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Evaluation Report

SALTO EuroMed Activities 2008

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Introduction

2008 was a year characterised by the maturity of the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in the youth field. After a year of "taking off" -2007-, the EMYUs and the NAs have shown their willingness to participate in the EuroMed activities to reinforce the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

At the same time, this year has been marked by the end -in December- of the phase III of the Euromed Youth Programme and the doubts about the phase IV and the gap between those two phases.

Objectives of the evaluation report

In the line of those objectives, this evaluation report should contribute to:

- Analyse the organisation implementation and relevance of the activities
- Foster the cooperation between the different actors (NAs, organisers, coordinators, trainers and participants) by involving them in the evaluation,
- Make proposals for reaching a better use of resources and for improving the way the activities are run,
- Provide some guidelines for using the results of the activities in all their potential (in terms of dissemination and exploitation of results)

This evaluation report is autonomous but not independent to the ongoing evaluations of the activities done by the different actors. It is based and closely linked to them. The reports is therefore a "synthesis and a complement" to the evaluation of each activity.

This report goes activity by activity relating and combining the findings and challenges of the different actors. And after that, it takes a more general overview with the purpose of contributing to a more consistent and coherent planning and implementation of activities in the future.

Scope of the evaluation report

This evaluation study covers the SALTO EuroMed Activities 2008. This means:

- EVS Odyssey in EuroMed, 8th 13th April, Vettre -Norway-
- Democracy within the EuroMed context: illusion or reality? 20th 27th April, Venice -Italy-
- Education and Civilisations 3rd 11th May, Malta
 Let's Work with Our Neighbours: 2nd 8th June, Velenje -Slovenia-
- Inter-religious Dialogue 22nd 30th June, Ajloun Jordan-
- Protecting the Mediterranean environment: Youth can make the difference! 7th -• 17th July Greek Islands - Greece-
- Inter Euro-Mediterranean Cultural Dialogue The spirit of EuroMed • 21-28 July, Konya -Turkey-
- Let's Meet between Regions 14th 21st September, Dead Sea -Israel-•
- EVS Odyssey in EuroMed 25th 30th October, Aix-en-Provence -France-•
- Tool Fair 3rd Edition 5th 9th November, La Palma -Spain-•
- Youth Participation in EuroMed context(s)- France-•
- Networking Seminar "Let's network in EVS: Odyssey continues" -Greece-

• EuroMed Game

Sources of information

The following sources were consulted for elaborating this evaluation report:

- The background general information about the SALTO EuroMed activities
- The descriptive reports of the activities
- The evaluation reports of the activities
- The summary of the participants' evaluation questionnaires
- The NAs and organisers evaluation questionnaires
- The individual evaluation of the trainers and coordinators

For ensuring a coherent approach in the evaluation of the different activities, for 2008, there was an Evaluation Plan consisting on some common guidelines and tools: for the assessment of pax, for pax questionnaires, for the evaluation reports, for NAs and EMYUs questionnaires... This evaluation plan was worked out and adopted in the Planning Meeting at the beginning of the year.

This evaluation plan has not always been literally followed by the teams due to the particularities and necessary adaptations for each activity. But, without any doubt, having the evaluation plan as a reference has contributed to improve the consistency and coherence of the overall evaluation and of the evaluation in each activity.

Outcomes

The outcomes of this report were presented in the Evaluation Meeting 2009 (29th January - 1st February, Marly le Roi -France. The results of the discussion which followed its presentation as well as other feedback from different actors are already incorporated in this final version.

The fact that the activities were of different nature and format, was an extra challenge for making comparisons, triangulations and for drawing general conclusions.

I hope that despite this and other eventual limitations, this Evaluation Report can contribute to take stock and improve the 2008 SALTO EuroMed activities.

Enjoy the reading!!!

Miguel

A general overview

The 2008 activities in numbers

	Activity type	Title	Country	Applications	Pax	Team members	Hosting National Agencies	Partners National Agencies
1	Contact making seminar	EVS Odyssey in Euromed	Norway	63	26	3	Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs, Bufdir	CIRIUS Hellenic National Agency for EU Programmes
2	Training course	Democracy within the Euromed context: illusion or reality?	Italy	329	26	4	Agenzia nazionale per i giovani	
3	Training course	Education and Civilisations	Malta	219	21	3	Malta Youth National Agency, European Union Programmes Unit	
4	Partner building seminar	Let's work with our neighbours	Slovenia	218	52	6	MOVIT NA MLADINA	Polska Narodowa Agencja Programu "Mlodziez w dzialaniu" Agence française du Programme Européen Jeunesse en Action Salto-Youth "Eastern Europe and Caucasus" RC Salto-Youth "South East Europe" RC
5	Training course	Inter-religious Dialogue	Jordan	168	25	3	EuroMed Youth Unit Jordan Ministry of Political Development	
6	Training course itinerant	Protecting the Mediterranean environment: Youth can make the difference!	Greece	74	30	5	Institute for Youth Hellenic National Agency for EU Programmes Youth in Action & Eurodesk	

7	Training course	Inter-Euromed-cultural Dialogue	Turkey	57	25	2	The Centre for EU Education and Youth Programmes EuroMed Youth Unit Turkey	
8	Training seminar	Lets Meet between regions	Israel	21	21	2	The Centre for EU Education and Youth Programmes EuroMed Youth Unit Turkey	EuroMed Youth Unit in Jordan EuroMed Youth Unit in Palestine Agency for International Programs for Youth - Latvia Foundation Archimedes - Euroopa Noored Eesti büroo Agency for International Youth Cooperation - Lithuania
9	Partner building seminar	EVS Odyssey in Euromed -	France	122	23	2	EuroMed Youth Unit in Israel	
10	Event	Tool Fair - 3 rd Edition - Canaries Island,	Spain	307	75	2	Instituto de la Juventud	Salto-Youth Resources Centres
11	Conference	Youth Participation in Euromed -	France	263	93	2	Agence française du Programme Européen Jeunesse en Action	Salto-Youth Participation RC Agenzia nazionale per i giovani Hellenic National Agency for EU Programmes Instituto de la Juventud Agência Nacional para a gestao do programa Juventude em Acçao MOVID NA MLADINA National Agency Youth Board of Cyprus Malta Youth National Agency, European Union Programmes Unit The Center for EU Education and Youth Programmes
12	Conference	Networking in EVS : Odyssey continues -	Greece	58	45	2	Institute for Youth Hellenic National Agency for EU Programmes Youth in Action & Eurodesk	CIRIUS National Centre "European Youth Programmes and Initiatives – Bulgaria
13	Training seminar	Evaluation of the Long Term Training course "Dialogue among civilisations"	Cyprus	22	16	3	Youth in Action National Agency Youth Board of Cyprus	Hellenic National Agency for EU Programmes

14	Training seminar	Gender Equality and Participation of Women	15	11	1	The Centre for EU Education and Youth Programmes EuroMed Youth Unit Turkey	Youth Partnership CoE
			2097	489	40	518	

On the implementation of the activities

As we can deduce from the numbers, 2008 was a year full of activities. SALTO EuroMed received numerous demands of the NAs which led to the organisation of 11 trainings and 4 big events.

There was a growing number trainings on relevant themes in the euro-Mediterranean context: democracy, education, civilisation, dialogue (inter-religious and inter-cultural) and environment.

Following the initiative of the Greek National Agency, an strategy on EVS EuroMed has been developed by numerous NAs: Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, France, Bulgaria and the south cooperation network -initiated by France-. This strategy will continue in 2009.

The series of seminars "Let's meet our neighbours" -2007- "Let's work with our neighbours" -2008- and "Let's evaluate with our neighbours" -for 2009- are contributing to increase the cooperation between the 3 regions of the Neighbourhood policy of the European Union. Those three seminars have been organised by the three regional SALTOs and the French, Slovenian and Polish NAs.

Other big events were:

- The Conference "Youth Participation in the EuroMed" organised in cooperation with SALTO Participation, the French NA for the Youth Programme and the network of south agencies.
- The 3rd edition of the Tool Fair organised with the Spanish NA and the Canary Islands Government allowed the sharing of tools and good practices when working with young people
- The Conference "Networking in EVS : Odyssey continues" with the Greek and Danish NAs to support the development of a network for EVS in EuroMed

For the first time after the suspension in 2004, two Salto EuroMed activities have been coorganised by EuroMed Youth Units: the thematic training « Inter-religious dialogue » in Jordan and the training seminar « Lets Meet between regions: From the Baltic to the death sea" in Israel which implied a real implication of three NAs (Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia) and three EMYUs (Israel, Palestinian Authority and Jordan).

Another remarkable fact is that the number of participants from the Mediterranean countries has strongly growth (155 participants) thanks to the support of the EMYUs for the travel costs.

The total number of applications is a bit lower than last year probably because the activities had very specific target groups and because last year was exceptionally high after the suspension of the programme.

Evaluation and quality

Continuing with the efforts of last year, a special emphasis has been put in the evaluation of all Salto EuroMed activities following, from the beginning on, an evaluation plan.

Additionally Salto EuroMed is committed to do an impact study on the 2003-2007 activities (this means 59 training activities and 1396 participants. The first results show a strong participation (30% of returns), a balance between Europe and Mediterranean countries and

a bit more men than women (54%-46%). 42% of interviewed people work today in a place of responsibility and 67% work in NGOs. At least 166 projects involving around 6000 people are the result of this solid partnership.

