



Euromed Youth III Programme

**7th EUROMED MEETING
Marrakech (Morocco)
4 & 5 October 2007**

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Capacity Building & Support Unit,
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Infos

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INTRODUCTION

The European Commission, represented by the Directorate General Education and Culture - Youth Unit - and the Directorate General EuropeAid Co-operation Office, held a 2-day meeting to discuss the implementation of EuroMed Youth III.

The main objectives were:

- To make a first assessment of the implementation of the EuroMed Youth III Programme with the heads of the EuroMed Youth Units (EMYUs) and the representatives of the European National Agencies (NAs) of the “Youth in Action” Programme in the presence of the European Commission representatives.
- To meet experts and key actors of the Programme and the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.
- To make a first exchange possible in order to reflect on a potential cooperation of the EMYUs and the NAs.

Organised locally by the Moroccan EMYU on behalf of the Moroccan Secretary of State responsible for Youth, this event was the first EuroMed Meeting to be hosted in a MEDA country.

This Meeting brought together a representative each of the DG AIDCO and the DG EAC, 8 out of the 9 EMYU heads, the representatives of 17 NAs, as well as experts from the EuroMed Youth Parliament, the European Youth Forum, the EuroMed Youth Platform and the SALTO EuroMed Resource Centre. The list of participants is attached.

The programme of the meeting consisted in plenary sessions involving all participants, and group-work sessions mixing EMYU and NA representatives.

This report is divided into 2 parts corresponding to the 2 days.



Thursday 4th – Day 1

❖ Official opening

Mr Kalid El Barouni, who represented the Moroccan Secretary of State responsible for Youth, underlined the important role played by the the EuroMed Youth III Programme within the Moroccan youth policy. He stressed that it contributes to the development of mutual understanding and reinforces the cooperation between the two shores of the Mediterranean in the youth field.

Ms Claire Kupper, who is the Programme officer at the Directorate General EuropeAid Co-operation Office, stressed that this Meeting is the occasion to reinforce the EuroMed cooperation, which acquires its full meaning. She underlined that this cooperation is carried by 2 Directorates.

Ms Marzia Conte, Programme officer at the Directorate General Education and Culture, mentioned that despite the uncertainty surrounding the Programme at the time of the previous EuroMed Meeting (June 2006 in Marly le Roi) the situation looks much more promising now: the Programme has restarted after a 2-year suspension, it has acquired a new dimension with its commitment to decentralisation, and most countries are on board. She stressed that EuroMed Youth III and Youth in Action are 2 very complementary programmes in terms of objectives and target audience and that they have a similar management structure. She insisted that the European Commission wants to make both programmes as accessible as possible to young people and underlined the main objectives of the meeting: “We are here to encourage exchanges, foster an attitude of cooperation and come up with ideas”.

Mr Bernard Abrignani, Team leader of the RCBS, commented on the agenda, mentioned that the idea to host the Meeting came from the Moroccan EMYU and that the date, which coincides with the end of Ramadan, is an incentive for the European participants to touch on the daily realities of Muslim countries. Besides, this date is also a holiday for Israelites and we are grateful for the presence at the Meeting of the Head of the Israeli Unit.



❖ Programme Updates

This part of the Meeting is dedicated to the presentation of both the EuroMed Youth and the Youth in Action programmes, mostly to clarify who does what and to debate on objectives and results.

• Youth in Action

Marzia Conte presented the main features of the Youth in Action Programme (2007-2013) and in particular the actions aimed at supporting the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

Youth in Action is a **programme for all young people**. It aims at developing young people's active European citizenship, solidarity and tolerance, and at fostering their active participation in democratic life. It promotes non formal education, intercultural dialogue and mobility within and outside the boundaries of the European Union as well as the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities. It is not only a programme for young people but also for those working with them and active in youth work and youth organisations.

