

Youth Forum - EYE Macedonia

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Dear reader,

Youth Forum EYE, together with its partners in Macedonia, organizes youth exchanges and one training for the February deadline 2006. At the moment we are looking for partner organisations from the EU that will be interested in sending groups of young people and as well we are looking for applicant's organization who would like to apply for the Youth Exchanges in their national agencies for YOUTH program. We are also looking partners from SEE region.

Below in this document you will find short descriptions of the youth exchanges. The host organizations in Macedonia are different. There are only few projects that we will be hosting association. For more information please get in touch with us using the contacts listed above.

Macedonia as country has just got the status of candidate member for European Union. The country is in the process of changing the system and adjustment with the laws, regulations and standards of the European Union. Republic of Macedonia is parliamentary democracy. Our capital is Skopje (700,000 inhabitants). We have long history starting from Alexander the Great, passing through the Byzantium Empire, Turkish Empire, towards Yugoslavian federation in the 20th century and independent and on the way to EU, today. More about Macedonia you can find on Macedonia country profile (on our web/page) or even more about the history on www.historyofmacedonia.org

We are looking forward to present to you the experience called Macedonia!

Greetings from sunny Macedonia!

The team of Youth Forum EYE

The following is a short description of the Youth Exchanges In Republic of Macedonia

Time and venue for the projects: July 2006- August 2006. Venue is different from Ohrid, Struga, Vevchani, Mavrovo, Bitola and etc.

1

Project title: **“Catch the Moment”**

Place: Struga, Macedonia

Host organization in Macedonia: Youth Forum EYE

Participants: 5 countries (5 participants + 1 leader) = 30 participants (including the leaders)

Date: 2006 July (second half)

Term: 10 days

Short description: Youth exchange about photography and culture knowledge through photography. Young people from Macedonia and foreign countries will take the pictures in Struga and surrounding areas. They will group and will get some theme that they will work with. Themes will be: Nature, Culture, Religion and Youth. So, it will not be only simple shoot, but also learning about Macedonian Culture, discussion about Religions, Youth question, Nature and environment.

These groups will be mixed, so every subject could be observable with different approach, depending on individual and on culture he came from. They will write dairy about their impressions, with their comments, what is interesting, surprising for them, what they learn about Struga and Macedonia. They will be ask to share their experience in their country, that Macedonian youngsters could learn about foreign countries and cultures.

In the end of this project we'll make exhibition. We'll select the best pictures for make postcards or even photo album which could be like artistic tourist guide for Struga and surrounding.

Also project could have continuation in other foreign country.

2

Project title: **“Words and Colors”**

Place: Ohrid, Macedonia

Host organization in Macedonia: Youth Forum EYE

Participants: 4 countries

Date: 2006 July (second half)

Term: 10 days

This youth exchange focuses on the topic of Europe and the feelings that the young Europeans have towards the youngsters from other European Countries. With this we want to encourage young people, of all participating countries at this event, to think more about their place in the European Community and more importantly to express the way they perceive Europe, the European institutions and the process of unifying Europe trough art and discussions. All this will be done trough different arts.

European Citizenship – as a very important aspect connected to the future of all of the participants. One day they will be living in one country EUROPE and as one nation EUROPEAN; Showing and learning about their culture through presentation of wood-crafting, painting stones, making performance and etc is only a way of presenting the diversity of Europe.

Art – this is a very good manner in which youngsters can express their ideas, opinions, judgements, views, beliefs, attitude and estimations (also many more important feelings) related to European Citizenship.

3

Project title: **“Connecting Europe”**

Place: Struga, Macedonia

Host organization in Macedonia: Youth Forum EYE

Participants: 4 countries

Date: 2006 July (second half) August (first half)

Term: 10 days

Young people from Macedonia and other countries will gather and present their national songs. Further on the main aim is to learn different songs from different nations. On the end mixed groups of young people will present national songs of the countries in front of the local community. With this we would also bring closer Europe and the cultures around it.

Songs and music in general are the topics of this youth exchange. As music is a general bonding moment of all of the nations in Europe youngsters will learn that there is no point of being ashamed of knowing songs of other nations (traditional or modern ones). Moreover- it is very important to know this.

4

Project title: **ORO - Tradition, religion, spirit**

Place: Ohrid, Macedonia

Host organization in Macedonia: Fund for Youth Development

Participants: 4 countries

Date: 2006 July (second half) August (first half)

Term: 10 days

In this Youth Exchange five groups of young people from EU and SEE countries will teach each other on traditional folk dances from all of the countries where they come from. The dancing groups will be mixed so everyone will learn at least one traditional dance from all countries.

