

**SALTO-YOUTH**  
E U R O M E D  
RESOURCE CENTRE



Education and Culture

**AKTIV UNGDOM**

# ***SALTO EVS ODYSSEY IN EUROMED***

**A partnership-building activity  
on the EVS**



**Vette – Norway  
8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> April 2008**



*Ithaca*

*When you set out on your journey to Ithaca,  
pray that the road is long,  
full of adventure, full of knowledge.*

...

*Pray that the road is long.  
That the summer mornings are many, when,  
with such pleasure, with such joy  
you will enter ports seen for the first time;*

...

*Always keep Ithaca in your mind.  
To arrive there is your ultimate goal.  
But do not hurry the voyage at all.  
It is better to let it last for many years;  
and to anchor at the island when you are old,  
rich with all you have gained on the way,  
not expecting that Ithaca will offer you richness.*

*Ithaca has given you the beautiful voyage.  
Without her you would have never set out on the road.  
She has nothing more to give you.*

*And if you find her poor, Ithaca has not deceived you.  
Wise as you have become, with so much experience,  
you must already have understood what Ithacas mean.*

**Kavafis (1911)**

**(Short version)**

## WHY DEPARTING FOR AN EVS ODYSSEY IN EUROMED?

The Euromed cooperation has been developing and enriching constantly since its beginning. EU and Meda countries have been **bridging both sides of the Mediterranean sea**, youth organisations have been contributing to create links and to make out of this cooperation between countries a reality of common youth projects.

The new generation of programmes "Youth in Action" and "Euromed Youth III" has offered to young people the opportunity of enriching their own individual educational pathway by Euromed Voluntary Service and to youth organisations the chance to turn these individual wills into an exciting local hosting project, which could give them the opportunity to develop new projects, new ways of working.

This is the meaning of European Voluntary Service in Euromed: To create links, between individual projects of young people, and strategies of Euromed cooperation between youth organisations from Nordic countries and countries from the Southern bank of the Mediterranean Sea.

## WHO PROPOSED THE JOURNEY?

**SALTO Euromed Resource Centre** can propose actions but such "journeys" require a strong political motivation and a solid cooperation: Therefore, the **National Agency of the Youth in Action Programme from Norway** proposed to host and organise this seminar, in cooperation with the **Greek and Bulgarian National Agencies**.

Actually, the Odyssey already started for some courageous travellers from different "harbours": Greece (2006) and Denmark (2007).

**On the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2008**, a new crew and new travellers embarked for this journey in **Vette, Norway**. Next stop: **13<sup>th</sup> April 2008!**

## WHAT WAS TO EXPECT?

An opportunity to meet European and Mediterranean partners in EVS, to get a common understanding of the meaning of voluntary work, to develop common sending and hosting projects, while discovering the richness of cultural and educational differences.

Let's reinforce our cooperation and build quality volunteering-projects in Euromed! Let's join the increasing family of EVS Odyssey travellers for networking further!

Everybody knew also that this Odyssey would be only a step towards the big EVS Odyssey conference in Ithaca (Greece), November 2008.

## **OUR DESTINATIONS**

(OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR)

- To create a space of Euromed cooperation in the field of European Voluntary Service.
- To support the creation and development of new innovative and quality EVS projects in Euromed.
- To facilitate the contact making between Norwegian, Bulgarian, Greek youth organisations active in EVS (or willing to become so) and the Mediterranean partners countries.
- To get acquainted with the new programmes "Youth in Action" and "Euromed Youth III" and its developments.
- To get a common understanding of the voluntary work and of the various educational perspectives in regards to cultural diversity.

## **OUR TRAVELLING COMPANIONS**

- ❖ 25 participants representing 11 countries:
  - 10 participants from 8 Meda countries: Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Turkey,
  - 15 participants from 3 EU countries: Norway, Greece, Bulgaria
- ❖ 25 different organisations, hosting and/or sending
  - 25 potential partners
- ❖ A very wide field of cooperation within organisations active in various fields of work:
  - Youth work, youth forum, non formal education, social workcamps, leisure time, refugees, community work, peace-building, social work, municipalities, culture,...

