Meet'In EuroMed

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Education and Culture

For a stronger Euro-Mediterranean co-operation…

The EuroMed Youth III Programme will close in December 2008 after an operational phase lasting 2 years. The final evaluation highlighted its positive impact on youth associations on both sides of the Mediterranean and the great expectations it has generated. 90 projects were approved by evaluation committees in the 9 signatory countries: Morocco, Tunisia, Israel, Algeria, Jordan, The Palestinian Authority, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey. Nearly 1800 young people and 600 youth workers benefited directly from this programme.

For its part, the European Union has emphasised its desire to improve co-operation with neighbouring countries in the field of Youth and Community Education by introducing a new "Youth for the World" initiative (Action 3.1 of the Youth in Action Programme). In 2007 and 2008 181 projects were approved and implemented, allowing 48 EVS projects, 78 youth exchanges and 55 training courses and seminars to take place in Europe.

Although very young, and different in terms of criteria and procedures, the programmes have shown that they are complementary. Indeed the number of participants in Salto-Youth EuroMed activities rose significantly in 2007 and 2008 and they used both programmes to create links which improve partnership and co-operation. South Mediterranean NGOs welcomed their European partners and Mediterranean NGOs their European partners, each one in the context of their own programme.

In October, the National Agencies of the Youth in Action Programme and the EuroMed Youth Units of the EuroMed Youth III Programme met for the 8th time in Amman (Jordan) and expressed their desire to reinforce youth and youth workers exchanges between both sides of the "Mare Nostrum".

The desire to exchange, create and promote is still here, in spite of the 2-year suspension. The result is still fragile and there is still a long way to go; let's hope that Phase IV of the EuroMed Youth Programme, which is due to start on 1st September 2009, will not suffer from too many delays. Youth associations from both sides of the Mediterranean have shown a deep desire to cooperate and it would be a pity if a further suspension caused them to lose hope in the programme.

EuroMed Youth III is over, let's welcome EuroMed Youth IV!

BERNARD ABRIGNANI
EuroMed Team leader

Evaluation of the third phase of the Euromed Youth programme

Background

The third phase of the Euro-Med Youth programme was transferred from Directorate General Education and Culture (DGEAC) to EuropeAid (DG AIDCO) and its specificity is the administrative and technical management: on the one hand, the overall management of the programme was transferred to the national authorities responsible for youth in the Mediterranean partner countries (decentralisation), on the other hand, the programme was also deconcentrated to European Commission Delegations in the Mediterranean partner countries. Moreover, the technical assistance was commissioned and entrusted to a Regional Capacity Building and Support Unit (RCBS) to support the implementation of methods.

Based on the Youth programme rules, the EuroMed Youth programme III remains very close to the new Youth in Action programme with the same priorities, set of themes and activities in order to reinforce and enhance the cooperation between Programme countries and Mediterranean partner countries.

Thus, before working on and launching a fourth phase, the European Commission wished to asses the efficiency, the effectiveness and the sustainability of the third phase of the EuroMed Youth programme management and entrusted the "Cambridge Education Consortium" with the task of evaluating it.

How did we manage the evaluation ?

In conformity with the terms of reference published by the European Commission, the evaluation mainly tackled the following issues:

- **Efficiency** - relating to the quality of the management and planning of the operational work by the key actors of the programme (EMYU, RCBS, Delegations) and to the quality of the information management (visibility/communication);

- **Effectiveness** - relating to the results obtained and progression towards fixed objectives compared with expectations. The study also tackles the issue of the added value of the programme's new decentralised management mode;

- The prospects for **sustainability** of the programme, with particular focus on the problems and needs with respect to building capacities.

This evaluation covered the implementation phase of Euro-Med Youth III (2005 to 2008) and was carried out from April to June 2008.
To manage this evaluation we used 2 methods: At first, we visited the countries such as Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco and we interviewed European Delegations and Euromed Youth Units staff, experts and youth organisations.
Second, we sent two questionnaires, qualitative and quantitative, to the Euro-Med Youth Units, the Delegations, the RCBS and the experts (with more than 85% response rate). Moreover, we analysed 20 projects submitted as well as the full documentation for the programme.

The main results of the evaluation

According to interviews, questionnaire results and the projects analyses, we have defined the following points:

1 ▪ *Quality of the programme management*
In general, those responsible for the coordination and the management were deeply involved in the programme. However, all stakeholders were not involved in all stages of the decentralisation which negatively affected the management and coordination of the programme. In the context of distance work, thanks to the direct interactions of key actors, agreed modes of action were found. All important tasks and functions of the programme were gradually concluded successfully.

2 ▪ *Quality of programme implementation*
The management of calls for proposals required a lot of energy from the programme managers, with late results. After numerous adaptations linked to the lack of expertise of the EMYU, the calls for proposals were published according to the requirements of the procedures.
The funds were not used according to the original estimates in all places; however, this does not call into question the potential of the programme. In fact, the administrative and technical procedures brought forward the calls for proposals and overrode network mobilisation efforts which were to be undertaken. Making funds available for the projects needs to be dealt with through the harmonisation of procedures between ministries of finance and the European Commission Delegations.
On the whole, information strategies were found to be of good quality and structured around varied media, at different geographic levels.

However, a large part of the communication is informal; a lot of information circulates in informal and unofficial communication networks.

3. *Implementation of expected results*
The promotion of democratic values and the fight against discrimination and prejudice are at the heart of the programme's identity: it is from these values that most of the actors recognise the importance and the benefit of the programme. The programme is identified by all discussion partners as a non formal education programme, as the specificity of the educational methods and objectives are integrated. By providing training and support measures for quality (particularly in cooperation with DG EDUCATION AND CULTURE, via SALTO-YOUTH-EUROMED), the programme makes it possible to strengthen the skills of the organisations. On the other hand, exclusive financing per project does not allow organisations to plan partnerships in the long term. The participation of small organisations is limited by requirements for expertise in setting up projects (including language skills) which are out of step with local realities.
Despite the transition difficulties encountered, decentralisation has made it possible to strengthen the partnership between the north and south shores of the Mediterranean basin, insofar as the responsibilities are shared out between institutions and beneficiaries in an improved way.

4. *Prospects for sustainability of the programme and recommendations*
The prospects for sustainability of the programme are very positive if we consider the appropriation of the programme by the key actors and beneficiaries.
In the short term, the transition between Euro-Med Youth III and IV is a challenge that must be carefully considered in order to avoid repeating the problems of transition between Euro-Med Youth II and III which demobilised the network without necessarily building solid operational foundations for the new phase of the programme.

In conclusion, we have compiled and proposed a list of recommendations to the European Commission to ensure the sustainability of the programme and quality of the implementation of the fourth phase. Nowadays, the European Commission, EuropeAid is still working on the technical issues of this fourth phase.

