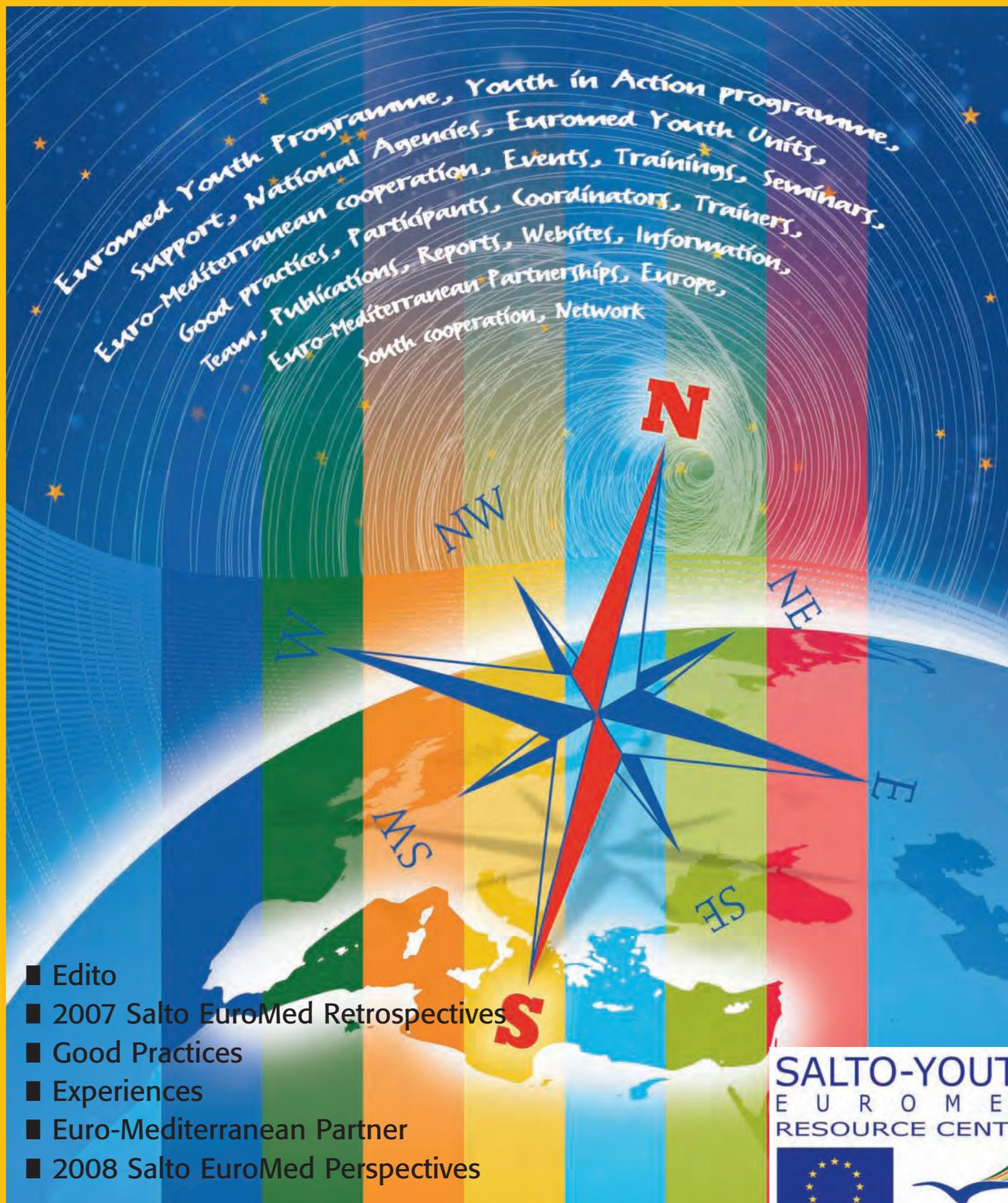


Meet'In EuroMed

SALTO YOUTH EUROMED MAGAZINE

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SALTO-YOUTH
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Education and Culture

Edito



Akdeniz University is a young University that is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. For this reason, a meeting with the title "Youth in action - TOOL FAIR" has a deeper meaning for us as a gathering together of young projects and ideas.

We have 21,000 students in more than 200 different programmes in 30 different academic schools in our university. We are striving to create a student-centred, interactive, problem-solving-oriented system of education and to further this idea we have just established a centre for excellence in education.

We are also active participants in the European higher education area and attach particular importance to the ideal of mobility between European universities. The togetherness generated by the Erasmus programme is not only a training activity but also an expression of cultural exchange.

As such, it plays a vital role in promoting diversity, friendship and peace for our region.

Salto-Youth EuroMed Resource Centre has had extensive experience in implementing important events that bring both sides of the Mediterranean sea closer. During the Middle-Ages, the Mediterranean Sea was a common space for civilisations and communities that shared trade and cultures, beliefs and values, where kingdoms and states - going one step beyond political or economic interests - experienced the richness of diversity and intercultural awareness... and this is once again the challenge facing the Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation.

Akdeniz University has been working closely with the Turkish National Agency since 2003 as a pilot University in the Erasmus programme. This cooperation has also led to other programmes such as Youth in Action and the Euro Med Youth Programme. Such a partnership is of great importance as it brings together society and science, formal and non-formal education, etc. This is extremely important as they nourish each other.

On behalf of Akdeniz University I am delighted to host such an eminent gathering in Turkey and as the Rector of the University I would like to say that our University is open to such special events.

Besides being home to the university of which we are so proud, Antalya, thanks to its location on the Mediterranean coast, is also the leading tourist destination in the region. With its cultural history and natural beauty, it is a very attractive place in which to organise all kinds of youth activities.

Our central campus area is ideally placed for meetings of this kind and we are looking forward to establishing a Euromed Youth Centre, which will allow us to host many more similar activities in the future.

Finally, I would like to express my most sincere thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to organise this event. I offer my heartfelt gratitude to all the participants for their contribution to youth activities and training in south-east Europe and the Mediterranean region. I hope you all enjoyed your time in Antalya and had a pleasant, fruitful meeting.

Moreover, this cooperation between the Salto-Youth Euromed Resource Centre - Turkish NA and Akdeniz University will continue by hosting international training sessions, contributing to the Euromed Research field and establishing a Euromed Youth Centre in the future.