***"The richness of the voyage is already contained  
within its travellers"***



## AND WE EMBARKED FOR THE NEW ODYSSEY !

### DAY 0: 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

*“Good company in a journey makes the way seem shorter.”*

#### ***Vettre Hotel***

(A short welcoming session)

Once having welcomed everybody and having shared a 1<sup>st</sup> (salmon-based!) meal together, participants were invited to a short 1<sup>st</sup> contact meeting, made of few activities:

- **Do you also shake hands?**

Participants had to 1<sup>st</sup> shake hands between each other, without speaking. One rule: Never release the hand of someone before making sure you have the hand of someone else. In other words: Never be alone with 2 free hands!

Then, participants were asked to proceed the same, but this time saying their name and a few words of greetings to each other.

- **Let's build our own Euromed map**

Participants were asked to take position in the room as if it was a map of Euromed area (South and North directions were indicated). They had then to tell where they're from and how long it took them to come to Norway.

- **Guessing where is the lie?**

Each participant was invited to write down on a piece of paper 4 sentences about him/herself, one of them being a lie. Then, while discussing and having a drink, participants were invited to interact and to try to guess each other's lie.

- **Are you really the one you want to show you are?**

Participants were invited to make Polaroid photos of each other, using dresses and funny disguises at their disposal. The photo had then to be stuck on the giant map of Euromed area.

*After having know how to survive till the next day,  
our sailors could get a rest...*

## DAY 1, 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

*"A journey of a thousand miles starts in front of your feet."*



## ***The crew cast off*** (Opening the Odyssey)

Kristin AAlstad, head of the Norwegian National Agency opened this new Odyssey, followed by the SALTO team (Bernard Abrignani, coordinator of Euromed Resource centre, Sylvain Abrial, coordinator of the seminar, Tugba Cansalis, trainer), explaining why they decided to set out the road together, why they anchored in Norway, what would be the challenges and difficulties to overcome in our common voyage and what would be the final destination for this Odyssey travellers as for previous and next Odyssey participants: Conference of Odysseys, Greece, November 2008!

## ***Every modern SALTO Odysseus need a passport*** (Get to know and group dynamics)

For getting to know each other and helping the group dynamics to initiate, participants were asked to elaborate individual passports in a collective way. Following different steps and exchanging each time their paper, they had to: write down each other name, draw the face of the person, then the eyes, write down some information about the job of the person, etc... At the end, each participant got back his/her own passport, elaborated by several persons from the group. A nice gallery of portraits !

## ***Which islands are we expecting to visit?*** (a travel through expectations)

For addressing participants' hopes and fears toward the EVS Odyssey, different islands were available: Island of fear, island of hopes, Terra Incognita for all questions and doubts, island for needs and islands for offers.

**SEEN ON ISLAND OF HOPES:** To meet with people, able to start partnership - To make friends - Learning from each experiences - Make a good partnership - to learn how EVS works in Euromed countries - To know something about Euromed projects – Motivation - To learn a lot of things from everyone and his/her organization - New partnerships, new cooperation - To see Oslo - To meet volunteers that want to participate in our EVS project - Find exchange and EVS partners - to enjoy every single moment in Norway with friends, to approve my experiences and get more - New ideas and projects- To know people in my NA better - To send evs to these countries

**SEEN ON TERRA INCOGNITA :** Content – Action 2

**SEEN ON ISLAND OF FEAR :** Boredom - No future cooperation - not being understandable - if I can't make my idea to reach – Linguistic understanding - What if we don't create any project - If the time will pass fast - Political conflict

**SEEN ON THE ISLAND OF NEEDS:** Good mood and willingness to work hard – Internet - Develop EVS projects with partners present in this seminar - Communicate with different cultures - Solid partnership - Detailed information - More info about Norway - Know more about EUROMED - See the city - Some more breaks in-between - To know each other - Quiet and patience

**SEEN ON ISLAND OF OFFERS:** To have morning activity that will "wake us up" - When you come to Jordan I can meet you in my organization - Some relaxing positions - To be open to diversity – Smile - To contribute from my experience in the Euromed programme – Positivistic - Let's have every night party - Any help & knowledge I can provide

## ***The crew revealed the itinerary of the Odyssey*** (Programme presentation)

The programme was presented session by session, displayed in a giant form on the floor and hung at the wall so that all passengers can know at least which directions we would take during the 4 next days !

