



EuroMed Youth III Programme



8th EUROMED YOUTH MEETING

Amman (Jordan)
10 & 11 October 2008

*Report edited by the Regional
Capacity Building & Support Unit
November 2008*



This programme is funded by
the European Union



Introduction

This was the eighth, and since the decentralisation of phase III of the Euromed Youth Programme (EMYPIII) the second, annual meeting facilitating an encounter between the Euromed Youth Units (EMYU) and the National Agencies (NA) of the Youth in Action (YIA) Programme. The meeting was hosted by the EMYU in Jordan and held in Amman on 10 and 11 October 2008. The objectives set for this meeting were:

- To present an update on the last 2 years (both by EMYUs and the NAs on Euromed youth cooperation projects)
- To present the outcomes of supported projects and examples of good practices (EMYUs, NAs, project organizers and partner institutions)
- To introduce the EuroMed Compendium on good practices
- To provide an update on the external evaluation of the Euromed Youth III Programme
- To present the outcomes of the Youth Policy Studies in the 10 Mediterranean Partner Countries
- To share perspectives for future cooperation

All meeting participants were invited to attend the inauguration of the Extraordinary Session of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly held at the King Hussein Bin Talal Convention Centre at the Dead Sea on Sunday, 12 October.

The annual Euromed Youth meeting was followed by a 2-day training event on contractual and financial procedures, held solely for the benefit of EMYU Heads and Finance Officers, on 13 and 14 October.

Participants

The Euromed Youth Meeting was attended by representatives from 14 NAs and 6 EMYUs. The EMYU Heads from Algeria, Israel and Syria were unable to attend due to various national reasons. The list of participants is enclosed (Annex I).

Programme

The 2-day programme of the youth meeting is attached (Annex II).

Day one – Friday, 10 October

Official opening



The opening ceremony was attended by the Minister of Political Development and by a representative of the EC Delegation in Jordan, who officially opened the meeting.

■ ***Ms Irene Mingasson, Head of Operations Section, Development and Regional Cooperation, Delegation of European Commission, Amman***

Miss Mingasson qualified the conference as “an important milestone” as the aim of the encounter of representatives from Europe and the Mediterranean region was to assess the achievements of the Euromed Youth Programme. Phase III of the Programme had reached maturity due to the process of decentralization. She paid tribute to the role played by the EMYUs in promoting the Programme, and through supported projects, facilitating the empowerment of young people. Concrete results had been achieved on the ground within the Region as well as in Europe, involving the participation of a large number of young people.

The invitation extended to the participants to attend the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly reflected the continued dialogue among Euromed institutions, in this year of intercultural dialogue. She expressed the hope that the meeting would come up with qualitative recommendations for the next phase and wished participants a fruitful meeting. She thanked the Minister for the support given by the Ministry for Political Development to the EMYU in Jordan. (Annex III)

■ ***H.E. Dr Kamal Nasser, Minister of Political Development and Minister of State for Legal Affairs, Jordan***

Dr Nasser welcomed participants to the youth conference. The Jordanian authorities welcomed the participation of representatives from friendly countries to this meeting.

He mentioned that he had attended the Euro/Arab conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in Malta on the Euro/Arab dialogue, with the participation of 52 countries, and stressed his belief in a constructive dialogue among nations. The development of the democratic process and promotion of citizenship as part of the decision-making process were very important; youth and women had also a role to play in decision-making; youth were the pioneers of the culture of change and development.

There was continued dialogue and cooperation between the Ministries of Political Development, of Education and of Higher Education to address issues concerning youth. A new project for 16-18 year olds was being launched to promote the concept of citizenship with the aim of preparing a tolerant generation. Education and culture were essential in the construction of a democratic society.

The Minister wished the meeting successful and positive discussions and extended his warm welcome to Jordan.

Day one – Friday, 10 October

Official opening



■ **Ms Marzia Conte, Youth in Action Programme, DG Education and Culture, European Commission**

Marzia Conte indicated that this second Euromed meeting, held in a Mediterranean partner country since the Programme's decentralization, proved that the challenges discussed at the previous year's meeting, hosted in Marrakech, had been at least in part overcome. She admitted that there were many difficulties faced by the EMYUs and that results were uneven among the concerned countries. Despite the complexities of the launch, the opportunity for youth organisations to be able to once again apply for projects organised in cooperation with European counterparts has provided new horizons and expectations for the young people and youth organisations in the region. This has contributed to strengthening youth cooperation in the region.

She insisted on the importance to promote the opportunities offered by the two Programmes – Youth in Action and Euromed Youth III – but also to disseminate and exploit the results and good practices to motivate others. This was one of the objectives of the meeting.

When looking at the future – the other main objective of the meeting – she raised two questions which needed to be addressed: how to ensure continuity and consistency during the transition period until the new phase of the Euro-Med Youth Programme would be launched and how to fulfil the expectations of the potential beneficiaries. She underlined the importance of maintaining the credibility and sustainability of processes achieved so far. She also recalled that the Youth in Action Programme had a key role to play in maintaining sustainability, and ensuring continuity, as it was a more stable tool which could continue to offer support to youth projects involving partners from the Mediterranean region.

It is important to stress and enhance the complementarities and synergies between both Programmes, and therefore the reason for holding joint meetings by bringing together colleagues from the two networks of NAs and EMYUs to reflect on the challenges and come up with creative proposals for the future.

She thanked the hosts and organisers of the meeting for facilitating this process.

■ **Mr Ali Bibi – Director EMYU, Jordan**

Mr Bibi welcomed participants to Jordan and wished them a successful and fruitful meeting. He outlined the practical arrangements made for the duration of the meeting and training as well as the facilities available to participants.

■ **Mr Bernard Abrignani, RCBS Team Leader**

Bernard presented the meeting's programme for the two days. He referred to the EMYUs meeting with the EC Delegations, which had also been held in Amman in April 2008, and which had facilitated clarifying a number of questions which had been raised as a result of the decentralization process. He outlined that the objectives of this meeting were to review results and good practices achieved to-date and to discuss and agree on new cooperation options for next year.

Day one – Friday, 10 October

Update on EurmoMed Youth cooperation

Statistics on the last 2 years of EMYP III (2007-08)

The statistics compiled by *Esther Gelabert*, on basis of the details provided by the EMYUs on the Compendium project-cards, were presented by Bernard Abrignani. The various charts on the number of projects supported by the EMYUs together with a breakdown of the numbers of participants and of involved partner countries are attached (*Annex IV*).

The total number of projects hosted in **8** Mediterranean partner countries was **85**.

This number did not include the 5 projects approved in Algeria at the only and last call for proposals in December 2007 (February 08 deadline) as the EMYU's work plan had not yet received the EC Delegation's approval. Therefore, it could be concluded that the total number of projects was nearly equal to the 100 which had been supported during phase II (2003-2004), prior to the 2-year suspension of the Programme. Syria had not been involved in the Programme during phase II and therefore had a 5-year interruption.

A breakdown of *Projects/Actions* supported per Country:

Country	Total No. of Projects	Youth exchanges	Voluntary Service	Support Measures
Morocco	18	6	1	11
Israel	16	6	3	7
Tunisia	14	6	1	7
Palestine	10	5	1	4
Turkey	10	2	0	8
Lebanon	7	3	0	4
Jordan	6	3	0	3
Syria	4	2	0	2
TOTAL	85	33	6	46

It was noted that the action on Voluntary Service was not well developed, which was regrettable as this indicated that a very small number of young Europeans had spent a period of volunteering in one of the Mediterranean partner countries. This action needed further promotion through training events.

The total *number of participants* involved in these projects was **1,589** with **460** youth workers (based on 75 projects, as the number of participants/youth workers had not been indicated on a number of project-cards).

The most popular *themes* had been Active Citizenship (45 projects); Heritage/Environment (18 projects); Anti-racism (15 projects). With (and 4 projects respectively, Gender Equality and Minority Rights were the least addressed themes.

At least one organisation from each EU member state had been hosted by a partner in the Mediterranean region. The most represented EU partners were from France (involved in 45 projects), Italy (35), Spain (29) and Greece (18). Interestingly, the Mediterranean partner groups who took part in the largest number of projects hosted in other Mediterranean partner countries were Algeria (in 31 projects) and Egypt (28) followed by Jordan (27), Palestine (27), Tunisia (20), Israel (18), Turkey (18), Morocco (14), Lebanon (7) and Syria (1).

Day one – Friday, 10 October

Update on EurmoMed Youth cooperation

To reinforce the above statistics, it was reiterated that the purpose for the 2+2 guideline (i.e. participation from 2 EU Member States + 2 Mediterranean partner countries) was to contribute to south/south cooperation in addition to the north/south cooperation.

In reply to a question from the EC Delegation representative, it was explained that it had not been possible to provide statistics on gender balance among project participants as the information was not available. However, if the breakdown of participation in SALTO EuroMed events was taken into consideration, generally there were more women participants than men from the EU and more men than women from Mediterranean countries. **Therefore future SALTO activities could focus on promoting gender balance, as this issue had not also been very popular as a project theme.**

The Delegation also recommended that the scope of applicants could be enlarged to include municipalities. It was outlined that within the Youth in Action Programme, local public authorities were among eligible bodies who could submit an application for funding, but this was not yet possible under the Euromed Youth Programme. **This recommendation could be considered for the next phase of the Programme.**

Comparative statistics – Youth in Action/Euromed Youth III Programmes

ACTIONS	Youth in Action (2008 ¹) Actions 2 (EVS) and 3.1*	Euromed Youth III (2007-08)
Youth Exchanges	74	33
EVS	49	6
Support Measures	55	46
TOTAL No. of Projects	178	85

Youth exchange and training and networking activities (*), as well as EVS projects, were hosted in 23 Programme Countries² with the participation of partner groups from the Mediterranean partner countries. (*Annex V*)

EuroMed Compendium on Good Practices (2007-08)

Caroline Mayaudon, SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed Project Officer

Caroline presented the draft Compendium, which will list youth projects supported by EMYP III during the last 2 years as well as Euromed projects within the framework of Actions 2 (EVS) and 3.1 of the EU Youth in Action Programme. It was also planned to include projects financed by the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures, details of which had not yet been received.

The main aim of the Compendium was to promote the visibility of both Youth Programmes. The Compendium would also be a useful tool for NGOs to identify partners for future projects, in addition to motivating new NGOs to be active (*Annex VI*). The last Compendium on Euromed projects had been published in 2004.

The concept and presentation of the Compendium were greatly appreciated by the participants. It was expected for the Compendium to be ready for printing and distribution in the first quarter of 2009. It will also be available on line.

(1) These statistics do not include the last 3 application deadlines (June September, November 2008).