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Youth in Mediterranean partner countries

In February 2008, the Regional Capacity Building and Support Unit (RCBS) launched a call for experts to undertake research on the situation of youth in the 10 Mediterranean partner countries and on provisions made through youth policies.

Response to the call was overwhelming (64 applications) for only a small number of experts (7 nominated) on a short-term 4-month contract. The aims of the studies were to identify whether there was a youth policy, legislation or any other national strategy addressing the needs of youth and what kind of provision was made through non-formal education and youth work in the relevant partner countries. Research was carried out on basis of available written materials and resources, as well as during missions to the studied countries to interview relevant youth authorities, organizations and young people individually or through focus groups.

The outcomes of the studies give an enlightening overview of the definition and situation of youth in the partner countries. The studies focused on young people's rights and entitlements as citizens, such as opportunities to contribute to the decision-making process as active citizens, right to vote and to get elected…; the challenges faced by youth (unemployment, immigration, housing, marriage, generational and cultural conflict, young women's place in society …) which are more or less the same in all the countries; young people's reactions in the face of such challenges (lack of trust in politics and governments due to the top to bottom decision making-process; deviant attitudes; return to religion…); description of provision for leisure-time activities and non-formal education through governmental and/or non-governmental youth institutions/organizations (availability of youth centres/clubs, youth leadership training, opportunities for youth mobility, space for young people to express themselves, skill development).

A national *youth policy* is not fully implemented in any of the studied countries. However, each country has a number of national directives, legislations, policies and/or strategies to address youth issues, usually at cross-sector level, even if youth are not, in some cases, recognized as a priority. *Non-formal education* has no, or limited, place in most of the countries, formal education being the main priority for the authorities, parents and the young people. Nevertheless, interest in and the urgent need for, non-formal education and leadership training are apparent and much aspired by the majority of youth NGOs and the young people.

The *definition of youth* varies from country to country, sometimes even within the same country depending on the responsible national authority, from the ages of 12 to 30, 13-18, 15-24/25, 15-30 and 18-30.

The benefits of participation in the *Euromed Youth Programme* were assessed positively by the interviewed young people, youth leaders and by some of the national authorities. The Programme was considered to be an essential tool for the promotion of youth work and non-formal education. The encounter with European counterparts, facilitating an exchange of experiences and intercultural learning, was also estimated as an important asset of the Programme.

The youth policy studies are the result of research undertaken with care and diligence by the seven experts who, in addition to reference materials and documentation, were also dependent on the goodwill of authorities, youth organizations and young people who freely gave up their time to be interviewed. Each of the studies will be published in early 2009 and will be available in printed version as well as on line.

The overall aim of these studies is to be a reference tool which will give all stakeholders in the field of youth as well as youth project organizers, an overview of the situation of young people and of provisions available for them in the ten Mediterranean partner countries.

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[1] Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey

Protecting the Mediterranean Environment

Participant's point of view

Environmentalists on board...

"Protecting the Mediterranean Environment": this was the motto of forty young people, coming from every angle of the Mediterranean Sea, in order to exchange ideas and hopes, propose and suggest, share experiences and make dreams for a better future of peace, solidarity and environmentalism.

Organised by the Salto-Euromed Resource Centre in cooperation with the National Agencies of Greece and Cyprus for the "Youth in Action" Programme, this training course gave the opportunity to young people, members of environmental NGOs, from all the Mediterranean countries, to experience something unique, as it was the first time that an environmental training course would actually take place in the sea!
Sailing across the Aegean Sea to the Cycladic Islands, these forty young people soon realized that they should actually behave and work as sailors, and not just sit on a chair and take notes! Coming from 16 different countries (Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Hungary, Malta, Portugal), with many cultural, religious, even political differences, they found no difficulty in adjusting to this new, tempting yet demanding setting of a small sailing boat, and co-exist in harmony and productivity.

Sailing, though, was just the scenery in which this training course took place, as its main aim was not to produce new sailors, but t_ raise awareness on the protection of the Mediterranean environment, foster competences on how the Youth in Action and the EuroMed programmes can be used in this field and enhance active citizenship through the creation of structural dialogue between participants and stakeholders on environmental issues. Could there be a better place for such an event to take place than the Mediterranean Sea itself?

The activities in which the young environmentalists were involved were many and various. During their discussions in groups or in the plenary sessions, they had to deal with numerous ecological topics such as water management, pollution and its impact on social life, desertification, renewable energies, eco-tourism, eco-politics and sustainable development.

Moreover, the participants presented the most crucial environmental problems of their countries, eco-practices implemented in their regions, as well as suggestions on how NGOs in their countries, and especially their own ones, can develop ecological programmes and practices.

During their visits to the Cycladic Islands, they had the opportunity to have meetings with many officials such as mayors, clergymen, and other locals as well, with whom they had interesting discussions on the environmental situation of the islands and specifically on matters such as sewage treatment, waste management, building development, environmental education and renewable energies. Not only did the participants ask questions, but they made suggestions, as well, on environmental practices and policies that can be implemented on the islands. In addition to these meetings, the young environmentalists had the chance to visit small villages of the islands, where they admired the traditional

Sailors

Cycladic art and architecture, and experienced the traditional way of life, which in many cases turned out to be particularly ecological!

At the same time the participants were separated into five working groups: Environment, Euromed, Newspaper, Photo and Video. The Environment group analyzed the environmental situation of the Cycladic islands and suggested solutions on the various problems they face. Moreover, they suggested environmentally-friendly practices on board, in the form of an ecological code. The Euromed group examined the relationships developed among the participants, in the prism of diversity that characterized the particular team. Namely, they analyzed the similarities and differences among them and the way they affected the TC, resulting in the conclusion that the special conditions of this TC actually helped the team to overcome any differences and come close very easily and quickly. The members of the Newspaper group prepared articles, based on interviews taken from participants and locals on issues relevant to the TC, and other environmental topics. The Photo group prepared a PowerPoint presentation covering every aspect of the TC, based on a humorous fictional scenario, and in addition they presented a very artistic set of pictures named "Ecological flags". Last but not least, the Video group produced two short videos: a documentary describing the whole training course and reportage with interviews with participants and locals on the environmental issues related to the TC.

Admittedly, the quantity, quality and variety of activities in which the participants were involved in this unique training course, has given them the opportunity to raise awareness on the way they themselves can substantially contribute to global sustainable development, with a special focus on the Euro-Mediterranean area and has strengthened their initiative and creativity. Furthermore, it has promoted networking among young environmentalists on a European and international level and has prepared the ground for further similar activities, projects and training courses not only in their countries but internationally, as well. Once again young people proved that youth can make the difference… it is only a matter of trying!

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Participant's point of view

If only environment could be just as music…

We are sailors, we are EuroMed

As Ulysses, and as the ancient Greek sailors, when we started our journey from Alimos, Athens, we didn't know what to expect, we were left in the hands of Poseidon, God of Seas. Our 5 boats, Sirius, Johanna, Giorgino, Lila and Nicole, sailing on the blue sea, became our home.