## ***Odysseus organise their social life on board*** (evening committees)

The EVS Odyssey foresaw 3 evenings in Vetre:

- Above the iceberg of Mediterranean culture
- Below the iceberg of Mediterranean culture
- Farewell party.

Participants were invited to get organised in 3 committees in charge of organising each evening. They registered and had to plan their own meetings (including one with SALTO team) for sharing ideas and needs.

## ***The richness of the voyage is among us*** (organisation market)

Each representative of organisation had to prepare a poster about his/her NGO with basic information (Name of NGO, country, contact person, 2 main aims, mission, target group, 1 or 2 key-activities, experience in EVS).

After having presented a 30 seconds advertisement, they carried their poster on themselves and could freely circulate and interact with each other for creating contacts and getting to know each other's work. A 1<sup>st</sup> step towards potential partnerships.



## ***Are we all travelling the same direction ?*** (Voluntary work in the Euromed region)

The objective of this session was to discover our mutual understanding of volunteering and voluntary work in our respective countries, to find out differences and similarities and to identify needs to be explored.

Trainers proposed some sentences that people had to take position on (Yes/No/I don't know). After each sentence, we formed groups from "Yes" and "No" people for a little debate, sometimes we also led the discussion in plenary. From these points, we then identified together differences, similarities and needs for a common understanding of voluntary work.

### **The sentences:**

1. Volunteering is in high demand from young people.
2. Volunteering should be aggressively promoted by NGOs when young people are not motivated to take part.
3. Volunteering is essential to the survival of NGO's and civil society.
4. To be of value, volunteering must reply to real needs in the local community.
5. Volunteering should be fully financed by public funding.
6. Volunteering is above all a matter of personal development for young people.
7. Values of voluntary work are universal
8. The way to deal with voluntary work is the same in all cultures

<b>SOME SIMILARITIES</b>	<b>SOME DIFFERENCES?</b>	<b>SOME NEEDS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent NGO's</li> <li>• Same philosophy, same spirit</li> <li>• Same definition of voluntary work</li> <li>• Human being as target</li> <li>• Voluntary exist because society needs it</li> <li>• Every volunteer aims to help some one and gain some benefits for him / herself</li> <li>• Volunteering isn't something you are born with but something you learn</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kind of work, different fields of work</li> <li>• Different methods</li> <li>• Different activities</li> <li>• Different motives</li> <li>• Different rhythms</li> <li>• Different capacities</li> <li>• Different experiences</li> <li>• Different needs in each society</li> <li>• Different organization of voluntary work</li> <li>• Different age groups</li> <li>• Different balances</li> <li>• Impact in the different countries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to explain why to be a volunteer</li> <li>• International meeting of volunteers to share expectations and ideas</li> <li>• To respect the rules of the programme</li> <li>• To respect the other culture</li> <li>• To clarify the aims of Euro med programme youth in action</li> <li>• Easier mobility .. visa problems</li> <li>• A common understanding of EVS and Euro-med</li> <li>• A common cultural understanding</li> <li>• Good communication</li> <li>• Motivation</li> </ul>

### ***Which step are we starting to walk on?***

In order to assess the different levels of knowledge and experience, to activate the group and above all to form well-balanced groups for the next activity, the team proposed a "stepping" exercise: Starting all in line,

participants had to make a step each time they can answer the question.

**The questions:**

Who knows what EVS stands for?

Who has been a volunteer in EVS?

Who is/has been a sending NGO? A hosting NGO? A mentor?

