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PARTNERSHIP TRAINERS' FORUM 2002

INJEP, Marly-le-Roi, 14-16 November 2002

REPORT

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Partnership Agreement on European Youth Worker Training is a joint initiative of the European Commission and the Council of Europe. The Programme works with a growing number of trainers each year who participate primarily in the implementation of training courses as well as the development of publications. In order to provide an opportunity for the exchange of views, experiences and best practices, the Partnership Programme organises a Trainers' Forum each year. These events also serve as an occasion for peer review and feedback for the institutions supporting the Partnership.

Following the Bridges for Training event held in conjunction with the National Agencies of the YOUTH Programme in 2001, it was agreed to organise a Trainers' Forum in 2002 that would bring together trainers involved in the courses of the Partnership as well as those of the SALTO centres – the training programme of the European Commission. The meeting was hosted by INJEP, the French National Agency, near Paris. Invitations were sent out following consultations between the Partnership secretariat and the SALTO network.

A total of 19 trainers participated in the 2.5-day programme. The main objectives of the forum were as follows:

- To associate the trainers with the evaluation of the Partnership Programme and to take into account their experiences;
- To strengthen the communication and cooperation among the different partners concerned by the Partnership;
- To assess the impact of the Partnership and its activities on trainers;
- To provide an update and information on recent developments at the European level;
- To identify common issues and concerns for trainers.

During the course of the meeting, the following presentations were made:

- Objectives and future perspectives of the co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Commission (Peter Lauritzen, see details under point III.)

- Institutional update: Council of Europe (Rui Gomes)
- Institutional update: the SALTO network (Bernard Abrignani)
- Introduction to the Open Learning Community (Balázs Hidvéghi)
- Introduction to the Trainers Online for Youth database (Tony Geudens)

II. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Trainers' Forum should primarily discuss content issues, like European Citizenship and intercultural learning.
- One of the aims of the Forum should be to create an opportunity for reflection and exchange of experiences between trainers who have not worked together before. This year's Forum is seen as a good step in this direction.
- The further educational development of trainers could be an important mission for the Partnership Trainers' Forum.
- More learning could take place in an open-space framework during the Trainers' Forum.
- The focus and exact purpose of the meeting should be clearer.
- Consider holding thematic fora, e.g. a trainers' forum on e-learning and other subjects of relevance and interest.
- Complete the internet cycle, make and promote better use of the tools that are already available.
- Implement proposals made about T-Kits, Coyote, and other elements of the Partnership Programme.
- Advance and widen the debate on quality and training.
- Discussions should take place between trainers and professionals about certain new methods, pedagogical tendencies and ways of learning such as the use of IT in training youth.
- Create a fully European perspective.
- Discussion should take place on the issues of transferability and multiplication: at what levels do these take place, and with what limitations.

III. OBJECTIVES AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES OF THE PARTNERSHIP

Peter Lauritzen, Head of Department in the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe summarised the political objectives of the Partnership and its future perspectives. He emphasised that at the recent Ministers' Conference in Thessalonica, Greece, there was strong support for the continuation of co-operation between the two institutions. The Partnership in training-youth is going to be continued and other partnerships in the fields of *Euro-Mediterranean Youth Work* and *Youth Research* will be established. The two institutions take

advantage of the similarities and differences between them in order to create a wider choice of training offers in Europe. By now, there is a wide recognition of the educational benefit that co-operative programmes such as the Partnership on European Youth Worker Training can offer.

As far as the Commission's programmes are concerned, there is a large-scale consultation process that has been launched for the next generation of programmes. The stocktaking will also involve an external evaluation of the Partnership Programme during early 2003. It is to be noted that when we refer to the European Union, we should, in fact, begin thinking about a Europe of 25 countries – this emerging reality needs to be taken into account when discussing and designing new youth programmes everywhere.

Some of the areas and focuses of work that have been reinforced as priority areas are:

- human rights education;
- intercultural learning and inter-religious work;
- participation, access and inclusion;
- youth policy development research;
- youth work and non-formal education.