Here are some of its main features:

- It is a 7-year programme which will be implemented from 2007 to 2013 with a total budget of 885 million euros.
- Enlarged age access (15 to 28 years, but 13 to 30 for some actions).
- Enlarged geographical scope: "Programme Countries" (currently, EU Member States, EFTA/EEA countries, Turkey. The legal basis of the Programme foresees the possibility to open the Programme to the Western Balkans and Switzerland), "Neighbouring Partner Countries" (South East Europe, Eastern Europe and Caucasus, Mediterranean Partner Countries) and other "Partner Countries of the world" having signed an agreement with the EU relevant to the youth field.
- It is articulated around 5 Actions: 1) Youth for Europe (Youth Exchanges, Youth initiatives and Youth Democracy Projects), 2) European Voluntary Service, 3) Youth in the World, 4) Youth workers and support systems, and 5) Support for policy cooperation.
- It is mostly implemented at decentralised level through a network of National Agencies established in all Programme Countries (5 deadlines a year are foreseen to submit project applications at national level) and partly at centralised level by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (3 deadlines a year are foreseen to submit project applications at European level).
- Cooperation with Mediterranean Partner Countries is possible under Action 2 (European Voluntary Service) and Action 3.1 (Cooperation with the neighbouring countries of the European Union). In both cases, MEDA organisations can be partners in projects to be funded under the Youth in Action Programme, but cannot apply for funding directly.

Action 3.1 supports Youth Exchanges and Training and Networking activities with Mediterranean partners, which have to take place in one of the Programme Countries.

During the first 3 selection rounds at centralised level, 19 applications for projects involving Mediterranean Partner Countries under actions 2 and 3.1 were submitted. The following results were presented:

- Round 1: 5 applications submitted, 2 granted
- Round 2: 5 applications submitted, 3 suggested for granting
- Round 3: 9 applications submitted, under evaluation

• EuroMed Youth III



It was then Claire Kupper's turn to present EuroMed Youth III. The new Programme was set up in the framework of the Barcelona Declaration (adopted in 1995).

Phase I lasted from 1999 to 2001 while Phase II (2001 to 2004) consolidated the Programme. The Commission then 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 external aid and cooperation. Consequently, the programme was fully decentralised to 9 Mediterranean partner countries (Algeria, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey) so that applicants from these countries directly apply for grants to their own youth

national authorities through a EuroMed Youth Unit. The current Phase III is due to run from 2005 to 2008.

Its main purpose is to promote mobility of young people, non formal education and understanding between nations.

- EuroMed Youth III revolves around 3 actions: Youth exchanges, Voluntary service and Support measures.
- There are only 3 deadlines for application. The first call was launched in April-May by 5 countries (Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Turkey). So far 8 countries have published the next call, with November as the deadline for receipt of applications. Claire Kupper underlined that despite the hard work produced to comply with the requirements of the programme and the first encouraging results, more effort should be done to better disseminate the information to get more youth organisations involved.
- Selected projects will receive a grant between 5.000 and 40.000€.
- Role of different actors and necessity to collaborate.

Ms Kupper also insisted on the complementarity of the EuroMed Youth III and the Youth in Action programmes. They are twin programmes, two instruments with similar objectives and similar target groups, and their coherence depends to a large extent on the cooperation between EuroMed Youth Units and National Agencies.

She stressed the need to disseminate information about the programme in general in order to improve its visibility and to facilitate access to a greater potential of youth organisations.

At this point Ms Conte underlines the supportive approach foreseen by the Youth in Action Programme: applicants can contact NAs before applying and get support and advice in the process of developing their project and preparing the application.

Bernard Abrignani commented that:

- The need for the cooperation is definitely there.
- This is a micro-programme; budgets are small but big enough for organisations to develop good projects. Overall budget: 5 million euros.
- There are obstacles because controlling youth means having power and because a new programme is disturbing. However there is a very high proportion of young people in MEDA countries; with high unemployment affecting especially the young, emigration towards developed countries is a threat and it is crucial to help Moroccan NGOs.