When you sail, you hear only the wind blowing into your sails. There is nothing else apart from you, the blue sea and the wind. You're free to shout in the wind, you're free to jump in the sea. There is nothing more beautiful than watching the sunrise over the horizon. Sailing is more an attitude, a way of thinking. It is being totally in touch with nature. It makes you think how lucky you are to be able to enjoy such an amazing environment.

As you don't necessarily need to be professional sailors to sail, you don't need to be super experienced to work for a sustainable development of environment, society and economy. The key is to introduce small changes in our daily habits, involving our families, our friends, our organizations. Training of youth peer leaders is crucial to promote a newly environment orientated and sustainable lifestyle.
The local level and the development of "learning-by-doing" approaches is essential to empower youth with the proper tools

to express their point of view when it comes to environment policies. That is why it is very important that every country gifted with coast on the Mediterranean sea

enhances environmental education for young people.

"I feel more Mediterranean than Italian.."

Climate change, water management, desertification are problems that all countries on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea have in common. There is no solution without dialogue. Young people can be the engine that promotes this dialogue. As the younger generation, we will be the ones dealing with future challenges in environmental protection. There is no time left!
While sailing, we found ourselves taking out garbage from the sea, thinking that we should try to abolish plastic bags on islands. We realized that there is a lot to do to promote renewable energies. We learnt that recycling should be well planned and developed with local communities to be really effective.

When I think of the Mediterranean I cannot think of all the cultural similarities between different cultures, countries, and languages. In those moments I feel more Mediterranean than Italian or even European.

All in all, despite the differences, what gathered everybody around was music… because when it comes to music, we all speak the same language, eliminating all borders; we would start dancing on a fast song by Tamer Hosni, then we'd have fun listening to Tsifteteli, and later go clubbing with Black Eyed Peas! **If only environment could be just as music…**

Wastes

Environmental protection of the sea is something that unites all the countries that have shores on the Mediterranean. Just like music, there are no barriers in the sea. Sailing, like playing, dancing and singing has united all of us around a common goal. Co-operation amongst the Mediterranean countries should be enforced to ensure that environment is one of the top priorities. Time is ticking…

These fascinating days passed quickly, and now our sails are closed. We leave with lots of experiences, knowledge, memories, friendships, and a promise to continue, and meet again… there is still much to do to protect the Mediterranean sea, but we are sure that youth can really make the difference!

EXTRACT OF THE ARTICLE WRITTEN BY

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Testimony

This training made us share a lot on environment and sustainable development issues, as well as on our culture.
For me as an Egyptian girl, I am Muslim, Arab and wearing a scarf. In the last years these two adjectives began to be kind of fair for those Europeans and Americans .From this specificity in my character I thought that I may face problems in dealing with my colleagues on this course. I was aiming to let them know more about the true Islam, not the radical one, as well as about Arabs. It was really a great chance to communicate with other European young people to elaborate on why I am wearing a scarf. We have discussed the main issues on Islam and Christianity in the way of understanding and respect. Some of the participants were afraid how they can deal with me as I looked strange for them. But after almost 3 days, the best event was when we went to the church so I knew more about common issues between the two religions. I was feeling as if I was an ambassador for Islam as I tried as much as I can to tell who were asking about some issues in Islam. In my opinion it was the real benefit of the course to interact and build a bridge with those who really need this clarification. Also for me and my region we need to clarify this misunderstanding about Islam and Arabs. I realize that we should interact and communicate together to build a bridge of understanding each other and protecting environment.
Someone can ask why we have to do this kind of interaction and commutation and the answer will be very simple like a slogan which is "LESSEN THE GAP IT IS ONE MAP".

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Tool

SALTO-YOUTH EUROMED RESOURCE CENTRE

The need of intercultural sharing:

"How and Why the Viking Civilisation in Greenland disappeared"

Objectives

- To reflect on intercultural learning and its influences on the development or in the collapse of a society.
- To analyze the connection between the environment and the well-being of a human society.

Description of the activity

Participants have to analyze the society of the Vikings.

A short framework is provided to participants: e.g. Vikings' golden age was between the 9th and the 11th century; they were strong warriors and excellent sailors; they conquered from West to East (from the actual Canada to Central Asia), from North to South (from Greenland to Turkey)

Participants are split in 5 groups, balanced in terms of gender and country.

Each group is assigned to investigate on one of the 5 following criteria that **Jared Diamond** [1]states as the factors that can lead a human society to its collapse.

1. The men inflict unconsciously or consciously, the major damage of their **environment,**

2. **Climate changes** occur, upsetting the ecological balance, which follow a natural phenomenon, or with dryness and disturbances induced by the human activity,

3. **The military pressure of hostile neighbours** is accentuated, who benefit from the economic crisis, of the run out of the raw materials and the impoverishment of the populations; these problems reflect itself on the level of social and political cohesion,

4. **Diplomatic, energy and commercial alliances** with friendly or neutral neighbours are shredded, the usual exchanges of goods of basic needs as the cultural relations subside,

5. **Elites, governments and institutions** do not have the intellectual knowledge, the instruments to measure, or even the system of values allowing evaluating what is going on in the reality. They worsen it by reflexes of caste, egoistic, comfort or the obsession of the short term.

A powerpoint with photos and maps of Vikings is shown. The five groups have to reflect on the indicators and factors shown through photos that might be connected to one of the five criteria of collapse.

These are the images shown:

- Maps of Vikings "golden age" (9th-11th century)
- 3 types of boats they used
- Map of Greenland today
- A fiord
- A typical village in southern Iceland
- Greenland landscape
- A Viking
- Three swords, symbol of the Vikings
- Famous small horses
- A pig
- A Norwegian cow
- A chicken
- Sheep with a very good and long and expensive hair
- Houses in Iceland
- Peat
- Photos of Inuit life and fishing with kayak.
- What Inuit ate:
  - Whales
  - Caribou
  - Seals
  - Bears
  - Walrus
  - Fish

Participants are now asked to reflect on the photos and try to guess why Vikings disappeared. Photos gave enough indicators to have answers. 5 rounds are made to allow all groups to work on the 5 different topics/criteria of collapse. Each round lasts 10 minutes. Every ten minutes the groups rotate.

They then present the summaries of the 5 reflections.