Best regards

PROF. DR. MUSTAFA AKAYDIN



AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY

■ Na's point of view



EuroMed ship sailing from the Mediterranean to the Baltic Sea

Denmark and Finland came up with the idea of creating a contact-making seminar concentrating on voluntary service. The negative publicity caused by a certain cartoon in Denmark was the reason why Denmark proposed to host the seminar - hoping that fortune would favour the brave, as the phrase goes.

The preparations started here in Finland with a EuroMed information day in April, which provided an up-date on Euro-Mediterranean co-operation and on the EU Neighbourhood Policy.

After this, the planning for the contact-making seminar was stepped up and the four Finnish participants were selected during the summer. A preparatory meeting was held a couple of days before heading for Copenhagen. From the NA's point of view, it was a very good idea to meet up before the actual seminar began. Firstly, it was an occasion to learn the basic elements of the EuroMed Youth III programme and secondly, it was a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other and build team spirit. I am sure the Finnish participants will agree with me on this.

The seminar itself was a success, due to the enthusiasm of all the participants. It was a pleasure to collaborate with the SALTO EuroMed Resource Centre, the Danish and Swedish National Agencies and the trainers. Cultural differences also came out in many ways during the seminar - starting with the fact that most of the Nordic participants were female and most of the participants coming from the MEDA countries were male! Despite the differences (or maybe thanks to them?), the seminar was incredibly useful and informative. Many taboo topics were discussed openly and we even had a couple of cultural confrontations.

I personally found this really interesting and believe it could be of help when seminar participants have to face similar situations in youth projects.

Having read the participants' feedback, I have the impression that the organisers were not the only ones who were pleased with the seminar results. I also believe that we all now have a common objective: to transform project plans into something more concrete. The Finnish National Agency is going to support this by creating a national network for people interested in EuroMed co-operation. The network will serve as a forum for sharing experiences and for peer support.

Hopefully this way a benign wind will blow to help the EuroMed ship to continue sailing the Baltic Sea.



Once upon a time in a TCP meeting in Bonn, two wise ladies, one from the Danish and the other from the Finnish National Agency, started to chat about cooperation with MEDA countries... or rather the lack of it in northern Europe! They noticed they had very similar thoughts on the subject. One common observation was that co-operation between Europe and the MEDA countries had always remained very much within the Mediterranean Sea region, whereas the Nordics tend to stay around the Baltic Sea.

Although co-operation between countries located around one common sea is very natural and dates far back in history, it seemed like it was about time to bring these two sea regions closer together. There have been some projects in the past, but not enough to create long-lasting links and solid partnerships between southern Mediterranean and Nordic partners. The gap between the end of the EuroMed Youth II and the start of the EuroMed Youth III was a setback to many previously started partnerships. The feeling in the north was that we should organise something to enable new partnerships to be set up and develop under favourable conditions.



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Training Seminar "Place and Role of Minorities in the Euromed Context: Ethnic, Linguistic & Religious"



When the SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed Resource Centre sent out a call for trainers for courses and seminars in its 2007 calendar, I immediately starting working on the seminar entitled "Place and Role of Minorities in the Euromed Context: Ethnic, Linguistic & Religious", which had already attracted my attention. I really wanted to be one of the trainers for this seminar as I felt I had many things to contribute and share with participants as someone coming from a religious minority in Turkey. In Europe, when we see the international conventions on minorities' rights signed and ratified by European and Mediterranean countries, we can easily justify these kinds of seminars as a way to enrich the knowledge of youth workers and leaders working with minorities. This training seminar indeed raised awareness of the other cultures, languages and religions with which we live via the sharing of experiences with others.

The training course was very special because the team of trainers and the reporter came from different minority groups in their own countries. Zuriñe Arruza, the coordinator of the training seminar, represented a linguistic minority; Tamara, the reporter, represented an ethnic minority and Justine and I represented religious minorities. Participants was thus immediately aware of the richness of the training seminar. We also had a really diverse group of participants who came from different backgrounds and have to deal with different challenges and problems in their daily lives due to being part of a minority in their own countries. It was, however, a pity that

we had no Spanish participants, given the location of the seminar.

Katarzyna, a participant from Poland, summed up this diversity very well when she wrote: "The training seminar looked at really everything related to minorities and we had many members of different minorities and the Basque culture as a framework. For the first time in my life, I met a Druze and an Alevi, along with people dealing with Roma people in Jordan. Even from a linguistic point of view, we were a melting pot with English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Basque, etc. Coming as I do from a monolithic country in terms of ethnic and religious structure, this experience very quite unique for me".

The core goal of this seminar was the sharing of experiences and realities about minorities in the countries involved in the training seminar. Moreover, as SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed RC training courses always seek to use the location of a seminar as (an experiential) learning experience, Bilbao helped us to put a special focus on linguistic and ethnic minorities. This training seminar increased participants' knowledge of the situation of minorities in the EuroMed context. Once they had learned more about the EuroMed YOUTH Programme III, participants started to work on seven concrete projects within the EuroMed framework focus on the topic of minorities. Some of the projects developed in the training seminar also focused on the conflict management skills that are required when dealing with the issue of minorities, because participants were examining the problems and conflicts generated by majority-minority relations.

Ramadan was another potential learning opportunity we had during this training seminar. Although the training seminar took place during Ramadan, it was not very visible

because just two people were fasting. Consequently, the participants did not pay it much attention although it was mentioned during the training session by the team of the trainers. I think it would have had a much greater impact if the seminar had been held in one of the Muslim countries.

I learnt a lot about my country in terms of minorities while preparing for this course as a trainer. I did not know, for example, that there were 47 ethnic minorities in Turkey! When you want to learn more about minorities in your own country, I recommend starting with history rather than with current issues or conflicts. As a result of this preparation, I am now more concerned about minorities' rights. I think people are happy as long as they are free to have their own cultures and traditions and they are allowed to sing their own songs in their own languages; people are peaceful and safe as long as they are able to practise their religions and hold beliefs freely. Forbidding or preventing the above and justifying actions by saying minorities are dangerous damages their self-belief and destroys their identify. Whenever our neighbours or friends are uneasy and unhappy, we should feel responsible for this and/or see if we have in any way caused this unease. My belief system promotes tolerance, respect and peace; we should therefore perceive our differences as a source of wealth and enjoy them.