Cooperation

The efforts in terms of cooperation have continued during 2008. Apart from the "natural ones" with NAs and EMYUs for the implementation of activities, the 8th EuroMed was held in Amman gathering of the Action 3 of the YiA programme and of the EuroMed Youth III.

In the frame of the Youth Partnership between the CoE and the EC, Salto EuroMed has participated in working groups on HR, IC Dialogue and EuroMed and has regularly contributed to the Coyote Magazine. And together with the Turkish National Agency and the Partnership Salto EuroMed has co organised a seminar on gender equality.

Salto EuroMed had invited to its activity to diverse activities and workshops different stakeholders to reinforce the cooperation with them: Anna Lindh Foundation, EuroMed Youth Parliament, CoE EC Partnership, the European Youth Forum, the EuroMed Platform, the Euro-Magreb Youth Union...

Partners, funding and financial co-responsibility

What	Where	Partners	Notes
Contact Making Seminar - EVS Odyssey in Euromed	Norway	Salto-Youth EuroMed + Norwegian, Bulgarian, Greek NAs	Almost all EMYUs covered travel costs of MEDA pax + 2 covered by RCBS, Hosting costs NA NO. Salto covered trainers costs; Bulgarian and Geek Nas covered their own pax travel costs
Training Course - Democracy within the Euromed context: illusion or reality?	Italy	Salto-Youth EuroMed + Italian NA	Sending EMYUs : travel costs of 15 MEDA, Sending Nas: travel costs of 15 EU, Hosting NA : Hosting costs, Salto Euromed = training costs + RCBS 2 meda pax travel
Training Course - Education and Civilisation	Malta	Salto-Youth EuroMed + Maltese NA	Sending EMYUs : travel costs of 15 MEDA, Sending Nas: travel costs of 15 EU, Hosting NA : Hosting costs, Salto EuroMed = training costs + RCBS 2 meda pax travel
Partner Building seminar - Let's Work with our Neighbours	Slovenia	3 regional Salto-Youth RCs: EuroMed, South East Europe, Eastern Europe and Caucasus + French, Polish, Slovenian NAs	12 pax from each of the three regions, and 36 from Programme Countries. Hosting costs shared between NA SI, FR and PL. Sending costs: SALTO SEE, EECA, EMYU and sending Nas. Salto Euromed paid 2 trainers costs + RCBS some Meda travel
Training course - Inter-religious Dialogue	Jordan	Salto-Youth EuroMed and Jordan Unit	EMYU Jordan covered hosting costs Salto Trainers costs; RCBS some Meda pax; Sending EMYUs and Nas travel costs
Training course itinerant - Protecting the Mediterranean environment: Youth can make the difference!	Greek islands	Salto-Youth EuroMed and Greek, Cyprus NAs	Sending EMYUs : travel costs of 15 MEDA, Sending Nas: travel costs of 15 EU, Hosting NA = Hosting costs, Salto EuroMed = training costs + RCBS some Meda travel + Greek NA some EU pax travel
Training course - Inter-Euromed-cultural Dialogue	Turkey	Salto-Youth EuroMed + Turkish NA	<i>Turkish NA covered almost EU pax (EVS volunteer in Turkey !) + some MEDA px, some EMYUs covered their pax travel + Turkish NA covered hosting costs + one trainer; Salto covered one coordinator.</i>
Training seminar - Links between regions Meda- Baltics	Israel	Salto-Youth EuroMed + Latvian, Lithuanian, Estonian NAs + Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian EMYUs	only Nas and EMYUs concerned, Each Nas and EMYUs pay for its own participants RCBS covered the coordinator
EuroMed Meeting	Jordan	RCBS, Jordanian EMYU and Salto-Youth EuroMed	Annual meeting with EMYUs and NAs and the EuroMediterranean partners, Each NA and EMYU will pay for their representatives, Salto EuroMed and RCBS for their team members

Contact Making Seminar - EVS Odyssey in Euromed	France	Salto-Youth EuroMed + French NA + Local Youth Sport Authority of PACA region	<i>Few EMYUs covered travel costs, French NA the other, Sending Nas: travel costs , Hosting NA = Hosting costs, Salto EuroMed = training costs</i>
Event - Tool Fair - 3rd edition	Spain	8 Salto-Youth RCs with the cooperation of Spanish NA and Canary Islands Government	Sharing costs between Spanish NA and Canary Islands Government + other partner(s), Salto EuroMed Trainers costs+ EMYUs and RCBS: Travel costs of Meda pax, Spanish NA some tickets for experts; Nas travel costs for their own pax; Spanish NA and Salto EECA shared the travel costs for pax of this region. Other Saltos and NAs representants covered tehir own travel costs
Conference - Youth Participation in EuroMed context(s)	France	Salto-Youth EuroMed and Salto-Youth Participation + French, Turkish, Greek NAs + Syrian and Moroccan EMYUs	French NA + Nas from Greece, Turkey, Italy, Portugal, Malta, Cyprus, Slovenia, Spain (all Nas of South Group) shared Hosting costs and almost MEDA travel costs; Sending Nas covered travel of their own pax. Salto Euromed and Participation covered each one trainer (for me the coordinator).
Conference - Networking in EVS: Odyssey continues	Greece	Salto-Youth EuroMed + Norwegian, Bulgarian, Greek NAs	Greek and Danish NAs covered hosting costs; French NA covered the Meda who participated in Marseille Odyssey; some EMYUs covered Meda travel costs; RCBS and Greek NA also. Sending Nas covered pax travel. Salto team costs.
Training seminar - Evaluation of the Long Term Training course « Dialogue among civilisations»	Cyprus	Salto-Youth EuroMed + Greek NA	<i>Cyprus covered hosting costs; Salto team costs; RCBS almost all Meda travel; Some EU pax covered by Cyprus.</i>

Activity by activity

EVS Odyssey in EuroMed 8th - 13th April, Vettre -Norway-

The objectives of this seminar were

- 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 Norvegian, 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.

In their evaluation participants expressed all the objectives were very largely achieved (84% for the lowest about the YiA and EuroMed Youth III and 96% for the highest about contact making).

Participants were very satisfied with the different parts of the programme (over 80% and almost without differences for all of them). The horizontal dimensions of the seminar like the preparation, the methodology, the work of the team and the contribution of the group were very positively evaluated. The same for the practicalities, the communication, the support of the NAs and the living conditions (all of them around the 90%).

From the point of view of participants it is almost impossible to find a session, feature or dimension of the seminar with a big room for improvement.

The trainers in their evaluation come to very similar conclusions. Their general level of satisfaction about the seminar is very high. They underline the cooperation and positive attitude from participants. They mention as well two "challenges":

- There was no Prep Meeting because the format of the activity was not new for SALTO Euromed. This was as such not a problem but certainly a challenge in terms of "team building" between the couple of trainers.

- The presence of NAs representatives (France, Norway, Greece, and Bulgaria) and of the SALTO Coordinator was very positive for the support of participants and their projects. At the same time, their different roles (some more observers, some intervening more...) might have created some unbalances. This fortunately did not happen thanks to the constructive attitude of everybody and to good management of this situation.

Both challenges were overcome and the concept-format of EVS Odyssey proved to be a very solid and consolidated one in EuroMed.

The follow-up of the seminar was properly worked out during the last day of the seminar. The outcomes were very positive but trainers miss to have received project descriptions as participants promised to do. A more articulated follow up is still a challenge for this activity and the ELC could certainly contribute to it. In this occasion the perspective of a networking Conference of Odyssey in November compensated a bit this lack of information and structure in the follow-up.

Especially remarkable:

• The presence, support and commitment of the NAs

Democracy within the EuroMed context: illusion or reality? 20th - 27th April, Venice -Italy-

The objectives of this training course were:

- To reflect on the concept of Democracy and its different understandings (political, social level in the different European and Mediterranean countries);
- To become acquainted with the situation of Democracy in the Euromed context and the historical interdependence;
- To acquire competencies in order to develop and implement projects in the Euromed context, within the frame of the "democracy" and "youth".

Participants express in their evaluation that those objectives were largely achieved. There are nevertheless some "buts". One participant refers to the few time to achieve the last objective about projects on "democracy" and "youth", another to the different way of thinking of European and Meda participants, another to the too big weight in the programme of history and political systems... As we will see when analysing other aspects of the course, this dispersion of feelings regarding the achievement of the objectives it is probably due to the complexity of the subject, to the different socio-political contexts in EuroMed and to lack of time to properly deal with those ambitious objectives.

When talking about meeting their expectations participants have a mix of satisfaction and surprise; leading to a certain disappointment. Their answers are "yes" and "no". On a hand, the training course clearly contributed to meet basic expectations on the topic and its exploration in the Euromed context. And on another hand it was clearly a big challenge and this implies complexity, substantial differences in the group, difficulties for articulating common projects... In any case this "challenge" was a well a very important source of learning. The evaluation of their contribution and of the group confirms this mixed picture.

Participants evaluate very positively the methodology and the work of the team. This confirms that both of them contributed, despite the difficulties of the topic, or better said, working with the difficulties of the topic, to make out of the whole training course a relevant training experience for all the actors. The significance of the learning outcomes of participants confirms that. They refer to very important issues such as: democracy in daily life, intercultural relationships, group processes, participation, critical self-reflection...