[1] *Collapse. How civilizations decide on their disappearance or their survival. (Collapse. How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed). Translated from American by A. Botz and J.-L. Fidel. Gallimard, " NRF Tests " May 2006*

Debriefing

Participants are put back all together in a circle.
Explanations why Vikings left their original country are provided: need for food, metals, wood.
It took them four centuries to disappear.
There was a climate change in Middle age, the "small glaciations". Shipping was difficult because of the icebergs, and navigation was difficult in Northern seas.
Vikings were killed when they arrived in Vinland by the Indians, and they never came back to America despite the wood, the deer.
They brought chicken, pigs, cows to Greenland to keep their lifestyle but the weather didn't allow those animals to adapt. And those who survived ate everything (like sheep) or destroyed the soil and its fertility digging (pigs).
In Greenland they destroyed the few trees there to build their houses.
When the Inuit came from Asia, the competition for the food and the resources started. Vikings couldn't use their boats for killing whales, while Inuit were very well adapted.
Vikings used to sell walrus' ivory in Norway. Inuits killed them too but also for eating.
Same thing for the polar bears (Vikings to sell the fur, Inuit to cover their bodies)
Vikings didn't eat birds, Inuit did.
Vikings never ate fish. There are some theories explaining that: one Viking chief was very sick because of eating fish and fish was never eaten in their society.
Church and the lords (the elite) didn't give up their privileges: they were the last ones to die but they didn't facilitate the survival of their people.

Participants are asked to transfer the 5 criteria to their countries: how is the situation today? How many among the 5 criteria are already fulfilled in your countries?
Space for sharing….

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Democracy without borders

Euromed Youth exchange, action 3.1 of the Youth in Action programme, carried out from 12 to 21 April 2008 in Basse Normandie (France) by the D'Ecouves Verte organisation (France), in cooperation with YMCA (Lebanon), AJIAL (Youth organisation of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon), Viva Sol (Lithuania) and Braacy Sousse (Tunisia).

This exchange was a wonderful experience which allowed these 24 young people, 18-25 year-old women and men to discuss their own "democratic realities". The group conceived this exchange through a logic of progress intended to give the participants the necessary tools for the project appropriation, with the view that they will try and test them, and then use them efficiently in their initiatives as committed citizens.

The aim was to work at the same time on the contents of the notion of "Democracy" (history, roots, values and conditions) and to implement all together the formal conditions helping its concrete application in the life of the group through a process of collective decision making.

Our first step was to understand and absorb the lived of the others with the presentation by some participants of theatrical scenes prepared beforehand, which revealed difficulties related to democracy such as the situation of women in Tunisia, the omnipresence of religion in public life in Lebanon, the Palestinian refugees conditions, media handling in France or the difficulty for Lithuanian adapt to European cultural values.

Fortified by these first exchanges, in the form of multicultural workshops, they enriched their conception through interviews, debates with resource persons working in the field of education, information, and Human rights, trade unionists and community leader or religious volunteers.

Secularism, minorities respect, democratic learning and teaching, freedom of the press, globalisation, citizenship involvement, political involvement, representative democracy, participative democracy…

topics which allowed them to be better acquainted with the tools of democratic life.
During the visit of the "Memorial for the peace" in Caen, the key period of this meeting was and will still be for all the message from Jacques, an 85 year-old French resistance fighter who testified in front of young people about his generation commitment for the defence of democracy against the cruelty of Nazis.

With all this knowledge and the assistance of an expert on forum theatre techniques, young people carried out a common work, 5 playlets representing their own views on democratic problems linked to 5 themes explored during the workshops.
During this collective work they applied the principles of democratic decision making: listening each other, striving to understand each other, sharing the knowledge, treating the external information, discussing on requested objectives in order to decide and build together the collective work in front of 150 persons during the final evening which will be for all present, in the little village of St Denis sur Sarthon, a big moment of lively democracy through the deep reflection of the debates, the richness of artistic creations and the sharing of festivities.

What did the participants take home? At first, the sensation of having lived an exceptional moment of mutual understanding, somewhat complicated by the difficulties of bringing together 2 communities one Christian Lebanese and the other Muslim Palestinian Community, whose historical and human pasts leave some hurts which are difficult to forget, and a better intellectualization of what the installation and defence of democracy implies in terms of citizenship involvement and individual responsibility in the group decision. It is in this context that one can take into account the political realities and put into perspective their own involvement in their own context:

- for French youth, the defence of fundamental values inherited from 1789 (French revolution)
- for Lebanese youth, the need to separate political and religious powers
- for Palestinian youth, the desire to make the views of their priority group heard at global level
- for Tunisian youth, the need to decipher "democratic pretences"
- for Lithuanian youth, the need to protect its history and its identity within the European Union

Another lesson from this exchange is the confrontation of youth leaders on matters of education to find a happy medium between the safety concept "everything is planned and framed specific to such or such cultural approach" and the destabilizing "maximum participation of youth" typical of our non-formal education". Sometimes it is difficult to accept to relinquish one's role as leader to let the young people lead. However, the discussion between youth workers was finally efficient.

At a time when the community vitality is in danger, this experience comforted the militant voluntary workers and professionals of non-formal education, in their conviction that their need to existence, to free speech and to decision-making must be recognised as an integral and essential part of the democratic evolution and life in our society.

A video report recalls the main aspects of this exchange on the D'Ecouves Verte organisation website :
http://decouvesverte.free.fr (go to "plan du site" (French), heading EUROMED).

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Many thanks *to those who have contributed to the success of this exchange and especially to Roy, Audrius and Mohamed for their involvement at all stages of the implementation of this project, to young participants who have fed the project spontaneously, to Pierre for his wonderful work on video, to the Conseil general de Basse Normandie for its warm welcome, to the D'Ecouves Verte volunteers for their logistical and human support and to all who entertained the young participants during the cultural evening.*

The Euromed Youth Exchange was financed by European Union "Youth in Action" Programme. Project presents the position of the author and the European Commission is not responsible for the all content.

Palestine

"Explore, Understand, promote: Respect and understanding in the Euro Mediterranean Region".

A youth exchange took place in Ramallah from 9 - 18 April, 2008 under the title of "Explore, Understand, promote: Respect and understanding in the Euro Mediterranean region" which was implemented by TA'AWON : for conflict resolution institute and in partnership with the Euromed youth Unit in Palestine and the Palestinian president office.

Whis EuroMed Youth Exchange looked into the issues of social and cultural understanding and respect. It aimed at showing the importance of interaction between different cultures and lifestyles, focusing on cultural interaction against racism and discrimination.

Through a structured learning module, participants were given the opportunity to:

• **explore:** explore their surrounding, the people around and ways for social interaction

• **understand:** learn how to question differences and respect them

• **promote:** consider their role in promoting equal opportunities and social inclusion for all.

The Exchange brought together 29 young people from Bulgaria, Estonia, Italy, Jordan, Turkey, Hungary Malta and Palestine. They had the chance to explore and visit each of Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Jericho and the surrounding.

Why "Explore, Understand, Promote"?