• **Presentation of results**

The RCBS sent a questionnaire to all NAs and EMYUs before the Meeting, asking them to present the first results of the selection committees which took place in EU (4 committees) and MEDA countries (1 committee). With a view to valorising the best projects linking both sides of the Mediterranean, they were also asked to identify, among the ones approved by the selection committees, the ones which struck them as particularly inventive or which they favoured for one or other reason.

Youth in Action results

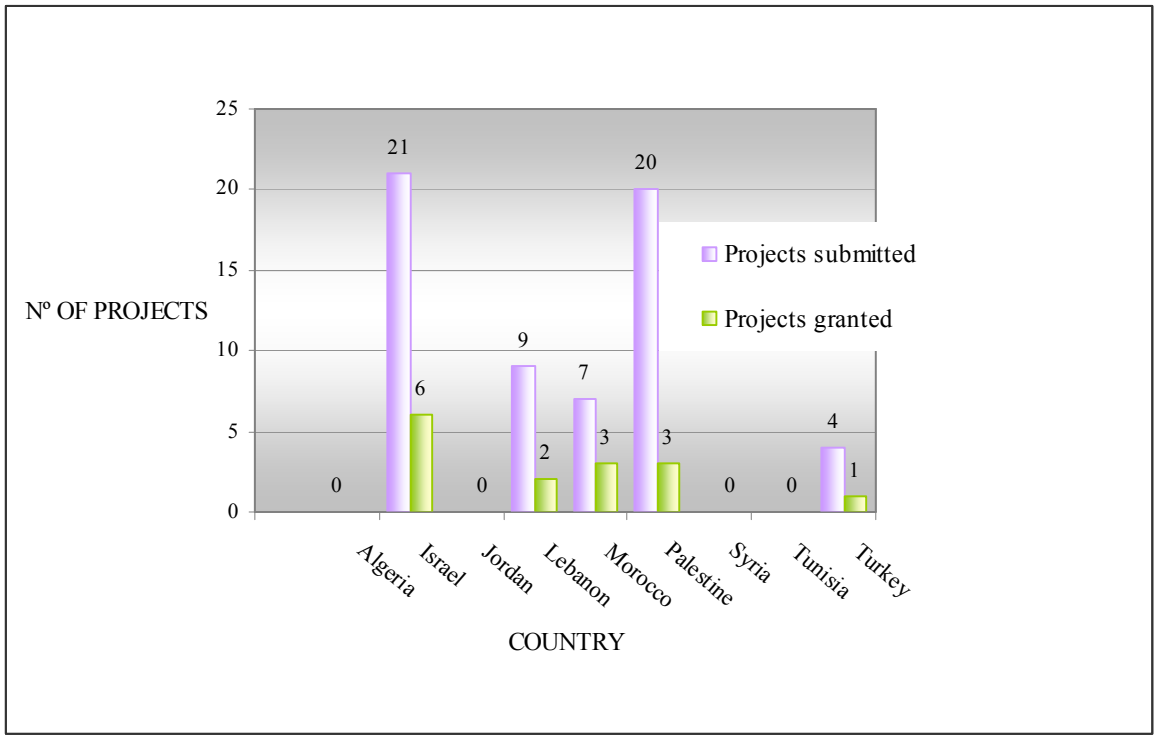
Youth in Action results (projects involving MEDA countries)		
	Number of submitted projects	Number of granted projects
Action 3.1 (Youth Exch.)	63	20
Action 2 (Europ. Vol. Service)	28	15
Action 3.1 (Training & Netw.)	31	11

An average of 30 to 50% of projects are usually accepted. The ratio has been about the same from one year to the next since 2000.

EuroMed results

EuroMed results			
	Number of submitted projects	Number of projects recommended for funding	Number of accepted projects
Lebanon	9	5	2
Israel	21	8	6
Palestine	20	3	3
Turkey	4	3	1
Morocco	7	3	3
Total :	61	22	15

Success Ratio: 25%



A representative of the Bulgarian NA commented that 50% of the projects were approved in Bulgaria. This country had 2 rounds only.