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International Conference: "EU Neighbourhood Policy and migrations"

Role of YIA and Euromed Youth III programmes



An international conference took place in Tenerife from 27 November to 2 December on the theme "European Good Neighbourhood Policy and Migration" in partnership with Salto Euromed, the Spanish Youth in Action agency and the Canary Islands government.

To illustrate the importance of this topic, I would like to begin by quoting the Moroccan writer Tahar Ben Jelloun, who writes in French, from an article he published in the 250th issue of **Le Monde de l'éducation** entitled "The lights of Tarifa": « When I was small, I used to go up on the terrace of our house in the Marshan district in Tangiers to look at the lights on the Spanish coastline. They glowed as if they were calling to me, inviting me to join them on the other side. Europe was over there, separated from Morocco by a mere 14 kilometres. (...) I don't know why, but we imagined Europe as a sort of dream world, more advanced, richer, freer. Europe has always acted as a beacon for jobless young people, ready to risk their lives to emigrate. Europe has always subjugated us, tempting

and frightening at the same time. (...) It was the Europe that had colonised us and grabbed a share of the wealth to be found in the Mediterranean region. (...) Today, I see Europe differently, mainly because I know it better now than when it was just a dream. (...) This Europe is more preoccupied by its immediate needs than by developing a far-reaching and generous vision. It's happy to open up its borders to the East, but not to the South. (...) Immigration, whether legal or illegal, is likely to get worse if Europe continues to turn its back on the Maghreb region (...).

The physical closeness, the possibility of a Mediterranean communion, the multiplicity of the images that filter into Maghreb sitting rooms via satellite, has conditioned the mentality and imaginations of its young people. (...) The end of this millennium and the beginning of the next will be accompanied by waves of young people on the move who will not be stopped by brute force.

We need to take that thought on board and work with Southern countries, so that people living in poverty will no longer have any reason to overwhelm the barriers set

up by Europe, which is capable of cultivating something better than fear and heart-break». Tahar Ben Jelloun.

This extract from Tahar Ben Jelloun well illustrates both the topic and the stakes involved in the conference, which was attended by many organisations, associations, NGOs and other institutions from EU, Mediterranean, Caucasian and Eastern European countries. There was a strong accent on both the international and multi-cultural dimensions. In addition to youth associations, the conference organisers invited specialists, speakers and field workers to ensure that the work accomplished would have a mix of influences, be a forum for exchanges and information on the current realities of immigration and neighbourhood relationships between Europe and Partner Mediterranean countries.

The timing was perfect. The immigration issue, particularly of young people towards European countries, is both extremely serious and topical. Indeed, immigration, and more specifically the « clandestine » variety, has dominated ties between European countries and those on the southern shores of the Mediterranean for

■ Participants' point of view



many years. The seemingly never-ending stream of rickety boats that are washed up on beaches in the Canaries or in the southern Italian islands are a constant reminder of the terrible cost in human lives. Many young people from Africa and from the Maghreb board these floating coffins, determined to reach the European Eldorado. Forced to leave their countries by poverty, manipulated by networks of unscrupulous human traffickers and convinced by their empty promises, most of these "callacos" (to use the Spanish word) die of hunger and thirst during the trip. Those who do make it ashore alive are often either physically or mentally broken.

The workshops, exchanges, discussions and field trips organised during the conference made attendees more aware of the stakes involved and better equipped to assess the weight of the immigration issue in neighbourhood relations between European and southern countries.

The conference focused on three major points:

Firstly, the urgency of generating **real cooperation projects between youth organisations in Europe and the Mediterranean** that could be used to imagine and design human solutions to this tragic state of affairs. All those present realised the necessity of building concrete projects in the youth field with precise objectives and based on the values of mutual respect, shared knowledge and active solidarity. To signpost the road, the organisers made sure participants were informed on the different youth measures and programmes implemented by the European Union to enable organisations working with young people to create dynamic cooperative projects that could provide answers to the many different situations faced by young people.

Secondly, **greater awareness of the need to set up information and sensitisation campaigns on the risks and dangers of illegal immigration** targeting young people in southern countries. The presentations and speeches made during the conference highlighted the fact that many young people are living in very difficult circumstances, often surrounded by silence and ignorance while at the same time trying to

build an identity and a future, all the time hovering between fatality and utopia. Young candidates for illegal immigration generally come from the groups that feel the most excluded, the farthest from decision-making centres, who are often seen as being « strange and threatening» but who in fact have no access to any form of expression.

Thirdly, **the necessity to promote and situate correctly the role of young people in the European Neighbourhood** process between European countries and those on the other side of the Mediterranean and more specifically to encourage their participation in cooperation projects, since they are both the actors and the subjects of the process. This requires their involvement as citizens in new projects based on the values of respect, education on citizenship and human rights, solidarity and sharing.

The conference took place at a time when Europe has become a human entity, an economic and geographical reality, while some southern countries are still struggling with numerous issues linked to economic development and the non-participation of young people in the civil society.

One of the objectives of the conference was **to make participants aware of the danger** lurking at the door, which is that young people will just «turn off »from life in their society and communities. We have already seen this in different places. Many young people no longer believe they have any role to play in their societies. More and more of them are therefore only too ready to risk their lives to get to the northern side of the Mediterranean and the borders of Eastern Europe, illegally or otherwise, in search of an imagined better life.

The different topics looked at during the conference painted an objective and real picture of the neighbourhood relationships that Europe has with its neighbours. This picture again demonstrates, although it was hardly necessary, that today's **young people are living in a period of accelerated globalisation**. They have to find their path in a world that is in a process of radical and daily change. This is important to know, since young people are often

presented as the demographic component that will either build or break tomorrow's societies. Many young people have the impression that **they are « no lifers »**, since they have been abandoned by the education system, left to fend for themselves in areas living in crisis and are out of step with the social, cultural and economic life of their country.

All these questions were looked at during the Tenerife conference. During the workshop, participants were able to discuss possible solutions and begin discussions on possible exchanges and cooperation projects between European youth organisations and those in the Mediterranean region. **This participative approach facilitated reflection on the future projects needed in the field** and to come up with practical recommendations on the issues discussed during the conference. It became clear that relations between youth organisations and local governments were not the same on both sides of the Mediterranean. In addition, some States have set up policies to deal with the illegal immigration of young people while others have not. When they exist, such policies can be used as a basis for cooperation projects.