Youth everywhere need to be involved in such intercultural meetings to be given the chance:

- to engage in cooperative interaction and experience cultural enrichment based on the acceptance of the differences between people,
- to go through open discussions between participants from different concerning racism and discrimination in national as faced in their own countries,
- to investigate ways in which intercultural dialogue and education can be a mean to prevent and overcome hostilities between people,
- to give young participants the opportunity to express their opinions and feelings through activities that facilitate the way in which they learn to live together, participate and feel inclusive and united in diversity and also to increase the knowledge about different aspects of the conflict and the nature of causes and consequences.

Activities

Many non-formal activities were implemented to touch in deep the goal of the exchange BUT in such a way that every one had fun. With (Treasure hunt) activity that allowed Participants to have the chance to better get to know each other and create a first positive impression about the city and the young people they will be interacting with.

We liked a lot the idea of "The Island of Monomulti" workshop whose first concern is to build a shelter where all people from 3 different cultures can sleep and hide in case of heavy rain and storm and which can protect them against wild animals. It's important to do this as fast as possible because this area is known for sudden changing weather conditions. They'll have to do it together with the other groups because there's not enough space and material to build more than one shelter. Interactively, participants looked closely on different symbolic sub-cultures in a society and the social dynamics prevalent to them and put into action ways to communicate.

The activity resulted in an agreement that differences do not create clashes as people tend to solve difficulties and find ways to communicate. In addition, they concluded that differences strengthened them to achieve their goal.

Photo 020-painted faces

To create awareness and understanding for racial discrimination and to feel the consequences of difference participants painted their faces and they moved around public spaces, shops, etc. and tried to interact with the local people.

Finally, in addition to many more activities participants had the chance to explore the different realities of Jericho and Jerusalem and summarized in "The diversity newspaper" in the last day.

The Exchange was based on the practices of non-formal education implemented through a learner-centered approach based on interactive and participatory methods. In this way participants needed to self-organize part of the activities and thus take a personal responsibility for their learning process. Participants were open to learning experience, share their living values, explore about the others and analyze the findings.

Last Message

Participants agreed on promoting the **following message: *"THERE IS SOMEONE ON THE OTHERSIDE… TOGETHER EVERY ONE CAN ACHIEVE MORE…"***

Moreover, you can watch the video on http://taawon4youth.org/project/view:57

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The Youth Exchange was financed by European Union "Youth in Action" Programme. Project presents the position of the author and the European Commission is not responsible for the all content.

Centre for Youth Co-operation and Mobility

Poland

Let's cook !

International meeting "Let's Cook" was an event realized by the Centre for Youth cooperation and Mobility. The meeting was organized from 25th of August till 2nd of September 2007 in Gdynia, Poland.

The main aim of the meeting was intercultural learning, getting to know new cultures, breaking stereotypes among the participants.
The theme was cuisine traditions in Egypt, Italy, Jordan, Lithuania, Poland and Spain. We wanted to show the similarities and differences among our countries through habits of cooking and food preparation, and consider also cultural differences through religious points of view, especially between Muslims and Catholics.
Working as an international group demands a lot of tolerance, understanding and an open-mind. Cuisine is a great tool to communicate between languages and cultural differences because talking about differences in many habits are very unlikely to offend anybody.
During the week of the meeting our workshops was divided in 2 parts:

- Presentation of traditional dishes, national dances, music and language lesson
- Country presentation.

Each country had to prepare the work shops above. Each country presented these topics in a different way. The important thing was sharing the cuisine traditions during food preparation and eating. Most of the country presented the typical actions for Europeans styles: the woman cooks and prepares the food, while the man is the master of the house.

All countries except Poland and Lithuania have common lunch meetings in their homes. During the meal the Jordanian group presented the typical way of eating their Mansaf (eating by hand), which is not so common for Europeans.

The Italian group presented the political and economical dimension of food in their country. We organized together the workshops about fast and slow food and influence of that on the young people and all populations. We all decided to promote the flow food way of living. Sharing the good moment in our homes during the dinner with families.

Beside that Italian group presented pasta made by young criminals, this is one of the ways of reclamation in Italy.
The most important time during the exchange, mentioned by all participants, was a free time. The workshops were only the way to "open the door" to the different cultures created by us.
During the intercultural learning workshops one of the tasks, beside talking about the culture, was a small play made by each country. Every group had to make a play about the way they "see" one chosen country. Interesting in the game was the fact that presentation was made, that we could seen the inside stereotypes about the countries which are from the same region (Poland - Lithuania, Italy - Spain, Jordan - Egypt). Thanks to this, we got a new glance of other cultures.
The follow-up of the meeting is Euro-med "cook-book" with description of the project, partners, our national recipes and donors.
We hope that this book, beside nice receipts will bring joy and discover the willingness of searching of differences.

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Recipes from the cooking book

Poland - pierogi

▼ *DOUGH*

Ingredients: ▪ Flour 2 kg ▪ Water 0,5 l
▪ Oil - 1 tea spoon ▪ salt 1 spoon (small)

▼ *HOW TO DO IT*

Put flour (only 1 kg) in big bowl; add oil, salt and water. Knead it all. The dough shouldn't be very smooth and it should be quite sticky. Next, take some dough and roll it with rolling pin. Use plenty of flour to keep the dough from rolling pin and surface. Rolled dough should be very thick.

▼ *FILLING*

Ingredients: ▪ Sauerkraut and cabbage
▪ Mushrooms ▪ Onions ▪ Salt ▪ Pepper

▼ *HOW TO DO IT*

Wash the mushrooms, cut all sauerkraut, cabbage, mushrooms and onions into small pieces. Fry onion in oil until translucent. Add all the sauerkraut, cabbage and mushrooms. Mix it in a pan. Fry to golden brown color.

Finally, add salt and pepper to taste.

▼ *MAKING THE PIEROGI*

First start to boil a large pot of water, add couple of tea spoon of salt. This is for cooking the pierogi. Next, using the glass cut the circles in the rolled dough.
Then put the filling on the circles (but not too much).
Take the opposite dough edge and fold and stretch it over the edge tightly together.
Then put all of them into the water boil the pierogi.

Jordan - Mansaf

▼ *INGREDIENTS:*

▪ 3 kg of lamb or mutton▪ 3 l of yogurt
▪ 2 kg of rice
▪ Shark bread
▪ Spieces of Mansaf (called Hawaij)
▪ Almonds and peanuts

▼ *HOW TO DO IT:*

Boil the meat for 1 hour in the water. Then take the boiled water and mix it with the yogurt (take 1 cup of yoghurt for 1,5 cup of boiled water).
Put the meat into the water - yoghurt mix, add Mansaf spices and shake it consciously for 45 minutes.

Cook the rice adding some spice to it, to give it a yellow color.

▼ *HOW TO EAT IT?*

Cut the bread and put it on the dish.
Put some yoghurt on it, to be soft.
Then put rice over it and the meat over.
Decorate it with fried almonds and peanuts.
Put the yoghurt on the dish.
Eat with your hands.