(2) Youth in Action Programme Countries: the EU Member States, the EFTA/EEA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway) and Turkey

Day one – Friday, 10 October

Presentation of the Jordanian Youth Strategy



■ **Dr Atef Odaybat, President of the Higher Council for Youth, Jordan**

Dr Odaybat outlined the important issues covered by youth policy in Jordan. The Higher Council for Youth (HCY), established in 2001 to replace the Ministry of Youth, was an organ responsible for formulating and developing youth policy in Jordan. The HCY was the main institution in charge of youth policy in Jordan and also prepared and implemented policy in coordination with other relevant ministries and institutions.

The HCY President reported to the Prime Minister. HCY had replaced the former Ministry of Youth with the aim of shifting the focus from “serving the youth” (as a ministry) to “promote the active participation of youth” (as a Council).

Dr Odaybat indicated that the King had designated youth as a top priority and had asked for the development of a strategy for youth. The key document regulating youth issues in Jordan was the *National Strategy for Youth* - a national, and not a governmental, strategy - which had been launched by the King in 2005. Its priorities were: participation; civil rights and citizenship; leisure-time activities; culture and information; education and training; employment; health; and the environment. The HCY was in charge of the coordination, monitoring, evaluation and review of the strategy. It also licensed youth clubs and organisations, established youth centres and provided support for both the talented and disadvantaged youth.

The increase in youth population, a ‘youth bulge’, meant high unemployment for youth. The Ministry of Labour was addressing the issue of how to change attitudes and values of youth towards jobs – i.e. change the trend of interest in ‘white collar’ jobs only – as well as organising vocational training, with a particular focus on the training of young girls.

Youth participation was a major issue and a large percentage of the national budget for youth was allocated to the promotion of participation. Efforts were made in reducing illiteracy and a major education reform programme was being promoted. Education had broken the class system since the last generation and had promoted social mobility. The Royal message was to give support to initiatives led by young people. At a recent Royal speech the King had referred to the need “to activate women’s and youth participation”. The age for participating and voting in elections had been reduced from 19 to 18.

Dr Odaybat also referred to the Jordan Youth Forum, an umbrella organisation of about 40 member associations which had evolved into the *National Forum for Youth and Culture* which offered member associations the opportunity to network, provided information on youth events and organised training courses. The number of youth clubs had increased from 224 in 2006 to 262 currently. He stressed that the Euromed Youth Programme was an important activity which facilitated building north/south/south bridges. The National Coordinator for the centralized first and second phases of the Programme had been based within the HCY.

In response to a question on challenges faced by Jordanian youth, he responded that education and job opportunities, youth immigration to other countries and the geographic position of the country being surrounded by complex situations, added to the responsibilities of finding a balance between security against freedom.

An Arab League conference on ‘Youth and Cultural Dialogue’ was to be held in Jordan with participation of 50 young people from Europe. He concluded that there should be a regional cooperation strategy to ensure stability and security within the region.

Day one – Friday, 10 October

Presentation on good practices

The French experience – “Let’s meet the three Cultures”



■ Isabel Olivier – French Youth National Agency (INJEP)

This training event, hosted by the French NA and organized in cooperation with SALTO EuroMed, was based on ‘an ongoing discovery’ as it took place, on an annual basis, in different venues on the themes of tolerance and inter-religious/intercultural dialogue. The first event had been held in Cordoba (Spain), the second in Jerusalem (Israel), the third in Antwerp (Belgium) and the fourth and last event was hosted in Paris (France) in November 2007. Paris was chosen as the venue due to the multiracial tensions which had taken place in its suburbs.

The focus on this particular training was on ‘*Laïcité*’, which refers to the principle of separation of religion from the state, as is implemented in France, rather than to the fact of being secular. The programme involved visits to specific places of worship such as a church, mosque and synagogue, and gave the opportunity to young people from different ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds to meet within a new environment, and to exchange views and experiences.

The Jordanian experience (NGO) – MED2DC “Dialogue and Cultural Diversity”

■ Elena Abuaddas – Tatawor Association, Amman

This Contact Making Seminar (CMS), hosted in Amman, brought together leaders of young people from the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (9 partners from EU + 9 from Mediterranean partner countries), who wished to develop and engage in youth exchange and EVS projects, within the Euro-Mediterranean area. The Jordanian organisation had also involved young people from a local orphanage in the project.

The theme of the CMS focused on promoting understanding and intercultural dialogue as well as social integration. The adopted strategy aimed at training new comers to the Programme. The phase of preparation, implementation and evaluation took 6 months from May to October 2008. The expected outcomes of the CMS were 10 youth exchanges, 5 bilateral EVS projects and 4 training events. Press-releases helped give visibility to the project (*Annex VII*).

This youth NGO had had previous experience in organising projects during the former centralized phases of the Euromed Youth Programme. The presenter stressed that the application procedures under the current phase III were too complex in comparison to the previous application process and therefore deterred new inexperienced youth NGOs to apply.

Day one – Friday, 10 October

Presentation on good practices

The Jordanian experience (EMYU) – Training Course “Inter-religious Dialogue”

■ **Ali Bibi – Director EMYU Jordan**



The aim of this training course, organized by the EMYU in Jordan in cooperation with SALTO EuroMed, and hosted in Ajlun in June 2008, was to prepare youth workers and future leaders for the promotion of dialogue among young people of different religious backgrounds. It focused on 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 of the training seminar were: to provide educational support for the participants to share and reflect about their own experiences and knowledge in the field of inter-religious dialogue; to give the participants the opportunity to experience new tools and methods; to help and support them in improving their competences (Knowledge, Skills, Attitudes and Values) in the field of inter-religious dialogue.

Bernard Abrignani outlined the advantages of hosting training seminars in Mediterranean partner countries as they give the opportunity to EU youth leaders to discover and better understand the Mediterranean region as well as giving young people from Mediterranean partner countries the opportunity to meet with European counterparts, without having to deal with the difficulties created by visa applications.

In 2008, only 2 training courses had been hosted in the Mediterranean region, the one in Jordan and the other in Israel in September 2008.

The Greek experience – “EVS Odyssey in Euromed”: using the YiA Programme as a powerful tool to enhance cooperation with the Euromed Youth Programme



■ **Dora Bei and Layia Tzortzi – Hellenic NA**

“Why did the NA want to build cooperation with the Mediterranean partner countries?” – because of “the very important bonds which connect us”.

The project ‘EVS Odyssey’ brought young people from Europe and the Mediterranean partner countries closer, with the aim of supporting common projects; exchanging information and good practice. The long-term objectives were also to train NGOs and develop partnerships with local authorities to host EVS projects and to develop networking. The themes focused on inter-religious dialogue, democracy and active citizenship.

The other activities, held in cooperation with SALTO Euromed to promote EVS over the last two years, had been a long-term training course (LTTC) for youth leaders (10 EU participants and 12 from Mediterranean partner countries); a sailing contact making seminar and training on the theme of environment (15 EU participants and 13 from Mediterranean partner countries) and a networking through the EVS Odyssey in cooperation with other NAs (Denmark, Norway, France) bringing together a total of 38 EU and 34 Mediterranean partners (*Annex VIII*).

An evaluation conference, bringing together the partners from EU and Mediterranean partner countries which had participated in the *four EVS Odysseys*, was to be held in Greece (**27- 30 November**). Dora Bei, the Head of the NA, confirmed that they would meet the travel expenses of participants from the Mediterranean partner countries, which would not be covered by their EMYUs. She extended an invitation to all EMYU Heads, as well as the NAs which had cooperated in the Odyssey, to take part in this evaluation. She also confirmed that the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs had sent a note to all relevant Consulates to facilitate the issue of visa to participants from Mediterranean partner countries.

In 2008, the Greek NA had supported 4 EVS projects involving a total of 9 volunteers from Mediterranean partner countries. A number of activities, such as job shadowing for EMYU Heads and training seminars for youth workers from EU and Mediterranean partner countries were planned for 2009.

Day two – Saturday, 11 October

On the second day of the meeting, presentations of Good Practices continued as follows:

The Tunisian experience – Networking strategy for multipliers



■ Ammar Chikhi – EMYU Tunisia

The EMYU's first steps had been to contact the six multipliers who had previously been trained by SALTO Euromed. With their support, the EMYU had organized a number of local information and training events to launch and promote the Euromed Youth Programme as well as to motivate and recruit new volunteers who were sent to various SALTO Euromed and NA organized events to be trained. The results had been positive as 14 projects had been supported.

The newsletter (*Annex IX*), published by the EMYU to promote visibility of the Programme and facilitate networking, was compiled by volunteers. The articles were written by the participants to various training events such as the LTTC in Greece, the "Let's meet the 3 Culture" project in Paris, the inter-religious dialogue training held in Istanbul, the various information and training event organized by the EMYU.

A brief presentation was also made on a training event on gender issues, which had involved a number of EU and Mediterranean participants, to address issues affecting women through role-play.

The Lebanese experience – "Connect Mediterranean Sides"



■ Kawn Touma – Head EMYU Lebanon

The programme of the Contact Making Seminar "Connect Mediterranean Sides", hosted in Lebanon by YMCA, had focused on the fight against Racism and Xenophobia, and had involved 21 participants and 3 leaders from 7 EU member states and 4 Mediterranean partner countries.

The activities had consisted of various visits to local projects, workshops on racism and stereotyping. The project had helped the participants to gain new skills on how to work with young people within a challenging situation. This was an important theme for the organizers in Lebanon, where youth were challenged by the current political situation, resulting in sectarian conflict which led to xenophobia and prejudices among the 18 different cultural and religious communities of Lebanon. This was one out of the 7 projects submitted to the EMYU during the first call for proposals.

Day two – Saturday, 11 October

The Portuguese experience – “Water in our Heart”

■ Altino Barradas (participating of behalf of the Portuguese NA)



The project “Water in our Heart” focused on water management and was held in a small village south of Portugal, which is affected by lack of water. The aim of the project was to develop awareness about water through outdoor activities and to produce “a letter on the water rights”. The 31 participants came from various countries (Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, Spain, Malta, Portugal, Poland, Latvia, and Lebanon), each with a different opinion on the value of water, some being short and others having an excess of it.

Through various activities the participants discussed and agreed that ‘water’ had the right to be shared and valued as a symbol of peace and harmony with no distinction of race, beliefs, or political systems. Water should be a common value shared by all, as a common right. Participants took the signed declaration to their own communities for support and recognition (*Annex X*).

The Palestinian experience – Youth Exchange project

■ Dua’a Qurie – Head EMYU Palestine



The youth exchange project hosted in Ramallah by the NGO Ta’awon for Conflict Resolution Institute, on the theme of “*Explore, Understand, Promote: Respect and Understanding in the Euro-Mediterranean Region*” brought together 31 participants from 8 EU and Mediterranean partner countries. The aim was to promote tolerance and intercultural understanding. Different methods based on participatory approaches, such as energizers, role play, simulations, presentations, group work, and outdoor discovery activities, were used to raise awareness on how to resolve conflict and to promote an understanding and respect of the others (*Annex XI*).