The evaluation of the team as a whole and of individual team members goes in the same line and underlines the need of one more day, the complexity of the dynamics in the group -particularly on the gender issue- due to its diversity and the intensity, difficulty and value of the team process when dealing with this topic.

The organisation and cooperation with the Italian N.A. were very good.

The conclusion of the team, which I join, is that it is a very important issue in the Euromed context and that it should be further explored. This course started to explore an interesting way of dealing with it: combining historical insights, personal reflection, current situations and projects. This combination and its mutual influence with the group and team dynamic probably needs in the future to be better tuned.

- A "new concept" of activity
- The use of the ELC
- The use of the local environment as a learning source (role play in Palazzo Ducale about Democracy in Venice at the time of Serenissima)

Education and civilisations 3rd - 11th May, Malta

The objectives of the training course were:

- to become acquainted with the Euro-Mediterranean civilisations;
- to reflect on how civilisations influenced educational systems and the latter (nonformal) educational attitudes on both sides of the Mediterranean Sea;
- to share the different educational systems;
- to reflect on Voluntary Services in Euro-Med;
- to acquire competencies to assure a qualitative mentorship within the context of the Euro-Med YOUTH and Youth in Action Program; to provide time and space for new partnerships

In their evaluation participants express that the objectives were very largely met: their scores were very high. Together with this high satisfaction, they express quite different feelings on the different objectives: for some of them the connection between civilisations and educational system was the main discovery and for others not clear at all, for some of them the most important were the concrete projects while for others it was impossible due to the lack of time... The high level of satisfaction and these divergences are even clearer when talking about the fulfilment of their expectations. Satisfying the expectations of participants with big differences in terms of interests, background and capacities is not obvious at all. This activity managed to do it.

Those differences seem to go beyond the natural and wished diversity of the group. The origin of the discrepancies between the aimed group of participants and the real ones is the application and selection process. The trainers explain that there were many applications but few Europeans were supported by their NAs. On the MEDA side, there were serious VISA problems and a late reaction from some EMYUs. Despite the efforts of SALTO Euromed, the Maltese N.A. and the team, until one day before starting the Training Course, the final list of participants was not closed.

The preparation via Skype by the team and the use of the ELC for the preparation of participants was good. The aims and format of the activity were clear.

On the different parts of the Programme, participants evaluate them positively. The Active Discover and the NGOs visit were two of the key sessions of this course and they were well organized by the Hosting NA. The lecture after the Active discover was of high level but more on the concept of Civilization in general and less about the Civilization of Malta. Despite the short time, the NGOs visit allowed participants to get in contact with some examples of associations and with the civil society in Malta.

The presentation of Educational Systems was positively evaluated with the added value that some of the participants have presented not only the formal educational systems, but also the non formal one.

On the outcomes on EVS and new partnerships were clearly positive but some participants could not profit from them due to the lack of experience and/or mandate from their NGOs to make agreements and take decisions.

An important fact that marked a lot the course flow and the group dynamic was that English and French were used during the course (apparently due to a mistake). This implied extra efforts, a special group dynamic and some frustrations but at the end this challenge was satisfactorily overcome. We could say that the format of this TC is consolidated within the EuroMed activities. The idea of linking civilisation with educational system and from there articulate EVS projects and partnerships makes a lot of sense in the overall EuroMed programme. In this occasion the shortcomings in the selection of participants and their real profile together with the language issue, provoked educational tensions between the needs of some participants and the programme. It is not easy to tune an optimal solution in this situation: adapting completely the programme to the needs of participants would educationally make most sense but this would probably imply to "renounce" to a format of activity which has shown to be very valid. My only suggestion would be to be explicit on each decision on this or the other direction with all the actors (participants, NAs, EMYUs, NGOs...).

The coordinator indicates the need of having TCs for "beginners" in EM. The experience of this course alone does not seem to be representative enough for taking such a decision. But it is probably something to consider if it is the case of other courses.

- The use of the local reality as a learning source: active discovery and NGOs visits
- The link between the notion of civilisations and the education (formal and non formal) in different countries.

"Let's work with our Neighbours" 2nd - 8th June, Velenje -Slovenia-

In 2007 the French National Agency of the Youth in Action Programme, the Regional SALTOS EuroMed, South East Europe (SEE) and Eastern Europe and Caucasus (EECA) together with European Commission and organised the seminar "Let's meet our Neighbours and the World". The follow up of last year's event was this Partnership Building Seminar, "Let's work with our neighbours", oriented to the work on the development of concrete projects and to the strengthening of the cooperation with the Neighbouring countries.

The aim of the seminar was to increase the cooperation within the Youth in Action Programme between Programme and Neighbouring Partner Countries. And the concrete objectives:

• "To motivate participants to establish partnerships through exploring and learning about the Youth in Action Programme (especially Actions 2 - EVS and 3.1 - Youth in the World) and Neighbouring Partner Countries."

• "To explore quality aspects of the Youth in Action Programme: Youth in Action Programme priorities, in relation with actions and youth work reality; regional procedures; good project practices; expected results;

• "To support participants to identify and develop concrete bi- and/or cross-regional projects in the frame of the cooperation with Neighbouring countries."

Participants and trainers agree in their evaluation. The results of the seminar match with the objectives. Participants were motivated to establish partnerships. Most of them found partners and some nice projects. Participants could taste the meaning of priorities within Youth in Action. And participants were supported by team of trainers as well as stakeholders (present NA and SALTO RC staff) through individual and group support to develop projects.

The achievement of those educational objectives does not guarantee of course a successful follow-up but it is definitively a very good basis for that. As the trainers say, the process finished at the point of developing partnerships and projects. To guarantee that those are sustainable would have needed more time and other mechanisms such as monitoring and coaching.

In the design of the seminar the team decided to include sessions on some basic information in order to create a balance which was necessary for developing of future partnership projects. This was due to the high difference of experience in different areas among the participants. Consequently it was not possible to go very deep into exchange of experience in the framework of cooperation with neighbouring countries.

The flow of the programme and the methodologies were according to the participants and to the team consistent and adequate. The preparation meeting was very important for that and in the implementation the team was flexible enough to adapt it to the, in general, beginner level of participants. The commitment and enthusiasm from both sides -team and participants- made possible overcoming this challenge.

But this clear methodological success does not mean that there is not room for improvement. The detailed evaluations of participants, of the team and of the stakeholders give ideas for improving different sessions. It would take too long to describe them in detail but they basically refer to the need of more time for the regional reality exploration, the unbalanced geographical mix in some working groups and the visualisation of the programme flow.

The cooperation between the team and the different stakeholders was very good and their roles were not overlapping.

The organisation and logistics by the hosting NA was evaluated very positively by all the stakeholders.

- The fact that this activity is a cross regional one (supported by the three SALTO Regional Resource Centres and by the National Agencies of the Youth in Action programme of Slovenia (hosting country), France (host of last year "Let's meet...") and Poland (host of next year "Let's evaluate the work with neighbours"). This sustainable cooperation allows the articulation of 3 activities, for 3 years, with different phases (contact, work in progress and evaluation). This solid educational process makes possible the involvement of an increasing number of National Agencies, of other important institutional actors and has a significant impact beyond the activities.
- The adaptation of the activity format, content and methodology to the participants needs, background and experience

"Inter-religious Dialogue" 22nd - 30th June, Ajloun -Jordan-

The aim of this training seminar was to prepare youth workers and future leaders in promoting dialogue among the different religions, spiritual and humanistic traditions mainly in the Euro-Med context where conflicts are increasingly associated with religious belonging. It stresses the reciprocal interactions and influences between, on the one hand, religions, spiritual and humanistic traditions, and on the other, the need to promote understanding and mutual respect.

The objectives were:

- To provide educational support and time for the participants to share and reflect about their own experiences and knowledge in the field of inter-religious dialogue
- To disseminate the principles of inter-religious dialogue using different means
- To identify common elements in relation with the other religions that help participants built common understanding
- To help and support participants in improving their competence (Knowledge, Skills, Attitudes and Values) in the field of inter-religious dialogue
- To allocate space for the participants to develop Tools in the field of inter-religious dialogue.

According to the evaluation of participants and of the team, the objectives were largely achieved. Participants shared their knowledge and reflected about their own experiences in the field of IRD. Inter religious dialogue was tackled in many ways, explaining its principles, combining theory and practice, using tools which could be used afterwards in their contexts, using the informal time and the peer education... There was space for participant to create new tools in order to be able to use them with their youth in their NGOs, By doing this the participants discovered how challenging this is.

All this squeezed the curiosity of participants who were invited to continue the exploration of this topic and manage their own learning.

This training course was not a project oriented training course. The learning and action process continues with the participants in their own contexts and realities with their families, friends and the youth they are dealing with. Therefore it is too early to say until which extend the long term aim is being achieved but something is certain, participants were in general very satisfied and impressed with what happened in the TC and very enriched at personal level.

As we said already, there was an important methodological effort in the course. Innovative methods were proposed by the team and participants had the chance to try to create new ones. All this was appreciated by the participants who evaluated very positively the different sessions of the program with the only exception of the Euromed tools where opinions are more diverse.

The team work was very good and the group atmosphere characterized by the openness, trust and respect. Those were important factors for active and mutual learning in the formal and in the informal moments.