It is to be underlined that all these above have a strong *European Citizenship* aspect, thus linking them closely with the aims of the Partnership Programme.

IV. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS ON THE EVALUATION OF PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES

1. *Training courses* (Advanced Training for Trainers in Europe – ATTE; European Citizenship in Youth Work, SALTO courses)

- It is important to create the link between the course contents and the local reality of youth workers and youth organisations.
- There is a lot of interest in the ATTE course.
- It is acknowledged that the SALTO training courses are becoming institutionalised.
- It is good to involve National Agencies in the Partnership training courses. At the same time, attention should be given to the use of participants as human resources in a more strategic and planned way.
- The necessary time should be allocated to the thorough evaluation of the Partnership pilot training courses when they end in 2003. This could also mean that the next Partnership in 2004 may begin with a 6-8 month period of review before the beginning of new courses.
- Attention should be paid to the results of projects.
- SALTO training course reports are seen more as manuals.
- A certain degree of repetition can be found in various reports.

2. *Publications* (Coyote, T-Kits)

- The T-Kits are seen as valuable and user-friendly publications.
- T-Kits should be available online as well as in printed form.
- T-Kits could be introduced and promoted at National Agencies, youth organisations, etc.
- T-Kits are currently available in print and downloadable (PDF) format. It should be explored whether the creation of interactive internet versions could be considered.

- T-Kit authors' fees should be increased.
- The Partnership policy about T-Kit translations should be made more visible on the web-site. Also, a targeted mailing should be organised to National Agencies and other youth organisations, encouraging them to translate T-Kits.
- The Coyote magazine should become more frequent, there are often delays in its publication.
- Coyote distribution should be further increased.
- The magazine so far has had a rather narrow focus on training and trainers, its focus should be widened.
- Cross-reference when reading the magazine is difficult, this should be improved.
- It should be reviewed whether the visual image of the magazine ("Spiffy") and its style of printing correspond to the aspirations of the Partnership.
- The differences between various sections within the magazine are not always clear enough.
- There should be an announcement on the Partnership web-site as well as in the printed magazine of the main content themes of the upcoming issue.

3. *Web-site (training-youth.net)*

- There are nice and professional parts on the site, but also less easy-to-navigate parts. The overall design could be developed.
- The web-site in its current form targets various groups (trainers, youth workers, visitors, etc.)
- Some of the terms and abbreviations used on the web-site are difficult for visitors and newcomers to understand.
- Consider creating 3 main parts of the web-site:
 - o Training
 - o Publications
 - o Political framework
- There is some out-dated information that should be deleted / updated, and some former training course reports are missing.
- Some of the interactive features offered on the web-site seem under-used. It should be explored how the use of these tools could be promoted and encouraged.

4. *Trainers Online for Youth (TOY at salto-youth.net/toy)*

- TOY offers an opportunity to develop an online database of youth trainers.
- Trainers will be contacted in order to invite them to enter their data into the database.
- The TOY will soon be launched with an understanding that further development and refinement will take place continually.
- The choices provided under “Training skills” include very different categories listed under the same heading. This part should be further developed since in its current form it limits trainers’ choices of describing their experiences and skills.

5. *Open Learning Community (OLC at training-youth.net/olc_atte.htm)*

- This is one of the innovative features of the ATTE course.
- The OLC (www.training-youth.net/olc_ATTE.htm) has a Visitors area and a Team-Participants (restricted) area.
- Its purpose is to facilitate communication and learning within ATTE. It contains several key course documents.
- The *Discussion Forum* and the *Chat* are two principal functions offered to the ATTE participants and team on the OLC. Their use has so far been more limited than expected: this is to be discussed and evaluated as the course enters its second year.
- The OLC will also be evaluated in general at the end of the course, in order to see to what extent it has been a useful tool.
- The OLC brings *e-learning* into the ATTE course as a new feature. The OLC evaluation will also be an evaluation of the role e-learning can play within the framework of a 2-year advanced training for trainers course.