Who writes EVS projects more than 5 times a year?

Who has read the programme guide completely?

Who has organised EVS trainings?

***“When you sail to Ithaca, wish that your trip be long...”***

(The Odyssey of volunteers)

After having gone through all introductory phases of the Odyssey, after we got to know each other, the time came for our first exploration. We proposed to go for a little travel through 7 different islands connected to EVS projects. Participants split into groups and got an itinerary to visit all islands. On each island they would find a question to answer and debate and on each island they would be requested to produce something different.

**1) Island “Actors”**

Question: Who are the actors in EVS and the connections among them.

Production: Draw a scheme,

**2) Island “Trainings”**

Question: Why having 4 trainings (pre departure, on arrival, middle-term evaluation and follow-up)?

Production: Identify and note down on the common flip chart the relevant elements of each of them.

**3) Island “Before EVS”**

Question: Why should I apply as EVS volunteer? (answer that young person)

Production: Prepare a max 2 lines advertisement for EVS.

**4) Island “The hosting project”**

Question: Finally isn't EVS a job?

Production: Make a human picture which symbolize what is a real EVS hosting project

**5) Island “After EVS”**

Question: And what happens two years later?

Production: Prepare a 1 minutes scene to be presented later on in plenary

**6) Island “Euromed dimension and local impact”**

Question: how to combine them?

Production: Chat and debate on the common flipchart.

**7) Island “Critical issues”**

Flipchart for key questions, which might be addressed in workshops



***"...you now understand what Ithaca really means."***  
 (Sharing the results of Odyssey of volunteers)

A gallery of written results (schemes, debates on flip chart, elements of training, advertisements, critical issues)

A presentation of the scenes and human pictures (After EVS, Hosting project)

A group discussion "what did you learn about EVS process in EuroMed?"

### SOME OUTCOMES

#### **Island 2: Why having 4 trainings / meetings?**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRE DEPARTURE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of the volunteer</li> <li>• Responsibilities of the volunteer</li> <li>• More information about the country</li> <li>• Explain what is evs and logistic how it Works</li> <li>• Culture of the host country, the language, the Project activities, explain about the rights and responsibilities in EVS</li> <li>• What to expect</li> <li>• What not to expect</li> <li>• Health and insurance</li> <li>• Visa exc.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ON ARRIVAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming of the volunteers</li> <li>• Voluntary work conditions (general rules)</li> <li>• Adaptation with the Project / the environment of the volunteer</li> <li>• Explanation of the rights and responsibilities of the actors of EVS</li> <li>• Introduction of the country, language, rights &amp; responsibilities, expectations of the volunteer</li> <li>• Language training</li> <li>• Needs of the local community</li> <li>• Aims of the Project</li> <li>• Typical culture features</li> <li>• Discuss expectations of the each side</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MID TERM EVALUATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation of the Project / volunteers</li> <li>• Proposition / making better the volunteer situation ( quality...)</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FOLLOW UP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback of the Project</li> <li>• Level of satisfaction (volunteer, hosting organization, sending organization)</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation of the volunteers</li> <li>• Evaluation of the volunteer roles and consideration what to do in the next part of the projects</li> <li>• Future activities , training about other possibilities</li> <li>• Correction of problems</li> <li>• Asking about the progress</li> <li>• Talking about the problems</li> <li>• Language difficulties</li> <li>• Psychological support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing the experiences</li> <li>• Discuss future involvement of the volunteer</li> <li>• Future possibilities for involvement, development of the relations between volunteer &amp; sending organization</li> <li>• Exchange of experiences</li> <li>• Proposals for continuation</li> </ul>
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### **Island 3: why should I apply as evs volunteer ?**

- ✓ *Discover other culture and language doing the things you like through helping others in a different country!*
- ✓ *Discover yourself in a new culture... Let's do it with evs!*
- ✓ *Improve your knowledge & experience in the field of your interest!*
- ✓ *Be a international volunteer; learn a new culture, new language, new people ... and it's all for free!*

### **Island 7: which are the key questions bothering you in Euromed evs?**

- The budget
- Visa issues
- Limit of participants
- Period of EVS
- How to select volunteers
- Ways to find partner organization
- Discrepancy between what was said about the project and what it actually is
- Many tasks / little time
- Lack of enough information for existing
- What is the mobility policies in Euromed country?
- Is it easy to do EVS project with countries that are not in Europe?