At the end of the conference, several attendees gave a brief outline of future cooperation projects. The implementation of such projects is a way of concretely setting the process in motion so that many of the initiatives required to stimulate, boost and promote a really effective « neighbourhood policy» can be brought to life.

Taking the initiative in this way will, I believe, facilitate the emergence of an area of cooperation that will allow many young people to better assume their role as future citizens and necessary players in the future of their societies.



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“Inter-religious Dialogue: Mediterranean, Caucasian and European contexts”

When I was asked to write an article on the “Inter-religious Dialogue in the Mediterranean, Caucasian and European contexts” seminar it was like a dream come true for me. My pen sped across the page, happy to relive the wonderful memories I have of this seminar.

Why did I choose the training session on Inter-religious Dialogue?

When I asked my heart this question, it immediately quickened with joy – rather like a whirling sufi in his white dress – before answering: « I kept beating thousands and thousands of times just to have the opportunity to share all the thoughts I have had on religions. I believe, as Jibran Khalil Jibran put it so well, that “if we looked more closely at religions, we would conclude by saying there is only one”. I've read the Koran, the Bible, the Gospels, the Baghavad Gita, Vedic verses and Sutras verses only to realise that they all vehicle the same notion of a SINGLE, LOVING AND LOVED GOD, in whose name, unfortunately, so made conflicts and wars have been waged.



Nowadays, religion is a taboo subject. We can talk about economics, culture and many other subjects and still be friends, but discussions on religion often end in conflict. Consequently, everyone prefers to keep their religious opinions to themselves. However, the absence of any inter-religious

dialogue is the source of many evils. People are afraid of what is hidden, which is why I believe that demystifying religion, making it accessible and understandable to as many people as possible, can be the beginning of a solution.

Seminar

My personal experience

We met during the month of Ramadhan in Istanbul, on the splendid Bosphorus with its “kôprü”, bridges that resembled two arms stretching between Europe and Asia.

The atmosphere was warm and convivial. Attendees had come from Eastern and Western Europe, from the shores of the Mediterranean and from the Caucasus, thus representing a wide range of cultural and religious diversity. We were joined later on by Mother Theresa, Gandhi and Amma in the form of a theatre simulation to pass on their amazing message of tolerance and brotherhood.

Workshops

What does religion mean to you?

In our first workshop, we were asked to say what religion meant to us. Then we had to

represent this feeling by an object. The thoughts of the group were thus symbolised by a rope, a rosary, a prayer mat, a stethoscope and a candle.

Then we tried to materialise Dialogue in our discussion circle and through “street games”.

Our discussion circles enabled us to first elaborate on our sense of Dialogue on the topics proposed before moving the discussion on to what made us different and what brought us together. These sessions were rounded out by “street games” in which we had to interview people in the street on their conception of Dialogue, which in turn enhanced our own.



To verify what we thought we already knew about individual religions, we played a question and answer game.



■ Participants' point of view



Time to visit

Istanbul is a city where people of different confessions have lived side-by-side for centuries, with their practices and customs, and still continue to do so. In Istanbul you find Catholic, Orthodox, Armenian and Protestant churches, along with synagogues and mosques.

We had the pleasure of discovering Hagia Sofia, the famous Cathedral-Mosque, a shared place of worship for both Islam and Christianity. A fresco representing Jesus Christ was beside a calligraphy written by the prophet Mohammed and their joined hands symbolised the idea that such a union is possible.

Whirling Dervishes who we watched spinning in their coloured robes in front of us as part of the Sema ceremony, invented by Mevlana Rumi to celebrate the glory and love of God.

Our seminar and the month of Ramadhan Fasting and Souhour

The seminar took place during the month of Ramadhan and more specifically the Aïd (end of fast) celebration. The group was made up of a majority of Muslims and Christians. The Muslims got up at dawn on the first day to take part in the Souhour (the meal eaten after sunset). On the second day, my Italian friend joined us before deci-

ted my group had no children of their own and were delighted to receive us on the last day of the holy month. When it was time for « Iftar » (the hour when the fast ends), the man of the house suggested that everyone say a prayer in his own language. I'm sure you can imagine how moving it was to hear everyone thanking the Lord in his own language and in his own way. The man of the house was a sunnite, so he led us through the sunset prayer. Then he suggested we rejoin his family and I discovered the « alevi » community, which is a branch of Islam influenced by Sufism and some pre-Islamic beliefs. Despite being a Muslim myself, I had never heard of this community and had to face up to the fact that I was an example of the lack of in-depth knowledge many of us have, even when we belong to the same religion.

This seminar was simply magical, a dream come true for me. However, a single person's subjective reaction is not enough as an evaluation of a seminar. The real test is the results it produces. Myself and some other members of the group have therefore decided to launch a project to pass on what we learned during the seminar to others.

We were hoping to submit our project to the Lebanese Euromed Youth Unit but unfortunately the call for projects had already closed. For this reason, we are looking for European partners to enable us to implement our project. I promise to tell you how it went in another issue of this magazine!



Unexpected and memorable encounters

In the course of our visit, I met a pilgrim from St James of Compostela, who had come especially to attend our meeting with the Father of the Church. I saw the famous shell worn by "a Compostela pilgrim" (to quote Paolo Coelho) for the very first time. I couldn't believe my eyes!

Later, we met Hassan Dede, a wonderful Sufi Master. We were able to ask him questions about the mysterious Order of the

ding not to miss another Souhour and to fast with us. By the last day, many of the attendees were getting up at dawn, attending prayers at the mosque and fasting throughout the day. It was a difficult but incredibly enriching experience for all those who were doing it for the first time.

"Aïd El Fitr" – the celebration to mark the end of Ramadan

We were invited by Turkish families for the last day of Ramadhan. The family that hos-



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A Game in a museum or a museum as a game

Although it did take four editions before a training course was finally hosted in Paris, the idea started four years ago with the first edition of "Let's meet the three cultures" held in Cordoba. After this first step in glorious Andalusia, the project moved to the holy city of Jerusalem, before heading to sparkling Antwerp and finally stopping in Paris, the city of light. Paris treasures a wide number of attractions and sites for visitors to discover. Located close to the Eiffel Tower and the Champs Elysées, the Louvre Museum attracts around eight million visitors from all around the world every year.

The Programme did not include a guided visit per se to Paris but offered a considerable number of field visits that shed a new light on the way the three cultures are present today in France and how they are represented. The artistic representation of religions and cultures was an original approach to tackling this issue. Using the Louvre therefore seemed an obvious choice. What was less obvious was how to tackle such a huge resource place as the Louvre, bearing in mind that availability, participant interest and designated objectives are finite.