The Spanish representative remarked that the budget is not large enough considering that there are good quality projects and a large number of projects. Bernard Abrignani answered that one solution is to promote one action rather than another.



❖ Main EuroMed actors



In the afternoon, **Sharon Attard** presented the **EuroMed Youth Platform**, which aims at encouraging cooperation, networking and exchange among youth organisations from both shores of the Mediterranean. For more information about the Platform, please consult www.euromedp.org



The **European Youth Forum**, represented by **Jovana Bazerkovska**, aims to empower young people to participate in the shaping of Europe. (The Powerpoint presentation can be found on the CD which accompanies this Report.)



The **Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe**, presented by Bernard Abrignani, focuses on training trainers, providing information, issuing publications, etc. Its most visible part is probably the Campaign “All Different, All Equal”. (The Powerpoint presentation can be found on the CD which accompanies this Report.)



In 2007 **Salto Youth EuroMed**, presented by **Caroline Mayaudon**, organised 5 training courses, 2 events and a Tool Fair dedicated to Good Practices. Indeed its mission is to collect and disseminate good practices through brochures, newsletters, etc. and to promote partnership. (The Powerpoint presentation can be found on the CD which accompanies this Report.)



The **EuroMed Youth Parliament** was represented by one of its participants, the Moroccan national **Wadia Ait Hamza**. The first EuroMed Youth Parliament was organised by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the German presidency of the European Union. It involved about 100 participants from 38 countries who exchanged ideas on a wide range of topical issues for the Euro-Mediterranean region. As a follow-up to this initiative, participants developed various youth projects, including the creation of a Meda Youth Parliament, which was officially

launched in Beirut. (The Powerpoint presentation can be found on the CD which accompanies this Report.)



❖ **Presentation of the Moroccan youth policy**



The Moroccan Secretary of State responsible for Youth delegated M. Makhoun to present the new national youth policy.

Until 2002 there was no youth policy as such, no global outlook on youth, only some actors. The upturn of the country's economy gave the incentive needed for the introduction of a structural adjustment programme, with a rise of budgets allocated to the youth sector. The new Secretary of State decided not to wait for the budget and initiated a voluntarist policy.

Like health, youth is a public sector which should be guaranteed by the State.

The new youth policy is based on values of democracy, tolerance and solidarity. It aims to help young people's self-develop, to encourage them to play a role in society and to foster creativity, initiative and a sense of responsibility.

Many buildings were ramshackle and deliberately avoided by young people. The infrastructure was in a critical state and didn't correspond to young people's needs. Youth centres have now almost doubled in number. A vast rehabilitation programme aims to make youth premises much more attractive to children and teenagers.

The present youth policy runs along 3 main axes: children, teenagers and women's issues.

40 million dirham were invested to this effect, which may seem little but gets translated into big actions because of the voluntarist policy. To this figure can be added the contributions from the local councils, the private sector and donors such as the United Nations. Several actors join forces to make a noticeable difference .

The New Youth Policy is articulated around 15 programmes such as “Open universities”, “Time for books”, “Youth theatre”, “Youth cinemas”, “Sport for all”, “Holidays for all”, etc. All are structuring activities which encourage young people to take charge of themselves, to develop self-confidence and to look into the future.

Mr Makhoun then gave some **concrete examples**:

- An average of 1 million children are now able to join a summer camp. Their number was only about 40 000 in 2002.
- A National Institute for Youth and Democracy, based in Rabat, is a place where young people can exchange about politics, organise debates and other events. In this venue they get chance to develop their own ideas, instead of merely reproducing adults' views.
- There are now centres for girls and women who interrupted their education early. There they get the opportunity to have an alternative education.