## ***Our 1<sup>st</sup> evening on board*** (Above the iceberg of Mediterranean culture)

The committee of that evening proposed to all participants a place and time for presenting their food, touristic information, traditional costumes. Each national group or individual prepared a stand with the material he brought and had no more than 1 minute to advertise their country in front of everybody. Then everybody could freely travel around the stands and interact with each other. Then, the committee proposed to those who had something to present, a dance, a song or anything else to do so in a 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the evening.



## DAY 2, 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

*"A traveller without observation is a bird without wings."*



***Our boat need some anchors***  
(The island of non formal education)

After having been introduced to the concept of the 4 pillars of education (religion, politics, humanism, economy), participants had to decide in little groups on some case-studies proposing crisis situations in international youth projects. While giving their solution to the rest of the group, they had to analyse their own educational attitudes and understand which of the pillar has been used the most in their decision making.

The idea of this short session was to understand that we all have different connection to education and to educational situations, according to our background, culture,...

***What are the right compasses to use?***  
(Combination Euromed Youth III and Youth in Action)

Travelling through the Euromed Youth Programme is not an easy task as the way to take can be both, depending on if we are from EU country (our main compass is then the Youth in Action programme, depending on the European Directorate General Education and Culture) or from Meda country (our main compass is then the Euromed Youth Programme, depending on the DG Directorate General AIDCO for external cooperation programmes). The idea of this session was to clarify the whole picture and understand the 2 logics of these programmes, and also to remind the institutional framework of EVS. The session was sequenced as following

1. The whole picture (in plenary): From Barcelona process to 2 different programme' logics.
2. EVS structure: How to use EVS for a good cooperation? (In 2 groups): Technical, institutional and strategic framework
3. Feedback (in plenary): what's missing? Presentation of the key actors. Debriefing (how was it for you, do you see clearer now?)

***Let's anchor and explore the northern territories***  
(Organised free time to discover Oslo)

Our host proposed the whole group to take a breath and get to know region. A bus took the whole Odyssey travellers to Oslo for visiting the City hall, in which we had the honor to shortly meet the mayor! Then, our fellows had the opportunity to freely walk down the streets of the Norwegian capital before meeting again for a visit and interaction with the X-Ray community centre, where we had the chance to meet young people, practising hip-hop or editing movies, to talk with youth and social workers, who told us about their job and their involvement.

Our exploration was concluded by a voyage in time: The Folksmuseum, in which we could get into the daily life of ancient Scandinavian families, visiting some old farmhouses and villages, getting to know how families were organised,...

Before re-embarking for our EVS Odyssey, it was time to take some distance and height, near the ski-jump with view on the fjord and above all with a typical Norwegian meal in one of the oldest restaurant Oslos.



## DAY 3, 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

*"The nicest voyage is the one you still haven't done."*



## ***What kind of competences are required for such an Odyssey?***

(Evaluating competences in Euromed EVS: Youthpass)

EVS, being about learning, is therefore about gaining and assessing competences. What is a competence ? What is it made of, which are the main (key) competences that we can gain in lifelong learning process and in EVS? How to assess them and when all along the EVS pathway? These were all the questions that we asked ourselves in this moment of the seminar. The question of Youthpass was then raised as it is becoming a compulsory tool at least for Europeans. The challenge was to understand how it could become an instrument of quality in Euromed Voluntary Service.

The session started with a collective card game, made of all competences that participants listed and which then had to be exchanged and traded so that everyone could have the best "game" in hands". This was then followed by a power point presentation on recognition of non-formal education with mention to Youthpass.

The final key-question was linked to educational attitudes: Are you ready to take the challenge of self-assessment and leave the young people being owner of their learning?