Blue The international Youth Exchange was financed by European Union "Youth in Action" Programme. Project presents the position of the author and the European Commission is not responsible for the all content.

Lebanon

Connect Mediterranean Sides, to fight against racism and xenophobia

This project is a contact making seminar (CMS) from the first call for proposals of the EuroMed Youth III programme, organized by the Young men's Christian association-YMCA in Lebanon with the support of the EuroMed Youth Unit in Lebanon.

C.M.S idea is to bring together active youth workers from both sides, European and Mediterranean, in order to work together and develop a long term strategy in the context of the Euromed Youth Programme III or the Youth in Action programme. These are designed to be implemented to give more opportunities to youth from both sides to meet and to fight against racism and xenophobia.

The Lebanese community faces many problems and this has a negative effect on youth. The first problem is related to the political situation where youth are really confused and stressed and ready to fight each other at any moment and this is due to the ignorance that youth have on each others. The 18 communities living in Lebanon do not know each other well and xenophobia is very clear. Another problem is immigration, the majority of youth are traveling to other countries and this fact put the youth in front of many challenges such as understanding another culture, adapting to other lifestyle, customs and accepting another way of thinking.
From the other side youth from Europe have bad connotation about what is happening in Lebanon due to what they see or hear through the media. They start to build on some prejudices according to the Lebanese society and communities. In another hand, Countries which host immigrant people, face many problems due to ignorance about the Lebanese culture and we can see signs of racism.

The Euromed Youth program is important because Youth workers measured a big change in participants' life especially the ones who took a role in one of the projects. They are more open-minded and more tolerant, and this is because they lived and they shared with participants from other cultures. This is also the mission of the association to develop the body the spirit and the mind which are very important for the development of the person and then, the communities.

From here came the idea of this action to bring people to the south of the Mediterranean and offer them the possibility to learn about the people from the other part of the Mediterranean sea. Plus of what is happening now in Lebanon and the

question of Islam and terrorism, this project was an opportunity to break down prejudices and help participants to understand better. It was a way to see things they never saw on TV or by media, and to taste the reality and to face it with other eyes.

YMCA believes that intercultural learning is all about "learning about the other" and "learning about us" in a certain dynamic, interactive and equal setting / context where you allow "the other to learn about you" and "the other learns about him - or her". That is exactly how this C.M.S was implemented: an open and honest learning environment for all people involved, inspired on creativity, empathy and solidarity.

C.M.S was an action addressed to youth worker representatives of organizations from MEDA and EU countries, involved in the field of youth and non-formal education.

The C.M.S offered a common space of reflection and exchange of experiences and resources among participants with different cultural, linguistic and social backgrounds, a better understanding among the participants, working together in multicultural teams. In this way they had the possibility to increase their awareness, to discover similarities and to accept differences.

The organisation of the programme takes into account the intercultural dynamic of the group, considering diversity as a resource, through the exhibition and the intercultural dinner, and planning special sessions as reflection groups. Talking about racism and xenophobia means to tackle hot issues related to the Euro-mediterranean context such as religion ex: Islam.

The CMS aims to develop knowledge and common understanding about the concept of respect, tolerance and acceptance of others, to learn and share with participants, and to benefit from the others in developing a positive communication and skills on the level of intercultural learning.

For the Lebanese association YMCA and the project partners this project was an opportunity to elaborate a long term strategy, to develop cooperation and a long term partnership between participants, to establish a network of communication and develop more quality projects.

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This contact making seminar was financed by European Union "EuroMed Youth" Programme. Project presents the position of the author and the European Commission is not responsible for the all content.

EUROMED

Poland

Let's talk about the future.

Euro-Arab Youth Workshop.

It was September 2007 when 38 participants from 7 Euro-Med countries met in Warsaw for a whole week for an Euro-Arab Youth Workshop in order to develop understanding of differences and similarities between and within Europe and Arab world. Poland is a monolith country in terms of ethnic and religious structure - therefore intercultural exchange of any kind is needed. However, the main idea behind the concept of this workshop was therefore to prepare a programme tailored to particular cultures of the participants, taking into consideration both the Euro-Arab dimension and the cultural richness of the group. And there was definitely a lot to build on reaching far beyond the countries of origin. There were Muslim and Christian participants from both regions, moreover Arabs and Berbers from Arab countries, more and less religious countries from Europe, as well as some potentially explosive mixtures like Jordanian-Palestinian or Greek-Turkish.

There were 7 different NGOs represented: four Arab NGOs include: CIRTA (Algeria), Sustainable Development Association (Egypt), Friends of Culture Jordanian Forum (Jordan) and Zajel Youth Exchange (Palestinian Autonomy), and three European Jugend bewegt Europa (Germany), Mediterranean SOS (Greece), and ARABIA.pl Association (Poland) - which was in charge of the project. The platform to build up such a reach network of partners was other Euro-Med youth seminars and workshops. The project was funded by Youth in Action and UNESCO in Paris.

The programme consisted of three parts:

- **Cultural and artistic** one combining different activities like dancing, singing, storytelling, arts & crafts and serving the purpose of better knowing each other's cultural background and traditions
- **Discussion and various workshop exercises** aiming at learning about social and cultural situation in each of the represented countries, seeking differences but also similarities (e.g. role of the religion in society, language, gender)
- **Getting to know the current social, political and cultural situation in Poland** (visit to a school, philharmonic concert, lecture on Polish Tatars)

In order to provide a picture of what was going on sample activities from each category will be presented briefly.

One of the cultural activities was the **1st International Euro-Med Singing Festival.** On a professional stage six groups presented songs from Poland, Algeria, Germany, Egypt, Jordan, Palestinian Autonomy and Greece. Each song was unique. The Polish group played the guitar and few minutes later, the whole audience joined the singing. The Algerian song was of a Berber origin and could be distinguished by a rare melody. The German group performed a show presenting four decades of German music starting from *99 Luftbalons*. The Egyptians were much more into classics - singing one of Dalida's songs. However, the most emotional was the joint performance of Jordanian and Palestinian groups for whom it was the first opportunity for a very long time to sing together. At last, Greek song about peace in the Middle East has become a meaningful closing accent of the whole evening.

There were many different workshops - one of them had the aim of discovering similar words in all languages represented. The task seemed hard as there were 6 languages represented and they were spoken by people coming from 3 different language families. It was rather easy to find links between Arabic and Turkish. Greek was also simple because many words originate from this language. However, linking Polish and Berber seemed to be hardly possible. Despite these difficulties the participants managed very well. We had words related to food, like sugar and alcohol which had travelled from one region to another along with the products becoming known in different parts of the world. There was also a part of vocabulary connected with science, comprising such words as chemistry or physics and construction (balcony, terrace, and mosque). Other significant category included abstract words designating ideas like democracy or xenophobia, and finally hi-tech words - like telephone.

