected by the European Union. The European Youth Forum believes that the right to mobility should be granted not only to EU-citizens, but to everyone. The freedom to move from one European country to another is a fundamental precondition for ensuring that young people can contribute to European integration and growth.

Unfortunately, the reality is far from being the ideal. Many youth workers are facing different problems in obtaining visas, which for many is a prerequisite for entering the EU. Therefore, the European Youth Forum and its Member Organisations have decided to raise awareness on the obstacles to youth mobility and to push for solutions, and as such, have launched the Campaign "Get Visible". <http://www.getvisible.org/>

## EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES AND TESTIMONIES

This grid on "How to prepare in advance Euromed activities" has been prepared during last EUROMED MEETING, which took place in Brussels in 2004. It should help all National Agencies in their organisation /coordination of Euromed activities, by providing some kind of division of tasks and the time required.

WHAT?	WHO IS IN CHARGE?	HOW LONG IN ADVANCE
DECIDE TYPE OF ACTIVITY/EVENT	HOSTING NA + OTHERS	6-9 MONTHS
FIX DATE	HOSTING NA + OTHERS	6 MONTHS
FIX VENUE	PREP COMMITTEE	6 MONTHS
SETTING UP FRAMEWORK	PREP COMMITTEE	6 MONTHS
DEFINE PROGRAMME	PREP COMMITTEE	6 MONTHS
DEFINE AIMS/OBJECTIVES/CONTENT	HOSTING NA + PREP COMMITTEE	6 MONTHS
DECIDE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	HOSTING NA	6 MONTHS
TARGET GROUP/PROFILE	PREP COMMITTEE	6 MONTHS
ESTABLISH PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT ACTIVITY	HOSTING NA	6 MONTHS
TAKE INTO ACCOUNT SPECIAL NEEDS OF PARTICIPANTS	HOSTING NA	6 MONTHS
SEND INFO ABOUT ACTIVITY	PREP COMMITTEE	6 MONTHS
SET TIMEFRAME ON <i>WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?</i>	PREP COMMITTEE	6 MONTHS
PREPARATORY MEETING	HOSTING NA	5-6 MONTHS
PREPARE APPLICATION FORM (on line or to be sent)	HOSTING NA + PREP COMMITTEE	4-6 MONTHS
TAKE CARE OF PRACTICAL TOOLS/LOGISTICS	HOSTING NA + PREP COMMITTEE	4-6 MONTHS
SET LIST OF MATERIAL NEEDED	TRAINERS	4-6 MONTHS
SELECTION PHASE: NOMINATION TO FINAL LIST	PREP COMMITTEE	3-4 MONTHS
TAKE CARE EMBASSY PROCEDURES /INFORM LOCAL MEDIA	HOSTING NA	3-4 MONTHS
SEND INVITATION LETTERS TO SELECTED PARTICIPANTS	HOSTING NA	1-2 MONTHS
SEND INFO TO THE "NOT SELECTED" PARTICIPANTS	HOSTING NA	1-2 MONTHS
INFORM PARTICIPANTS ABOUT THE PREPARATION REQUIRED	SENDING NA/STRUCTURE	1-2 MONTHS
SEND PRACTICAL INFO	HOSTING NA	1 MONTH
SEND CONFIRMATION TO PARTICIPANTS	HOSTING NA	2-4 WEEKS

## EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL EUROMED COOPERATION

As "Euromed cooperation production" **Camilla Lindqvist (Swedish NA)** offered a short presentation of the newly edited board game "**Zoom In, Zoom Out**" created by a group of Euro Mediterranean female youth workers and financed by the Swedish NA as Action 5 project.

Two out of the four youth workers involved in this project are former Salto Youth Euromed trainees and now active trainer: Christin Voigt (Germany) and Yasmina Heidar (Egypt)



### **Zoom in, zoom out... look at women's situation close and worldwide**

#### **From 2 to 12 players**

In this game you will get the chance to travel around the world and look at women's situation through a camera lens that zooms in and shows the situation closely, but also zooms out and looks at the situation worldwide, showing the picture until 2005.

#### **Zoom in:**

Through the individual "Personal" questions in the game, you will meet twelve women. These questions are based on real interviews with women between the ages of 15 to 79 years old: "Banna" from Gambia, "Dika" from Bosnia-Herzegovina, "Elina" from Tanzania, "Enayat" from Egypt, "Gloria" from Colombia, "Hazar" from Lebanon, "Jan" from USA, "Kaori" from Japan, "Marianne" from Sweden, "Nadine" from Germany, "Neelam" from India and "Zuhra" from Afghanistan. These women do not only come from different parts of the world but also have different backgrounds and living conditions. The women represent themselves and give you the chance to get an insight into their lives and opinions.

#### **Zoom out:**

You will also get the opportunity to "zoom out" and discuss women's situation in the world through "General" questions that try to show global patterns and broader perspectives. The questions raised consider health, development, economy, politics, history, violence, religions, celebrities etc. In the general questions you will see that women's situation and inequalities are measurable in many different ways.

