

**YOUTH**

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION 3

DEBATE 27

AGAINST DISCRIMINATIONS

**PAR-**

THE POWER OF

IMPROVE

OF DEMOCRACY

CONFIDENCE COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

31

17

**TICPA**

UNEMPLOYMENT X OPPORTUNITIES 33

Nothing is more human than technology 35

**ION**

SUPPORT, ADVANCED LEARNING & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES 39

OF ORGANISATIONS, YOUTH LEADER STIMULATES COOPERATION. 13

CELEBRATING EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP  
& ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE  
SALTO MAGAZINE 2013

SALTO-YOUTH  
PARTICIPATION  
RESOURCE CENTRE



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

MAGAZINE 2013

CELEBRATING THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN DAILY LIFE	2
PARTICIPATION: A FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE	4
GETTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED	6
YOUTH AMBASSADORS	8
ALGARVE 2020: A YOUTH PROPOSAL	12
CIVIC EDUCATIONAL LAB	15
FILMING DEMOCRACY	16
IDENTIFYING & PROMOTING PARTICIPATIVE DEMOCRACY	18
BANGOL INCLUDING FESTIGRESS	20
A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT IN PALESTINE	24
AGORA JEUNES CITOYENS	27
CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE	28
REACHING NEW HEIGHTS	30
FACING UNEMPLOYMENT & ITS IMPACT ON YOUTH	32
CYBERVOLUNTEERS	34
SALTO-YOUTH PARTICIPATION	37

# CELEBRATING THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN DAILY LIFE

BELGIUM, BRUSSELS

10.2013

2

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION  
3

SALTO-Youth Participation this year celebrates 10 years since its creation by the European Commission in 2003. It has been a decade of fostering the active participation of young people, by making it possible for them to get involved in activities supported by the 'Youth in Action' programme. Participation is not an end in itself; be it political, civic, economic or cultural, it is essential for young people's personal development and well-being, for the acquisition of skills that are relevant for the workplace, and for bringing about positive changes in society.

We have come a long way, but we are fully aware that a lot of things still need to be done to empower young people and guide them towards a fulfilling life. Therefore, SALTO-Youth Participation looks forward to continuing its activity under 'Erasmus+'. Building on the achievements of 'Youth in action', 'Erasmus+' – the new integrated programme for education, training, youth and sports – will continue to support and encourage the active participation of young people in daily life during the next seven-year period via its three key actions.

By participating in the 'Youth in action' programme, young people become aware that they are European citizens and play an active role in the construction of the European Union. The concept of European citizenship was launched by the Treaty of Maastricht in 1993, and this year we celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To mark the occasion, and in light of the upcoming European elections for the European Parliament to take place next May, the European Commission proposed to designate 2013 as the

'European Year of Citizens'. You will be able to discover more about its objectives and context in the magazine.

On the occasion of the 2013 European Youth Week and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of European Youth Programmes, 'Youth in Action' National Agencies nominated 'Youth Ambassadors' – former beneficiaries of the programmes with outstanding achievements. Two of them kindly agreed to be interviewed by SALTO-Youth Participation and we invite you to discover their stories in the magazine.

Besides its focus on promoting the active participation of young people in daily life, SALTO-Youth Participation has also been looking closely at the skills and competences they have gained through participation, and, most notably, one of the eight key competences for lifelong learning i.e. the spirit of initiative and entrepreneurship. The concrete use of this key competence by young people, be it in their own daily lives, in the workplace, or to contribute to setting up a commercial or social activity, has also caught our attention. We have therefore undertaken several activities, such as organising two seminars i.e. 'Get inspired' in co-operation with the Polish National Agency and 'Get ready 4 youth entrepreneurship' together with the Italian, Hungarian and Swedish National Agencies, and working on a publication to be released very soon, to explore the topic of entrepreneurial competences and entrepreneurial learning of young people and their link to non-formal learning. We will continue focusing on this interesting area of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial learning, trying to direct our activities towards forms of

entrepreneurship that resonate with the objectives and values of youth work. Promoting social entrepreneurship, as an innovative way of participation in social life and the world of work, will therefore become one of our priorities.