Most of the EU participants were students keen to discuss political issues. There were few participants from Mediterranean partner countries due to border and visa restrictions. The project had however reached its expected results as at the evaluation session it had been observed that the concept of co-existence had been better understood by all participants who had considered living with “the mixture of three religious cultures” an enriching and intense experience. This project had been the result of a previous SALTO EuroMed training on peace education.

Day two – Saturday, 11 October

The Euro-Mediterranean Youth Platform

■ **Mauro Pace Parascandolo, Director EUPA, NA Malta**



The aims of the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Platform, based within the NA in Malta and co-financed by the Youth in Action Programme (DG EAC), are to facilitate networking among all those interested in the youth sector in Europe and the Mediterranean region and to assist organizations with their capacity building (*Annex XII*).

Approximately 6000 organisations were listed on the database offering a 'Partner Search Facility' assisting organizations to find partners for projects for cooperation within the frame of the Youth in Action, Euromed Youth III as well as other EU funded Programmes. In this sense, the Youth Platform is a tool to support not only youth NGOs but also the Nas and EMYUs.

Currently, the database was being restructured and updated with new fields being added. This initiative was welcomed by the meeting participants. In addition to facilitating the building of networks, it will also assist with promoting the Programme's visibility with the provision of information in the field of youth and youth activities within the Euromed context such as dissemination of information and good practices; participation in high visibility events; and producing an annual magazine in 3 languages. The future objectives were to increase the Platform's visibility and cooperation with major Euromed stakeholders as well as to serve as a tool for young people to increase their participation.

To make the Platform more user-friendly a needs analysis questionnaire had been prepared. In November, a working group from Mediterranean partner countries would also carry out a needs analysis to give proposals to the Platform for their 2009 work plan which will be discussed with the European Commission.

In response to a question why SALTO Euromed and the Euromed Youth Platform were based in different countries, the origin and role of these two structures were explained. SALTO Euromed was established in 2000 as a result of DG EAC's call to set up a regional resource centre, which would provide youth work and training resources to support organisations and National Agencies within the frame of the then YOUTH programme. This role was confirmed under the Youth in Action Programme. The Euromed Youth Platform was launched in 2003 to support networking and partnership-building among Euro-Mediterranean youth organisations in order to promote new projects and the development of civil society in the region. Under the Youth in Action Programme, the Euromed Youth Platform is an implementing body of the Programme.

Bernard Abrignani clarified the reporting connections: as support structures of the Youth in Action Programme, both the Euromed Youth Platform and SALTO EuroMed report to Directorate General for Education and Culture (DG EAC); whereas the RCBS – set up in the framework of Euromed Youth III - reports to DG EuropeAid (AidCo). The two DGs cooperate closely together to ensure coherence between the two Programmes. Similarly, he stressed that it was important to make good use of public funds and resources available for the benefit of youth, to facilitate youth mobility and to promote intercultural understanding and tolerance.

Tools for the benefit of youth workers and youth leaders

Bernard Abrignani introduced the new ***EuroMed Game*** by actively involving the participants to play. This interactive game could be used to facilitate interaction during youth exchanges, support measure events and also during pre-departure training for EVS volunteers. As soon as fine-tuned, it will be available on CD-ROM as it would be too expensive to produce it in a paper format. In 2009, a training session on how to make use of the game would be organised in Portugal for the benefit of youth workers.

He also referred to the ***Euromed T-Kit***, produced in the framework of the Partnership on Youth between the European Commission and the Council of Europe, the publication of which had been delayed but would soon be available. Another useful tool accessible on the SALTO website was the ***Training Bag***.

Update on the studies and EuroMed III evaluation

Youth Policy Studies in the 10 Mediterranean partner countries

■ **Gisele Kirby – RCBS Project Officer**

The EC contract with the RCBS, signed in March 2006, had made provision for 10 studies to be produced ‘on the evolution of the youth sector in the MEDA region and other funding systems of other donors working with the national youth authorities’. The set objectives were to identify the remit of existing youth policies, legislations and structures which benefit young people in the partner countries and to understand the role and work of youth NGOs.

The call for experts, launched by RCBS, had resulted in 7 nominations out of 64 applications. Four of the experts were assigned to a single country (Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Turkey) and the other three carried out research on two countries each (Morocco/Tunisia; Algeria/Lebanon; Palestine/Israel). The research was based on 4-day missions to each of the studied countries in addition to home-based research through websites, libraries etc. Each study focused and reported on the following themes:

- Youth policy and legislation
- Young people’s rights as citizens
- Challenges faced by young people
- Role and impact of non-formal education
- Place of the Euromed Youth Programme within the national youth policy
- Other youth support mechanisms (e.g. international donors)

In addition to interesting facts and information, the studies also reflected the benefits of participation in the Euromed Youth Programme which were positively assessed by youth leaders, young people and, in some cases, also by national authorities who regretted the small scale of the Programme which touched only a small percentage of young people. The Programme was often seen as a tool for the promotion of youth work and non-formal education. The encounter with European counterparts was particularly appreciated by the young people. (*Annex XIII*)

The resulting studies would be available in early 2009 and distributed to national authorities responsible for the YiA and Euromed Youth Programmes, EMYUs, National Agencies and youth organizations interested in gaining an understanding of the youth situation and relevant legislations in Mediterranean partner countries with which they develop partnerships.

It was clarified that the aim had not been to produce political studies but to present an overview of youth policy, provision made for non-formal education and of the general situation of youth in the relevant partner countries.

One of the EMYU Heads did confirm that the interviews carried out by the expert did have a positive effect on those interviewed as it made them reflect on the current provision available for youth. The Director of EMYU Jordan raised the question of whether the views of the relevant national authorities would be sought before publication. It was indicated that it would be the Commission’s remit to decide on such an option.

Update on the studies and EuroMed III evaluation

External Evaluation of Euromed Youth III

Bernard Abrignani referred to the evaluation of phase III of the Programme, which had been carried out in the summer by an external organization on behalf of DG AidCo, to assess the Programme's efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability. The resulting report was being studied by the Commission. However, he had been authorized to report to the meeting some of the main points raised by the evaluators, on basis of a SWOT exercise, and on the resulting recommendations.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriation of the Programme and involvement of actors • Structured information strategy • Transparency and impartiality of the selection procedure • Availability of the EMYUs • Principle of decentralisation and cooperation between Mediterranean partner countries and the EU • Proximity with the beneficiaries • Accessibility of funds for new types of beneficiaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delicate transition between Euromed Youth II and III • A lack of funds for projects • Accessibility for first-time applicants • Lack of training strategy at a national level • Insufficient exchange and capitalisation of good practice • Lack of research on the impact of the Programme • Lack of updates for tools to search for partners and networking
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for quality (SALTO-YOUTH; Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission; Council of Europe; National Agencies): expertise, training, networking... • Experience of DG Education and Culture and beneficiaries of the Youth in Action Programme • Enhancing effect for the Programme, via the more or less formalised networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of articulation and cooperation with the other stakeholders (in particular from the national agencies of the Youth in Action Programme) • Co-financing opportunities are not sufficiently identified and present • Political situations and visas • Lack of recognition of non-formal education • Lack of articulation with Youth

Recommendations

■ Regarding Programme management and implementation

- » Engage in a collective reflection where all actors express their needs regarding interaction and communication;
- » Clarify relations between governments and the European Commission (particularly in terms of requirements for procedures and co-financing).

■ Concerning the link with the Mediterranean partner countries

- » Carry out local diagnoses (at national level) to have a clear image of the local actors involved in international mobility for young people;
- » Increase decentralisation beyond administrative procedures (for example, translate the general objectives of the Programme into specific objectives at national level);
- » In order to strengthen youth policies in the Mediterranean partner countries, ensure that the experiences resulting from this strengthened transnational cooperation are identified and transferred.

■ Regarding projects and beneficiaries

- » Set up strategies to support quality at a national level;
- » Ensure partnership opportunities for all the countries;
- » Set up long-term support opportunities for networks;
- » Ensure access to the Programme for all organisations;
- » Translate educational “good practices” (training documents, summaries of projects...) and build on innovative practices which detach themselves from a single educational “outline”.

■ Regarding the link with other Programme partners

- » Disseminate good practice for cooperation with other partners;
- » Strengthen links between the Euromed Youth Programme and the Youth in Action Programme.

In response to raised questions, he replied that RCBS did not know when the new phase of the Programme would start. It was expected that the final decision at European level would be signed in August 2009. After that date it would depend on how long the relevant national authorities involved in the Programme would take to sign. An optimistic forecast would be for the first call for proposals to be launched in December 2009 or more probably in February 2010. Phase IV would be for a 2-year period starting from the date of signature of the Financial Agreements.

Bernard stressed that the main issue to consider at this stage was not to lose the momentum built during phase III and to continue maintain the existing contacts and enhance experience. EMYUs had to consider how to sustain the existing networks and how to fund their participants' travel costs to attend SALTO and NA training events. **He also announced that the RCBS's contract was coming to an end on 22 December and therefore technical support would no longer be available to EMYUs through the RCBS.**

Future events planned for 2009

Bernard presented the provisional list of SALTO events to be held in 2009 in cooperation with NAs. The relevant NA representatives provided brief information on the proposed activities.

NA/COUNTRY	DATE (2009)	THEME
PORTUGAL	11-17 May	Training on how to make use of the EuroMed Game
SPAIN	23-31 May	LTTC on EVS (with 20 EU + 20 Mediterranean partner countries – to develop concrete projects; evaluation to be carried out in 2011)
FINLAND	2-7 June	Contact Making Seminar on Action 3.1 of YiA (to increase number of Euromed youth exchanges)
LITHUANIA	18-24 June	Art as a tool for intercultural learning (Vilnius capital of Culture in 2009)
FRANCE	28 June-5 July	Traditional sport as a tool for Intercultural Learning (Long-Term Training Course to involve participants from all neighbouring countries)
GREECE	22-30 September	LTTC on the Environment
POLAND	6-11 October	“Let’s evaluate with our Neighbours” (as follow-up to “Let’s meet and Let’s work with our Neighbours”, to evaluate cooperation between Programme and Neighbouring Partner Countries within the frame of Action 3.1 – to share, promote and transfer good practices)
TURKEY	2-8 November	‘Mosaic’ Seminar - Trainers in EuroMed (TATEM/TOTEM, leading to a LTTC in 2010) co-organised between the Youth Partnership and SALTO
PORTUGAL	10-15 November	The 4th Tool Fair
MALTA	16-22 November	Seminar on organisation and project management – a comparative analysis (on sharing practices and reflecting on various experiences)
FRANCE	2-6 December	Conference on EVS (on youth mobility and volunteering – to be held in Marseille in cooperation with the regional authority)

NB: Updated edition (Dec 2008)

Future events planned for 2009

Any additional activities and networking options would be discussed at the Training and Cooperation (TCP) meeting in Bonn at the end of October.