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of the game is to raise awareness about women's situation in the world and give a broad picture of our complex world, in an easy way. We hope that by playing the game we can combine two perspectives and be able to discuss the situation for both the individual and for the society. Through the game you travel through the world creating chances to discuss similarities and differences between cultures as well as how the situation looks in your own families and surroundings.

#### **The development:**

The game was originally developed in Sweden and used in different educational associations, schools and non-governmental organization. It has been played in Sweden by men and women, boys and girls of all ages and with different backgrounds, from the ministers of the Swedish parliament to prisoners in jails. Through the work with the EuroMed YOUTH programme we have now got the possibility to develop an international version that can be used around the world and within the work with the European YOUTH programme. During the development of this game we have had seminars with youth in both the Mediterranean and EU-countries and the outcomes of these seminars have been very important for our work. We are also very proud that the game is bilingual (Arabic & English) and that it is possible to play it in groups where people don't speak the same language, despite the technical difficulties these ambitions have caused us through the production period.

#### **Project group:**

Christin Voigt, Landesjugendwerk der AWO Thüringen, Germany

Jika El-Kesserwani, Kafa, Lebanon

Theresia Thylin, NBV, Sweden

Yasmina Heidar, Sustainable Development Association, Egypt

#### **Original idea and project coordination:**

Theresia Thylin

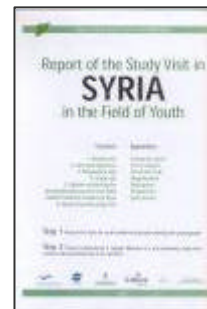
**Publisher:** NBV

**Copyright:** NBV, SDA, Kafa & Landes Jugendwerk der AWO Thüringen 2006

For more info [theresia.thylin@nbv.se](mailto:theresia.thylin@nbv.se)

**Daniel Soomer (Estonian NA)** shared his experience over the study visit in Syria<sup>4</sup> he participated to on the behalf of the Estonian NA.

He underlined how this operation was a way of “bringing Syria into the Euromed family”. The full report of this “study visit” can be downloaded <http://euroopa.noored.ee/syria>



**Giedre Tumosaite (Lithuanian NA)** presented through a PowerPoint prepared by a Lithuanian youth NGO active in the Euromed cooperation field the main “challenges” this NGO faced while organising a Euromed activity. Here follows a short summary presenting its main ideas:

### **1. Partners: their reliability, sense of responsibility for equal partnership**

#### WHAT COULD HELP?

- Personal contacts
- Preparatory meeting
- Preparatory work / keeping contacts / constant updating among partner groups leaders

### **2. Formal obstacles as “visa”**

#### WHAT COULD HELP?

- Check beforehand what visa obtaining procedures in your country are; where the embassies are establishes.
- If project takes place in non-Schengen country, find the route for MEDA participants to avoid obtaining Schengen visas

### **3. Practical obstacles**

#### WHAT COULD HELP?

#### **3.1 Travel organisation**

Check if booking travel tickets for MEDA participants is cheaper in your country

#### **3.2 Language**

Ensure that there will be a possibility for English – French - ... dialogue

#### **3.3 Cultural differences, e.g. role of women and men, communication, food etc.**

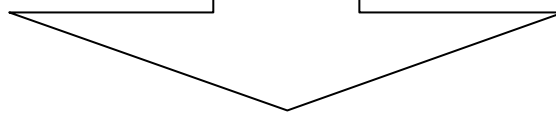
- Preparation of your own group to meet other religions, cultures and customs is essential.
- Balanced programme including more common activities, cultural evenings (e.g., French-English, MEDA countries etc.,)
- Use of interesting and “catchy” methods or means (e.g. media, video, photo, etc.)
- Approach exchange project as one big experience rather than cut it into smaller puzzle pieces
- Communication and discussions are the main tools

<sup>4</sup> Syria participated to the Euromed youth programme but it never nominated a national coordinator. Salto Youth Euromed has mostly cover all travel costs for Syrian beneficiaries.

#### **4. Reaction of local community**

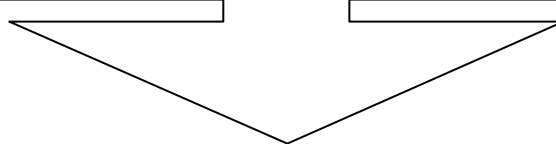
##### WHAT COULD HELP?

- Meet local people, visit them with invitation to join some activities or visit the final presentation
- Organise some activities for local community (e.g. some lessons of Arabic, etc.)
- Raise their interests and attention of local authorities



#### **Other aspects to be considered**

- Political situation
- History
- Religion (advantage and disadvantage at the same time)
- Requirements of public / state institutions are not always helpful (long procedures, bureaucracy, interests of some institutions...)
- Making sure that people understand your information in the way you was passing it, (e.g. the notion of "cold" for Europeans is not the same as for MEDA-person)



#### **Conclusions**

In context of global migration, cultures assimilation, mixture of traditions, it is very important to better know your neighbours!

EuroMed co-operation means:

- Cultural diversity and chance to experience it;
- Challenge to look to yourself from outside;
- Possibility to experience differences and try to find common features;
- Adventure and new interesting experience!