Recent studies<sup>1</sup> show that social entrepreneurship and its characteristics are still terra incognita to young people, who seem to consider it an elitist model. We will take several steps to introduce social entrepreneurship to young people and raise their awareness of its benefits. One of these steps is taken in the magazine by presenting the story of an innovative social enterprise 'Cibervoluntarios' designed to inspire young people.

As always, the magazine also showcases good examples of Youth initiatives, Democracy projects and Structured Dialogue activities.

SALTO-Youth Participation wishes you an inspiring read and we look forward to continuing to inspire you within the new programme 'Erasmus+'.

**SALTO-YOUTH PARTICIPATION TEAM**

#### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> *Study into the participation of young people in democratic life, conducted by the London School of Economics for the European Commission*  
[http://ec.europa.eu/youth/documents/lse\\_study\\_on\\_youth\\_participation\\_-\\_2013.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/documents/lse_study_on_youth_participation_-_2013.pdf)

# PARTICIPATION: A FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE

OF EU YOUTH POLICY



BELGIUM, BRUSSELS

10.2013

4

The EU Youth Strategy (2010-18) supports two overall objectives: it aims to provide more and equal opportunities for young people in education and in the labour market and to encourage them to be active citizens and participate in society. It fleshes out the vision of the European Union as regards its responsibility vis-à-vis youth: to ensure the full participation of all young people in education, employment and society. The successive European programmes in the youth field, over the last 25 years, have targeted the same dual objective by providing financial support to the many actors involved in tens of thousands of concrete projects.

In the current circumstances, with the high level of youth unemployment, there may be a temptation to limit our attention to the employability of young people and the need to invest more in education and training. But one should not forget the equally important need to strengthen youth active citizenship, which can also contribute to meeting today's social and economic challenges. Since 2010 the Treaty on the functioning of the EU gives the European Union the explicit mandate of 'encouraging the participation of young people in democratic life in Europe'. Moreover, as a matter of fact, it would be somewhat artificial to oppose both objectives: it is also through projects supporting youth participation that young people develop skills and competences which are useful, not only for their personal and social development, but also for their professional life.



In the context of 2013 European Year of Citizens, the European Commission has issued three documents related to youth participation, which illustrate the importance it attaches to this dimension of youth work. A study<sup>1</sup> realised by the London School of Economics comes to the conclusion that, although there is a growing dissatisfaction among young people with the way politics is conducted, there is no crisis of democratic participation among them and young people want to participate in politics. A Eurobarometre survey<sup>2</sup> provides a picture of the participation of youth in various organisations and in political elections, noting i.a. that, while 64% of young people say they are likely to vote next year in the European elections, only 28% among them are definitely sure to do so. A thematic report<sup>3</sup> realised by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency underlines, among other conclusions, that when looking comparatively at different age groups, young people are the group that scores the highest in terms of considering themselves citizens of the EU.

These works confirm that youth participation needs to be further encouraged. One of the tools at our disposal is the Structured Dialogue with young people. A review of this participatory dialogue between young people and public authorities has been launched by the Commission, building on the experience of three years, with a view to making it even more accessible and effective.

Obviously, the future 'Erasmus+' Programme will be another powerful tool to contribute to encouraging youth participation, an explicit objective referred to by the regulation soon to be adopted. Various activities foreseen by this programme will support this objective. Participation shall remain prominent in the learning mobility opportunities to be funded under Key Action 1, targeting young people through youth exchanges or the European Voluntary Service or targeting youth workers. It will also be an obvious topic for different activities

supported under Key Action 3: this programme will continue to directly support youth organisations as well as the Structured Dialogue with young people. The flexibility introduced in Erasmus+ should make Key Action 2 particularly attractive as regards, notably, youth participation: partnerships within the youth sector or between actors involved in formal learning and non-formal education may be effective promoters of innovative approaches, encouraging the active participation of youth in society.