In most cases, participation in these events from Mediterranean partner countries would be dependent on whether the EMYUs would be able to fund the travel of their candidates, and if not, whether the NAs would agree to finance participants' travel costs.

Dora Bei, Head of the Greek NA, informed that a preparatory meeting had been recently held in Cyprus with the TCP officers of 9 NAs to plan the following future seminars:

- 2010 (Greece) – Intercultural dialogue through history
- 2010 (Malta) – Intercultural dialogue through religion
- 2011 (Cyprus) – Intercultural dialogue through conflict

As a follow-up, NA Greece would host an evaluation of the three seminars.

She confirmed that the participating NAs had agreed to contribute funds to cover the travel costs of Mediterranean participants to these events. The main challenge would be to select and involve the right candidates who would be committed and motivated to act as multipliers.

The Director of EMYU Jordan informed that, should the EMYU's contract be extended, they would host a national training for Jordanian multipliers. Participants from other Mediterranean partner countries would also be invited to attend and NAs' support would be welcome.

The priority for the NA Belgium (Flemish community) was to work with local minority youth organisations and therefore would welcome cooperation with, and advice from, Mediterranean partners on how to deal with this issue.

It was added that EMYU staff could be invited to relevant NA staff training events organised within the framework of the Youth in Action Programme

Closing and evaluation of meeting

A 'tour de table' offered participants the opportunity to express their impressions on the 2-day encounter, whose focus had been to increase and sustain cooperation between NAs and EMYUs, and to state any recommendations they would like to make for the future.

The recommendations focused on the need to maintain as well as increase bilateral cooperation between EU and Mediterranean partner countries, as well as developing sustainable south to south contacts and cooperation. The importance of devising a more integrated approach in regulations among countries as well as maintaining contact with NGOs was stressed.

Some NAs raised the issue that an annual 2-day meeting was not sufficient to share practices with Mediterranean partner countries. A 3-day encounter would help to better plan cooperation and compare and share experiences. EMYUs expressed the wish to be invited to NA training activities.

Comments on the outcomes of the meeting were positive. The presentation of good practices had been interesting and encouraging; they had facilitated a sharing of experience on a pedagogical approach and an opportunity to learn "what the others were doing". The meeting had been fruitful from the point of view of dissemination as helpful and important information on forthcoming documents (compendium and youth policy studies) as well as on partnership activities had been imparted and shared.

Marzia Conte (DG EAC) expressed her confidence in the fact that cooperation would continue among EMYUs and NAs, as proved by the proposals and plans discussed during the meeting. She stressed the need for mutual support, cooperation and synergy to ensure continuity beyond phase III and further strengthen the complementarity between the Euromed and Youth in Action Programmes. On behalf of all participants and partners, she thanked the Jordanian organisers for the smooth running and organisation of the meeting and their hospitality as well as the RCBS/SALTO team for their important contribution to the meeting. She also thanked the NA and EMYU participants for attending and taking an active part in the discussions.

Closing ceremony

The official closing dinner was attended by the Minister of State for Political Development and for Legal Affairs, representing the Prime Minister, as well as by Ambassadors from EU Member States.

■ **Mr Ali Bibi, Director EMYU Jordan and Advisor to the Minister for Political Development**, welcomed the guests and for their benefit, he outlined the aims, objectives and outcomes of the meeting hosted by the EMYU during the last two days during which discussions had been held and experiences on good practice shared on Euro-Mediterranean cooperation within the framework of the Euromed Youth III Programme. He then introduced the next speakers.

■ **H.E. Mr Patrick Renaud, Ambassador/Head of Delegation of the European Commission, Amman** – The Ambassador acknowledged that Youth had only been recently considered as key players in the development of their society and in creating links with other cultures. He referred to the Barcelona process which had been instrumental in promoting mobility and intercultural dialogue as important values to develop youth cooperation. Among the several European programmes, the Euromed Youth Programme had been a successful tool in motivating and promoting youth inclusion and mobility.

The establishment of EMYUs had resulted in the ownership of the Programme within the nine partner countries, as well as leading to concrete achievements. Jordan had played a leading role in the launch and promotion of the Programme within the Region. In addition to hosting the Programme's two annual meetings, it had also held the first Euromed training course within the Region on inter-religious dialogue. He concluded by expressing his confidence that work and achievements carried out so far would continue to progress in the future. (*Annex XIV*)

■ **H.E. Dr K Nasser, Minister of State for Political Development and for Legal Affairs, Jordan**, was the next speaker of the closing ceremony. He welcomed and thanked guests for attending the closing of the youth conference which had brought together participants from the EU and the Mediterranean region to further enhance the development of youth dialogue, within a spirit of cooperation. It was important to give young people a role in the decision-making process. The conference had also reinforced regional cooperation. He wished concrete and productive outcomes to result from the discussions held at the meeting and thanked all participants and guests for their interest in cooperating with the Jordanian authorities and youth.

After a group photo, guests were invited to join the meeting participants for dinner.



Sunday – 12 October

The meeting participants were invited to attend the inauguration of the extraordinary plenary session of the **Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly**, held at the King Hussein Bin Talal Convention Centre at the Dead Sea.

The EMPA is the parliamentary institution of the Barcelona Process and plays a consultative role on all issues relating to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. The EMPA Presidency is held on an annual basis.

At his opening speech, the European Parliament President, *Mr Hans-Gert Pöttering*, pointed out that the summit in July 2008, during which the 'Mediterranean Union' was founded, had "imparted fresh impetus in the framework of Mediterranean cooperation". The various speeches which followed focused on the importance of continuing to enhance Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and of maintaining the dialogue on the Peace Process in the Middle East.

List of annexes

- I** List of Participants
- II** Programme
- III** Opening ceremony speech – EC Delegation in Jordan
- IV** Statistics – Euromed Youth III Programme
- V** Statistics – Youth in Action Programme
- VI** EuroMed Compendium of Good Practices
- VII** Good Practices – Jordan (NGO)
- VIII** Good Practices – Greece (NA)
- IX** Good Practices – Tunis (EMYU)
- X** Good Practices – Portugal (NA)
- XI** Good Practices – Palestine (EMYU)
- XII** Euromed Youth Platform
- XIII** Youth Policy Studies
- XIV** Closing ceremony speech – EC Delegation in Jordan

Annex I

List of Participants

Family name	First name	Title	Organisation	Country
Organisers & partners				
CONTE	Marzia	Ms	DG EAC	Belgium
ABRIGNANI	Bernard	Mr	RCBS	France
KIRBY	Gisèle	Ms	RCBS	England
MAYAUDON	Caroline	Ms	SALTO	France
ZAMMIT	Amanda	Ms	EuroMed Youth Platform	Malta

Units				
BIBI	Ali	Mr	Unit	Jordan
QURIE	Dua'a	Ms	Unité	Palestine
AL SAABI	Ghada	Ms	Unité	Palestine
TOUMA	Kawn	Ms	Unité	Lebanon
CHIKHI	Ammar	Mr	Unité	Tunisia
HALOUANI	Rachid	Mr	Unité	Tunisia
DEMIREL	Ibrahim	Mr	Unit	Turkey
LOUIDANI	Abderrahmane	Mr	Unit	Moroco
AL ALAOUI	Younès	Mr	Unit	Moroco
SAADALLAH	Joseph	Mr	Finance Off	Lebanon
HAMEDEH	Selim	Mr	Advisor	Lebanon

National Agencies				
HOLMLUND	Maria	Ms	NA	UK
BORNEMARK	Emmy	Ms	NA	Sweden
HEROLD	Zsuzsa	Ms	NA	Hungary
TOMANOVA	Alena	Ms	NA	Slovakia
PACE-PARASCANDALO	Mauro	Mr	NA	Malta
CRISTAURO	Silvano	Mr	NA	Malta
OLIVIER	Isabelle	Ms	NA	France
SUCHECKA	Karolina	Ms	NA	Poland
MEERSSCHAERT	Els	Ms	NA	Belgium FL
ARICI	Gloria	Ms	NA	Belgium FR
CHRISTODOULOU	Maria	Ms	NA	Cyprus
BEI	Dora	Ms	NA	Greece
TZORTZI	Layia	Ms	NA	Greece
BARRADAS	Altino	Ms	NA	Portugal
RUOKOLAINEN	Hilma	Ms	NA	Finlande
CECCHINI	Alessia	Ms	NA	Italy

Plus				
MINGASSON	Irene	Ms	Delegation Head of Operations Section	Jordan
LARESE	Emilie	Ms	Delegation Programme Manager	Jordan
MUSHIN	Altun	Mr	Head of CFCU	Turkey
YALPU	Güldas	Mr	CFCU	Turkey
KILIC	Ilkay	Ms	CFCU	Turkey
KOLUTEK	Kemalettin	Mr	CFCU	Turkey

Annex II

Programme

	Hours	Friday 10	Hours	Saturday 11	
Arrival - Thursday 9	09.30 10.00	Official opening - EC Delegation in Jordan – Ms Irene Mingasson, Head of Operations Section - Minister of Political Development and Minister of State for Legal Affairs – H.E. Dr Kamal Nasser, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan - European Commission, DG Education & Culture, Youth Programme Unit – Ms Marzia Conte	09.30 11.00	Presentation of Good Practices (cont'd) - 4 th presentation – TUNISIA (EMYU) - 5 th presentation – LEBANON(EMYU) - 6 th presentation – PORTUGAL (NA) - 7 th presentation – PALESTINE (EMYU) - 8 th presentation – MALTA (Youth Platform)	Departure - Sunday 12
	10.00	Break	11.00	Break	
	10.30 12.30	Introduction - Programme presentation – Mr Bernard Abrignani, RCBS Team Leader and SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed RC Coordinator - Jordanian EMYU : practicalities UPDATE on EUROMED Youth Cooperation - Results presentation of 2 years Activities – Mr Bernard Abrignani - Introduction to the EuroMed Compendium on good practices 2007-2008 - Ms Caroline Mayaudon, SALTO EuroMed Project Officer	11.30 13.00	Good Practices (cont'd) Presentation of existing TOOLS: Mr Bernard Abrignani EuroMed T'Kit – EuroMed T'Bag – EuroMed Game...	
	12.30 14.30	Lunch	13.00 14.30	Lunch	
	14.30 15.15	PRESENTATION OF THE JORDANIAN YOUTH STRATEGY H.E. Dr Atef Odaybat – President of the Higher Council for Youth, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	14.30 15.30	Update on the External evaluation of the Euromed Youth III Programme – Mr Bernard Abrignani Update on the Youth Policy Studies in the 10 Mediterranean partner countries - Ms Gisele Kirby, RCBS Project Officer	
	15.30 16.30		2009 EuroMed activities: NAs, SALTO etc Introduction to FUTURE COOPERATION		
	16.30 18.00		Future Cooperation – Working Groups		
	15.15	Short break			
	15.30 18.00	Introduction to Good Practices: (in Plenary) - 1 st presentation – FRANCE (NA) - 2 nd presentation – JORDAN (NGO & EMYU) - 3 rd presentation – GREECE (NA)	19.00	OFFICIAL CLOSING CEREMONY - Mr Ali Bibi, Adviser to the Minister and Director EMYU - Ministry of Political Development, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan - H.E. Mr Patrick Renaud, Head of EC Delegation in Jordan - H.E. Dr Kamal Nasser, Minister of Political Development and Minister of State for Legal Affairs Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	

Annex III

Opening ceremony speech – EC Delegation in Jordan

Euromed Youth Programme Phase III (2005-2008) Opening ceremony of the Euromed Youth Conference

10 October 2008, Hôtel Le Royal

Your Excellency,
Dear guests,

It is a great honour for the European Commission to see the Euromed Youth Conference organized in Amman and I wish to truly thank Jordan for hosting this important event, testifying one more time of the active participation of Jordan in the running of the Programme.