The preparation of the program by the team was intensive: when the TC started almost all the sessions were ready. The coordinator together with SALTO Euromed paid special attention to the selection of participants.

- •
- •
- The methodological richness of the seminar The relevance of the topic and the consistency with which it was tackled. The use of the local reality as a resource for learning and the peer learning within the • group of participants.

Protecting the Mediterranean environment: Youth can make the difference!

7th - 17th July Greek Islands -Greece-

The aims of the training course were:

- To raise awareness on the protection of the Mediterranean environment
- To enhance active citizenship through the creation of structural dialogue between participants and stakeholders on environmental issues

And the objectives:

- To learn about concrete contribution to global sustainable development, with a special focus on the Euro-Mediterranean area
- To strengthen participants' initiative and creativity
- To stimulate networking, improving quality and quantity of youth projects on environmental issues
- To exchange good practices

According to the evaluation of participants and trainers those aims and objectives were just rather achieved. The objectives linked to the exchange, networking and projects with participants were achieved to a bigger extend than the one related to environmental issues and sustainable development. This unbalance in the achievement of the objectives implies, according to the course coordinator, that the training course became a seminar.

The outcomes and fulfilment of the participants' expectations confirm the productive group work and mutual learning process and an important lack of more specific environmental learning achievements.

The diverse and active methodology of the course was appreciated by participants. An added value to that is that it was flexible and had to be adapted to the changing settings and at times unforeseen circumstances of the course. In many occasions the team had to plan different options and methods. With some ups and downs but in that sense the preparation by the team was consistent.

The itinerary nature of the course implied that the logistics had a very strong influence in the programme. In fact the programme had to be adapted all the time to the logistical frame (hours of sailing, organised visit, number of islands to visit...). At the end all the changes and adaptations were in general satisfactory solved but according to the team not without difficulties and some educational shortcomings.

All the organisers were committed with the activity and the cooperation with the team was good but there were difficulties of communication related as well with the fact of dealing with different persons in each island.

The group atmosphere was very good. Living together, cleaning and cooking on 5 boats facilitated the group-building process. No sub-groups appeared and there was a very nice general atmosphere among participants. The same for the team, their work was supportive, respectful, flexible, efficient and appreciated by the participants.

At the same time, the group of participants was very diverse in terms of expectations, specific experience on environmental issues, background and professionalism. This was partly due to the inherent diversity of EuroMed but partly due to the difficulties for their

selection by the EMYUs and NAs. The course coordinator has serious doubts on the real motivations of around half of them for attending this activity. The consistency of their background and motivations should have been better checked in the selection process which was neither satisfactory nor easy; particularly for the Greek participants and with some complications for the visa procedures. All this together provoked that the group was an extra challenge for the team.

Like in other courses there is not a lot of definitive information but the follow-up. In principle participants were satisfied with the perspectives of projects and networking when filling the evaluation questionnaire. The promised support by -at least- the hosting N.A. was an extra incentive for being optimist. But months later, apparently, no concrete project has been discussed and the activity in the e-learning platform inexistent. The rich group experience during the course has, apparently, just an inter-personal follow-up and not a "professional one".

As we see, it was a very challenging activity. The actors involved did their best to deal with them in such an activity which was run for the first time.

- The format of the activity: the idea of setting a training course on five sailing boats going around the Aegean Sea is a very interesting one
- The way the team overcame the logistical and organisational challenges and adapted the programme to the circumstances.
- The value and quality in terms of group experience of the time out of the official programme.

"Inter Euro-Mediterranean Cultural Dialogue" The spirit of EuroMed

21st - 28th of July, 2008, Konya -Turkey-

This training seminar aimed to highlight and raise awareness about the important contribution of intercultural dialogue to the qualitative development of the cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The concrete objectives were:

- to prepare participants to work into the EuroMed context: Historical, Philosophical, Political, Traditions and Religious realities
- to try to find a basement for a better understanding and to reflect on what could, should be a EuroMed Spirit
- to become acquainted with the Euro-Mediterranean civilisations and the mutual influences they had upon each other;
- to reflect on how civilisation influenced educational systems and the latter (nonformal) educational attitudes on both sides of the Mediterranean Sea;
- to compare the different cultures stems and analyse their similitude's and differences;

According to the evaluation of participants, in average, those objectives were partly-quite achieved. Within this average, the most positively evaluated objective is the one about the EuroMed Spirit. The less positively evaluated are the ones on preparing participants to work in into the EuroMed context and on the educational systems and educational attitudes.

The fulfillment of the expectations and the overall level of satisfaction are high for most of the participants.

At this stage looking at the activity as a whole we can conclude that it was successful.

At the same time, looking more carefully, we will see that there is a significant room for improvement at different levels.

The preparation was done via internet. The coordinator visited in advance the venue and the team arrived some days earlier. The programme was prepared and ready before starting.

The team was consulted but the selection of participants by the NAs and EMYUs was not satisfactory. As a consequence of it, most of the European participants were actually EVS volunteers in Turkey. Their experience and follow-up perspectives did not correspond to the aimed one in the course design. There were 25 participants from 11 countries (6 Meda and 5 European countries).

Participants evaluated the group and its atmosphere as good, motivating, relaxed and as an important resource for learning and exchange.

Participants were satisfied with the different sessions of the programme and with the programme as a whole. Especially positive in terms of learning were the most experiencial ones: the IC evening, the IC Discovery and Whirling Dervishes Dances. It is significant to note that the level of enjoyment was much higher for than the learning for all the sessions. Considering this, looking at the contents of the sessions and to some comments from participants, it seems that the programme was participative, experiencial y dynamic but

not deep and challenging enough at the reflective and conceptual level. This might be natural due to the weak background and experience of some participants.

The work of the team was good, mutually supportive, enriching and a significant learning experience. Participants appreciated it a lot.

The cooperation with the N.A was not so easy. During the preparation the N.A. decided to change the venue and left in the hands of the coordinator all the technical and organizational work without being present at any moment during the activity.

Thanks to this extra work of the coordinator, the organizational and technical arrangements were good and satisfactory for all participants.

Nine project ideas came out of the seminar. This can be considered satisfactory in terms of follow-up perspectives but there is no information on their further development or implementation.

Summing up, we could conclude that the activity was a good one but could not fully achieve its ambitious objectives.

The fundamental role of Intercultural Dialogue in EuroMed and its educational implications should be further and more consistently explore in the future.

- The use of the local reality as a source of learning
- The evaluation-feedback method of "dinner with the representatives of reflection groups"

Let's meet between regions 14th - 21st September, Dead Sea -Israel-

The idea of this activity came during the TCP officers meeting in Bonn in October 2007. The original idea was to make this activity itinerant. Due to budget, EMYU Jordan could not host the activity for two nights; due to official regulations of the Israeli Ministry of Education (in which EMYU Israel operates) visits to the Palestinian Authority are forbidden.

The objectives of this seminar were:

- to increase the motivation of youth workers from Baltic and Meda regions to cooperate between regions not linked geographically;
- to find and recognize in this cooperation learning opportunities for youngsters of both regions;
- to contribute to the creation of better understanding of national and regional specificities in youth work, youth policy and needs of young people;
- to develop cooperation skills, to acknowledge difficulties and challenges of the international cooperation and to further the long term partnership strategy creation in order to foster continuous EuroMed cooperation in youth field;
- to explore opportunities and challenges of the programmes Youth in Action and EuroMed Youth as tools for development of international youth activities, projects and cooperation between partners.

According to the evaluation of participants those objectives were largely achieved. In their comments they express that after the course they feel ready (in terms of mutual understanding, knowledge and competences) to develop projects and future cooperation.

The different sessions of the programme were as well positively evaluated (most of them over 80% of satisfaction). It is hard to find significant differences among them. The session on youth policies or neighborhood policy were not so appreciated probably because they were not so participatory. This is something natural and not especially significant because their relevance and pertinence were clear. The visit to the Dead Sea Factory was as well less appreciated because it was not linked to the educational objectives of the programme.

In the same line, the diverse and participatory methodology of the seminar was positively evaluated with several critical remarks to some theoretical presentations.

The selection of participants was quick and clear for the Baltic participants and just known at the last minute in the case of the EMYUs. In any case, except for two too young Israeli participants, the participants' profile corresponded to the expected one. There were11 participants from the Baltic Region (Estonia 3, Latvia 4, Lithuania 4) and 9 from the Dead Sea Region (Israel 5, Jordan 1, Palestine Authority 3). The group was open, motivated and ready to cooperate in the future.

The preparation was uneasy. The programme was discussed via e-mail, the visits to Jordan and Palestine could not be done, the communication with the hosting EMYU was at times very hard. The preparation by participants was good making use of the e-learning community.

The venue, facilities and practicalities were positively evaluated by participants and by the team. Except for one visit, the cultural and social programme contributed very much to the purposes of the seminar. Participants appreciated it a lot.

One of the particularities of the seminar was the presence and support of the NAs staff in the seminar as team members. Paradoxically no staff member from the hosting NA stayed during the whole activity. Their contribution was appreciated by participants even if according to the coordinator participants could have profited more from it. At the same time this fact provoked a quite particular team composition which, in any case, managed to work efficiently together. This work was appreciated by the participants. The hosting EMYU did as well a very good job on branding the venue.