In response to numerous questions from the audience Mr Makhoun added:

- More boys than girls still benefit from the NYP, especially in country areas. In towns boys go to cybercafés whereas girls prefer the more secure environment of youth centres.
- A programme exists about the training of support staff. Associations are a key actor of the new policy as they have a reservoir of trained and experienced staff. Qualified personnel is being trained.
- NGO representatives attend youth centre councils.
- There is an inadequacy between training and jobs, with a distinct lack of qualified jobs. For the first time in years the rate of unemployment is under 10%. But youth unemployment (31%) remains very high.
- Political actors, intellectuals, key actors of civil society give young people the occasion to debate. Young people and their parents alike demand these activities.
- EuroMed is not yet visible in Morocco. Most NGOs don't seek financing, not even from local sources; the Secretary of State for family affairs helps in this respect. Many associations are very small, with a very small budget; they are sometimes run by illiterate people who have great difficulty filling in the application form.

❖ Workshops

Participants then got into groups to discuss co-operation between NAs and EMYUs in order to prepare the next TCP Meeting and their Work plan for 2008. But the primary aim of the workshops was to set the basis for building synergies and co-operation mechanisms between NAs and EMYUs. Each of the 3 groups chose a reporter.

Ali Bibi (Jordanian EMYU) reported for **Group 1**, which included the representatives of the French, Latvian, Spanish, Slovenian and Franco-Belgian NAs, as well as the heads of the Syrian, Jordanian and Moroccan EMYUs. The group discussed the following:



1. The Challenge is threefold:
 - * Information and finding partners
 - * Legal status of the partners in MEDA Countries (EMYUs)
 - * Using the database for Euromed cooperation
2. Processes involve discussing how each NA and EMYU works, identifying the terminology.
3. Framework and points of connection/contradiction between NAs and EMYUs:
 - * Difference in priorities, NAs tend to concentrate on Youth and Youth Groups (more so than organizations) while EMYUs focus on capacity building for youth organizations.
4. The group suggested methods of improvement and cooperation:
 - * Strengthening the EuroMed Platform
 - * Creating links on all EMYU and NA websites to be used by youth and youth organizations containing info from the EuroMed Platform, NAs ,EMYUs, contacts, activities, etc.
 - * Any contact made by youth organizations in the MEDA countries to NAs, a copy should be provided to EMYUs for verifications and approvals
 - * Visibility of activities between EMYUs and NAs
 - * Extensive Contact Making Seminars
 - * Holding more meetings between NAs and EMYUs to coordinate activities.

Nora Mokdad reported for **Group 2**, which included the representatives of the Flemish-Belgian, Czech, Estonian, Finnish, British and Turkish NAs, as well as the heads of the Israeli, Turkish and Lebanese Units. The group discussed the following:



- The participants in this working group discussed the fact that they have the same target, in different regions, and have differences in implementation.
- NAs asked for EMYUs support in order to insure the credibility of the MEDA organizations that will host European EVS volunteers.
- It was discussed that EMYUs should know about these volunteers in the first place to be able to assist them.
- A problem that was discussed is that we have no budget for EVS Trainings upon departure for volunteers.
- More trainings and jobs shadowing were needed.
- Difficulty for organizations to find EU/MEDA partners was a major point that was raised in our debate.
- The group expressed the needs to hold More contact making seminars, at least two, and with bigger groups.
- EMYU's should have access to Youth Net, and we have decided to contact SALTO-INFO for this purpose.
- EMYU's main problems were in selection. That the young people in newly established NGOs have to meet very strict rules and criteria in order to be eligible for funding.

They have to be financially stable, and it is difficult for new and small NGOs.

This is the reason why it is a small number of applications and very smaller numbers of awarded projects.

-The result is that bigger, established NGOs, who already have lots of funding and financing sources, end up getting the grants.

- EMYUs expressed the common need for more cooperation when it comes to facilitating partner finding for NGOs.
- Find a way to promote MEDA countries in EU countries and the Euro-Med Youth Program
- Many trainings and seminars are not open for MEDA people, and the trainings that are open for MEDA people are more or less dealing with the same repeated topics.