'Youth in Action' has provided us with ample evidence of how effective transnational non-formal education activities can be in enhancing the motivation of young people to be active citizens. It also illustrates how such activities can enhance their feeling of being European. We shall build on these successes, knowing how important it is, especially in these times of crisis, to offer young people the means to contribute at the same time to their own personal development and to the consolidation of democracy and the European project.

## CHIARA GARIAZZO

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Footnotes  
<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/youth/documents/lse\\_study\\_on\\_youth\\_participation\\_-\\_2013.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/documents/lse_study_on_youth_participation_-_2013.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/flash/fl\\_375\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_375_en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/youth/documents/report\\_on\\_political\\_participation\\_and\\_eu\\_citizenship.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/documents/report_on_political_participation_and_eu_citizenship.pdf)

5

# GETTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED



2013  
THE EUROPEAN YEAR  
OF CITIZENS

BELGIUM, BRUSSELS

10.2013

*'Pessimism and indifference are the real threats to the EU' – these were the words of the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, when he inaugurated the European Year of Citizens 2013 in Dublin in January. For him, the answer is that we must not allow ourselves to submit to such pessimism; instead we must embrace all opportunities for getting involved: 'Your involvement is important to shape the EU of the future.'*

## JOHN MACDONALD

Head of Task Force for the European Year of Citizens 2013,  
European Commission

### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/flash/fl\\_375\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_375_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/youth/documents/lse\\_study\\_on\\_youth\\_participation\\_-\\_2013.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/documents/lse_study_on_youth_participation_-_2013.pdf)

On 24 May 2013, as a 'curtain-raiser' for this year's European Youth Week, the European Commission published the results<sup>1</sup> of research that shows that young people consider themselves, more than any other age group, as 'citizens of the European Union'.

This is very encouraging: Clearly, young people feel a strong sense of European identity and a higher appreciation of European integration than other age groups. Only 30% of young Europeans state that they feel exclusively citizens of their country (as opposed to feeling European). However, as next year's European elections for the European Parliament approach, we learn from a separate study<sup>2</sup> published on the same day, that young people are less inclined to vote than their parents, and that they show a growing dissatisfaction with the way politics works – both at EU and national levels. Indeed, one-third of young Europeans who say they are unlikely to vote in the European elections next year mostly say that it is because they believe that their vote will not change anything. This is unfortunate, since using our voting rights, and by extension our rights as EU citizens – whether at local, regional, national or European level – is a first and necessary step for bringing about the kind of change into what we believe is right, and to supporting those we believe are doing the right things.

2013 is the European Year of Citizens, with its clear focus on citizens and our EU citizenship. It is an opportunity to fight the pessimism and indifference that Commission President Barroso warns us about. The European Year is also well-timed: it comes 20 years after EU citizenship was born in the Treaty of Maastricht, and it is one year ahead of the 2014 European elections and the much-anticipated upcoming proposals on Treaty change for a more political and legitimate European Union.

On the positive side, the survey results revealed that two thirds of young Europeans say they intend to vote in the 2014 European elections. That is promising. After all, the actual turnout among young people in the last European Parliament elections was only 29%. Everyone who intends to vote next year does so for the right reasons: because

ATTITUDE  
TAKE A POSITIVE

democracy is important; because Europe and European elections are important; and because voting is a vital way to influence political decision-making.

The concurrent presence of young persons' dissatisfaction with politics with their willingness to vote in the European elections suggests that young people's political participation is in a state of transformation. Overall, young people may vote less than older generations, but at the same time, they take part more often in alternative forms of political participation such as demonstrations and sit-ins, signing petitions in greater proportions than older generations. It appears that young people simply communicate their opinions less by turning to their elected representatives than other age-groups. Instead, they express their opinion on the Internet and in social media in larger proportions than older generations: the figures revealed that 40% of young respondents expressed their opinions on public issues on the Internet or in social media in the last two years.