Act 1... "Let's meet the three cultures" training course, Paris 2007

The common ground between the four editions of the training course was thus to encourage participants, mostly youth workers and NGO volunteers, to reflect on the connection between the three monolithic religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam) and the cultures they convey.

As a non-formal learning experience, the entertaining side of learning was sought in the form of a fun activity, which was how the idea of a game in the museum gradually came into being.

Some are naturally charmed by museums while others are less switched on by endless



corridors and encumbered walls, easily discouraged by the combined physical and intellectual effort such a visit may entail. The challenge was thus for the creators to make the activity lively and right-to-the point. As a preparatory step, Eymeric Abrignani, Bernard Abrignani and Dalila Ferhaoui met at the Louvre to decide on the content to use for this activity. A series of photos was taken and the room number in which the paintings or art works were displayed noted. The team gathered next to formulate the possible questions that would draw, literally and figuratively, Ariadne's thread through the link these works have with religions and cultures. Then, once the questionnaire was designed, it was played in a real-time situation in order to measure its feasibility.

The instructions were simple and clear. The participants had to favour individual reflection and group discussion and proceed along the itinerary to identify the works.

The questionnaire did not aim at high-score attainments or knowledge assessments. The aim was rather to help participants to

identify the existing links between the three monotheist religions and their expression through a universal and cultural medium: the visual arts.

While the number of attractions in Paris should not be underestimated, on a rainy day those that offer a roof and shelter from the elements are often taken by assault. It was raining on the day the Louvre activity was run during the training course. It was also the first day of a school holiday. No wonder then that the great number of visitors inside the museum on that day created some unexpected issues.

As our logistic provider, the AVICENNE organization took charge of the technical aspects of providing the tickets, facilitating the access through a seemingly endless queue and reminding participants about the practicalities of the venue.

The groups were divided into small numbers to go through the rooms more easily. Each group was accompanied by a trainer. The role of the latter was essentially to provoke discussion and maintain group cohesion.



great interest of the activity were reiterated just as they had been the first time.

The cultural component in terms of output is deeply reliant on the quality of the input. The choice of a resource place needs to be made based on its relevance to the topic. The friendly and interactive way in which the activity is run helps to achieve the learning objectives targeted. The choice of a museum like the Louvre was specific to Paris, but the activity can be adapted to any other museum that offers similar pedagogical input. The resource place could also be an archaeological or historical site or a palace.

Now it's your turn...

Yes you have clearly understood, this article brings no final act to the story. This ongoing adventure requires repetition. Be creative, chose your cast, select your venue, adapt the game to it, come back later and give us your account. Make it similar, make it different, make it your own.

Yes, this article is meant to be a record of an event, relating its most important steps and celebrating one the highlights of the four editions of the training course. The point of view is that of one of the camera-holders. To know more about how those standing on the other side of the stage felt, let's look at some of the comments collected during the course.

"There was so much to learn"

"We had to run in the Louvre all the time"

"It was a great activity especially with the analysis of the pictures"

"A very useful activity, the idea of the quiz was wonderful"

"It was my favourite activity"

Everyone was given the questionnaire and the starting signal made. For the next two hours twenty-six participants, four trainers and four facilitators wandered through the two-floor museum and numerous galleries, looking for twenty-one paintings and the answers to seventeen questions.

Some groups followed the instructions perfectly while others played with their own rules. This did not prevent them from performing the activity with curiosity and excitement and engaging in the learning process despite varied motivations and outcomes.

After delightful encounters, endless talks and hundreds of snapshots were taken inside the museum's galleries the participants met again for the debriefing.

It was time to have a break, sit and share, indulge in lunch and listen to valuable explanations and the answers provided by Bernard Abrignani

Act II ... Tool fair, Antalya, 2007

Because the Louvre activity was an innovative tool specifically designed for the Paris edition of the training course, it was highlighted as such during the tool fair in Antalya 2007. A session was dedicated to introducing this tool, focusing on the use of a museum as resource place. The point was again to actively involve the participants in the performance. With the appropriate modifications made based on the number of participants, the time limits and the architecture of the venue, the activity was run on a similar basis using an identical questionnaire. Pictures of the original paintings were printed on posters and hung on the walls at different places in the venue. Eight participants were divided into two groups and were given twenty minutes to spot the pictures and answer the questionnaire.

Despite the reduced size of the simulation, the comments about the richness and the



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For a more detailed presentation, see the report of the four editions of the training course, "Let's meet the three cultures" published by SALTO.

A clear description of the activity is provided in the toolbox at the following link on the SALTO web site.

<http://www.salto-youth.net/find-a-tool/>



“Urban cultures and traditional cultures”

Multilateral Project - Programme Youth in Action, Youth exchanges

The district of Aubervilliers, which is located in the Seine Saint Denis department, played host to a group of around forty young people from Figuig (Morocco), Beit Jala (Palestine) and Léna (Germany) from 21 to 31 July 2007.

The objective was to facilitate exchanges of knowledge and artistic practices between young people from very different countries and cultures. This project was based on European values such as tolerance, the fight against exclusion, non-discrimination and equality of the sexes.

The cultural exchange between peoples dimension was a key element in the project. It took very concrete dimensions: European participants got to know and learnt about artistic forms used by their Mediterranean partners while the Mediterranean partners got to discover and practice more modern artistic forms. Beyond the cultural dimension linked to artistic practices, we also wanted to encourage the young people involved to reflect as a group on their day-to-day lives. The pluri-cultural aspect of the groups was omnipresent throughout their stay. The group consisted of:

- young “Aubervillarians” living in France and for the most part French citizens but generally with foreign roots (and more especially “Mediterranean” and African),
- young Palestinians, some of Arab origins but many Christians in a mainly Muslim environment
- young Germans from a former East German city and thus with a very unusual history
- young Moroccans, who live near the border with Algeria in an oasis and a special group in terms of their identity (Berbers).

This youth exchange is the continuation of a multi-partner project launched several years. It focuses on culture, pluri-culturalism and international solidarity and takes the local reality of the town of Aubervilliers as its basis.

Given the composition of the group, we decided to take recent historical events in Europe and its reconstruction after the terrible conflicts that marked 20th century history as our starting point to build a common history and a truly pacific relationship between peoples and communities.