Nouredine Si Bachir reported for **Group 3**, which included the representatives of the Danish, Norwegian, Greek, Hungarian, Bulgarian and Italian NAs, as well as the heads of the Algerian and Tunisian EMYUs. The group discussed the following:

- The development and implementation of a common strategy in the field of communication. A close collaboration is needed in this sector in order to ensure a better follow-up of activities through exchange of information, to combine a range of activities and to introduce them into NAs and EMYUs work plans.

- The activities which are most likely to develop this co-operation are:
 - * The creation of web pages in different languages on the NAs website in order to publicise the role of each actor of the programme. This action would give youngsters the opportunity to know more about the Agencies and Units of different countries and to exchange information about their activities.
 - * The training of NGO Youth leaders and youth workers is strongly needed, especially for the MEDA organisations; these could be encouraged to participate in various training courses organised at Euro-Mediterranean level. They would allow young people from different walks of life to meet and to initiate a kind of network. This need for training is identified by the Agencies and SALTO resource centres, in particular with respect to the multipliers' training and trainers for the Units, which express a growing interest in this sector.
 - * Exchange visits between the representatives of Units and NAs (job shadowing) are needed considering the role played by these in the promotion of this cooperation.

A number of initiatives were put forward:

- The Greek representative announced that her NA will organise a voluntary service seminar in Greece in 2008 and she suggested that NAs and EMYUs include it in their work plan.
- The Algerian Unit wishes to organise a training course in Tamanrasset in 2008.
- A new contact-making seminar (with possible participation of Bulgaria) is planned in Norway for 2008.
- A new contact-making seminar in Turkey in 2008.
- The Jordanian EMYU offered to organise the 2008 EuroMed Meeting in Amman with the support of the Ministry of Political Development.
- A training course for multipliers could be organised. One was suggested by NAs under EuroMed Youth II but prevented by the suspension. Nouredine Si Bachir (Algerian

EMYU), Dua Khanafsa (Palestinian EMYU) and Gehad Amer (the former Egyptian coordinator) now keep the memory of multipliers' training.

Bernard Abrignani closed this workshop session by saying that there is a distinct need to pursue the collaboration in 3 directions:

- Concrete mechanisms of co-operation need to be developed between NAs and EMYUs with a view to fostering a genuine appropriation of the Programme on both sides. For example, NAs could ask Units to come as observers to their evaluation committee meetings and vice-versa.
- NAs and EMYUs need a reliable EuroMed Youth database of youth organisations. Information can already be exchanged through Youthnet.
- Concrete proposals need to be made for 2008.



❖ Exploitation and Dissemination of results of Euromed co-operation



Marzia Conte showed a video-clip as an example of promotional tool aimed at increasing the visibility of the Youth in Action programme.

She then introduced the concepts of dissemination and exploitation of results, whilst underlining that “visibility” and “dissemination and exploitation of results” should be complementary.

Dissemination is about spreading the results of a project or initiative far and wide.

Exploitation is about making use of and benefiting from these results. Full exploitation happens when there is a transfer of what has been learnt/achieved into new policies or improved practices.

Like other programmes managed by DG EAC, Youth in Action puts a special emphasis on the dissemination and exploitation of results, which is now a requirement for projects that want to obtain funding. The aim is to improve the sustainability of results and enhance the impact of EU-funded programmes at all levels.

Here are some concrete ways of doing it:

- **At project promoter's level:**

Plan and carry out activities aimed at:

- making their projects more visible
- disseminating the results of their projects
- making the results of their projects more sustainable and further exploited

This means that the results of a project will continue to be used and have a positive effect on the largest possible number of young people once the project has come to an end. By planning valorisation activities as part of their projects, promoters will increase the quality of their work and actively contribute to the overall impact of the Youth in Action Programme.