6. *Trainers’ needs*

- It is important to continue taking a “pan-European” approach to training. This is seen as a real need for trainers. The latest Euro-barometer surveys showed that there is a strong need for intercultural youth work.
- Trainers need to remain open towards various sub-cultures besides the mainstream since grass-roots movements often have a strong citizenship dimension.
- The discussion on quality criteria and recognition are seen as increasingly relevant topics for discussion.
- The use and limits of e-learning is a subject matter that deserves more attention and discussion. Experience shows that a lot is available but not always used.
- Formal and non-formal education are complimentary, and this needs to be emphasised in youth training as well.
- Intercultural learning should be better integrated into training courses.
- Main decisions made by the Technical Working Party concerning the programme of the Partnership should be communicated (e.g. an executive summary of main decisions could be available at the web-site).

V. EVALUATION OF THE MEETING

- It needs to be clearly communicated what the exact profile of the Trainers' Forum is.
- The number of participants should ideally increase, and more background material should be sent out prior to the meeting.
- It is mutually beneficial to bring together trainers who have not worked together or in the same network before, and create an opportunity for reflection and exchange of experiences.
- It was felt necessary to have a representative of the European Commission present at such meetings in the future.
- It was seen necessary to create a link and channel of communication between the educational and the political spheres: this meeting should fulfil that role.

APPENDIX 1:

THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROGRAMME PRIORITIES FOR 2003-2005

Youth Programme 2003-2005

Youth building peace and intercultural dialogue	Youth promoting human rights and social cohesion	Youth participation and democratic citizenship
Youth policy development and research		
Quality development and support measures		

APPENDIX 2: SALTO & TRAINERS ONLINE FOR YOUTH (TOY)

www.SALTO-YOUTH.net

SALTO-YOUTH stands for Support for Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities within the YOUTH programme. It tries to enhance the quality of different types of international mobility projects (mainly but not exclusively organised within the frame of the YOUTH programme). There is a SALTO centre in Belgium, UK, France and Germany. SALTO-YOUTH is a relatively new player in the European youth and training field (set up in September 2000) and is part of the European Commission's Training Strategy, alongside the Partnership on Training and Youth. Both organise training-related activities and develop specific tools in the youth field, which should be complementary.

Who does what?

The Partnership organises training courses on the issues common to the Council of Europe and the European Commission, such as European Citizenship. SALTO additionally offers **training courses** in priority topics of the European Commission: Inclusion, Anti-Racism, EuroMed cooperation, etc.

For more information on training courses, please visit www.salto-youth.net/courses/.

The Partnership develops very useful training manuals: the T-Kits. SALTO additionally collects and spreads **training resources** used in the SALTO courses and stemming from the network of National Agencies of the YOUTH programme. SALTO provides a central '**Toolbox**' containing these different resources at www.salto-youth.net/toolbox/.

The Partnership produces an educational magazine with in-depth articles about training issues. SALTO complements this with a **Newsletter** and **Newsflash** announcing different training offers and resources. You can easily subscribe and unsubscribe online via www.salto-youth.net/newsletter/.

SALTO-YOUTH also has created a **European Training Calendar** where youth workers and young people in Europe can browse through training offers not only from SALTO and the Partnership, but also from the European Youth Centres (EYCs), the Youth Forum and training activities taking place within the YOUTH programme. Key partners such as the National Agencies, the EYCs and the Youth Forum have access to enter new courses at: www.salto-youth.net/training/.

Last but not least, SALTO-YOUTH has developed an online database for trainers, called **TOY-Trainers Online for Youth**. Trainers can receive a TOY login and password to enter their profile online (with contact details, training specialities and some references). The TOY-administrator checks the minimum criteria before a trainer is activated and goes online. Training organisers can then search this TOY database to find the most appropriate trainer for their activity. For trainers, the TOY is a chance to promote themselves online at www.salto-youth.net/toy/. The TOY is not a closed club: new trainers can apply via www.salto-youth.net/newtoy/.

SALTO and the Partnership are currently negotiating how to create links between the different tools and products they are developing in order to increase the coherence and access to these new tools.