# The "Euromed Youth Platform"

Presented by Giovanni Buttigieg



## Main functions

<b>NETWORKING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Facilitating networking between all those interested in the youth sector in Europe and the Mediterranean.</li><li>• Youth groups, local authorities, institutes of youth studies, consultancy firms.</li></ul>
<b>CREATION OF A DATABASE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Over 4500 organisations.</li><li>• Possibly one of the largest databases of youth organisations in the region.</li></ul>
<b>PARTNER SEARCH FACILITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assist organisations with limited international experience.</li><li>• Diversification of Partners.</li></ul>
<b>SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• As seen by young people.</li><li>• Ongoing process.</li><li>• Barcelona + 10 souvenir publication.</li><li>• Useful for those working with a country for the first time.</li><li>• Stimulate youth studies in the region.</li><li>• Available on-line and in print.</li></ul>
<b>CREATION OF NETWORKS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Euro-Mediterranean Youth Trade Union Network</li><li>• Euro-Med Student Forum</li><li>• Young people involved in politics</li><li>• Youth Trafficking</li><li>• Youth workers in local authorities</li><li>• Sexual minorities</li><li>• Gender</li><li>• Young Entrepreneurs</li></ul>
<b>ADVOCACY WORK</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Make sure that young people are taken into consideration.</li><li>• Barcelona + 10</li><li>• Civil Forum</li><li>• Non Governmental Platform</li><li>• Euro-Med Parliamentary Assembly</li><li>• Anna Lindh Foundation</li><li>• Review of the Programme</li><li>• European Movement</li><li>• European Economic and Social Committee</li></ul>
<b>VISIBILITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Raising awareness on initiatives being taken by young people within the Barcelona Process.</li><li>• Informing young people on the whole Process.</li><li>• Participation in high visibility events, e.g. World Youth Festival and Follow the Women.</li><li>• Magazine in 3 languages (Arabic, English and French) reaching authorities, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Embassies, officials working on the Partnership, various EU officials, stake holders.</li><li>• Articles in magazines and journals, radio &amp; TV.</li></ul>
<b>CURRENT PRIORITIES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve national capabilities.</li><li>• Improve quality of networking.</li></ul>



## The “Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures”

Presented by Abdallah Sobeih

**EUROMED**

The Foundation is the first common institution jointly established and financed by all 35 members of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. The establishment of the Foundation in the ancient Egyptian seaport city of Alexandria underlines the commitment of the partners to work for increased cooperation and solidarity. The Foundation's main objective is to bring people and organizations from both shores of the Mediterranean closer to each other and to help bridging the gap between them. The main target group of Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) is Youth. ALF aims at promoting the importance of “Cultural Diversity” as a right of Human Rights and Gender Equity and women's role in societies.

### Youth Policy Initiatives within the Euro-Mediterranean Region

Its “Youth Action Plan” has TWO main objectives:

<b>Outreach and Engagement</b>	<b>Knowledge Building and Capacity Building</b>
<p><b>Key Activities/Action Steps by Objective</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting the Networking efforts to enhance the north-south Euro-Mediterranean context between the already existing Youth Programs and existing initiatives within the Euro-Med context and the ALF when it's possible during the mission of the foundation to build concrete, clear and strategic means of cooperation;</li> <li>- Link youth led organizations to their local national ALF coordinator.</li> <li>- Maintaining Communication between the ALF secretariat at the Head office and ALF National networks and the local youth led organizations in each of the 35 countries;</li> <li>- Developing a youth section under the ALF National Networks web pages and Submitting reports/records/estimations (concerning: meetings, events, projects, activities implemented and difficulties faced) on a regular basis.</li> <li>- Develop Annual Newsletter presenting the best practices of ALF Youth projects;</li> <li>- Encouraging pilot innovation youth projects -in key strategic sectors identified by ALF-</li> <li>- Develop online discussion forums and to link it to all the ALF national networks – online engagement -;</li> </ul> <p>Annual meeting to gather all the regional coordinators responsible for all the Euro-Med initiatives to meet together.</p> <p>Organising Youth Educational Capacity building workshops in cooperation with the ALF National Networks for Youth engagement; In consultation with the ALF National Networks as to select a main theme for each workshop according to the global changes in the Euro-Mediterranean Region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Field visits for some of the national networks whom submitted proposals and having ongoing ALF youth related projects.</li> <li>- Develop documentary films, promotional materials</li> </ul>	<p><b>Activities/Action Steps:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stimulating regional cooperation among the ALF national networks and the Euro-Med youth initiatives by sharing knowledge and systematizing experiences in order to help each other to make the ALF mission a success and to achieve the common goals.</li> <li>- Maintaining website on which effective practices can be exchanged and on which youth initiatives can request technical assistance, suggestions from ALF staff or any of the intellectual figures in the region.</li> <li>- Issuing an ALF Youth Publication containing lessons learned and best practices of the ALF youth projects in the period 2005-2007, to be edited and printed by the ALF and to be translated by ALF national networks to national languages in the respective ALF members.</li> <li>- Develop e-discussions and online surveys to exchange and systematize from the networks experience in the field.</li> <li>- Issuing Euro-Med Research Publication on the “Youth Initiatives and projects” to be released annually, to be contacted the donors and the institutions.</li> <li>- Publishing booklets and posters.</li> <li>- Cooperating with the media to raise awareness about the issues concerning youth within the frame work of ALF general frame work.</li> <li>- Promote the socio economic integration of disabled young people by creating training workshops encouraging them to be involved in the ALF national networks and the foundations youth activities.</li> <li>- Organise youth meetings annually in cooperation with ALF national networks to discuss the issues of Gender Equality and Active Citizen participation, Cultural Diversity and disseminating the norms of mutual respect among nations, Education and Employment, Freedom of Expression and Dialogue between Cultures, Information, Knowledge access and the digital divide and the mutual respect under the shadows of the Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation and Neighbourhood policy. Each meeting shall come out by a resolution from the young participants to be</li> </ul>