## ***Any travel requires a deep exploration***

(The Euromed partnership spirit)

Participants were proposed a range of 3 workshops, repeated 2 times, so that everyone could visit 2 of them among:

1. **From Meda reality to understanding** (Understanding the geopolitical and cultural context through concrete study-cases)
2. **Tools to keep a sustainable partnership strategy** (Building a combination strategy of partnership, using all possible tools, programmes and other actions, events and resources,...)
3. **Quality of the partnership process** (Communication, sustainability, coordination)

## ***Sailors and Odysseus need a place to rest on their way*** (The Odyssey café)

The team used the method of the “world café” which consisted in setting a place like a real café (being in an hotel, it was easy!), with 6 tables, decoration, real drinks and food to be served. Participants entered and discovered a team of “trainers/waiters”, who introduced with a power point the concept of the “Odyssey café”: A place to discuss, exchange ideas, to share needs, resources and enter smoothly in the cooperation phase, while being served by the team.

The “Odyssey café” is simply a time and space for leading a large discussion in an elaborated but cosy way, following different steps:

- ☀ To me, volunteering in Euromed means...
- ☀ The needs of my organisation to go into Euromed EVS projects are...
- ☀ The needs of my local community to go into Euromed EVS projects are...
- ☀ The profile of the volunteers that I’m working for/with is...
- ☀ The concrete EVS project(s) I have is(are)...

After each step, participants were requested to produce notes of their discussion, to deliver them to the “cashier” (getting in exchange a ticket for goods) and to move tables and change discussion partners.

All written results were hung on respective flipcharts by the “waiters”.

The café ended up with a short summary and input for the day after as the outcomes of it would be the start of partnership building.



### **THE NEEDS OF MY LOCAL COMMUNITY...**

To bring a different culture into some other country - Learning a new culture - New language - New ideas, projects positive effects about volunteers experiences - New opportunity about new partnership - Interaction between volunteer and local community - To get better understanding of the real situation in the other country - New perspectives for sending and hosting organisation - To gain languages and skills - Need of sharing different ideas so in the future the thinking and policy would be more validated - The volunteer would start the way on breaking stereotypes of local community - Getting the experience from the volunteer - To explore different approaches about disability for host country - Opportunity to open eyes and see another side of the represented society - We need equal opportunity to develop our potential, someone to support us to believe in us - Learning English, education, making people more open to others, decreasing gap between Meda and EU courtiers - Support the work in the organisation - Spreading the spirit of volunteering

### **THE NEEDS OF MY NGO...**

Web pages about evs Euromed that are easy to understand and find - Assistance to the organisations activities with the volunteers experiences - Supports from others that has to involve with similar issues - Be part of something popular - Approach local community with a different point of view - An easy way to apply for project support - To have a person responsible and interested in Euromed EVS who could start / take responsibility in cooperation and creating new projects - Good information about country - Capacity - Someone that can help us in the first time - Financial resources, being professional - Information about Euromed programme and projects , good motivation - Flexibility between Euromed & Organisation - To exchange practices and ideas about disability - To open our flexible strategy to build bridges , to build a global concept between meda and Europe in youth entrepreneurship, to learn from the others - To develop new cooperation projects - More partners to send volunteers to us, training courses - Good partners, approved host projects - A database with easily accessible and understandable info about the different countries and their culture.

### **FOR ME VOLUNTEERING MEANS...**

New challenges, new opportunities, intercultural learning, small global villages - Equal opportunities - To challenge our image of the world & foreign countries - To learn about other countries - You give and take - Preferable the volunteers should do EVS after university - Intercultural dialog between Europe and meda - Communication - Help others - Breaking down stereotypes - Opportunity to learn more about the country, culture of the volunteer - Exchanging ideas, good practices - Rebuild and critics our values and the way of thinking between European and Meda countries - Make peace (not politically, in our mind) between Euromed countries - It makes living in a different country with different culture to like with facilities of a good organisation - Reflection of new actions to local community - Possibility for gaining work experience