At the end of the Youth Exchange a public performance will be made in front of the local community where all mixed groups will perform the dances from all countries. We going to bring European culture closer to the young people and to the local community.

The theme of the project is folk-dances and importance of art and cultural heritage for young people. Through dancing traditional dances together youngsters will learn that there is no point of being ashamed about dancing it, moreover- it is very important to know this. Meeting different cultures they

will also learn a lot about intercultural communication, break some stereotypes and learn how to work together not looking at the nationality and differences.

5

Project title: **T'ga za Jug – Longing for South**

Place: Ohrid, Macedonia

Host organization in Macedonia: Fund for Youth Development

Participants: 4 countries

Date: 2006 August (second half)

Term: 10 days

The name is very important lyrics in Macedonian poetry and it is closely connected with poetry evenings in town of Struga.

In this project we will try to meet 4 groups of young people and through art and culture to contribute for raising the European awareness of our country and region. The programme of the youth exchange is created in so that each group will be represented and also will have the possibility to learn from each other. The participants will have the chance to learn about the cultures and also to see how music and dances is perceived in other communities than their own. With this project we will fight against stereotypes and promote European common identity.

Music and dances in general are the topics of this youth exchange. As music is a general bonding moment of all of the nations in Europe. We will try to art and culture to bring young people together, to break stereotypes and to build a common European awareness.

6

Project title: **Voices of Europe**

Place: Ohrid, Macedonia

Host organization in Macedonia: Youth Council of Vevcani

Participants: 4 countries

Date: 2006 July (second half) August (first half)

Term: 10 days

This project will allow youngsters from 4 different countries to participate in an activity where they will learn music and dances from each other. The programme of the youth exchange is created in such a manner that each group will be represented and also will have the possibility to learn from each other.

The participants will have the chance to learn about the cultures of different parts of Europe and also to see how music and dances is perceived in other communities than their own. Through this project their stereotypes will be minimized and they will see that Europe is one family "rich" in all cultural aspects.

Music and dances in general are the topics of this youth exchange. As music is a general bonding moment of all of the nations in Europe youngsters will learn that there is no point of being ashamed of knowing songs and dances of other nations (traditional or modern ones). Moreover- it is very important to know this.

Project title: **UPLOAD**

Place: Skopje, Macedonia

Host organization in Macedonia: Youth Council of Gazi Baba

Participants: n/a we need partners from EU and SEE region

Date: 2006 July (second half) August (first half)

Term: 8 days

The training is aimed at youth workers from different countries from Western and South East Europe.

This training should help activists of the associations that work with young people to learn about project management in the frame of the YOUTH programme as well as to learn methods of intercultural learning, social inclusion, fight against xenophobia and racism. They will be comparing different modalities of these phenomenon's as well different approaches to overcoming them.

Some more concrete objectives regarding the skills and professional development of the participants at this training course:

- *Empowering young people in the South East Europe with the comprehensive knowledge on the possibilities offered by the YOUTH Programme and project management.*

Deeper knowledge of the YOUTH programme and project management can be an essential part of the functioning of youth based Non Governmental Organisations that work in the South East Europe. The potential of these organisations is vast, but yet a small quantity of it is put in to work as a result of the lack of access to findings and informations.

- *Teaching Participants on the relevant topics of the functioning of the European Union.*

People from the South East Europe are often excluded of the educational process of the European Union, since their governments always set their priorities in another direction. Obtaining knowledge on the EU will increase the understanding of the principles upon which the YOUTH programme is based. This will increase the quality of the future proposed YOUTH Programme projects.

Furthermore, it will help them to recognize and identify them selves as European citizens.

- *Overcoming cultural, religious and national differences*

South East Europe is still a relatively unstable region, where the developments of the past are far from being forgotten. Therefore, organising this international Training Course with participants from all the countries of the region will lead towards peaceful reintegration and overcoming of the cultural, religious and national differences. We plan to achieve this goal trough involving mutual activities that will bring us up to a state where all the participants will cooperate among each other without prejudices.

- *Promotion of the YOUTH Programme*

All of the organisations at this Training Course are members of the European Youth Press so the possibility for presenting of the YOUTH Programme is considerable. Preparation of

participants for dissemination of info on the YOUTH Programme, as one of the most relevant supports for youth based organisation is one of the objectives of the training course.

The target group are youth activists from various associations whose main target group are young people. They should already have been involved in the national work in some way and have interest in spreading their work on international level. The idea is to build up an international working group or non formal network that will in the future organise and realize multilateral projects for young people.