and newsletters about Youth initiatives implemented by the foundation to be spread to the Civil Society Organisations member in the ALF National networks.	presented to the Euro-Mediterranean Board.
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### **Ongoing and foreseen Youth Activities for 2006:**

1. Moroccan and Spanish ALF National Network are going to co-organise a Youth workshop with the foundation to take place in September 2006 (*Under the Objective of Knowledge Building*).
2. Dialogue 21 youth campaign and its workshop (*Under the Objective of Outreach and Engagement*).
3. Capacity Building Training course for Youth organisations members in the ALF national networks about the Call for Proposals (*Under the Objective of Capacity Building*) – Dec. 2006.

[www.euromedalex.org](http://www.euromedalex.org)

# The “European Youth Forum”

Presented by Pablo Cameselle



<b>What is the European Youth Forum and what does it do?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is made up of more than 90 National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations, which are federations of youth organisations in themselves.</li> <li>• It brings together tens of millions of young people from all over Europe, organised in order to represent their common interests.</li> </ul>
<b>Missions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To empower young people to participate actively in the shaping of Europe and the societies in which they live.</li> <li>• To improve the living conditions of young people as European citizens in today’s world.</li> </ul>
<b>Main aims</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the participation of young people and youth organisations in society, as well as in decision-making processes;</li> <li>• Positively influence policy issues affecting young people and youth organisations, by being a recognised partner for international institutions, namely the EU, the CoE &amp; the UN;</li> <li>• Promote the concept of youth policy as an integrated and cross-sectoral element of overall policy development;</li> <li>• Facilitate the participation of young people through the development of sustainable and independent youth organisations</li> <li>• Foster the exchange of ideas and experience, mutual understanding, and equal rights and opportunities among young people in Europe;</li> <li>• Uphold intercultural understanding, democracy, respect, active citizenship and solidarity;</li> <li>• Deepen European integration while at the same time contributing to the development of youth work in other regions of the world.</li> </ul>
<b>Work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a space for organisations to develop sustainability. It offers strategic support for capacity building, networking and the dissemination of good practice</li> <li>• Voice the concerns of its membership into the political agenda of governmental institutions</li> <li>• Produce policies and positions, which are based on the opinions, experiences and expertise of young people from all over Europe.</li> </ul>

[www.youthforum.org](http://www.youthforum.org)

## Main Policy areas:

- *Education:*
  - Promote the concept of Life Long and Life Wide Learning, and the recognition and complementarities of all the dimensions of Education: Formal and Non-Formal Education and informal learning.
- *Youth Policy in Europe:*
  - Increase the participation of young people in the shaping of the European policies concerning them and improve the qualities of youth policies and programmes.
- *Employment and Social Inclusion*
  - Improve the social situation of young people in Europe, focusing on promoting the employment and social inclusion of young people and an adequate level of social protection.
- *Human Rights and Equality*
  - Develop policies aimed at recognising the diversity of Europe and ensuring equal opportunities to young people.
- *Sustainable Development*
  - Promote sustainable development through advocacy work and involve youth organisations in policy making on related issues.
- *Health*

- Raise awareness of health issues among youth organisations and facilitate youth involvement in health policy development, namely on tobacco and alcohol issues.
- *Training*
  - Provide training services to our Member Organisations and institutional partners through our Pool of Trainers and contribute to the monitoring of European training programmes.
- *Mobility*
  - Lobby, inform and investigate for the removal of legal obstacles to mobility in youth work.
- *Development of National Youth Policies*
  - Support the formulation of comprehensive and cross-sectoral National Youth Policies in Europe and ensure the full involvement of youth organisations in these processes.
- *Global and Regional Youth Cooperation*
  - Allow young people to participate and provide political input at the global level, as well as contributing to the development of regional platforms and bringing their representatives together.