### **THE PROFILE OF MY VOLUNTEERS...**

Young, motivated full with energy, hard working - Have experiences in volunteering activity - All the profiles - Age 18-25 , multimedia, dance, film, theatre , studio work , responsible, speak English - To be motivated about social responsibility projects, interested in social problems - To have an interest about disability - From different cultures - Young's between 20-30 years, students/ artists has talent in the art, speak English, need to leave evs experiences - Aged between 18-25 - Be able to communicate with hosting organisation - 18-30 years old, to be creative, motivated, open a new challenge, to work in a group - Creative with interest in arts, open to new experiences, motivated to develop their ideas - With no experience but ready to work, respecting the values of the evs, respecting the local culture, communicative friendly - Art, theatre, language, useful..- 20-30 age, any economic background, mainly students but it's not particular skills are with his own interests communication, cinema, etc...- Volunteers are presenting problems of Palestinian community , women in conservative society - To have certain profile of youth we work with, we work with people of differet interests, A lot are interested in political and cultural learning, creating different projects according to the needs of volunteers - We are only sending at the moment 20-30 years old. Most of them had completed university studies people with different interests, social sciences, art, etc.. - People willing to work with local community that foreigners are also valuable part of it. Interested in human rights - Interested in inter actual hours, international communication, tolerant to different cultures.

***Our 3<sup>rd</sup> evening on board***  
(Below the iceberg of Mediterranean culture)

The committee of that evening proposed to each national or sub-regional group to prepare for everybody a wedding-ceremony typical from their country/region.

Then, they had to choose and explain to everybody 3 most important values from their culture.

And finally, they had to show us something typical from the family in their culture.



**DAY 4, 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

*"Good company in a journey makes the way seems shorter"*



***How do we cooperate?***  
(Kick-off of the partnership-building)

In order to create a spirit of partnership and to understand the challenges and complexity of cooperation, a game was proposed. It consisted in splitting the group in 3, each group had a different task to manage with the number of chairs, which were in the room and not knowing the task of the other groups: A group had to make a circle of chairs in the middle, another group had to sit on the chairs, and a last group had to take all chairs away.

After having shortly experienced such situations of communication, little difficulties to achieve a task while having different objectives, possibilities to compromise,... we had a discussion on the spirit of cooperation and partnership and on what to remember before entering a partnership process.

***Doesn't the real Odyssey start now,  
Before going to Ithaca?***  
(Partnership and project-building)

The outcomes of the Café were on the wall, the spirit of cooperation was there, all possible explorations have been made within the seminar, now it was time to plan together the next Odyssey, which is starting now, which will carry on in our Ithaca (back home) and go on till a point that we still don't know. This is the time to establish solid and sustainable partnerships, to reinforce all links, to plan, to put ideas into practice..

Participants had the whole morning to get organised, to appoint between each other, to work on their on common future, to develop projects and partnerships.

They were requested to come back with some short summary of their results. Trainers remained at their disposal for coaching and support.

***The Odyssey experts are you !***  
(Presentation of projects and partnerships)

Each group could display the outcomes of its work so that the other groups can circulate and take notes on what they see.

Each partnership could then present verbally its main ideas, strategies of cooperation, projects. The other groups and the team of trainers made some comments and feedback on each project.

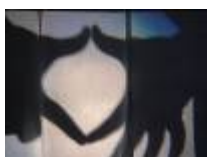
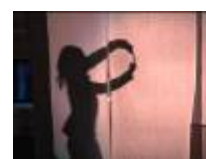
***Don't forget anything on board before  
leaving the "boat"***  
(Last questions, conclusions and perspectives)

After having answered some last questions about the Programme and EVS, participants were introduced to the SALTO training strategy for the next months. They got a demo-presentation of the EuroMed game and finally were introduced to the E-Learning community.

The last words to conclude the seminar were for reminding everybody that they shall meet again in Greece, November 2008 for the "conference" of all Odysseys, which took place so far. An opportunity to carry on the Odyssey and to network further and deeper!