Like in other activities, it is hard to identify very precisely the follow-up of the activity. Apart from the personal and organizational impact in terms of awareness raising, mutual learning and future projects, by the time of submitting this report, 2 projects were approved by NA Lithuania and will be implemented in 2009 and at least one project is supposed to be submitted by one Estonian participant on February 1st., 2009.

- The idea of the activity: promoting cooperation between two regions which do not have a strong historical links
- The presence and support of NAs and EMYUs

EVS Odyssey in EuroMed 25th - 30th October, Aix-en-Provence -France-

The objectives of this seminar were:

- 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 organisations active in EVS (or willing to become so) within the EU and the Mediterranean partners countries.
- To get acquainted with the programmes "Youth in Action" (action 2 EVS and 3.1 support measures) and "EuroMed Youth III and IV" and their developments.
- To get a common understanding of the voluntary work and of the various educational perspectives in regards to cultural diversity.

According to the evaluation of participants, those objectives were largely achieved: over 80% without big deviations. The level of meeting the expectations is as well very high (around 90%). Without any doubt we can conclude that this activity was a very successful one.

The preparatory process was not an easy one. There was a productive Prep Meeting. As a result of it the venue of the Seminar was changed because the initially foresaw (Marseille) could not offer a youth hostel or youth centre which would make possible the necessary informal interaction between participants.

The concept of the Odyssey was slightly adapted (by request of the regional correspondent of the YiA programme):

- Some space in the programme was foreseen for a reflection on regional strategies in Euromed EVS, starting from concrete examples in PACA region
- Respecting the selection procedures by the French SALTO an special attention was given in the selection to French participants and Meda partners from the region

One team member (Ann) could not attend the Prep Meeting. For that reason she and the coordinator had to prepare the programme via internet and meeting for a short time during another activity in Belgium.

On the programme, during the preparation, substantial changes were introduced in one session: instead of the classical "combination EuroMed Youth and Youth in Action programmes" it was decided to have "institutional and political challenges of EuroMed cooperation" with different experts and the testimony of a Lebanese volunteer hosted by the Regional council.

During the last preparations before the activity the team had to face the fact that their working requirements were not met: the accommodation and the working place were in two different places, the working rooms were not as planned, the basic materials were not ready... With the support of the N.A., the extra work of the team and the flexibility of everyone, those difficulties could be overcome. On the last minute nearly every organisational and logistical arrangement was adequate.

During the seminar, all the sessions – parts of the programme worked well. The evaluation from participants' evaluation confirm that: the average of satisfaction is above 80% and the less satisfactory were the free time and energisers. Not without difficulties and extrawork the stronger facilitation and monitoring by the team contributed to the satisfactory results of the two "sensitive" sessions in hands of the external experts (on the programmes and on the institutional and political challenges of EuroMed cooperation). It was decided to run the session on the 2 programmes, in a co-facilitation process, after a co-preparation between the French NA project officer and the SALTO coordinator, which made it more fluid and coherent with the rest of the programme

According to the evaluation of the team and to their own evaluations the group of participants was motivated, very committed and managed to create a strong group spirit. As it is usual in EuroMed, it was very diverse in terms of backgrounds and experience. The European participants had a consistent EVS experience (their selection was adequate), some Meda as well but for some others it was a big discovery.

During the seminar the team work was good, productive and supportive. On the technical side, after the initial deficits, the work of/with the people from ADCEI was good. Participants evaluate the work of all of them very positively.

The cooperation with the NA was good. Two representatives from the Portuguese NA were there as observers and in punctual occasions helped the team with their feedback (when requested). The French NA representative helped in the practicalities (when needed), in the facilitation or as resource person for participants.

The role of the regional correspondent of YiA was, according to the team evaluation, confusing, changeable and too often not constructive especially regarding the role and cooperation with SALTO EuroMed.

On the outcomes of the seminar, the number of projects and partnership was more than satisfactory: 16 projects/partnerships were given birth and all of them were of good quality. This might be in partly due to the fact that the method chosen for it was more precise and they were recorded on electronic format.

- Overcoming the difficulties and challenges of the preparation and being able to integrate them in a "ready activity format" -as it is the Odyssey-
- The work on the follow-up
- The fact of having this event close to the Greece networking conference (3 weeks after) gave an extra stimulation to participants.

Tool Fair 3rd Edition 5th - 9th November, La Palma -Spain-

According to the participants' evaluation the level of achievement of the objectives of the Tool Fair was as follows:

81,81 % of the participants achieved to see examples of good practices.
74,54 % achieved to have a reflection on the meaning and use of educational tools.
78,18 % will be able to transfer educational tool in their practices
78,18 % achieved to gain confidence to develop new tools
63,63 % achieved to find partners.

The team agrees very much with this general level of satisfaction. At the end of the activity and after three editions the feeling was we are in front of an appreciated and consolidated activity.

The preparation of the activity was long: starting in the previous tool fair edition, including a Prep Meeting in Madrid, a visit to the venue by the coordinator, a stage in SALTO EuroMed by the coordinator, punctual meetings and a lot of e-mail communication with the different actors and with the participants. It was not always an easy process due to the size of the activity (75 participants from 29 different countries), the organisation and the logistical requirements (travelling to the far Europe, visa procedures, spaces needed for presenting 42 tools). With some ups and downs, due for example to the lack of attention of participants when reading and processing the information, all those challenges were overcome. The adaptability of the Canarian Government and the quick reaction of the Spanish NA for all the incidences and the visa issues helped a lot during the preparation.

Comparing with previous editions of the Tool Fair, some changes were introduced in the programme, as the classification and distribution of tools and experiences in the following categories: generic tools, thematic tools, innovation in tools, tools for Specific Target Groups, Tools for EVS and for YOUTHPASS. A specific attention and space was given to the Lifelong Learning to the EuroMed e-learning community and to the final version of the EuroMed game.

The number and quality of the tools proposed before the Tool Fair and finally presented was high and time demanding. This "success on the tools" was a challenge in terms of time allocation and adaptation of the programme. As a result, the programme was very compact and intensive. The Tool Fair was full of learning opportunities in terms of tools.

Other parts of the programme suffered from this success. As participants mention in their evaluation, there was a lack of time to know each other (icebreakers, games, dynamics), including the need of a space for a permanent exhibition or a place for NGO's, organisations during the whole event.

Despite the fact that the accommodation and the working spaces were far from each other, the perfect organisation and the commitment and punctuality of participants made possible to successfully run the Tool Fair. In general terms the profile of participants corresponded to the aimed one. At the same time, the selection procedures might be reinforced, being more strict, to avoid some discrepancies and the few cases of participants don't staying fort he whole duration of the Fair.

The atmosphere and interaction between participants was very good during the workshops and during the informal time. This was an important source of motivation and mutual learning. This is not obvious for such a big group and in such a short time if we compare it with other activities.

It was remarkable the impact of the event in the local media (TV and newspapers).

As it was already mentioned the organisation was very good, relaxed and flexible. Just the rooms for the workshops were not ideal. But this is something that could not be changed and the participants succeed to adapt to them without major problems.

During the event the team work and the cooperation between different actors (educational team, organisational team, NAs) was fluid, integrative and mutually supportive. The presence of representatives of the previous and future hosting NA ensures the transition and the further improvement of organisational and logistical details.

On the follow up it is difficult to have information on how participants are using back home the learning achievements of the Tool Fair but two weeks after the end of the Tool Fair, there is a fluent exchange of e mails, as well as visits to the Salto Euromed E Learning Community (around 70%) where the tools and experiences presented are uploaded. Those are very positive indicators.

In its evaluation the Spanish N.A. would like to launch a more ambitious and "institutional" follow-up in terms of exploitation of results. The possibility of a publication, together with the previous editions, has been explored and it might be still an idea to consider. The potential is clearly there.

- The amount, diversity and quality of tools
- The organisation and cooperation between the different actors (Salto EuroMed, Spanish NA, Canarian Government, Previous and future hosting NAs, Educational and organisation teams...)
- With all its "risks", the consolidation of this activity format

Youth Participation in EuroMed context(s) 12th - 16th November Marly le Roi - France-

The aim of the conference was:

• to reflect on the issue of Youth Participation in the European and Mediterranean context(s).

And the concrete objectives:

- To clarify the concept/definition of "Youth participation"
- To compare the existing situations of Youth participation in Programme as well as MEDA countries
- To reflect about the Youth in Action and the EuroMed Youth Programmes as tools for stimulating participation: such as introducing good practice projects, support structures that develop methods and strategies, input by experts and researchers
- To identify challenges for the development of Youth Participation in the EuroMed Youth cooperation
- To stimulate partnership building and development of projects supporting Youth participation in the framework of the Youth in Action and the EuroMed Youth Programmes

According to the evaluation of participants those objectives were largely achieved. In quantitative terms their achievement would be over the 80%. This means that the conference was a successful activity something that it is not obvious given its short duration and the amount of participants (62).

The second objective (compare the existing situations of youth participation...) was not so clearly achieved as the others: 2/3 of participants think that it was and 1/3 that it was not. When looking at the reasons for this limited achievement participants refer to the lack of time, space and previous information especially about the Meda Countries.

The same image of satisfaction comes when analyzing the fulfilment of the expectations. They are in average over 80% especially concerning the stimulation of partnerships.