## **European Youth Forum: Regional Youth Co-operation (RYP)**

### **Main Objectives:**

- Promote co-operation between youth NGOs in Europe and other continents: Latin America, Asia, ACP and Meda
- Strengthen and empower the RYPs
- Monitor the existing mechanisms and frameworks for youth co-operation (e.g Euro-Med YOUTH Programme)

### **Euro-Med cooperation:**

- Follow-up the Euro-Med Youth Programme in the terms expressed by the Work Plan and Policy papers
- Monitor and contribute to the development and continuation of the Euro Mediterranean Youth Programme and the Euro Mediterranean Youth Platform
- Support the development of a strategy on youth policies in the Mediterranean region
- Promote the recognition of accountable, membership-based youth NGOs as providers of modern forms of participation
- Establish a working group on the elaboration of a policy paper regarding the development of youth and youth organisations towards a culture of peace in the Middle East region
- Promote initiatives of co-operation and networking between Member Organisations and partners in the Middle East region in the framework of youth work development (Middle East Youth Project)

# The “Partnership Agreement between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work”

Presented by Marzia Conte



The Council of Europe has always paid particular attention to matters affecting young people – Directorate for Youth and Sports- works on the following priorities: youth policy development, human rights education and social cohesion, youth participation and peace and intercultural dialogue.

The Council of Europe and the European Commission have developed a close co-operation in the youth field. Since 1998, the Partnership between the two institutions has taken the form of consecutive agreements on training, EM and youth research

In spring 2005, after a successful implementation of the partnership agreements on European level youth worker / youth leader training, youth research and Euro-Mediterranean co-operation both partners agreed, to strengthen cooperation and to merge the existing partnerships to one single umbrella covenant. The current youth covenant that overarches the three subjects now covers the period 1 May 2005 – 31 December 2006. In the future it is envisaged to continue the Partnership with connect with the European Commission new YOUTH IN ACTION programme 2007-2013.

[www.training-youth.net](http://www.training-youth.net) / [www.youth-knowledge.net](http://www.youth-knowledge.net) / [www.youth-debate.net](http://www.youth-debate.net)

## o **Structure of the partnership**

The partnership is jointly managed by the 2 institutions through the “Partnership Management Board”. The four *Partnership Sectorial Groups* (PSG) which are :

1. Better Understanding of Youth and Youth Policy
2. Information and Publications
3. European Citizenship, Quality and Recognition
4. EuroMed, Human Rights Education and Intercultural Dialogue

contribute to the thematic areas concerned, in terms of content definition and operational management. They have thus a support, advisory and monitoring function.

The *Partnership Consultative Meeting* brings together the members of the Management Board, the Partnership Sectorial groups and other interested parties. Its purpose is an exchange of information and it shall take place once a year.

## o **The Partnership on Euro-Med Youth Cooperation in the field of training**

The aim of this partnership is to provide further quality training and learning opportunities for youth workers and youth leaders active in Euro-Mediterranean youth projects.

### o **Its Objectives**

- . To develop and further sustain the training of young workers and youth leaders with the view of increasing the quality and quantity of Euro-Med intercultural youth projects and develop their skills and ability to deal with issues of common concern, such as human rights, citizenship and democracy, women's rights and minority rights, environmental protection, etc;
- . To develop networks of trainers and multipliers for human rights education using Compass in Arabic
- . To foster the development of intercultural learning projects based on participation and citizenship of young people;
- . To provide educational tools and support for youth workers and leaders of youth groups in Euro-Med youth work;
- . To sustain and develop the existing network of trainers and youth workers active in Euro-Med projects;
- . To create synergies and seek complementarities between the experiences of the Council of Europe and the European Commission - and their governmental and non-governmental partners in Euro-Med issues;

- . To provide possibilities for dialogue based on intercultural learning, of issues of major concern for young people in the Mediterranean area;
- . To develop a common offer of training in co-operation with SALTO-Euro-Med;

The activities in the Covenant are open to multipliers involved in youth policies and programmes at European level and on the southern shore of the Mediterranean Basin, and particularly those concerned with the Euro-Med Youth programme. This target public includes professional and voluntary youth workers, members of youth organisations, youth information officers, youth officers from local and regional authorities and trainers. The covenant is monitored by the European Commission and the Council of Europe in co-operation with Salto EuroMed Resource Centre, the European Youth Forum and the Euro-Med Youth Platform. [www.coe.int/euro-med](http://www.coe.int/euro-med)

## o Outcomes

- **Human rights education training courses** (Regional training of trainers in Amman/Alexandria and Maghreb)

- **TATEM –Training Active Trainers in Euro-Med Youth Work 2004-2006** ( Long-Term Training Course) developed in cooperation with the Salto EuroMed Resource Centre :

1. Initial training seminar (November 2004),
2. Practical phase
3. Consolidation and development seminar (September 2005)
4. Second "optional" practical phase
5. Evaluation and follow-up seminar (November 2006).