***Shall we have a look at the pathway  
we went through together?***  
(Evaluation)

Participants were first invited to represent as a "shadow" picture what they gained in this seminar  
Here follows some pictures:



Then, they were distributed a questionnaire to fill into. Here follows the quantitative part of it.

<b>Statistics</b> (From 1=inadequate to 5=excellent)	
<b>Achievement of objectives</b>	
To create a space of Euromed cooperation in the field of the EVS	4,5
To support the creation and development of new innovative and quality EVS projects in Euromed	4,4
To facilitate the contact making between Norwegian, Bulgarian, Greek youth organisations active in EVS and Mediterranean partner countries	4,8
To get acquainted with the programmes Youth in Action and Euromed Youth III and their developments	4,2
To get a common understanding of the voluntary work and of the various educational perspectives in regard to cultural diversity	4,4
<b>Fulfilment of Expectations</b>	
<b>Programme elements</b>	
Welcome Evening	4,2
Group dynamic	3,8
Expectations and programme	4,4
Open Market of the organisations	4,3
Voluntary work in Euromed	4
The Odyssey of volunteers	4,4
Ev. Above the iceberg of Mediterranean culture	4,4
The island of non formal education	4,3
Combination Youth in Action and EUROMED Youth	4,3
Discovering Oslo (guided tour, museum, restaurant)	4,6
Discovering Oslo (visit of X-Ray NGO)	4,5
Evaluating competences in EVS	Item missing
WS 1- From Meda reality to understanding	4,1
WS 2 – Tools to keep a sustainable partnership strategy	4,4
WS 3 – Quality of partnership process	4,3
Odyssey Café	4,6
Ev. Below the iceberg of Mediterranean culture	4,5
Work on partnerships and projects	4,7
Slideshow of the day before, every morning	4,2
Last questions and check up	3,8
<b>Methodology</b>	
4,5	
<b>Work of the team</b>	
4,6	
<b>Contribution of group to seminar</b>	
4,4	
<b>Your contribution to seminar</b>	
3,9	
<b>Technicalities</b>	
Preparation	4,2
Communication with Norwegian NA before	4,5
Working conditions	4,7
Living conditions	4,6
Support by National Agency during seminar	4,6
Contact with respective NA or EMYU	4

## ***Our last evening on board*** (Farewell party)

The committee of that last evening organised with the hotel a Karaoke evening in the bar

*Report by Sylvain Abrial  
With support of Tugba Cansali  
-September 2008-*



		Tue 8-april	Wed 9-april	Thu 10-april	Fri 11-april	Sat 12-april	Su 13-april
	8.00-9.00	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
Morning activities	9.00		Official opening Group dynamics Programme, expectations	The island of non formal education (educational attitudes)	Evaluating competences in Euromed EVS (Youthpass)	Input  Work on EVS hosting and sending projects	Departures
			Preparation of stands		EuroMed partnership spirit		
	10.30		Break	Break	Break		
	11.00		Open market	Combination EuroMed Youth III and Youth in Action	EuroMed partnership spirit		
	12.00		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
Afternoon activities	14.00		Voluntary work in EuroMed	Bus to City Hall 13.00	Odyssey Café	Projects and partnerships Gallery	
				City Hall/Guided tour 14-15.00			Last round of questions
	16.00	Arrivals	Break	Free time 15-16.00	Break	Break	Conclusions and perspectives
		Preparation of stands	The Odyssey of volunteers (Travelling different islands of EVS)	Visit to Youth Club in Oslo 16-17.30 Folkmuseum 18-19.00	Synthesis Partner matching	Preparation of the evening	Evaluation
	19.00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner out 19.30	Dinner		
Evening activities	21.00	Getting to know each other	Above the iceberg of EuroMediterranean culture: food, music, folklore		Below the iceberg of Euro Mediterranean culture: tales, legends	Bye bye	

***An Odyssey ended, a new Odyssey has started, see you in  
Ithaca, Greece, November 2008 !***