If one had to choose, this day was the most important one and brought diverse effects as the participants went to one of the Warsaw primary schools with a difficult task of introducing their cultures to the students (aged 9-13 with only Basic English). The task demanded a lot of creativity but also patience from the workshop participants. Firstly, each national group had a presentation in classrooms. In order to facilitate the mutual communication between the visitors and the students each national group had one Polish assistant assigned to help. As one can see the problem was not so much with the language, but rather with finding the adequate methods of transferring the knowledge. Presentations were soon enriched with games and other interactive exercises. The Greek team prepared a quiz, while Arab groups were busy writing students' names in Arabic. The German group was asked to sing - what they managed to do - and then to dance - what turned out to be too hard a task. Second part of the event was organised in the gym and every group had a stand with sweets, handicraft and other stuff for kids to see and try. School visit was finished by joint dance of dabka. The kids were amazed and for many of them it was the first time to meet a foreigner. This way the Euro-Arab Youth Workshop gained a significant dimension - providing a space for intercultural but also intergenerational dialogue and serving local community.

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REFLECTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation session provided time for reflection on the programme goals but also an opportunity to think about what differs and what unites the peoples of the both sides of the Mediterranean. This is the right time to let the participants speak[1] :

What fact/information concerning the other culture was the most striking/surprising for you during the whole workshop?

- Amazigh (Berbers) from Algeria: this was the first time I met people who are Amazighi, I learned a lot about their history and culture (A)
- Arab people are very friendly and have many similarities with Western countries (E)
- They can speak very well different foreign languages (E)
- There are a lot of non-Muslim Arabs (A)
- The fact that sometimes Europeans are more conservative than Arabs, who are considered conservative (E)

What in your opinion are the most important similarities between the Arab and European cultures?

- Language: we found tens of words that have the same or similar pronunciation (A)
- The common concerns, problems we have to face in society (E)
- Sense of humour (E)
- Both agree on the terrorism issues in the world (A)
- We don't know many things about the others (A)

What in your opinion are the most important differences between the Arab and European cultures?

- Role of women (E)
- The freedom of belief - there is no problem if you believe in general in the Arab world, but you must believe in something; you can't be atheist (A)
- They are much more louder and lively (E)
- Europeans don't feel ashamed to talk about negatives of their countries, but Arabs don't do that (A)
- Arabs are more often misunderstood (E)

[1] *Questionnaires were anonymous - A and E represent Arabic and European participants respectively.*

The international Youth Exchange was financed by European Union "Youth in Action" Programme. Project presents the position of the author and the European Commission is not responsible for the all content.

Meda Youth Parliament: Diversity is our treasure, being young is our power

Stemming form the 1st session of the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Parliament that took place in Berlin, and organized on the role model of the European Youth Parliament (EYP), the Meda Youth Parliament is a youth-platform for the South-South dialogue which aims at fostering non formal education and cultural exchanges.

From the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Parliament

During the German presidency of the EU, the *German Foreign Office*, the *Goethe-Institute* and the *Heinz Schwarzkopf Foundation*, in cooperation with the *European Commission (DGEAC)* and the *Anna Lindh Foundation for the dialogue between cultures* organized the first **Euro-Mediterranean youth Parliament** which took place in Berlin between the 26 May and the 3rd of June and the parliamentary meeting took place on 1st and 2nd June in the Berlin House of Representatives. The organizers invited more than 100 participants from the 27 European countries plus the Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey and Mauritania even if it has the observer status in the Barcelona Process.

The goal of the event was to practice parliamentary forms of discussion and to discuss future topics beyond cultural and geographic borders. The topics were focusing on migration, the role of the media, globalization, arts and culture, energy, youth and politics and so on. The resolutions discussed and produced within the group as well as exemplary solution approaches in the form of project suggestions were presented and discussed in the context of the youth parliament. Thus, many projects saw the light during the open space market and were supported by the organizers. We can mention among the initiatives that were launched the creation of the **Euro-Med Academy for Young Journalist** (EMAJ) which took place in Amman between the 4th and 14th May 2008 and **Meda Youth Parliament** (MYP) which was launched officially in Beirut in Lebanon only 3 months after the end of the Euro-Mediterranean youth parliament.

To the Meda Youth Parliament (MYP)

Well, during the first ever session of the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Parliament in Berlin, the youth of the MEDA1 countries decided to follow a resolution calling for the establishment of a parliament for the southern countries of the Mediterranean which signed the Barcelona declaration. The head representatives of the local chapters of the southern Mediterranean countries, met from September 8th to 10th in Beirut, Lebanon.
The countries present included representatives from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, and of course the host country Lebanon. The announcement was made during a press conference headed by Dean of the Lebanese Press Syndicate on the September 10th, 2007 in Beirut.

The role model for the MYP has been the European Youth Parliament (EYP), which is a European school project that brings together 200 young people from all over Europe together with its International Sessions. The participants from the southern Mediterranean countries decided to form their own youth-platform for the South-South dialogue.

The creation of the **Meda youth parliament** would be an opportunity to foster and strengthen South-South dialogue and relations. It would also make it possible for youth across the region to become familiar with international relations, political debate, democratic parliamentary procedure, and policy-making. Thus, except the role of the Parliament, the representatives of the country chapters got along on a series of objectives and orientations like guidelines to allow at this Parliament to achieve the goal fixed during its creation.
In meantime, the following persons were elected a temporary board:

- President: Wadia Ait Hamza (Morocco)
- Vice-President Finance: Nader Houella (Lebanon)
- Secretary: Yamina Mechri (Tunisia)
- Events Coordinator: Nabeel Ali (Jordan)
- Public Relation and Media officer: Massinissa Bouagache (Algeria)

The general objectives of the MYP will be:

- Creating a forum to foster and strengthen South-South dialogue and coordination,
- Establishing a think tank,
- Simulating a parliament,
- Developing youth leadership, communication, critical thinking, and other skills,
- Encouraging youth involvement.

For more information please check www.medayouthparliament.org

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EuroMed Youth Platform - Bridging every corner of the Mediterranean and beyond

Launched in 2003, the Platform's main aims have been to bring young people together in an environment of tolerance and mutual understanding, facilitate networking, assist in the capacity building of our organizations, increase youth participation, disseminate information and provide an arena in which exchange of good practice can be effectively implemented. Moreover a yearly published magazine gives young people the opportunity to get their voice heard by expressing their opinion and by writing articles regarding their experiences in the Euro-Med region.