[www.salto-youth.net/tatem](http://www.salto-youth.net/tatem)

- **Youth policy development**– first step for young people, governmental employees, researchers and NGOs from Europe and the Arab world to meet and learn from each other, exchange experiences and identify challenges for youth policies. Seven countries participated in the seminar: Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Slovakia, Sweden and "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". Each country had a delegation with three participants who also represented different levels in youth policy development: officials of governmental institutions involved in the definition and implementation of youth policy, representatives of national youth organisations and researchers actively involved in youth policy definition.
- **International round table on "Youth policy and research development in the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation framework"** was convened as an attempt to extend cooperation to all relevant partners in the region. The meeting served as a forum to exchange experiences and information with key stakeholders in the Euro-Mediterranean region and to further explore the link between youth policy and youth research. The round table was also intended to be a moment of exchange to discuss with all partners the feasibility of the ambitious aim to organise a high level conference, to identify potential obstacles and devise solutions to overcome them
- Forthcoming **Euro-Med training kit** - very practical manual to be used by trainers as a preparation of and during training and educational activities. It will be composed of 11 thematic chapters and activities
- Partnership newsletter and website [www.youth-partnership.net](http://www.youth-partnership.net)

## o Future perspectives

- Seminar on youth participation
- Evaluation of regional training courses
- Training course in cooperation with ALF
- Arabic language and civilisation course
- Other proposals/initiatives for cooperation

## 🚩 SATURDAY 10/ DAY III

### PERSPECTIVES ON «TWINNING» BETWEEN EU AND MEDA COLLEAGUES

The New Meda Units are endowed with a budget allowing daily functioning, granting/supporting MEDA Ngo projects and paying for experts fees.

This budget does not cover their “training and cooperation plans”, at least for the moment. This implies that they cannot cover the travel costs for their beneficiaries’ participation to external activities and that they cannot host activities on their territory.

Starting from this point, we highlighted the necessity to find one or some solution(s) to overcome this difficulty. We decided to re-launch the idea of the “**twinning**” between National Agencies and New Meda Units.

As main elements of this practice, the “twinning” offered:

- Reinforced cooperation with one or more countries
- Concrete support to the former National Coordinator with the Programme management
- Sharing information and set up common activities
- Create networks (with Salto Youth EuroMed support)
- Train local multipliers
- Impact on local youth policy

In order to offer examples of this *modus operandi* we proposed to some colleagues who experienced this form of “deeper cooperation” to give us a short inputs including their opinion.

**Fatima Lanaan (Belgian FR NA)** introduced the involvement of the Belgian FR National Agency in the Euromed youth cooperation and the concept of twinning.

Since the establishment of the *twinning process* (September 2001) and the nomination of a Euro-Med contact person in each NA, the Belgian FR National Agency embraced these proposals for setting up a real EuroMed co-operation strategy. Having Algeria and Lebanon as twins the priority was to increase the quality of the projects and to encourage youth organisation partnerships.



In this regard for some training courses organised by the BEFR National Agency, some youth leaders from Algeria and Lebanon were invited to participate. Opportunities for further came along as getting involved as a twin National Agency in the SALTO Training of EuroMed Multipliers (2003 in Lebanon and in 2004 in Algeria). Moreover the Belgian NA helped in the organisation of joint training courses with former Lebanese National Coordination on “Intercultural Learning” in 2004. (<http://www.euromed-liban.com/indexfr.htm>)

She stressed, to conclude, the “equal level” in cooperating during this twinning experience (no domination of the most experienced over the less experienced!) which was based on true motivation and willingness to collaborate.

**Isabelle Olivier (French NA)** added her experience. Egypt and Lebanon were the French NA “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 also meant that the French NA conferred a special attention to the monitoring of projects including partnerships with those countries. It also meant that the French NA systematically invite youth NGO's from the 10 Meda countries to all European events organised by the French Agency. For instance, the French NA associated Meda youth organisations leaders some of its events Autumn Workshop (exchanges including young people with disabilities) or Marseille Euromed Youth Forum (2002). France hosted the job-shadowings of Elisa Aslanian, former Lebanese National Coordinator and Gehad Amer, former Egyptian National Coordinator.

Another example was brought by **Mireille Gras (German NA)**. The German National Agency twinning was established with Turkey and Israel. This process started in 2003 managed to intensify the contacts with the National Coordinator of Israel and the Turkish National Agency by exchanging information about our respective structures and work.

The National Coordinator of Israel visited the German National Agency in April 2004 for a job-shadowing where further common activities were planned. One outcome of this visit was a Short Study Visit on Action 2, which took place in May 2005 in Israel with the participation of the Polish National Agency. During this SSV the participants visited many active and potential EVS projects willing to host European volunteers within the EuroMed programme. This SSV was a great success for all participants so, in co-operation with the Polish National Agency, it was decided to organise a return SSV in Poland and Germany in 2006 for sending organisations from Israel and other Meda countries. The German Agency is willing to undergo a new twinning mode again to expand and consolidate the co-operation with their "twin countries", plan common activities and support them with the re-structuring of the EuroMed programme.

We could name **Sweden** amongst the most active NA regarding twinning. The Agency was deeply involved in the Salto Training of Euromed multipliers in Palestine and in Jordan and it hosted the job-shadowing of Sahar Al-Fayez, former Jordanian National Coordinator and of Duaa Qurie, former Palestinian National Coordinator.

To conclude "Twinning" means also giving advice, coaching and other form of support to the new EYMU staff and last but not least it develops solidarity. Broadly speaking, we may hope that this action may have a positive impact on the local and even influence national youth policy.



One of the last point mentioned was the possibility for the Salto Youth EuroMed Resources Centre to run a "twinning meeting" when Meda Units will be fully operational.