Different cultural workshops were organised everyday to facilitate sharing and exchanges. On the ground floor, young Moroccans taught their songs to a handful of young French participants (who were armed with a pen to write down the words phonetically!).

In another room, young Palestinians taught other young people songs accompanied by a 'luth', which is a traditional instrument in their culture.

On the first floor, young Moroccans were in charge of traditional dancing lessons. Next door, young Palestinians were experimenting for the first time with a Computer Assisted Music Bench.

Near the theatre, young Germans were initiating Palestinians and Moroccans to Hip Hop - real discovery for our Mediterranean partners! In addition to the artistic workshops, we also organised some cultural outing to Versailles castle, the Eiffel Tower, the quai Branly Museum and the House of Europe to give our partners a taste of our French cultural heritage. We also organised an unusual trip as we discovered that our Palestinian, Moroccan and German visitors had never been to the seaside! It was quite moving to hear a young Palestinian say at the end of the day:

“At home, I can smell the sea, but I don't have the right to see it. What a thrill to know that she is free!”

After a respectful minute of silence, these young Europeans realised that Europe was a key project for the future of countries and peoples. After the visit, we had a long discussion on mobility and the freedom to travel.

There were many interesting discussions

during the exchange and tradition was one of the most hotly debated topics. We noticed that some of the French participants had nothing to say on French traditions, as there were not the traditions of their parents. The German participants talked a lot about the history of Germany and their traditions before asking themselves what exactly we meant by “traditions”. For the young Palestinians and Moroccans, their traditions are a tool that helps them to exist and be recognised.

The French group were surprised to discover how different their culture and way of life was from that of the German participants, despite having the same interests and the same dress code.

The diversity of languages was not an issue. Young people do not necessarily depend on words to communicate – gestures, eye contact and a little “globish” were usually enough to get the message across.

The best memory of all is the famous improvised show in front of the Town Hall where each group demonstrated their dancing, singing and instrumental music talents to more than 500 people.

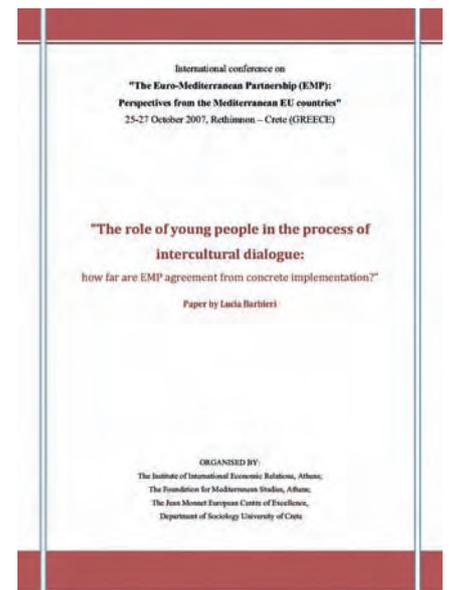
Everyone involved found it very hard to say goodbye. The exchange had been an opportunity to meet others, discover new things, live emotions, enjoy exchanges and make new friends for all those involved.



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A fish out of water? Speaking on non-formal education at an academic conference



Last spring, I received a call for papers for an academic conference on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (henceforth EMP) and its failures and successes to be held in the University of Rethymnon in Crete. Initially attracted by the theme, I assumed it would only cover the political and economic aspects of implementation - and the sense of being a fish out of water overwhelmed me. However, on reading the application guidelines, I discovered that the stress was put equally (perhaps because of a mandatory *par condicio*) on the three fields involved (i.e. politics - economy - culture and society), which are the three pivotal articles of the Barcelona Declaration. The instructions for the papers also requested a specified reference to the sector of intercultural dialogue.

When I read that, I felt there was no escape: I HAD to apply. I felt burdened with the heavy task of giving a voice to the world of intercultural dialogue within youth programmes, our beloved EuroMed programme being a direct result of the Barcelona Process.

The differences with the non-formal field were striking from the very beginning: while in youth programmes we sometimes have problems getting the right candidates for the activities (especially specialist training courses) since the only obligation is the payment of a tiny percentage of travel expenses, in the academic field the applicant pays for every-

thing. Presenting a paper at such a level is such a desirable recognition that researchers do not hesitate to apply and pay their own expenses (sometimes reimbursed by their universities, but in most cases not: in Crete there was even a researcher from Miami...). Can you imagine? Well, who knows, perhaps a much higher recognition of non-formal education, maintaining the accessibility rules of a fair participation cost, could also generate such keen interest and concern.

I started mentally planning the paper: what would be interesting to present in such an awkward setting (i.e. the academic one), what would attract attention and finally the added value that would enable me to compete with the super-analytical products of professors and PHD candidates in the political and economic fields. I decided finally to work from an analytical survey using a bi-directional approach of theoretical analysis (a general overview of the youth context in life-long learning, non-formal education and in the Euro Mediterranean youth policies, going into detail about developments in Youth Programmes and more specifically in the EuroMed Youth Programme, given its close links to the Barcelona Process) and an empirical survey to highlight the successes, difficulties and occasional failures. Input would be provided by questionnaires sent to organisers, youth workers, trainers and participants (some of you surely remember my pleading emails...).

The deadline was actually during a very busy time of the year (although what times are not busy for freelance trainers?).

I tried to work on what I wanted to say in my few spare moments but never had enough time to really focus on the application. I was really convinced I would miss the deadline and fail in my duty to represent the non-formal sector until just a few days before the deadline when a delayed flight in Istanbul airport gave me the chance to write an application which I immediately sent off (wifi in airports...this is true progress!).

Well, I had done my duty, but I was still sure my paper wouldn't make the cut. As you probably realise, since I'm now writing an article on the experience, the outcome was quite different, but I was really surprised one month later when I received a letter saying that my paper had been accepted (you may think - as I did - that they were really desperate to find speakers)...

Anyway I was on board...but the fish-out-of-the-water feeling was still there. I began organising my text and realised it was going to take a lot of time and energy: fortunately, I had no tremendous commitments for the following months (and I could - and did - cancel my holidays).

EXPERIENCES



I started writing on the general framework of the youth programmes and gradually realised that there are so many basic steps that we trainers take for granted, never thinking about their origins and the political decisions that have made our activities possible.