This Conference is an important milestone as it will assess the achievements of the Regional Programme during the last three years. Phase III was definitely the phase of maturity of the Programme, leveraging its level of ownership and leadership by decentralizing its management. The Governments of the 9 Partner Countries have successfully set up Euro-Med Youth Units. I would like to pay tribute to the role those Units play on the ground in promoting the empowerment of youth, organizing calls for proposals and granting best projects. I would like to particularly thank you, your Excellency, for your continuous support to the Unit, and you, Ali Bibi, for managing it with great success. I am happy to see that the Unit has been invited by the Euromediterranean Parliamentary Assembly to attend its meeting tomorrow at the Dead Sea. It reflects the credibility gained by the Youth Unit and demonstrates that a dialogue with Euromed institutions is engaged. Those exchanges are nourishing the vitality of the Euromed Process.

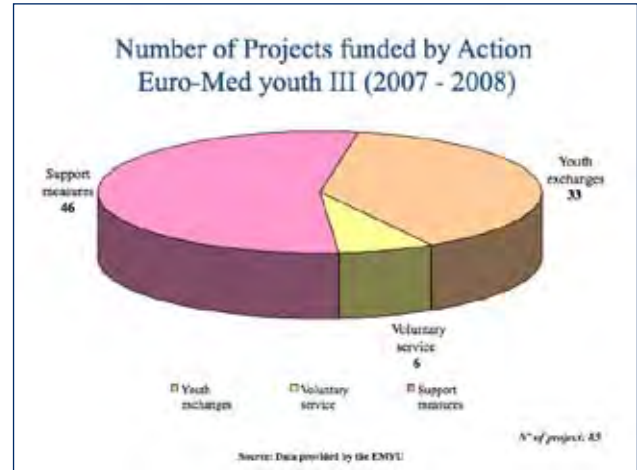
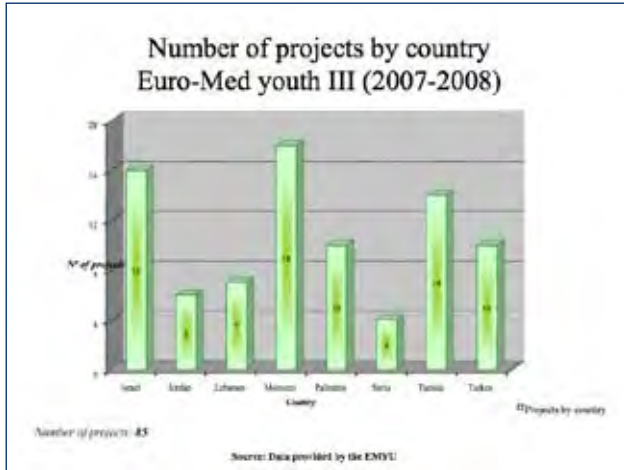
On the ground, the Euromed Youth Programme has achieved concrete results, benefitting directly and by multiplier effects to a large range of institutional stakeholders and thousands of young from European and MEDA countries. Their institutional and individual capacities have been reinforced. Main values, shared by the two sides of the Mediterranean Sea, have been promoted, in particular the fight against racism, tolerance, gender equality and the sustainability of development. 2008 has definitely been the Year of the Intercultural Dialogue, amongst Euromed youth at least.

I am confident that this conference will reach a high-level of discussions, providing with qualitative and constructive recommendations. Those will be essential for ensuring the continuation of the Programme and the preparation of its next phase. I wish you a successful and fruitful Conference.

Mrs Irene Mingasson
Head of Operations Section "Development and Regional cooperation"
Delegation of the European Commission, Amman

Annex IV

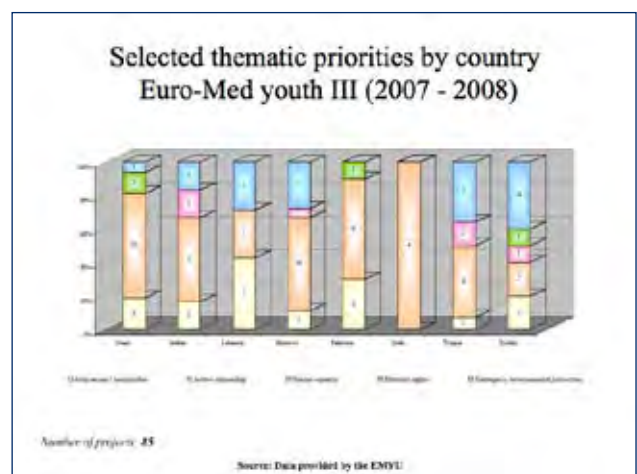
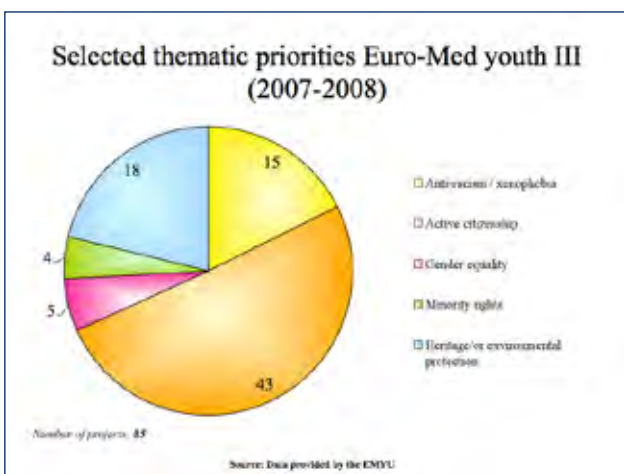
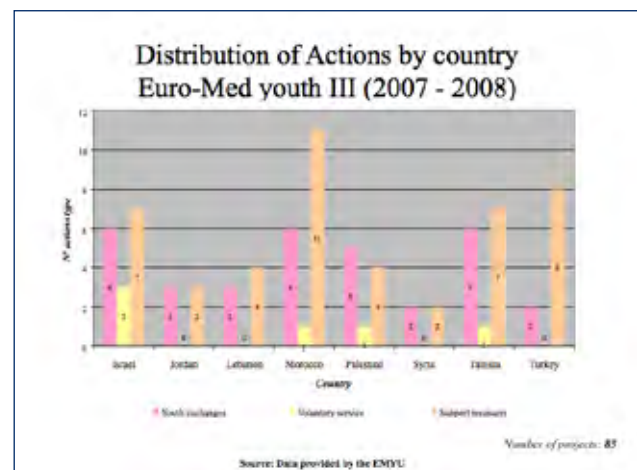
Statistics – Euromed Youth III Programme



Distribution of Actions by country Euro-Med youth III (2007 - 2008)

Country	Youth exchanges	Voluntary Services	Support Measures	TOTAL
Israel	6	3	7	16
Jordan	3	0	3	6
Lebanon	3	0	4	7
Morocco	9	3	11	18
Palestine	3	2	4	10
Syria	2	0	2	4
Tunisia	6	3	7	14
Turkey	2	0	8	10
TOTAL	28	6	46	85

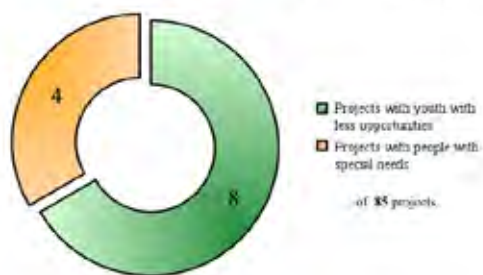
Source: Data provided by the EMYU



Annex IV

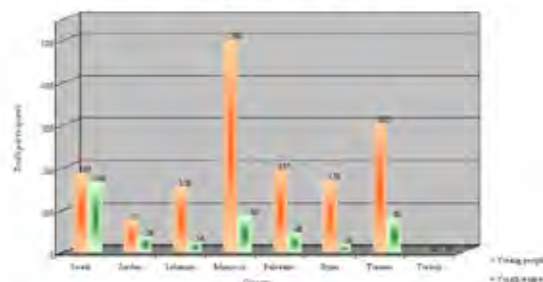
Statistics – Euromed Youth III Programme

Youth participants: Special groups



Source: Data provided by the ENYU

Youth participants by country Euro-Med youth III (2007-2008)



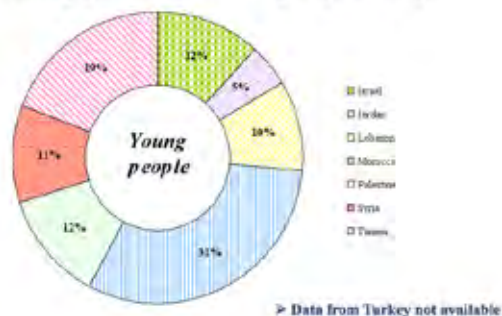
Number of youth participants: 189

Number of youth workers: 46

Number of projects: 72

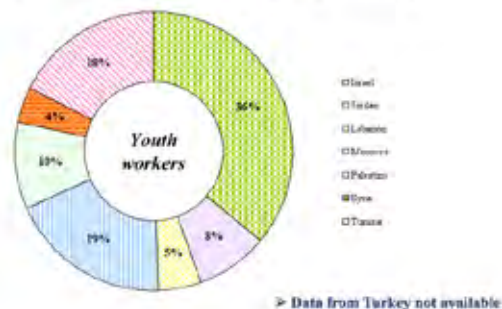
Source: Data provided by the ENYU

Participants to Euro-Med youth III Young people - Percentage by country



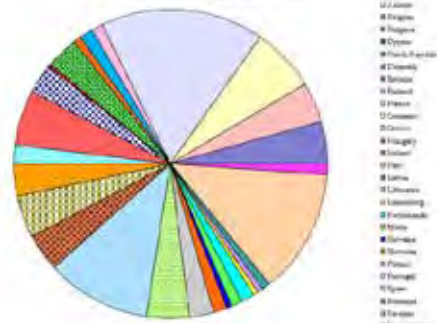
Source: Data provided by the ENYU

Youth workers participants Euro-Med youth III (2007-2008) - Percentage by country