## **PERSPECTIVES ON THE "SPLIT FUNDING MODE"**

The "split funding mode" of sharing costs and responsibilities implies to be equal partners while running an event, be part of a wider cooperation and working all together to achieve a common goal. The "split funding mode" allows NA to be fully involved in the whole training activity process: before, during and after and once again this develops solidarity.

More concretely this means that:

- The organising country NA is covering boarding and lodging costs for all participants plus logistic and local transportation
- The sending NAs are covering participants' travel costs
- The Salto Youth EuroMed Resource Centre is responsible for the trainers fees and related costs

This functioning system has been recognised as very successful by all present colleagues.

Since 2002 our Resource Centre worked following the above-mentioned scheme but since the suspension of the Euromed Youth Programme we had to reconsider this system. Here some examples to illustrate how we overcome this situation:



- **“STEP TO” France 2005:** the French NA covered boarding and lodging costs for all participants + all transportation costs for MEDA participants
- **“STEP IN” Slovakia 2006:** the Slovakian NA covered boarding and lodging costs for all participants and for the whole training team + half of the transportation costs for MEDA participants (the other half covered by the Salto Youth EuroMed Resources Centre)
- **“EDUCATION AND CIVILISATION” Italy 2006:** the Italian NA covered boarding and lodging costs for all participants and for the whole training team. All transportation costs for MEDA participants were covered by the Salto Youth EuroMed Resources Centre

**The split funding mode may represent a solution to the fact that EMYU have no budget line to cover TCP activities.**

**All colleagues agreed on this point but under which form is still not clear. For the moment each case will be analysed on its own to see how to intervene.**

Other ideas for joint projects:

- National Agencies could cover its MEDA twin country participants' costs to take part to National Agencies organised activities
- To have Meda participants in training courses European NAs could organise one of their training activity in a Meda country: boarding and lodging expenses are probably cheaper, the impact on the local environment and the intercultural learning experience are guaranteed
- And so on....

## **COORDINATION AMONGST PARTNER INSTITUTIONS**

Around the “stakeholders table” we had colleagues from other partner institutions who expressed their will to reinforce cooperation among institutions and maintain dialogue flowing between EU and MEDA countries in the youth field. Nevertheless, it was mentioned that overlapping (namely through activities of the Anna Lindh Foundation, the EuroMed Youth Platform, the Partnership and the Salto Youth EuroMed Resource Centre) should be avoided considering that too many activities may impair and weaken the work done till now.

This implies having a **more coherent approach while establishing the training “calendar”** and more specifically avoiding treating the same topics or running activities simultaneously (within the Partnership the Council Of Europe and the Salto Youth EuroMed Resource Centre are constantly checking to avoid these conflicts of interest).

Furthermore, other large international institutions (UN, Organisation Internationale pour le Francophonie, UNESCO and bilateral



agreements) develop and run highly visible events in these regions.

Additionally, some National Agencies or youth Ngo may feel overwhelmed by this variety of possibilities and may encounter some difficulties in identifying the appropriate candidate and sending participants to all these activities.

The need for a **more efficient cooperation to create real synergies** was underlined several times as well as the need to gather resources and to exchange more and more often on ideas, practices and achievements. Another necessity is to develop a **more effective communication** to become **more visible**.

Stakeholders decided for the creation of the "Euromed Reflection group" a flexible structure to remedy to the misuse of human and financial resources and develop the above-mentioned ideas. During the next "Partnership meeting", which will take place in Lisbon next September, a more concrete "common action plan" will be developed

## THE NEW "YOUTH IN ACTION" PROGRAMME

Giorgio Guazzugli from the Youth Unit DG EAC introduced the main features of the new "Youth In Action" programme which is still "in progress" as well as its programme guide. It has been remembered that some NAs were deeply involved in the process of drafting new "Youth In Action" programme and that roughly 70% of the current programme has been transposed into the "Youth In Action" one.

The new programme actions are<sup>5</sup>:

Action 1: **"Youth for Europe"** is mainly geared to reinforcing the active commitment of young people by supporting exchanges, mobility and initiatives for young people and their projects for participating in democratic life.

Action 2: **«European Voluntary Service»** is geared to developing young people's solidarity, active engagement and mutual understanding. It can take the form of either individual or collective projects to enable young people to express their personal commitments but also to involve them in the Union's solidarity actions. Furthermore, it also enables cooperation between voluntary civil services to be fostered.

Action 3: **"Youth of the world"** contributes to developing young people's mutual understanding and active engagement through an open-minded approach to the world. It opens up the programme to projects with the neighbouring countries of the enlarged Europe and to cooperation in the youth field with other third countries.

Action 4: **"Youth workers and support systems"** aims to develop the quality of support structures for young people. This action helps to support youth organisations active at European level, in particular the European Youth Forum. It promotes the development of exchange, training and information schemes for youth workers, projects to stimulate innovation and quality, partnerships with regional or local entities and measures to enhance and support the programme's structures.

Action 5: **"Support for policy cooperation"** is aimed at promoting cooperation on youth policy, supporting structured dialogue between young people and those responsible for youth policy, cooperation with international organisations and measures aimed at gaining better knowledge of youth.