The task was becoming heavier but I was somehow happy -a sort of masochism? - as I was filling in all the gaps in my own knowledge of the wider perspectives of the EMP. I also believe- now that it's over - that a solid knowledge of this sphere should be somehow compulsory for everyone working in the field (I can hear hordes of trainers clamoring for my head... but I don't care...).

Time was passing and the work was getting harder. I asked myself many times why I was bothering at all but tried not to pay the niggling little voice in my head much attention (since I often have those kinds of thoughts) and ploughed on, even if sometimes it was quite depressing, especially when questionnaires never got sent back...

However, the die was eventually cast (the ticket was bought with great difficulty, as reaching Rethymnon out of season is nearly impossible), my goose was apparently cooked and I was now stubbornly



laneways in Rethymnon.

determined to participate. The questionnaires eventually trickled in and the paper began to take shape (naturally just a few days before the deadline).

The script was written, now the play was to take place... and the fish in my head was still trying to jump back in the bowl...

As the bowl was Rethymnon, I was actually very lucky. I arrived there the day before the conference (again because of connection difficulties...what a stressful life I lead) and found myself in the late but warm autumn Cretan atmosphere of a tiny small town on the seaside with narrow but colourful and lively laneways. I have to admit that it is one of the best places to chill out that I know of and it had such a positive effect on me that I arrived at the conference completely relaxed and determined to do my best to make "them" (academics) see who "we" (non-formal practitioners) were.

Warning: those who are morbidly waiting for a bloody clash may be disappointed by what follows...



Speaking... I'm the one on the left.

From the very beginning there was an informal atmosphere: it wasn't just a question of conference etiquette (although during the introduction speech the no-obligatory-ties rule was declared) but rather the human and professional approach of everyone in "the bowl".

The fish-out-of-the-water feeling was still present and even tried to suffocate me during the presentation before mine where emeritus professors of economics were displaying abstruse never-ending formulae on the screen.

When my turn arrived, I headed to the podium telling myself: "in the name of Chapter III...go!" I summoned up all my energy (it was the last speech of the morning, we were running one hour late and everyone's stomachs- mine included- were begging for food), put on my most brazen face and went to the gallows with my head high.

Imagine my surprise after the presentation when there were lots of questions from the public and I was almost assailed by students asking for more information on the topic! PhD candidates -and even professors - were suddenly reflecting on the need for concrete cooperation between the formal and non-formal education sectors.

It's less surprising, though, when you think that the only chapter in the Barcelona Declaration that has achieved any success is the third one "Partnership in Social, Cultural and Human Affairs", while the failure of the political and economic sectors was constantly highlighted during the conference...



LUCIA BARBIERI

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If you are interested in reading my paper you can find it on SAALTO EM web site (<http://www.salto-youth.net/otheremreports/>) or in the Conference link (<http://www.idec.gr/iier/new/EN/Barbieri%20-%20EMP%20&youth.pdf>)
For more info on the conference see the Institute of International Economic Relations (<http://www.idec.gr/iier/>)



EuroMed Info Centre's Website revamped

The EuroMed Info Centre is an EU-funded Regional Information and Communication project on the European and Mediterranean partnership. It was initiated by the European Commission and is financed by the MEDA Regional Information and Communication programme. Its main aim is to make the MEDA Regional Programme and the EU's partnership with the Mediterranean more visible. The EuroMed Info Centre has an office in Brussels, managed by the Cyprus-based **Action Global Communications**, with offices in 43 countries. They deal with requests from EC Delegations, they support MEDA journalists and help MEDA-funded civil society campaign managers seeking to disseminate information on their work.

EuroMed Info Centre's Website revamped

The EuroMed Info Centre's website has undergone yet another facelift, taking on board comments made by our users, while at the same time building up the information available on the Euro-Med Partnership, the Regional Programme's funded projects and the ENP South.

The new features introduced mainly aim at making the website even more user-friendly and showing-up the long, deep and multi-faceted relations between the EU and its Mediterranean Partner Countries.

There are changes on both the public site and the press site, which is now accessible without a password.

The main new elements are:

- **Feature stories** section, with success stories from Partner Countries written by the EuroMed Info Centre.
- **Project highlights**, featuring an EU-funded project that will be updated regularly.
- A special section on "Europe's Neighbours", where one can find information available on the ENP.
- **The Regional Programme**, information on programmes and projects funded.
- Hot issues, listing what's on the agenda and of interest to the Euro-Med Partnership.
- Direct links to EuropeAid, EMPA and FEMIP websites.
- **Publications** and **Videos** that have been built up and grouped thematically.
- Last 10 changes on the website.
- **RSS feeds** option.

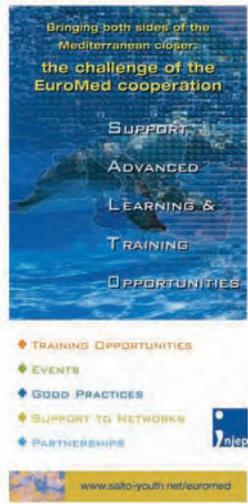
The press site has also undergone a radical change. Apart from opening it up to the public, we have added a 'media resources' section, with direct links to where to go for what's in the news, links to more information on Europe and its Neighbours, Programmes for Journalists, the upcoming top news from the Commission and a media-related news item. The regional programme and project news have been merged, becoming regional developments.

We are continuing our email alert service, with which subscribers can get news related to the Euro-Med Partnership and the ENP South directly in their inbox.

A renewed effort is also underway to ensure that our French and Arabic websites are updated simultaneously or at the latest the day after our English website.

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SALTO EUROMED - Perspectives 2008

General situation

2007 was the first year of the **Youth in Action Programme** that will run from 2007 to the end of 2013. The new programme has been

built on the experience gained in the previous Youth for Europe (1989-1999) Programme, the European Voluntary Service and the Youth Programme (2000-2006). It is the response to evolutions in the youth sector at European level and is in line with recent developments in the European Framework of European Cooperation in the youth field, while also supporting the political process.

Specific situation

2007 was the year when the EuroMed Youth Units (EMYUs) were established as part of the launch of the 3rd phase of the decentralised EuroMed Youth III programme and the creation of the RCBS (Regional Capacity Building Support) to support the Units.

SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed is more particularly involved in **Action 3 – "Youth in the World"**. The aim of this Action is to support projects with Partner Countries (Neighbouring Countries of the European Union and other countries in the World), in particular exchanges between young people and between those active in youth work and youth organisations and the development of partnerships and youth organisation networks.