2008 the relaunch of the EuroMed Youth Platform

Five years after being set up, the Euro-Med Youth Platform was re-launched in a conference in Malta in June 2008. This need emerged from the fact that the Platform has undergone a restructuring process and is now embarking on a new path in order to strengthen its identity, structures and credibility in the Euro-Med region. The Platform's composition has changed; it now falls within the *Youth in Action Programme* in Malta and is hosted by the **European Union Programmes Agency**.
The conference held in June, also followed-up on the National Youth Federations (NYFs) Initiative meeting held in Alexandria, Egypt in December 2007. While not all the participants re-attended the follow-up, it must be noted that both the Moroccan and Jordanian participants were very enthusiastic to continue their endeavours towards the establishment of the NYFs in their respective countries

A website revamped and a database upadted

Currently the website is being given a face-lift with more updated information being provided on a regular basis. Apart from this, new sections have been added. Such sections include a link to all Euro-Med stakeholders, especially those involved in the youth sector including the *Youth in Action Programme*, a link to all National Agencies of the *Youth in Action Programme* and a news section whereby all relevant information and activities provided by youth organisations, NGOs and other stakeholders will be placed online. The links to all the Euro-Med stakeholders continues to demonstrate and underline the Platform's aim to cooperate with other actors. The news section shall be a more efficient way to disseminate information pertaining to youth in the Euro-Med region, while giving the opportunity for all those involved to increase visibility of their ongoing activities.

Modifications also include improvements in the database entry procedures. After discussions within the Platform's Secretariat, it was agreed that more information should be requested from the members to assist the Platform in providing a better support. The new additional information includes how the organisations are supported, their level of involvement in international projects, networking, legal status or some type of recognition at the national level, main target audience of the organisation, main areas of activity, main areas of interest, the objectives of the organisation, general information and more. It is envisaged that this additional information ensures more effective networking and enhanced visibility of our member organisations aims and objectives. Such level of detailed information should also improve and facilitate the partner search facility. The search facility is a vital tool for organisations who wish to find partners for projects from across the Euro-med region.

And new strategic lines

After discussions with the Steering Committee which overlooks the work of the Platform, it was agreed that the Euro-Med Youth Platform shall not focus its research on the situation of youth in the region. This task is currently being carried out by another actor in the field of youth in the Euro-Med region. This has led to the unanimous decision for the Platform to perform a needs analysis of the MEDA region. This new strategy was communicated during the Re-Launch Conference in June 2008. Workshops carried out during this activity resulted in the participants' proposals to form a Working Group to serve as a think-tank and propose ideas to the Platform's Secretariat. The Platform welcomed this idea and as a result, the first working group shall meet in Malta on 10 November 2008 in order to formalize the needs analysis questionnaire and to assist in its distribution across the MEDA region. The Working Group will continue to meet on annual basis.
Furthermore the Platform in 2008 has also commenced a mapping exercise to identify all of the Euro-Med stakeholders which can provide opportunities to young people across the region. Once the mapping exercise is finalized, the results shall be compiled in a booklet which will serve as a useful tool of information for those concerned.

With strong cooperation

Cooperation with other Euro-Med actors shall continue to be a priority for 2009 as well. In fact, the Platform plans to organise a conference to be held in September in Malta covering youth policy in the Euro-Med region. This activity shall be organised in cooperation with **Salto-Youth Euromed** and the **Youth Partnership** between the Council of European and the European Commission.

Another training seminar focusing on the management of NGOs and the management of projects is foreseen in November 2009 in cooperation with Salto-Youth EuroMed. The Platform shall continue to increase its visibility throughout the region as well as disseminate information regarding Euro-Med youth activities and updates.

Conference in Egypt - 2007

Conference in Malta - 2008

In 2009, the Platform shall continue to give prominence to the promotion of intercultural dialogue, thus fulfilling its role to act as a bridge for young people and encourage cooperation, networking and exchanges among youth organisations from both shores of the Mediterranean. It is only thanks to the active participation of its members, young people and the contribution of Euro-Med stakeholders that the Platform will continue to be relevant and its service necessary in the context in which it operates.

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Salto-Youth Euromed activities 2009

ACTIVITY	WHERE	WHEN	AIMS	IN COOPERATION WITH
Training Course "Euromed Game"	Portugal	11-17 May	To train Euromed trainers to use Euromed Game as a play tool	Portuguese NA
LTTC on EVS	Spain	23-31 May	To foster the EVS projects	Spanish NA and Government of Balearic islands
CMS on "Action 3.1"	Finland	2-7 June	To enhance the projectson Action 3.1 between North and South	Finnish NA, Danish NA, Morrocan, EMYU, Lebanese EMYU
Training "Art as an intercultural tool in EuroMed"	Lithuania	18-24 June	2009- Vilnius (capitale of Lithuania) will be the Cultural Capitale of Europe. The event could stand during the celebration of Rasos and Jonines (21-24 june) and the "Let it be night"-Cultural night in Vilnius.	Lithuanian NA
LTTC "Traditional Sport as an Intercultural tool"	France	July	1st step in 2009 with French NA. 30 participants to be trained using sport as a tool	French NA
Conference on "Intercultural Learning in Euromed"	Turkey	July	National event in Turkey dedicated to the Intercultural learning	Turkish NA
Conference "Youth Policies in Euromed"	Malta	9-13 Sept.	To present the results of Youth policies carried out in Euromed partner countries	Maltese NA, Euromed Youth Platform
LTTC on Environment	Greece	22-30 Sept.	To foster the youth involvement in the field of the Mediterranean environment protect	Greek NA
Evaluation seminar "Let's evaluate projects with our Neighbours"	Poland	5-10 Oct.	Evaluation of projects carried out following up the kick off seminar in 2007 and the Partnership building seminar in 2008	Polish, French and Slovenian NAs
Event "Tool Fair 4"	Portugal	3-8 Nov.	Event for youth actors to meet and share their know-how and tools	Portuguese NA
Training seminar NGO's Management in Euromed: a comparative analyse and sharing	Malta	16-22 Nov.	Training seminar	Maltese NA, Euromed Youth Platform
Training Seminar - follow up of the 2008 t-kit seminar + Qualification for trainers in Euromed	Turkey	November	LTTC* - 1st step in 2009 with Turkish NA. 30 participants to be trained in the specific Euromed region	Youth Partnership, Turkish NA
Conference on EVS	France	2-6 Dec.	EVS strategy - Follow up of the conference on EVS Greece 2008	French NA, and former NAs involved in EVS strategy

*LTTC : LONG TERM TRAINING COURSE

SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed Publication

Educational report "Let's meet the three cultures": This educational report compiles 3 training courses carried out by Salto-Youth EuroMed on the thematic "the 3 cultures":

- **1st in Cordoba in 2004**
- **2nd in Jerusalem in 2005**
- **3rd in Antwerp in 2006**
- **4th in Paris in 2007**

EURO MED GAME

The aim of the Euro-Med game is to improve the knowledge among young people and youth workers on the cultural and socio-political settings of the Euro-Med countries and on youth projecting by recreating the steps of the implementation of a project (fund raising, partnership building, getting the project approved...).

SALTO-YOUTH EUROMED RESOURCE CENTRE

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