The participants were selected by the NAs and EMYUs according to their expertise in Youth Participation. As preparation they were invited to actively use the ELC to share relevant documentation for the conference as well as presentations of their projects, which some of them did. 40 participants signed up in the virtual community. 23 pax showed interest to present their projects in a workshop, 10 participants finally really run one.

The participative methodology used (a mix of lectures, presentations, workshops, discussions and working groups) allowed a rich exchange of experiences and practices and it was considered in average good-very good by the participants. They particularly appreciated the workshops and the small groups. Participants have some critical remarks on some speakers but in general their contribution was appreciated and focused.

During the conference, some participants were missing more detailed information on these programmes, and for some a (visualized) synopsis of the different forms of participation would have been useful. Retrospectively, the team thinks that information on both programmes (Youth in Action, EuroMed Youth Programme) on the e-learning platform already beforehand, as well as a clarifying abstract on different forms of youth participation (political vs. social) would have been a plus.

The group atmosphere was positive and the participants were committed to the programme. Just the language issue causes some frustration in the group (English was the official language and French speakers got consecutive translation). But this limitation was overcome with the help of everybody.

The work of the team was good, efficient and appreciated by the participants.

With some critical comments on the food, the facilities and organisational frame of the conference was considered "good" by the participants.

In the steering group meeting directly after, the conference was positive evaluated. In terms of contents YiA should have been more present(ed). Different methods for speakers' inputs, or shorter sessions would have been more adequate.

On the follow-up of the conference (apart from other partnerships and cooperation) 18 project ideas involving directly around 30 participants came out. At that stage this can be considered more than satisfactory.

As structural follow-up-considered by the steering group- there is a proposal from the Italian NA to monitor the outcomes at different levels: qualitative, quantitative, and personal development of the participants. May be a material could be produced with best practices and providing tools for the actions 1.3., 3.1., 5.1., ... (suggestion from the Greek NA). Another possibility is to have a training course in the next Salto EuroMed work plan.

- The relevance of the topic in the EuroMed context
- The fact that it was an activity organized In partnership with the "South Cooperation Agencies Network of the Youth in Action Programme" Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey
- The richness of the different actors and stakeholders attending the conference (9 representatives of NAs, 3 representatives of Salto Resource Centres, 2 representatives of EuroMed Youth Units, 8 expert speakers)

Networking Seminar "Let's network in EVS: Odyssey continues" 25th - 30th November, Ithaca, -Greece-

The "EVS Odyssey in EuroMed" started its trip in November 2006 from the Greek island of Hydra and continuing ever since from harbour to harbour: Copenhagen (September 2007), Oslo (April 2008) and Aix en Provence (October 2008). The common purpose of those 4 contact making seminars was to explore a) the meaning and potential of EVS in EuroMed cooperation and b) the idea to build sustainable partnerships in this field.

As a result and follow up of these 2 years of work, the SALTO Euro Med Resource Centre and the Greek National Agency of the Youth in Action Programme – with the support of the National Agencies of Denmark, Norway and France – decided to organize a Networking Conference, "Let's network in EVS: Odyssey continues", to offer to the participants of those events the opportunity to stop for a while and think all together about the partnerships and EVS projects on process since the beginning of the Odysseys, the developments in the common understanding of volunteering in Euro Med; to open new possibilities for partnerships/projects and open the path to sustainable cooperation through the reinforcement and creation of networks

"Let's network in EVS: Odyssey continues" counted on the support of other National Agencies and Euro Med Youth Units (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Portugal, Turkey, Jordan, Tunisia), that complete a monitoring group of support to NGOs, their actions and quality of the projects in Euro Med. This ongoing cooperation has been the result of two years of institutional networking and will be a valuable support for the sustainable cooperation in EVS in Euro Med in the future years.

The specific objectives of the conference were:

- to assess the impact and the quality of the partnerships and EVS projects on process since the beginning of the Odysseys.
- to explore the developments in the common understanding of volunteering in Euro Med.
- to sustain the ongoing cooperation reinforcing the existing network(s).
- to support the creation of new partnerships and new projects.

According to the evaluation of the participants and of the team we can say that all the aims have been achieved until a different extend.

The assessment of the quality and impact of the partnerships and EVS projects was assessed through a personal reflection and a group discussion. Those moments were important to understand what happened and which are the trends and the obstacles. And to assess participants with its feedback.

The common understanding of volunteering in EuroMed was explored trough an exchange and discussion on good practices and "hot issues" of EVS in EuroMed. The issue of recognition of key competences and evaluation of EVS experiences was as well introduced.

Participants worked in their partnerships, had the chance to mix the experiences of the different Odysseys, to work in new groups, to establish new connections, to start networking in small groups and with the big group.

We could say that the conference was partly an evaluation, partly a training and partly a projects/partnership/networking building seminar. The programme structure and flow was coherent with the objectives and clear for participants. The internal logic was appreciated by them. The already mentioned "self assessment of individual and partnership follow up,

the good practice exchange-discussion together with the hot issues were key sessions for the fulfilment of the objectives and particularly appreciated. The work on next projects was oriented to reinforcing partnerships and establishing networks. The Daily and final evaluation were organized as creative, free and relaxed moments and were very appreciated by participants.

The participants came from a "natural selection". There were less than expected but this is normal because along the travel always someone get lost or busy. It had the advantage of allow a more intensive work. They were interested to continue the travel and to create a network. This big motivation of participants made easier the work in all the activities. Participants were eager, ready and process/result oriented at the same time.

As a result, the conference was extremely productive (32 new networks/partnerships/projects were presented) and very enjoyable at the same time.

The work of the training team was very good. There was good preparation, trust, flexibility and a complementarity. It was not easy to cope in two with such a big group and with so many objectives in short time. Probably another trainer would have been needed. The support of Evi Kotsouspirou was really helpful.

The support of the logistic team of the Greek National Agency was fine according to the team who had some times to "take measures". But all together the cooperation was very satisfactory.

The monitoring group (NAs and EMYUs) was actively present in the conference; providing feedback on different issues during or after the different activities. Their contribution was relevant and appreciated. This monitoring group is growing and the conference showed that the different stakeholders are finding their role inside this "floating ship" of EVS in EuroMed.

As it is visible in the elc, there is a good potential for an important follow up in terms of projects, partnerships and networks. It is visible and touchable and the different actors are committed to it.

- The culmination of the overall strategy on EVS
- The follow-up potential

LTTC "Dialogue among civilisations" Phase III - Evaluation Cyprus, 8th - 14th December 2008

The aim of the Long-Term Training Course (LTTC) on the theme '*Dialogue among Civilisations*', held in three phases (November 2007 to December 2008), was to strengthen and expand the network of European Voluntary Service (EVS) projects, as well as to improve the quality of such projects, within the framework of the Euromed Youth Programme.

Phase I of the LTTC was hosted in Greece in November 2007, during which three partnership groups had been established among the participants, who had discussed and planned 14 projects based on different actions (Youth Exchanges, EVS projects and Study Visits).

During Phase II - a period of 10 working months - the teams planned and organized their projects. By the end of Phase I, the participants had established the following three thematic partnership groups:

- "Inter-cultural Group" (Tunisia, Greece, Spain, Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey, Palestine);
- "EVS Quality Group" (Algeria, France, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania. Spain, Tunisia, Turkey);
- "Eco Journey in Euromed" (Cyprus, France, Czech Republic, Algeria, Israel, Jordan).

By the end of Phase II, applications had been submitted to the National Agencies (NA) and EMYU for 12 projects, 10 of which had been approved (2 Youth Exchanges, 2 Study Visits, 2 Training Courses, 2 Seminars, 2 EVS) and two rejected.

Throughout Phase II of the LTTC, the three trainers who had led Phase I, had coached the partnership groups, by providing advice and support during the planning and implementation of projects.

The objectives for the third phase of the "Dialogue among Civilisation" TC in Cyprus were to:

- Evaluate, reflect and share on the strategy implemented in the frame of the "Dialogue among Civilisations" TC focused on EVS in the EuroMed context.
- Reflect and evaluate the personal contribution in the partnership life.
- Reflect and evaluate individual Learning in Multicultural Group.
- Provide participants knowledge and Tools for implementing a Quality Project.
- Provide participants knowledge and Tools Evaluation Process.

Phase III was attended by 15 participants - compared to 22 in Phase I - (6 from Mediterranean partner countries and 9 from EU Member States), 3 trainers, the Head of SALTO Euromed Resource Centre and a rapporteur. Four new participants joined the group - two from Greece and one from Israel replacing and representing the same organizations as the participants to Phases I and II, who were unable to attend Phase III; plus one new additional participant from the French organization 'Francas du Gard'.

Although participants were not directly asked about them, we can deduce from their evaluations that in general terms the objectives were achieved. This means that this Course-Phase III was the space which allows this reflection and evaluation on the overall LTTC.

The programme and methodology made possible to achieve those objectives. The team try have new tools and methods and at the same time have (being an evaluation) establish clear links with previous phases of the LTTC. In average participants evaluated as good or very good all the sessions except for the chilling evening and the EuroMed Game (both in average normal). In their qualitative evaluation there are as well some critical remarks to the lack of time for exploring the follow-up or future steps.

The work on emotions and the coaching were two key aspects – features during the whole LTTC. They made possible a very important learning and were worked out and closed in this Phase III.

The venue, the organisation and the technicalities of the course were very good, positively evaluated by participants and by the team.