Source: Data provided by the ENYU

EU participation (project partners) Euro-Med youth III (2007-2008)



Total number of European partnerships: 268

Source: Data provided by the ENYU

EU participation (project partners) - Euro-Med youth III (2007-2008)

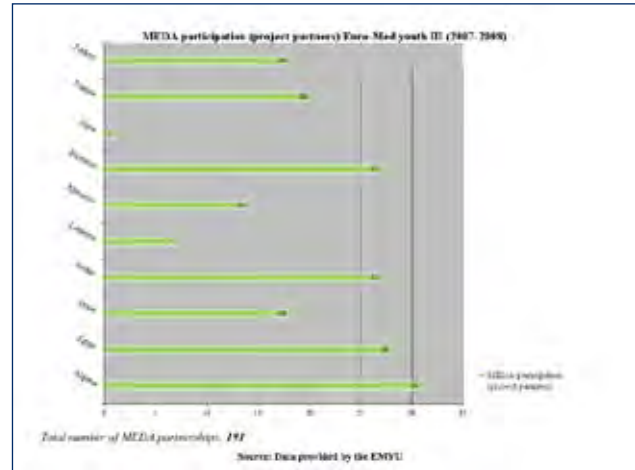
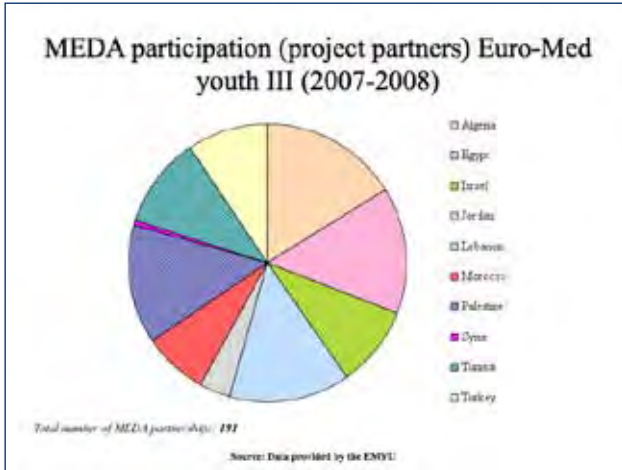


Total number of European partnerships: 268

Source: Data provided by the ENYU

Annex IV

Statistics – Euromed Youth III Programme



Annex VI

EuroMed Compendium of Good Practices

Compendium EuroMed projects

Aim

- ⇒ 2 years of EuroMed cooperation
- ⇒ 2 programmes: YiA and EMY III
- ⇒ The end of the 3rd phase of EMY programme

Compendium - Amman - 19 & 21 October 2008

Compendium EuroMed projects

Building

- ⇒ 3 parts:
 - 1st: euromed projects from the Euromed Youth Programme
 - 2nd: euromed projects from Youth in Action programme (Actions 3.1 and 2)
 - 3rd: euromed projects funded by the Anna Lindh Foundation

Compendium - Amman - 19 & 21 October 2008

Compendium EuroMed projects

Building

- ⇒ Subdivided:
 - Youth exchange projects
 - Support measure projects
 - EVS projects
 and
 - Awarded projects to illustrate each Action

Compendium - Amman - 19 & 21 October 2008

Compendium EuroMed projects

What is being done?

- ⇒ The collection of projects
 - EMY III :
 - 85 projects
 - 33 Youth exchanges
 - 46 Support Measures
 - 6 EVS
 - YiA (Actions 3.1 and 2):
 - 178 EuroMed projects
 - 74 Youth exchanges
 - 55 Support Measures
 - 49 EVS
- ⇒ The layout for design

Compendium - Amman - 19 & 21 October 2008

Compendium EuroMed projects

Remarks

- ⇒ Mother tongue used => Translation needed
- ⇒ Lots of mistakes in English => proofreading
- ⇒ Description, number of participants and granted amounts missing



Request to NAs/EMYUs to translate and/or fill in the missing information

Compendium - Amman - 19 & 21 October 2008

Compendium EuroMed projects

Next steps...

- ⇒ Contact NGOs to write a short article for Awarded projects
- ⇒ Introductions
- ⇒ Proofreading
- ⇒ Design
- ⇒ Printing and dissemination

Compendium - Amman - 19 & 21 October 2008

Annex VII

Good Practices – Jordan (NGO)



MED 2DC
(DIALOGUE AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY)

GOOD PRACTICES
01 May 2008 – 30 October 2008

Logos: European Union, UN Women, MED 2DC

MED 2DC OBJECTIVES

- Reinforce the partner organizations' capacities as well as improve the mutual knowledge of questions related to youth.
- Identify each partner's areas of specialties in order to guide actions towards youth projects.
- Define a common strategy for the coming years, that allows the development of training, youth exchange programs and the development of EVS



Opening session

Logos: European Union, UN Women, MED 2DC

TARGET GROUPS



Leaders of young people from the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, who wish to develop and engage in youth exchange projects and EVS, within the Euro Mediterranean area

Hungary, Sweden, UK, Morocco and Jordan. Brain storming in a group

Logos: European Union, UN Women, MED 2DC

EU PARTNERS

- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Czech Republic
- AAR Social Development Association (ASDA), Finland
- MEDDIACS, France
- Bennohaus, Germany
- Artemisszió Alapítvány, Hungary
- Artist of Life Youth Group, Hungary
- Asociatia Renastera Botosaneane, Romania
- Asociacion Juvenil El Consul, Spain
- Viksjoforsbaletten, Sweden
- HiBus south, UK



Logos: European Union, UN Women, MED 2DC

MEDA PARTNERS



Hanan translating

- Saving Youth Association, Algeria
- Egyptian Association for Comprehensive Development, Egypt
- Mabarrat Lim Al Hussein, Jordan
- Baladati.com, Lebanon
- Observatoire Marocain de la Paix Sociale, Morocco
- The Old City Youth Association, Palestine
- AYA "Annour Youth Association, Palestine
- All Art Now Syria
- El Taller International, Tunisia
- Tatawor Association (Coordinator)

Logos: European Union, UN Women, MED 2DC

Organisation of the Project

- Preparatory activities
- Implementation of the seminar
- Evaluation and follow up



Part of our visibility

Logos: European Union, UN Women, MED 2DC

Annex VII

Good Practices – Jordan (NGO)

Methodology




Mr. LaBlack is presenting the vision

- Strategy in 2 parts
 1. To level out and/or reinforce the partners' capacities
 2. Active mobilisation to initiate projects

MED 2DC

Expected Results


- 10 youth exchange projects
- 5 bilateral EVS projects (10 youths)
- 4 training projects



Summary workshop

MED 2DC

Phase 1 - Preparation



Objective 1

Objective 2

Objective 3

MED 2DC

Phase 2 - Seminar




Strategy 1

Strategy 2

MED 2DC

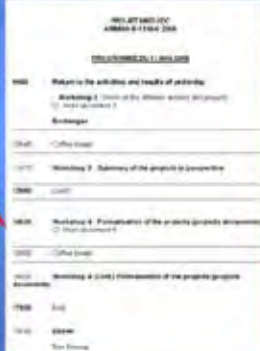
Phase 2 - Seminar



Strategy 1

MED 2DC

Phase 2 - Seminar



Strategy 2

MED 2DC

Annex VII

Good Practices – Jordan (NGO)

Results of the seminar

- 25 people trained (10 organisations evened out their level of knowledge)
- 15 organisations reinforced their knowledge and capacity in "youth in action" program (relative to their good knowledge in "youth" program)
- The initiation of:
 - 4 seminar projects
 - 8 youth exchange projects
 - 4 EVS projects (8 youth)
- All Part III signed during the seminar
- implementation of follow up action plan through the website

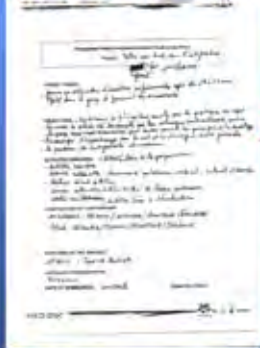


Participants using one of the Evaluation tool









Results of the seminar






Project submitted by MEDDIACS, France on 01/09/08

Results of the seminar




Project submitted by Bonnahauss, Germany on 01/09/08








Phase 3: Follow up, evaluation

- Realised actions:
 - Youth exchange in Romania (August 2008),
 - Seminar in Morocco (November 2008),
 - Seminar in Germany (October 2008)
- Submitted actions:
 - 4 youth exchanges in France, Spain, Sweden, and Germany (September deadline)
 - 1 training submitted by Germany (November deadline)
 - 2 EVS organised by Spain and Czech republic



Dead Sea

Annex VIII

Good Practices – Greece (NA)




Using the YOUTH in ACTION E.U. Programme as a powerful tool to enhance cooperation with EUROMED Youth

The experience of the Hellenic National Agency in working for EVS




Why cooperation between Greek and Euromed youth?




Because of the very important bonds which connect us:



3



- We all go back in long and almost parallel ways in History.
- The very creation and evolution of our great Civilisations was based on the system of learning from one another.
- Geographical proximity: Your best friend is your very good neighbour!



4

Greek-Euromed cooperation: Aims 

- Promote intercultural learning among youth
- Support and enhance the cultural diversity in the Region as an asset for our societies
- Enhance Solidarity and Friendship among youth
- Support the inter-religious dialogue
- Get a better knowledge of young people and their needs and interests
- Contribute to solid Democratic environment for the future of our societies
- Support mobility of young people
- Develop networks for cooperation and initiatives



5

How do we promote Euromed cooperation? 

- Support of common projects
- Exchange of Information
- Exchange of good practice
- Training of Greek NGOs and Local Authorities for future hosting EVS projects.
- Networking



6

Annex VIII

Good Practices – Greece (NA)

Thematic areas of interest for our cooperation: 

- **Inter-religious dialogue**
- **Culture**
- **Democracy**
- **Environment**
- **Active youth participation- Citizenship**

 7

Our strategy – Our practice to promote cooperation with emphasis on EVS: 

1) Bring young people from Europe and Euromed closer:

- By undertaking initiatives and hosting of activities ourselves
- By supporting Youth NGOs in developing their own projects
- By supporting Greek participants in activities dealing with Euromed cooperation, organised by other NAs
- By supporting technically and financially Euromed youth to participate in YiA projects realised in Greece
- By seeking the support and assistance of other NAs in organising joint activities involving Euromed cooperation
- By seeking the support and assistance of SALTO EUROMED Resource Centre in the organising of our Euromed activities

 8

Our strategy – Our practice: 

2) Develop cooperation networks and partnerships:

- By seeking the support and assistance of other NAs in organising joint activities involving Euromed cooperation
- By seeking the support and assistance of SALTO EUROMED Resource Centre in the organising of all of our Euromed activities

 9

Our strategy – Our practice: 

3) Follow-up on all of our initiatives and activities

- Follow-up on participants from Europe and Meda to activities
- Support youth NGOs for the organisation of projects as result of our Euromed activities
- Organise evaluation meetings: Re-invite participants to previous activities, from Meda and Europe to exchange experiences and news on what happened since their first "encounter"
- Organise new activities as continuation and evolution of a previous one.