As usual, we will work by supporting NA requests. 2008 will be a very busy year as we have never had so many expressed needs from our partners (mainly NAs but also two EMYUs, the Euromed Youth Platform and the YOUTH Partnership).

Overall aims: Promote the European Neighbourhood Policy and Good Practices in the Youth field

The SALTO Youth EuroMed Resource Centre answers specific demands from its partners. By supporting all National Agencies, the Resource Centre aims to promote and develop a global training strategy for Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in the youth and non-for-

mal education fields in accordance with the provisions of the Youth In Action Programme and more specifically **Action 3**.

The Salto-Youth EuroMed Resource Centre is also in charge of promoting good practices in training and non-formal education fields.

Visibility, Dissemination and Exploitation of project results and Cooperation (with Commission, National Agencies, Euromed Youth Units, Salto RCs, EuroMed Youth Platform and Council of Europe) have always been and will continue to be our main axes.

Objectives for 2008

We will continue to inform about the Youth in Action Programme, the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Euromed Youth III Programme, to improve the relationship between the two shores of the Mediterranean Sea in terms of cooperation and between National Agencies and Euromed Youth Units colleagues, just as we did last year.

More concretely, this will be done as follows:

- Organise/run training courses/seminars as requested by National Agencies
- As a follow-up to the kick-off seminar to present the new "Action 3", the 3 Regional SALTO and the Slovenian, Polish and French National Agencies will organise a seminar entitled **"Let's work with our Neighbours"**. The aim is to improve the quality of the cooperation among partner countries and promote intercultural dialogue. It will take place in Slovenia in June 2008

- **2008** is dedicated to **Intercultural Dialogue** and we will manage 2 training courses on this topic: "Inter-EuroMed-Cultural Dialogue" and "Inter-cultural Dialogue for trainers"

- The second half of 2008 will be marked by the *French Presidency*, during which we will co-organise a *Conference on "Youth Participation in EuroMed"* with the French NA, the Greek NA, the Italian NA, the Portuguese NA, the Spanish NA, the Turkish NA, the Cypriot NA and the Maltese NA, the SALTO Participation RC and the Euromed Youth Platform in France from 12 to 16 November 2008. The French NA will request the label of the French Presidency for this event.

- Foster internal cooperation and synergies with the SALTO RCs through a common strategy to promote a **"SALTO Spirit"** and the SALTO RCs as a strong Network
- Reinforce a spirit of cooperation between NAs/EMYUs through various activities (training sessions and events in cooperation with NAs and EMYUs)
- Partnership activities with Council of Europe/ Euromed Youth Platform and European Youth Forum
- Euromed related Youth policies with the Council of Europe and the Anna Lindh Foundation
- Good practices:
- Training course **"Training essentials"** on Good practices in June in Turkey
- Specific event: 3rd edition of the **Tool Fair** in cooperation with all the SALTO RCs (for the first time)



Legende: All involved in Salto EuroMed Activities: EMY Units, National Agencies, Coordinators and the Team - Coordinators meeting in Injep on January/February 2008

Salto-Youth EuroMed Activities 2008

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	HOSTING NAS
Contact Making Seminar - EVS Odyssey in Euromed	Norway	8-13 April	Buudir - Barne - Ungdoms - og Familiedirektoratet Universitetsgatem 7, 6th floor PO box 8113 dep. NO-0032 Oslo
Training Course - Democracy within the Euromed context: illusion or reality?	Italy	20-27 April	Agenzia nazionale per i giovani Via Fornovo, 8 - 00192 Roma
Training Course - Education and Civilisation	Malta	3-11 May	Malta Youth National Agency, European Union Programmes Unit Street address 36, Old Mint Street Postcode VLT12 - Valletta, Malta
Partner Building seminar - Let's Work with our Neighbours	Slovenia	2-8 June	Zavod MOVIT NA MLADINA Dunajska cesta, 22 SI - 1000 Ljubljana
Training course - Inter-religious Dialogue	Jordan	22-30 June	Ministry of Political Development EuroMed Youth Unit 4th Circle - in front of Jordan Hospital - AMMAN
Training course itinerant - Protecting the Mediterranean environment: Youth can make the difference	Greek islands	7-17 July	Hellenic National Agency for EU Programmes Youth in Action & Eurodesk 417 Acharnon Street - 11 1 43 Athens, Greece
Training course - Inter-Euromed-cultural Dialogue	Turkey	21-28 July	NA Turkey/EMYU TURKEY Hüseyin Rahmi Sokak. No:2 06680Y Cankaya Ankara - Institute for Youth
Training course - Good Practices, Training Essentials	Turkey	7-13 Sept	NA Turkey/EMYU TURKEY Hüseyin Rahmi Sokak. No:2 06680 Cankaya Ankara
Training seminar - Links between regions Meda-Baltics	Israel	14-21 Sept	Ministry of Education. Division A International Relations and UNESCO, 2 Devora Ha'Nevia Street, Jerusalem 91911
EuroMed Meeting	Jordan	8-13 Oct	Ministry of Political Development EuroMed Youth Unit 4th Circle - in front of Jordan Hospital - AMMAN
Event - Tool Fair - 3rd edition	Spain	4-8 Nov	Instituto de la Juventud c/ José Ortega y Gasset 71 28006 Madrid, Spain
Conference - Youth Participation in Euromed	France	12-16 Nov	Agence française du Programme Européen Jeunesse en Action Institut National de la Jeunesse et de l'Education populaire 11 rue Paul Leplat - 78160 Marly-le-Roi - France
Conference - Networking in EVS: Odyssey continues	Greece	25-30 Nov	Hellenic National Agency for EU Programmes Youth in Action & Eurodesk 417, Acharnon Str. GR-111 43 Athens - Greece
Seminar - on the Euromed T-Kit with a focus on, e.g. interreligious and intercultural dialogue	Turkey	2-7 Dec	NA Turkey/EMYU TURKEY Hüseyin Rahmi Sokak. No:2 06680 Cankaya Ankara
Training seminar - Evaluation of the Long Term Training course « Dialogue among civilisations»	Cyprus	8-14 Dec	Cyprus National Agency of Youth in Action programme 6 Evgenias & Antoniou Theodotou 1060 Nicosia PO box 20282 CY-2150 NICOSIA

SALTO-YOUTH
EUROMED
RESOURCE CENTRE



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