The work of the trainers' team was very good and professional according to the participants. In a self critical attitude, the team think that they could have done better in the documentation of the partnerships' projects, the preparation and time management in some activities, supporting the future projects and rising hidden conflicts. This self critic shows the level of professional exigency and does not question the good work done during the whole course. The cooperation with the NA was as well very good and mutually supportive.

Summing up, this course - phase III allow a more than adequate closing of the rich and intensive experience of the LTTC.

- The coaching
- Work on/with emotions
- The long, intensive and complex learning during the course in relation with the competences' development

If 2007 was the year of intensive development of the EuroMed game, 2008 was the year of its finalisation and launching its future use.

After the test in the Tool Fair 2007, during the Coordinators Meeting in January 2008, different test experiences were evaluated. The conclusion was that the game offered very different possible uses which could serve to very different purposes: getting and overview of the EuroMed Area, contributing to the group building, fostering inter-cultural learning, canalising thematic discussions... Those uses and purposes were explored and discussed. The coordinators made as well suggestions for its further development.

In March, in a meeting between the coordinator and SALTO EuroMed, the new version of the game was evaluated, taking stock of the developments introduced and identifying the areas to be improved for its finalisation.

In a similar meeting in July the work advancement was discussed, adjustments were done and new identified features were requested to the programmers. Other issues like the copyright and intellectual property were clarified. From that moment on, the SALTO EuroMed Coordinator took the game to the EM activities and its final version was presented in the Tool Fair 2008.

There was extra work, some delays due to unforeseen circumstances but all together during 2008 the work on the EuroMed Game went satisfactorily through the different phases as planned:

- 1st phase (January): adaptation and changes in the software according to the results of the test in Tool Fair 2007
- 2nd phase (February/March): selection and inclusion of second round of country questions¹, inclusion of funding questions on EU, EMP, YIA, EMYP III, inclusion of questions on religion
- 3rd phase [April/May): search of new contributors for the missing countries, selection and inclusion of third round of country questions
- 4th phase (May-July): research for questions on the missing countries, inclusion of fourth round of country questions
- 5th phase (June/July): mid-term testing of the "Inter- EuroMed -cultural dialogue" (Turkey, 21-28 July)
- 6th phase (September/ October): Realisation of the Help manual, Realisation of the Reference manual
- 7th phase (November): official presentation of the finalised EM GAME (Tool Fair 2008, Spain, 4-8 November)

The promotion within the EM activities might have not been as intensive as it would have been desirable but at the end of 2008 the EuroMed game is ready, quite known and in its limited promotion positively welcomed by the potential target group.

Without losing any time, any activity, any month, 2009 should be the year of its production, launching, promotion and use. Specific training might be very interesting for exploring deeper (from an educational point of view) its uses.

A specific evaluation or monitoring mechanism could be should be planned so that it will

¹ The first round was done in 2007 for having enough material for the test in TOOL FAIR 2007

be possible to "quickly respond" to eventual challenges or demands by the users. According to several reactions in the Tool Fair 2008 its customisation or adaptation to local contexts and realities can become the most significant demand and probably the next phase of the EuroMed game after its wide use as it is now.

Final conclusions and recommendations

An intensive year

As it was said in the introduction and the evaluation of the activities shows, 2008 was a very intensive year, full of activities.

From all the evaluations of the different actors (participants, organisers, team members, NAs, SALTO coordination...) we can conclude that the activities were successful. Together with all the details previously analysed, several indicators lead us to this conclusion: a high number of applications, no black spot (something strongly negative) in any activity, objectives fulfilled -when measured- around 75% ... It was as well a demanding year because new activity formats and new topics were introduced.

As the participants underlined in their evaluations, the work of coordinators and team members was important for this success. We have not analysed so far their composition but in general the tendency was to have small and rather "experienced" teams. In some cases an extra team member could have been convenient. Despite the workload that implied this option in the team compositions has guaranteed consistency, maturity to deal with difficulties and unforeseen circumstances and a good balance in terms of Meda and Europe, men-women, experienced-new... The team composition was, in that sense, well planned and "used" and the involvement as team members of youth leaders and trainers has been adequately used for the promotion of the overall EuroMed objectives.

Of course with differences but it is clear that the programme, contents, methodology, group dynamics... were in general very positive in the 2008 SALTO EuroMed activities. There were plenty of good learning, exchange and networking opportunities.

Looking at the development of the activities and at the (not exclusive) list of characteristics of EuroMed activities identified last year as a result of this global evaluation

- Relevance of global situation, policies and tendencies in defining the setting
- Backgrounds and traditions to be considered
- Contents preparation
- Cooperation
- Flexibility and adaptation
- Venues as learning tools
- Practice oriented
- Focus on valorisation and visibility

We can conclude that, apart from following their own objectives and challenges, all the activities have considered and try work on those characteristics achieving to generate the specific EuroMed "taste". This was, of course, done differently (in terms of methods, intensity and intention) in the different activities.

This means that together with the considerable success of each activity, 2008 has been the year of consolidation of the specific educational proposal of SALTO EuroMed as a whole.

As last year, the main challenges expressed by the different actors concern the preparation and follow-up.

Profile of participants, selection and preparation

In almost all the activities the evaluation of the teams and the coordinators identify discrepancies between the expected profile of participants and the real one. The causes of those discrepancies are diverse but something seems clear: they cannot be simply explained by the enriching diversity in EuroMed or the deficits of a selection based on the limited information of application forms.

The last minute recruitment, the "desperate" search for participants in some cases, considering the participation in EuroMed activities as a "price" in stead of a responsibility, wage motivations... are not at all general tendencies but neither just punctual cases. In limited numbers and occasions but they happen again and again.

It is not necessary to change the selection procedures. But as it was recommended last year this selection should be more carefully and I would even say more "strictly" done.

The main deficits for participating in EuroMed activities identified last year a minimum knowledge and experience on project management and on the Youth EuroMed and Youth in Action programmes.

For those I would repeat the recommendation done last year:

It would be good to elaborate some standard materials and/or "didactical units", presentations... which could be used as background documentation for the preparation of participants and/or as workshops -for the ones who needed- during the first days of the activities.

Another possibility (considered already in the past) could be to have specific activities for "beginners". Those could be at national or at EuroMed level. But of course those specific activities are to consider in the overall frame of activities in terms of resources and strategy. And therefore their articulation is more complex.

If those are nor feasible or adequate, other alternatives should be discussed but there is a big need to have instrument to deal with these deficits.

It might need a more detailed analysis and discussion but together with the previous ones, this year some participants did not have the necessary specific-specialised competencies in the "thematic events" and not enough motivation-real possibilities for follow-up in the networking-follow-up oriented activities.

In the case of the thematic events, in almost all of them, the recommendation of previous year of providing participants with some previous information on the topic has been followed. In terms of quantity and quality there is a clear improvement and development in that direction. The possibilities of the ELC have contributed a lot to it.

I would simply recommend to continue in this direction and to make "compulsory" in the future for teams and participants this content preparation at least for the thematic activities.

And for the networking, partnership, follow-up oriented activities, participants should clearly identify in their application at least one project, activity, measure... that they want to promote or launch as result of their participation in a SALTO EuroMed activity. Those might change but in any case worked out during the activity and considered in the follow-up.

<u>Follow-up</u>

Comparing with 2007, the evaluations of 2008 show that the follow-up was more carefully worked out and better planned during the activities.

The example of the two EVS Networking seminars with a clear continuation with the Conference in Greece, shows that long term strategies (linking activities) helps a lot in the follow-up and impact of the activities. This is as well the case of the activities oriented to work with the neighbour countries or the long term training course "dialogue among civilisations".

In the case of "punctual activities" there are good and good examples in terms of followup. With the limitations of one activity without additional means, the work on the followup was consistent in the seminars on Democracy, on Education and Civilisations and in the conference on Participation, the Tool Fair...

In both cases, for punctual activities and for activities part of a longer strategy the ELC has proved to be (when used) an important tool for supporting the follow-up.

Recognising the progresses done in terms of follow-up, I believe that it is necessary to continue in the same line promoting:

- The use of the ELC for follow-up and support (personal and to the projects)
- The medium term strategies: linking activities when convenient and the partnership allow it
- The work in each activity since the preparation, making clear how important is "the project" and the local/national multiplier effect

Those should become "generalised standards" for all activities

Visibility - exploitation of results

As for previous years, the actions and initiatives for a bigger visibility continued:

- At the end of each activity a CD was given to all the participants with all the relevant documents including the tools used, the photos and the video of the activity and/or those files were shared in the ELC.
- For each activity the report elaborated by the coordinator and some photos are on line: http://www.salto-youth.net/tceuromed2008
- Additionally for some activities the teams elaborated informative brochures and they worked with local and national media.
- The collection of educational reports was enriched with 6 new ones from previous years' activities: "Train EuroMed multipliers", "TOTEM : Training of trainers in EuroMed region", "Women in EuroMed: A kaleidoscopic sea of roles and places", "Let's meet the 3 Cultures", "Role and place of minorities in the EuroMed context: ethnic, linguistic and religious" and "Faith, Religion and Dialogue" in cooperation with SALTO-YOUTH Cultural Diversity and SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus.
- This year for the first time and linked to the ELC, the videos of the activities are available online: http://videos.saltoeuromed-elc.com/

So, in objective terms it seems clear that for each activity and certainly for the whole SALTO EuroMed the visibility initiatives and actions grew. This would be good reason for satisfaction.