 10

Example activity in the very near future: 

"Odyssey in Euromed continues": Evaluation meeting on the island of Ithaki, Greece, November 25-30, 2008

Participants:

- ALL ex-participants (Meda and Europeans) in the Odysseys realised in Greece, Denmark, Norway and France
- All NAs having participants in the 4 Odysseys
- All Heads of EMYUs
- European Commission

 11

Example activities in the past 2 years to promote EVS: 

"LTTC on managing EVS" November 2007, Nafplio, Greece:

CMS + Training on developing activities on the environment (related to future EVS projects), Cycladic islands, Greece, July 2008

"Networking on EVS" November 2006, island of Hydra Greece, November 25-30, 2008


 12

Annex VIII

Good Practices – Greece (NA)

Main activities for 2009: 

- 1) Job shadowing for Heads/representatives of EMYUs, as well as for Meda Youth NGOs, to the HNA, visits to Greek NGOs developing projects involving Euromed youth (EVS, trainings), visits to Youth policy makers at national level, visit to Local Authorities interested in promoting Euromed cooperation through EVS.
- 2) Training of youth Workers from Europe and Meda, on how to develop and manage youth initiatives at local level (thematically related to creativity and innovation of young people in their local communities), by hosting EVs volunteers from Europe and Euromed.
- 3) A 3-stage training seminar to promote EVS on:
"intercultural dialogue in History (in Greece), in Religion (in Malta) and in Conflict (in Cyprus)"

 13


Thank you very much! 



institute for youth*

Hellenic National Agency for the E.U. Programmes Youth in Action and Eurodesk

 14

Your Contact details: 


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 15

Annex X

Good Practices – Portugal (NA)

Water in our heart



- **This Project was focus on the Water, and water management. The aim was to developed awareness and careness about the water among participants by outdoor activities and produces a letter of water rights – Collective Water, the Declaration of São Mamede.**
- **In this exchange we discuss the importance of water as natural resource**

Participants

- **31 participants with 18-25 years old from different countries (Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, Spain, Malta, Portugal, Poland, Latvia, and Lebanon)**
- **From different regions, with different water values, some with lack of water, and others with excess of water.**

Goals/ aims

- **Promote the mobility of the young people from different places, with the same interests in the conservation of the natural resources, like water**
- **Encourage the young people to maintain the use of water, not waste the water**

- **Give tools to young people in a way that they can protect the natural resources**
- **Create an interaction between the local community and the young people**
- **Promote a multicultural conscience among the local community**
- **Encourage the creative spirit among the young people for them to be able to promote the environment protection**
- **Create/ produce a letter of water rights – Collective Water, the Declaration of São Mamede**

DECLARATION OF SÃO MAMEDE

- **JOINED IN SÃO MAMEDE-PORTALEGRE (PORTUGAL), REPRESENTING THE COMMUNITIES TO WHICH WE BELONG, THE UNDERSIGNED DECLARE WATER AS A HUMAN RIGHT AND THE RIGHTS OF WATER AS A PRIORITY COMMITMENT FOR THE WHOLE MANKIND, AIMING TO THE FUNDAMENTAL VALUE OF SUSTAINABILITY OF LIFE ON EARTH. WE ALSO DECLARE THE COMMITMENT OF FURTHER SPREADING OF THIS DECLARATION.**

Annex X

Good Practices – Portugal (NA)

DECLARATION OF WATER RIGHTS

- **Water is life:**

- There is no life without water. Water is, in equal terms, a common right for all living beings that constitute the present and future world. A correct use of water is a warranty for environmental balance. To underestimate the force of water's power for life, is the promotion of natural catastrophes, thirst and hunger, diseases and misery.

- **Water is freedom:**

- Water has the right to circulate, without any restriction to its independence. Water knows no borders. In this way, water requires an international cooperation respecting its natural cycle, independently from private interests. Water has no owners and all life depends on it.

- **Water is sacred/holy:**

- Water has the right to be respected in its pureness, and this is a purpose for everyone, from the smaller communities (families) to the bigger ones (Humanity). Its value is recognized in all religions as a means for purification.

- **Water is communion:**

- Water has the right to be shared and valued as a symbol of peace and harmony. Water doesn't distinguish race, beliefs, political systems or kingdoms. Water is a common value shared by all. In this way, all countries must contribute for its equal redistribution, as a common right.

- **Water is a means of health, happiness and wellbeing:**

- Water has the right not to be misused and give health, happiness and wellbeing. Using it with no respect for its quality creates irreversible damage. Rivers and groundwater in general may no longer be used as places to get rid of our waste and polluting effluents. We should guarantee a good quality in all water bodies.

- **Water is scarce:**

- Water has the right to maintain its rarity and mankind has the duty to benefit from it without destroying its natural cycle. It's an obligation of mankind to know its resources, monitorize its quality and adapt the political and administrative structures to the needs of this common good, promoting and assuring it's recycling and rational reuse. Water has different quality needs according to different uses and natural conditions. Its use should be moderated and optimized. The use of rainwater should be a usual practice across the entire world, contributing to a minor pressure on the formal distribution systems. Equally, the natural replenishment of groundwater has the right not to be limited by the growing impermeabilization of the soils.

Annex X

Good Practices – Portugal (NA)

- **Water has an intangible value:**
- Water has the right of not being a slave of economic interests. As well, its quality may not be treated as an object of trade in speculative negotiations. The value of water is priceless. The costs to make water available should be exactly equal to the costs of maintenance and depuration, discriminating different kinds of users, and never being a factor of exclusion for those with fewer resources.

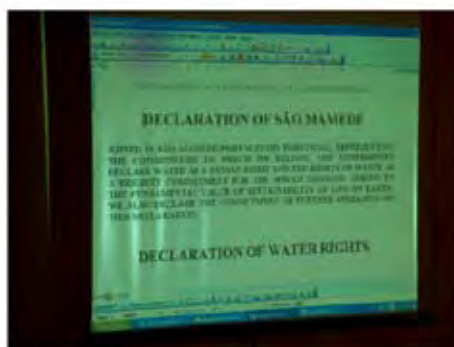
- **Water is energy:**
- Water has the right of being used for the production of clean energy putting aside the polluting energy resources. Its correct use predicts a sustainable planet.
- **Water is fragile:**
- Water has the right to be protected as a universal heritage. It should not be exposed to irreversible risks.

- **Water is wisdom and education for life:**
- Water has the right to be recognized and valued as an essential factor to all living beings. To respect water means respecting life, in the present and in the future, and the deepest values of nature, where humanity is included. Promoting good usage, more than an act of intelligence, is a necessity for education in the future. Science and technology should protect the final aims of water equitable uses.

- **Water is hope and responsibility:**
- Water has the right to be used with good sense. Knowing, respecting, improving and maintaining the water in its most free and pure conditions depends on the intelligence and actions of mankind. Pure water is a sign of global sustainability and hope for the future that all newcomers have equally the right to benefit from.

- **Water has the right to be protected by the law:**
- All organizations with granted power to act on the water resources fields, should give priority to waters rights before any indiscriminate usage rights.

Portugal, 28 of July 2007



Annex XI

Good Practices – Palestine (EMYU)

Euromed - Youth Programme

الجمعية الوطنية الفلسطينية
منظمة التحرير الفلسطينية
مبنى الرئاسة
وحدة الشباب الأوروبي

برنامج الشباب الأورومتوسطي
EuroMed Youth Programme

October, 2008

Euromed - Youth Programme

Three calls for proposals were initiated

- April 25th, 2007
- September 1st, 2007
- December 1st, 2007

Euromed - Youth Programme

Number of projects selected for funding /per action

Total number of applications received (three rounds) 51 applications

Youth Exchange	Voluntary services	Support measures
5	1	4

Most popular partner countries:

- MEDA: Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Turkey, Morocco
- EU: Italy, Spain, France, Belgium, Portugal, Sweden, Malta, Bulgaria, Finland, Ireland, UK, Germany, Greece, Austria, Estonia, Slovakia, Hungarian, Romania and Bulgaria.
- Themes: Active Citizenship, Cultural Dialogue, human right Education, Anti-racism/xenophobia

Euromed - Youth Programme

Number of participants

Total number of projects approved 10 projects (four have been implemented and 6 will be implemented by the end 2008 beginning of 2009

Deadline	Total number of participants	Participants from MEDA	Participants from Europe	Participants from Palestine
Deadline June 25	83	36	47	17
Deadline Nov.1 st	92	37	43	12
Deadline February	92	28	52	12
Total	267	88	138	41

Euromed - Youth Programme

Good practices

Explore, Understand, Promote: Respect and Understanding in the Euro Mediterranean Region



April 9 - 18, 2008

Euromed - Youth Programme

- Project host organization: Ta'awon for conflict resolution Institute.
- Action type: Youth Exchange
- Number of participants: 31 participants
- Venue: Ramallah
- Theme: Tolerance and anti-discrimination
- Number of partners: Eight originally.
- Countries: Bulgaria, Italy, Malta, Estonia, Hungary, Turkey, Jordan and Israel.



Annex XI

Good Practices – Palestine (EMYU)

Euromed - Youth Programme

Hosting organization

Ta'awon Association for Negotiation and Conflict Resolution

- > Raise awareness and teach about young people effective, peaceful ways to resolve conflict and to develop understanding, respect.
- > Ta'awon also focuses its work on integrating concepts of mediation, conflict resolution and peace education in all aspects of youth lives.

Euromed - Youth Programme

Objectives of the project

- To explore to different cultures and realities.
- To understand the rich differences among the different cultures.
- Explore the role of non formal education in promoting peace education and its concepts.
- To promote the intercultural dialogue to overcome racism and xenophobia.