- **At National Agencies' level:**

- Provide advice and guidance to project promoters
- Facilitate contacts between project promoters and exchange of good projects
- Promote programme results at national level

- Transfer programme results to national decision-makers
 - Identify success stories
 - Share experience with other NAs and the European Commission
 - Monitor and evaluate the impact of the programme at national level
- **At European level:**
- Clear strategies adapted to each Programme
 - Link between Programmes and Policies
 - European-level conferences, seminars, debates, workshops
 - Identify and gather success stories (database project)
 - Provide tools and support to NAs and other actors (online guide, training, etc.)
 - Monitor and evaluate impact of the strategy

Youth in Action uses the following valorisation instruments:

- **Youthpass**, a document which is used to enhance the value and visibility of the learning achievements and as such to make project results more sustainable.
- **Training and Cooperation Plans (TCPs)**, in which National Agencies are now required to include systematically items on dissemination and exploitation of results.
- **Websites**, which are now used more systematically to disseminate project outcomes, methods and good practices.
- **The SALTO toolbox database**, which was devised by SALTO France, offers methods and tools to support youth workers and trainers and to make publicly available the successful instruments developed during YOUTH projects.
- The extranet system **Youthnet** developed by the SALTO Information Resource Centre, which is used by the NA staff to inform each other on best practice amongst project promoters and on project results.

Bernard Abrignani then presented a clip about the concept of a EuroMed videogame, a board version of which may be prepared at a later stage. The idea behind the game is that in order to build a partnership, one needs to know more about other countries.

❖ Closing words



Bernard Abrignani reiterated his satisfaction at the high level of attendance from EMYUs and NAs and at their high level of motivation. It is clear that NAs who attended have made the EuroMed region one of their priorities and he insisted on the importance to coordinate the EuroMed dossier among all the NA officers who will be dealing with the EuroMed structures in the South.

The general feeling was that all were very interested in developing co-operative approaches in order to improve the programme performance and increase support to its beneficiaries.

A questionnaire will be sent to all participants about the evaluation of the Meeting.

Claire Kupper and Marzia Conte reinforced the need for NAs and Units to develop contacts and cooperate closely.

7th EuroMed Meeting - 4 & 5 October 2007

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Euromed - Youth Programme



EUROMED MEETING PROGRAMME

OCTOBER 4th – 5th Morocco

Wednesday 3	Hours	Thursday 4	Hours	Friday 5	Saturday 6
A r r i v a l	9.30 10.30	Official opening ... - Moroccan Youth and Sport Ministry - European Commission : DG EAC – DG AIDCO - EU Delegation in Morocco ... and Introduction - RCBS : Programme presentation - Moroccan EMYU : practicalities	9.00 10.30	PRESENTATION OF THE MOROCCAN YOUTH POLICY Which place for the EuroMed Youth Programme?	D e p a r t u r e
	10.30	<i>Break</i>	10.30	<i>Break</i>	
	11.00 12.30	UPDATING of EUROMED PROGRAMMES - Results presentation of the first evaluation committees in European and Meda countries - Debate on objectives and results	11.00 13.00	WORKSHOPS <i>According to ideas collected from NAs and EMYUs</i> - Building cooperation between NA and EMYU in order to prepare the work plan for 2008	
	12.30 14.30	<i>Lunch</i>	13.00 15.00	<i>Lunch</i>	
	14.30 15.15	MAIN EUROMED ACTORS Short description of their activities within EuroMed Youth Programme Partnership European Commission and Council of Europe Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation Euromed Youth Platform Salto-Youth Euromed RC European Youth Forum League of Arab States Youth Forum Euromed Youth Parliament	15.00 16.00	DEBRIEFING ON WORKSHOPS Questions / Answers	
			16.00	<i>Short break</i>	
	16.15 17.15		16.15 17.15	EXPLOITATION AND DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS OF EUROMED COOPERATION Introduction "European Commission Exploitation and Dissemination of Results Strategy" Presentation of the EuroMed Game How to valorize a project? (based on examples collected)	
	15.15	<i>Short Break</i>	17.15	<i>Short break</i>	
15.30 18.00	EUROMED ACTORS OPEN SPACE	17.30 18.30	CLOSING Final questions / answers		
Free evening			Diner outside : Traditional Moroccan Evening		