But particularly among the coordinators in their conclusions there is the growing feeling

that the results of the activities should be more visible.

This is not paradoxical. Probably the success of the activities (including their follow-ups) provoke that their potential relevance and influence for a wider public becomes clearer and more relevant.

In the evaluation of several activities (EVS strategy, Tool Fair, Participation conference...) came naturally the idea of producing something (beyond the report) to share and spread their relevant outcomes in a consistent, friendly and attractive way.

If 2007 was the year of re-starting after the suspension of the programme, 2008 a good year full of activities and when some of them very mature (EVS, Neighbouring, Tool Fair...) 2009 should be the year of "exploitation of results".

There are many possibilities for this:

- Elaboration of a publication presenting the educational approach of EuroMed: EuroMed context, specific characteristic of EuroMed activities (see above or last year report), methodology (TAPE, STAR), tools (from the 3 tool fairs and activities), EM trainer profile and competences, EM Label...
- Use of the T-Kit, Training Bag and EM Game
- Improving and linking better the SALTO Web site, ELC and video Gallery
- Thematic public library in those web sites and platforms
- Continue improve the educational reports

The ELC

Starting from the beginning, not without certain resistances and scepticism the decision to set-up was taken following my recommendation. Its set-up was a bit slow, loosing -in my opinion- the initial synergy after the last Coordinators meeting.

But its set-up, design, explanatory documents and updating has been good during the whole year.

It was "almost not used" in two activities and in a very limited way in one activity. We could conclude that in those cases it has not any added value to the e-mail communication.

But in the other 8-9 activities it was intensively used with three functions:

- Preparation: Homework on contents (not just technicalities)
- Documentation of the activities
- Follow-up: Project, coaching, networking

This is, from my point of view a more than satisfactory result for the first year which we could consider a test and taste in a long term perspective. A year later there are solid arguments to be happy about it: Salto-EuroMed has joined "on time" and in most cases successfully this new space for communication, sharing and learning.

Some teams, coordinators and participants -without previous experience- have proved that it is very useful, it has an extra value and that does not required a lot of time.

Apart from generalising its use and make it "compulsory" for all the activities in these three directions (preparation, documentation and follow-up), I would recommend

extending its use to other functions: chats, virtual prep meetings, fora, blogs... Based on my experience I can anticipate that those will bring a bigger added value and open new learning possibilities.

Apart from improving the use of the current platform, the even more ambitious use that other stakeholders in the field of training are making of the e-learning platforms (using it for processing applications, spreading documentation, cooperating with partners -links-, using it for visibility -space open to the wide public-...) should encourage Salto-EuroMed to be more ambitious and make further steps. An extra short training (on line) or explanatory material might be needed for that. Those further uses could be considered activity by activity.

On the technical side a new version of the Moodle Software (in the near future it will come the version 2) according to the e-learning fora consulted will bring more functions, more possibilities for interaction, better customization... Apparently it will not simply be an update of the current version but something significantly new.

This is an extra argument for being optimistic, attentive, catch-up and be able to offer those learning possibilities to the teams and participants.

Cooperation with NAs, EMYsand organisers

The coordinators made a considerable effort last year for updating and fine-tuning the handbook which is a very valuable tool for the cooperation with NAs and EMYUs when organising activities.

Following previous recommendations I have the impression that the role of the coordinators has been reinforced in front of NAs, EMYUs and organisers. Or may be this is simply due to the fact that in 2008 the coordinators were quite experienced. In any case the evaluation of the activities shows that the coordinators made, not without difficulties and tensions, a very good work in terms of cooperation: patient and comprehensive and being clear and determined when necessary.

Each activity of EuroMed implies a big effort in terms of cooperation. Each case was different and the lessons, therefore difficult to generalise. There are 1 or 2 exceptions where the cooperation was very hard but in general I have the impression that the cooperation was better than in previous year. There are several indicators which show that the cooperation is improving and going in the good direction:

- The presence of NAs in the annual meeting of coordinators in 2008
- The presence of NA representatives in the activities
- The involvement of NAs and groups of NAs in long term strategies-linking several activities
- The higher participation of NAs in the evaluation process
- The good cooperation with some agencies with which there were misunderstandings in the past (e.g. Spanish)

Therefore my recommendation would be to continue in the same direction, to reinforce the cooperation:

- Updating (with the lessons of 2008) and effectively using the handbook
- Trying to involve NAs and EMYUs in the whole process of the activities (preparation, implementation and evaluation)

- Fostering long term strategies around the activities
- Invite and involve NAs and EMYUs in the ELC
- Without mixing roles and when it is convenient to "expand" the cooperation to the educational and visibility-exploitation of results field. Some agencies in their evaluation express their willingness to it.

It does not purely correspond to the field of cooperation but as it was mentioned for the preparation of the activities, the selection of participants by the non-organising NAs and EMYUs is not adequate.

I would repeat my invitation to NAs and EMYUs to be stricter in the selection of participants.

Evaluation, quality and tacking stock of results

As it was mentioned in the introduction of this report, for 2008 a special emphasis has been put in the evaluation of all Salto EuroMed activities following, for the first time and from the beginning on, an evaluation plan approved in the previous coordinators meeting.

Except for one activity, this evaluation plan has been used as reference, inspiration or guidance by the teams and coordinators. The corresponding tools adapted for each activity. During the whole year there has been a fluid communication between the coordinators and the evaluator. There are still some missing files but, in general, the commitment of coordinators, teams and participants with the evaluation has been significantly higher than in previous year.

For the organising NAs and EMYUs, just half of them filled the evaluation questionnaire: far from being ideal but better than last year. But apart from the questionnaire, their participation and input in the evaluation meetings of the activities has been important and considered by the coordinators.

It might be a very subjective impression but I have the feeling that, with some exceptions, the different stakeholders, despite the extra work, have experienced evaluation not just as an extra load but as well as an opportunity for reflection, learning and transformation leading to quality. And it has as well contributed to foster the cooperation of the different actors in the activities.

The conclusion is that, with considerable room for improvement, the evaluation as a feature and the evaluation plan have worked well for 2008.

My recommendation would be to continue in this line, improving the evaluation plan and its tools. I agree with two concrete suggestions done by a coordinator:

- To invite the organising NAs and EMYUs to fill their evaluation questionnaire before leaving the activity
- To have a common structure for the coordinators and trainers personal evaluation

The assessment of participants it was added to the evaluation plan last year after a fruitful discussion during the coordinators meeting. After that discussion a document with some guideless was produced, trying to bring some light and inspiration considering the potentialities and risks of different approaches and tools (portafolio, youth pass...).

The assessment of participants has been systematically done in two activities and in a

more disperse and flexible way in others. I do not know until which extend the reflections of the document about it -part of the evaluation plan- have been of any use. I got the impression that the approach has been more "functional" (with the objective of managing possible human resources) than educational (for the development of participants and the systematisation of a participant, trainer, youth worker profile).

In any case, I do not see this limited use and experience on assessing participants as a shortcoming. Participants' assessment in educational activities requires extra efforts, tools, time and competences and this feature is not necessarily a priority in many SALTO EuroMed activities.

But important debates in terms of assessment, recognition and validation of non-formal education are taking place at European level and EuroMed can and should contribute to them with its specificities.

My recommendation is that if assessment of participants is done in some Salto EuroMed activities (for example in long term activities, or in ToTs) it should be properly done. This means, trying to cover its two dimensions: the functional and the educational. In other words it is interesting to learn if this or that participant is a good or bad potential trainer. But as important as this, it should be used to support his development and to shape – conceptually and educationally- what the profile of a EuroMed trainer – youth worker is and should be.

One could say that those are conceptualisations without direct impact in a particular course. But today the use of participants' assessment is being used to identify the professional profile of trainers and youth workers, their competences. And those are fundamental references in the articulation of educational programmes with the strategic objective of achieving the recognition of youth work and non formal education in the frame of lifelong learning.

Other actors are making important steps - studies in that direction:

- "Quality in non formal education and training in the field of European Youth Work" by Helmut Fennes and Hendrik Otten
 Including a very interesting part on trainer competences
- "Comparative study of ToT courses at European level" by Miguel Angel Garcia Lopez Providing guidelines for a more consistent and coordinated strategy of ToT at European level... Starting to be implemented through the TALE course by the Partnership.

In cooperation with them Salto EuroMed has contributed to those developments.

I would recommend that Salto EuroMed, who without any doubt has the potential, continue contributing more intensively, critically and constructively with its experiences.

Evaluating implies as well tacking stock of achievements. As last year it was briefly systematised the specific characteristics of a EuroMed activity, this year it would be very interesting to do the same with the profile and competences of a EuroMed trainer. The experiences from previous years but certainly the ones of this year, particularly the coaching in the LTTC, are excellent basis for it. The impact study on the 2003-2007 activities will certainly provide additional evidences in terms of professional development.

And once those stones of the EuroMed "educational building" are clear, it would be important to make them visible and exploit them. In this direction I can just repeat the previous recommendations on visibility.

As we see those are important and motivating challenges for the future. Probably not to be taken all at the same time but certainly to consider in, through and beyond the 2009 Salto EuroMed activities and publications.