Besides the practical tools, SALTO is also involved in the political level in the Partnership, the Training Strategy and within the network of National Agencies of the YOUTH programme. More info is available at www.salto-youth.net or salto-be@salto-youth.net

APPENDIX 3: A NEW GENERATION OF PROGRAMMES OF THE COMMISSION

The 6th European Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth took place in Thessalonica, Greece 7-9 November 2002. The Conference was organised by the Council of Europe. The European Commission underlined in its message to the Conference that the Council of Europe is a forerunner actor in the field of youth policy, and that it is of great importance to maintain this role. Within the work of the European Commission there is a new impetus following the launch of the White Paper. These two aspects should encourage a strengthened co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the following areas:

- The recognition of non-formal education;
- Better understanding of youth (knowledge, research);
- The relation to neighbours in the enlarged Europe.

A new generation of Programmes is being prepared by the Commission which will replace the existing Socrates, Tempus, Leonardo da Vinci and Youth programmes when they end in 2006. A large-scale public consultation of civil society on the development of these new European programmes takes place from 4 November 2002 to 28 February 2003. The consultation is designed to give the Commission a full picture of the needs, ambitions and wishes of those involved in education, training and youth at European level. The results of the consultation will feed into the legislative proposals for new programmes that the Commission will prepare. The Consultation documents can be downloaded at:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/newprogconsult/index.html>

APPENDIX 4: AGENDA

Thursday, 14 November

Morning:

Arrivals and registration of participants

12:30 *Lunch*

14:00 Welcome and opening of the Forum

Introduction of participants

Presentation of the objectives and programme of the meeting

15:00 Objectives of the Partnership and future perspectives for co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Commission

Peter Lauritzen, Head of Department for Education, Training, Research and Communication, Council of Europe

15:45 *Pause*

16:15 Sharing experiences and practice of training products and offers

in working groups on 2 main areas:

- Publications and Internet sites (T-Kits, Coyote, Course reports, Internet sites)
- Training offers (ATTE, European Citizenship, SALTO trainings)

Each (sub-) group should deal with the following questions:

1. Introduction of participants (functions, work as trainer, etc);
2. Areas of concern – or challenges – faced as a trainer in Europe today;
3. Usage that they make/made of the products and offers of the Partnership and SALTO centres (do they use it? How? In which capacity? Where?...);
4. Dilemmas encountered and priorities adopted in the process of designing the products or trainings – and in using them: what was left out? Why some themes and not others, etc.;
5. Remaining questions or challenges encountered in the practice and usage of the products and training.

NB: Each group is expected to provide a brief feedback on the last question – on Friday morning.

18:30 Closing of the groups and end of the working day

19:00 *Dinner*

Friday, 15 November

09:30 Opening and programme of the day

Feed-back from the working groups on Thursday afternoon

10:00 Feed-back for the evaluation of the Partnership elements:

1. T-Kits
2. Coyote
3. ATTE
4. European Citizenship
5. Internet site

11:00 *Pause*

11:30 Continuation and conclusion of the working groups

12:30 *Lunch*

14:30 Introducing the SALTO web projects and TOY (Tony Geudens)

15:30 *Pause*

16:00 Presentation of the feed-back from the morning's groups

17:00 End of the day

Evening in Paris (optional)

Saturday, 16 November

09:30 Opening and programme of the day

09:40 Presentation of ATTE's Open Learning Community
(Paul Kloosterman, Balázs Hidvéghi)

10:00 Future perspectives:

- In SALTO (Tony Geudens)
- In the Council of Europe (Rui Gomes)
- In the European Commission (Bernard Abrignani)

10:45 *Pause*

11:00 Trainers needs and proposals for the future

12:30 *Lunch*

14:30 Reports of the groups

15:30 Evaluation (including proposals for the programme and format of future trainers' fora)

16:45 Conclusions and closing of the forum

17:00 End of the formal programme

20:00 *Intercultural dinner and party*

Sunday, 17 November

Departures

APPENDIX 5: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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