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<sup>5</sup> From Proposal for a « Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council – Creating the « Youth in Action » programme for the period 2007-2013 p.14/15

We focused on the future Action 3 and in particular on the Action 3.1 which contains the sub-action on the cooperation with Meda countries. The new programme offers an enlarged geographical scope and it is mainly divided into “world areas” from EU neighbour countries to other areas far from EU borders.

Eastern Europe and Causasus or Euromed belong to the so called “countries participating in the European neighbourhood policy”<sup>6</sup> while South Eastern Europe countries (Western Balkans) are instead defines “countries participating in the stabilisation and association process”.

### **3.1. Cooperation with the neighbouring countries of the enlarged Europe**

*This measure supports projects with the programme partner countries adjacent to the countries of the enlarged Europe. It supports youth exchanges, mainly multilateral ones, which allow several groups of young people from participating countries and neighbouring countries to meet and take part together in a programme of activities. It is available, in principle, to young people aged between 13 and 25. These activities, based on transnational partnerships between the various actors in a project, involve the prior training of supervisory staff and the active participation of young people, to allow them to discover and become aware of different social and cultural realities.*

*Activities to enhance the participation of young people in the projects, particularly those intended to help them at a linguistic and intercultural level may be eligible for funding.*

*As long as adequate national management structures are created in the neighbouring countries, individual or group initiatives at local, regional or national level in these countries can be supported where they are carried out in conjunction with similar initiatives in countries participating in the programme. These are activities designed by the young people themselves, in which they are the key players. In principle, the activity is for young people aged between 18 and 30, although certain initiatives may admit young people from age 16, as long as appropriate supervision is provided.*

*This measure supports activities designed to network and enhance the capacity of NGOs in the field of youth, recognising the important role that they can play in the development of civil society in the neighbouring countries. It covers the training of youth workers and exchanges of experience, expertise and good practices between them. It supports activities which may lead to the establishment of long-lasting, high quality projects and partnerships. This measure also supports projects to stimulate innovation and quality, aiming at introducing, implementing and promoting innovative approaches in the youth field. Financial support may be awarded to information activities for young people and youth workers.*

*This measure also supports activities promoting cooperation in the field of youth with the neighbouring countries, e.g. promoting cooperation and the exchange of ideas and good practices in the field of youth, as well as other promotion and dissemination measures regarding the results of the projects and activities supported in the countries concerned in the field of youth.*

### **3.2. Cooperation with other countries**

*This measure supports cooperation activities in the field of youth, in particular the exchange of good practices with the other partner countries. It encourages exchanges between and the training of youth workers and the development of partnerships and networks of youth organisations. Multilateral exchanges of young people between these countries and the countries participating in the programme may be implemented on a thematic basis. Funding is awarded to activities that demonstrate their potential multiplier effect. In the context of cooperation with industrialised countries, this measure funds only European beneficiaries of projects.<sup>7</sup>*

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<sup>6</sup> Participating countries are: Armenia Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, the Russian Federation and the Ukraine, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian Territories, Syria, Turkey and Tunisia.

<sup>7</sup> From Proposal for a « Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council – Creating the « Youth in Action » programme for the period 2007-2013 p.24/25

The new action 3 includes former action 1 and 5 related (action 2 remains for the moment in the global EVS "chapter") to extra EU countries in order to be more visible and more complete. At the moment the presentation was taking place the details concerning this action were not finalised in order to leave space for improvement.

The programme dedicated to the EM region is financed by the Youth In Action programme (DG EAC) supporting projects taking place in Programme countries and MEDA funds (managed by DG EuropeAid) supporting projects taking place in MEDA Partner countries

Concerning the action **3.2** one of the main questioning was "why widening the programme to far countries when there is still so much to do with neighbouring areas. Is it not a waste of credits?"

It has been replied that naturally the priority is given to "neighbour partner countries" and that each NA will have their own regional priority, nevertheless openness towards other area should be offered.

## CLOSING WORDS



Jean Chiris Head of the French NA thanked all the participants and stressed the importance of the seminar which should reinforce all existing synergies and re-launch the cooperation between the two regions.

The French NA has always considered the Meda region as an important partner. As some previous common projects testify (e.g. "Euro Mediterranean Youth Discussion Forum in Marseille", June 2002) many events are organised to strengthen the dialogue between the two shores of the Mediterranean. Moreover INJEP showed its political will and commitment by hosting the Salto Youth EuroMed RC and by applying to the call for proposal for "EuroMed YOUTH Programme Phase III Capacity building of youth offices and monitoring youth activities in the MEDA countries »<sup>8</sup>. It was thus entrusted to implement "EuroMed Youth Units" in Meda countries and INJEP is very dedicated to the success of this organisational phase.

Bernard Abrignani recalled the "Euromed spirit" that colleagues share and underlined once again that due to the present situation the twinning mode of functioning will contribute to the success of the new phase.

Other comments:

"What a good idea to gather in the same place all different actors of the Euromed youth sector!"

"As soon as all agreements are signed it will be good to meet all news Meda colleagues and gather once again to clearly set partnership!"

"Very useful initiative after the 2 years suspension!"

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<sup>8</sup> EuropeAid/121635/C/SV/Multi

## Euromed Meeting 08 /10 June 2006 – Marly Le Roi

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