

Euro-Med Youth Programme III : Meda countries are ready to start again !

The Euro-Med Youth Programme is a regional programme set up within the framework of the third chapter of the Barcelona Process entitled "Partnership in Social, Cultural and Human Affairs".

It promotes the mobility of young people and the understanding between peoples through three types of actions:

- Youth Exchanges;
- Voluntary Services;
- Support Measures.

Background

Euro-Med Youth I (1999-2001) and Euro-Med Youth II (2001-2004) were primarily run by the European Commission from the headquarters in Brussels. They were sub-delegated by the Directorate-General of EuropeAid to the YOUTH Unit of the DG Education and Culture (DG EAC) Euro-Med Youth III Programme, launched in October 2005 focuses on mobility, non-formal education and intercultural learning.

Its geographical scope comprises 35 countries: the 25 EU Member States (Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom)¹ and the 10 Mediterranean partner countries, signatories of the Barcelona Declaration (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey).

Current context

The novelty of this phase is the decentralised implementation of the programme, the aim being to reinforce the partnership between the European Union and the Mediterranean partner countries, to take action as closely as possible to the benefi-



ciaries and to adapt to the diversity of national systems and situation in the field of youth. Applicants (project leaders) from the Mediterranean partner countries will directly apply for grants to their own youth national authorities, now responsible through the Euro-Med Youth Unit (EMYU) for grant awarding and the overall management of the programme.

• **EuroMed Youth III**
is for **Meda NGOs**

• **Youth in Action (Action 3)**
is for **European NGOs**

Main actors

For the implementation of Euro-Med Youth III, the Euro-Med Youth Units (EMYU) of the Mediterranean partners will operate in collaboration with the following key actors:

The Regional Capacity Building and Support Unit (RCBS, located in INJEP, Marly-le-Roi, France) will provide institutional capacity building and coaching to the EMYU in relationship to their new role. It will also participate in the set up of the evaluation committees and to increase the visi-

bility and dissemination of the regional programme.

The Delegations of the European Commission in the respective Mediterranean partner countries are responsible to monitor the EMYU, in co-operation with the Regional Capacity Building and Support Unit (RCBS). The Delegation also participates in the evaluation committees of project proposals as an observer.

The EuropeAid Co-operation Office in Brussels will supervise the RCBS and is the final responsible for the programme. The EMYU will closely collaborate with the other parties involved with the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and the EU Youth in Action Programme:

- the National Agencies of the « Youth in Action Programme » in the EU Member States;
- the network of the European SALTO Resource Centres, particularly SALTO Euro-Med;
- the Euro-Med Youth Platform based in Malta;
- the Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the area of Youth ;



- the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures.

The funds for the Euro-Med Youth Programme are allocated from the MEDA programme, the financial instrument of the European Union for the implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

The overall objectives of the third phase of the Euro-Med Youth Programme are...

1. Fostering mutual understanding and intercultural dialogue among young people within the Euro-Mediterranean region.
2. Promoting young people's active citizenship and a sense of solidarity.
3. Enhancing the contribution of non-governmental youth organisations to civil society and democracy.
4. Contributing to the development of youth policy.

The specific objectives of the Programme are...

Promoting the practice of fundamental values such as, respect, tolerance, and dialogue among young people from different cultural backgrounds.

Combating prejudices and stereotypes that prevail across the Mediterranean and determine mutual perception.

Providing non-formal intercultural learning opportunities for young people.

Ensuring that opportunities for active participation are equally available to young men and women, and that gender balance is fostered in all actions.

Giving young people opportunities to take



an active part in the development of the society and to express their personal commitment.

Contributing to the development of non-governmental organisations in the field of youth and enhancing their capacity by fostering exchange of information and good practices at regional, sub-regional and national levels.

Enhancing the skills of young people including interpersonal skills, sense of initiative, creativity and solidarity.

Promoting the acquisition of new skills and exchange of best practices among youth and those responsible for youth structures and youth policies.

Developing sustainable partnerships and networks among youth organisations.

The thematic priorities are

A number of key areas are considered central for the development of the youth sector at the Euro-Mediterranean level. The Euro-Med Youth III Programme will fund projects that promote one or more of these thematic priorities:

- fighting against racism and xenophobia;
- active citizenship;
- gender equality;
- minority rights;
- heritage and environment protection.

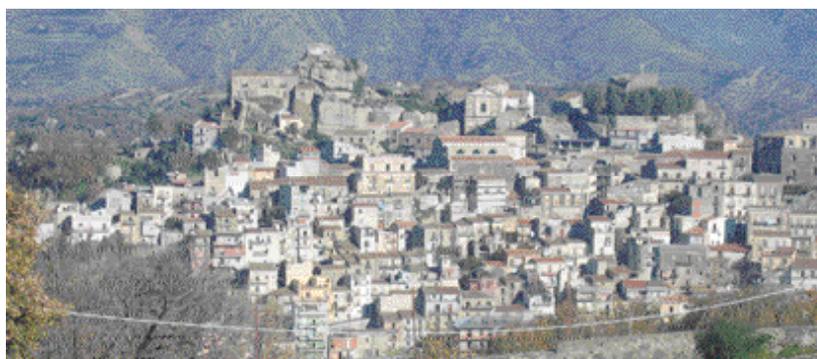
Gender balance and inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities will be promoted as crosscutting issues of the programme.

Current situation

Concerning the Mediterranean partner countries and their Euro-Med Youth Unit (EMYU) nine countries out of ten will participate to the Euro-Med Youth Programme III and they signed their contract until 2008. Unfortunately Egypt* refused to sign, which means they are not able to host activities. Hopefully these nine Euro-Med Youth Unit will be ready **to launch their first call for applicants on April the 1st for the deadline of June the 1st.**

As from 1st of January 2007 Romania and Bulgaria joined the European Union and became eligible for Euro-Med Youth III.

www.euromedyouth.net



BERNARD ABRIGNANI
SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed Coordinator
and RCBS Team Leader
abrignani@injep.fr