Euromed - Youth Programme

Methodologies



- The program and the activities are very consistent with the objectives of the project.
- There were many methods used such as energizers, role play, simulations, presentations, small group work, excursions, and outdoor discovery
- based on participatory approaches -it included participants and leaders who implemented themselves some sessions- and non formal education tools

Euromed - Youth Programme

Results

- The project reached its expected results since the co-existence concept is better understood now.
- Participants are keen to promote and to multiply the idea.
- They think now in a more elaborated way about being subjective and accept the others.
- Some participants are going to use what they have learned in their life style and professions (with their children and students).)
- These days were able to make the group mix, understand, get to know others' cultural differences and learn how to respect them.
- These gained skills and information are going to be transmitted to participants' families, societies and colleagues "E.g Bulgarian participant write an article about his experience and understanding"

Euromed - Youth Programme

Impact

- participants were introduced to other cultures.
- Palestinians youth live under occupation and this makes them so closed on their case specially that they do not have many chances to leave the country.
- Such activities are considered very important for their openness and mixing with other young people.
- Participants were very impressed with the programme and the country.
- Participant they know the situation and link it with what they hear in the news.

Euromed - Youth Programme

Evaluation

- Most of the interviewees indicated that the project was very good, well organized and informative.
- Some participants were afraid to come in the beginning due to the political situation in Palestine, but they found out that the situation is better than what they thought.

"When I look at the program now I realise that it was too full! But yet, I did not feel it, in fact I have forgotten to look at my watch!! I realise now that I never felt bored!!"



Tugba, 22 year - Turkey.

Annex XI

Good Practices – Palestine (EMYU)

Euromed - Youth Programme

- the mixture of three religious cultures was considered as a riching point.

I felt that we were in a big blend, Muslims, Christians, and non believers?
Gholamkhan, 18 years, Egypt

- Project presents realities that are different from their own backgrounds

Euromed - Youth Programme

Cooperation between partners:

- The project is considered as a learning process for the applicant organization and partners who do not have experience in the field of EuroMed program.

Difficulties faced by the team:

- Last minute cancellation by the Maltese and Israeli partners.
- Visa for the Jordanian Partners

Annex XII

Euromed Youth Platform

"Finding common denominators in diverse cultures"

Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandolo, Director, EUPA

euromedplatform
EURO-MEDITERRANEAN YOUTH PLATFORM

ANNEX XII

Euro-Mediterranean Youth Platform

The Aims

- Facilitating networking between all those interested in the youth sector in Europe and the Mediterranean.
- Assist in the capacity building of our organisations

Euromed Youth Platform – The Data Base

Creation of Database

- At present approximately 6000 organisations
- Partner Search Facility – to assist organisations to find partners for projects
 - Euromed Youth Programme III
 - Youth in Action
 - Other EU funded programmes
- Currently restructuring the database – more info requested
 - New fields are being added

Euromed Youth Platform – The Data Base

New Fields

- Aims of organisation
- Legal status/recognition
- Fields of activity
- Areas of interest
- Main source of support (such as funding, premises, ect.)
- Size of organisation
- Networking involvement
- Projects on a regional, national and international level
- Other general info

Creation of Networks

- Euro-Mediterranean Youth Trade Union Network
- Euro-Med Student Forum
- Young people involved in politics
- Youth Trafficking
- Youth workers in local authorities
- Sexual minorities
- Gender
- Young Entrepreneurs

Euromed Web-Site

- Website currently being restructured:
 - Links to Euro-Med Stakeholders
 - Links to National Agencies
 - News section – for updates concerning Euro-Med Youth
 - New face to the website

Annex XII

Euromed Youth Platform

Euromed Youth Platform – the visibility

- Provision of information within the Euromed context in the field of Youth and Youth activities
- Dissemination of information
- Participation in high visibility events
- Annual Magazine in 3 languages
- Writing articles in magazines and journals
- Participation of the Platform in the EYW held in Malta



Euromed – other initiatives

- Mapping of Euromed stakeholders
 - Publication in 2009
- Needs analysis questionnaire



Meetings 2008

- April 2008 – Brussels
 - Steering Committee Meeting
- June 2008 – Malta
 - Euro-Med Youth Platform Re-launch, Malta
- September 2008 - Hungary
 - Partnership Sectorial Group Meeting – European Commission, European Council, Saito Euromed, Euromed Youth Platform and other stakeholders
- 10 – 11 October 2008 - Jordan
 - Euromed Youth Conference



Meetings 2008

- 2 – 9 November 2008
 - European Youth Week Malta
- 10th November 2008 – Malta
 - A working group shall be meeting in order to assist and give proposals to the Platform
- 12 – 17 November 2008 – France
 - Youth Participation in the Euromed Context(s)
- 21st November 2008 – Brussels
 - Steering Committee Meeting



Euromed – the future

- Increase the visibility of the Platform
- Increase cooperation with major Euromed stakeholder
- Increase the participation and cooperation of National Structures
 - European and Mediterranean Countries Participating in this cooperation
- Serve as a tool for young people to increase their participation



Euromed – the contacts

E-mail: info@euromedp.org

Web site: <http://www.euromedp.org>



Annex XIII

Youth Policy Studies

Euromed - Youth Programme

ANEX XIII

EUROMED YOUTH III

STUDIES ON YOUTH POLICIES IN MEDITERRANEAN PARTNER COUNTRIES

njep

Euromed - Youth Programme

WHY THESE STUDIES?

- ON EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S (DG EuropeAid) REQUEST - THUS AN RCBS CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATION TO PRODUCE STUDIES ON 'the evolution of the youth sector in the MEDA region and other funding systems of other donors working with the national youth authorities'.

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OBJECTIVES

- TO IDENTIFY THE REMIT OF EXISTING YOUTH POLICIES, LEGALISLATIONS AND STRUCTURES WHICH BENEFIT YOUNG PEOPLE
- TO UNDERSTAND THE ROLE AND WORK OF YOUTH NGOs AND OF OTHER RELEVANT ACTORS

Euromed - Youth Programme

THEMES

- Youth policy and legislation
- Young people's rights as citizens
- Challenges faced by young people
- Role and impact of non-formal education
- Place of the Euromed Youth Programme within the national youth policy
- Other youth support mechanisms

Euromed - Youth Programme

EXPERTS' PROFILE

- AT LEAST 5 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND YOUTH WORK
- EXPERIENCE OF THE EUROPEAN YOUTH PROGRAMMES
- EXPERIENCED IN RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
- FLUENT IN ENGLISH
- A KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Euromed - Youth Programme

SELECTION OF EXPERTS

- SEVEN (7) NOMINATED OUT OF 64 APPLICANTS
- FOUR (4) ASSIGNED TO A SINGLE COUNTRY:
EGYPT JORDAN SYRIA and TURKEY
- THREE (3) TO STUDY 2 COUNTRIES
MOROCCO/TUNISIA
ALGERIA/LEBANON
PALESTINE/ISRAEL

Annex XIII

Youth Policy Studies



Euromed - Youth Programme



The programme is funded by the European Union

THE METHODOLOGY

Research on Studies was carried out in two phases:

1. HOME-BASED DESK RESEARCH
2. LOCALLY BASED ACTIVE RESEARCH: INTERVIEWS/FOCUS GROUPS (relevant authorities, structures, experts and young people)




Euromed - Youth Programme




The programme is funded by the European Union

REPORTS' STRUCTURE

- Methodology and challenges
- Situation of youth
- Structural and institutional aspects of youth policy and legislation
- Youth associations and NGOs
- Other youth support mechanisms (international donors)
- Perceptions of relevant actors
- Conclusion



Euromed - Youth Programme




The programme is funded by the European Union

SOME OBSERVATIONS

- National youth policies exist in few of the studied countries
- Definition of youth: 15-25; 14-30; 13-18
- National directives, legislation, policies exist, at cross-sectoral level, to address most youth issues and priorities
- Non-formal education not a priority
- Euromed Youth Programme - a tool to promote youth work and non-formal education



Euromed - Youth Programme



The programme is funded by the European Union

OBSERVATIONS – Young People's Challenges

- Youth unemployment and housing
- Youth immigration
- Conflict of living within a patriarchal society and European influences
- Young women's position within society
- Deviant reactions – drug abuse, violence and riots
- A return to religion
- Lack of interest in politics and governments
- Lack of youth consultation
- Limited provision and resources for youth centres,
- Few trainers and trained youth leaders
- Limited recognition of youth work and volunteering



Euromed - Youth Programme



The programme is funded by the European Union

OUTCOMES

- 1000 copies to be produced of each of the 10 reports on the Youth Policy Studies
- One publication with all the 10 Executive Summaries - an overall analysis of the evolution of the youth sector and youth situation within the Mediterranean region

Annex XIV

Closing ceremony speech – EC Delegation in Jordan

Euromed Youth Programme Phase III (2005-2008) Closure ceremony of the Euromed Youth Conference

11 October 2008, Hôtel Le Royal

Cooperation between the Euro-Mediterranean partners does not and can not only concern governments and officials. Cooperation has been agreed in the principles of the Barcelona Process as an **inclusive process**, involving all agents of development, at political, economic and cultural levels. Only recently Youth has been considered as an **agent for change**, and not a passive recipient of resources. Young people can be active key players in the development of their respective society, creating links with other cultures.

If and only if we give them the chance and the choice, provided that we develop the sense of criticism and boost their imagination and creativity.

With the Barcelona Process, **mobility** and **intercultural dialogue** have been set up as major values to empower youth cooperation. Amongst several programmes designed to achieve these objectives (Tempus, Erasmus Mundus...), the Euro-Med Youth Programme has been a successful tool to include Youth issues under the agenda of EuroMed partners. A number of **concrete achievements** have been reached so far, particularly during the phase III of the Programme:

The creation of Euro-Med Youth Units in the 9 Partner Countries meant their ownership and leadership of the program. In Jordan, as well as regionally the Euro-Med Youth Unit has reached a **level of credibility and representativeness**. The invitation offered by the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly to the Youth Unit to attend their extraordinary session at the Dead Sea tomorrow [12 October] is a strong sign in that sense.

Youth became the very protagonist of the dialogue between the two sides of the Mediterranean for a better and reciprocal understanding and go beyond stereotypes and clichés.

Jordan has also played a **leading role** during the phase III of the Euro-Med Youth Programme. Particularly in 2008 Jordan has welcomed the Annual Meeting in April and held the “Inter-religious Dialogue” seminar in June. For the very first time, a Euro-Med Training on matters related to intercultural dialogue took place in a MEDA country. It was a successful bridge to discuss religious, spiritual and humanistic traditions, as well as promoting understanding and mutual respect. And today, Amman is welcoming the stakeholders of the Euro-Med Youth Programme not only to take stock of the experience gained during the phase III, but moreover to think about the near future.

What kind of **cooperation** to imagine for the **near future**? What are the values and means to be agreed together to ensure a **fruitful and peaceful interaction** for the Euro-Med youth? I am confident that this conference, allowing an exchange of ideas and proposals, will pursue the work that has already been achieved and will open into the phase IV of the Programme that is now under preparation.

***H.E. Mr Patrick Renaud
Ambassador/Head of Delegation
of the European Commission, Amman***



EuroMed Youth III Programme



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This programme is funded by
the European Union