For a democracy to be sustainable and stable, it is important that all citizens, especially the young, make their views known – but not only by voting in national or European elections once every five years or so. In addition, they can and should participate every day of the year through social media, through a civil society organisation, and NGO or other peaceful means. This is responsible, participatory citizenship in action. The coming years belong to the young, and should rightly also be shaped by the young. 'You can and should shape your own future; because if you don't someone else surely will' as Joel Barker (US Futurist, b 1944) astutely pointed out.

Of course, times are tough, especially for young people. The European Union is facing its greatest challenges yet. Youth unemployment has soared to beyond one-in-two in Greece and Spain, for example. The economic crisis is a tangible threat to young people's involvement in society; exclusion in all its forms is contrary to citizenship and is a direct threat to our democratic system. This was reinforced by the survey results: 44% of the respondents are not involved in any organisation whatsoever. Nearly half of Europe's young people are not involved in any sport, youth, cultural, environmental or community-improvement organisation. They are 'uninvolved', marginalised.

This is a problem because the marginalised risk being unheard. Being unheard breeds hopelessness, and hopelessness breeds alienation – which can be a fertile soil for violence. As Dr Martin Luther King pointed out, 'A riot is the language of the unheard.' That is why it is so important that young people are given opportunities, such as those available through the 'Youth in Action' programme, to take a positive attitude of constructing Europe together, not 'destructing' it.

The standing invitation of the European Year of Citizens is therefore all the more relevant: 'Join the debate!' The young can and should make use of their voting rights. They can and should engage through other peaceful means, such as the social media, civil society organisations, volunteering activities, etc. The young are very much needed, to advocate for the things that they hold dear: jobs, solidarity, tolerance, social equality, the environment. The European Year is an occasion for hammering home the message that the young can and should contribute with their skills and knowledge to the betterment of their neighbourhoods, their regions and Europe as a whole. The European Year of Citizens is about reminding us that the EU is about creating a better life for all citizens, and that everyone has an individual stake in Europe! The European Year is an excellent opportunity for a broad debate about the future of Europe, and a symbol for strengthening the European 'Public Space'. In doing so, it is helping to address young people's wish for more opportunities to get engaged.

## INTERVIEW

# YOUTH AMBAS-SADORS

On the occasion of the 2013 European Youth Week, 'Youth in Action' National Agencies have nominated 'Youth Ambassadors' – individuals with outstanding achievements in the field of youth. All of them have been involved in one way or another in the EU youth programmes between 1988-2012. Their experiences have subsequently had a strong, often life-changing impact on their personal and professional lives. From participating in a youth exchange or a youth initiative to becoming a European Voluntary Service volunteer, these Youth Ambassadors have gone on to forge successful careers as youth workers, politicians, artists or social entrepreneurs. SALTO-Youth Participating has interviewed two of them i.e. Klaudia Wojciechowska, Youth Ambassador for Poland and Athanasios (Sakis) Krezios, Youth Ambassador for Greece. We invite you to discover their involvement in the non-formal education field and get inspired by their outstanding achievements.



POLAND  
GREECE

26.05.2013 – 02.06.2013

8

What motivated you to participate in the 'Youth in Action' programme?

*Klaudia*

My first contact with the 'Youth in Action' programme was a bit accidental. The coordinator of the Volunteer Centre in Kielce involved me and other volunteers in the preparation of hosting a youth exchange. That was to be a kind of prize for our work in the centre and it appeared to be very... addictive. After two more projects of this kind, and being a 'professional' participant (fascinated with the way everything works) I decided to upgrade my skills as the potential coordinator of such an exchange. In this way, the programme helped me to discover that I can (and want) be the leader, that I can coordinate, suggest things to do, plan, implement and evaluate. I went for a training course on methods and techniques used in youth projects, where I met people with the same motivation as me. Together we decided to make our own youth exchange. It was fantastic – even if the tools we had were not the best and our skills were not so developed. We did our best! With all these memories behind me, I think that there are always PEOPLE who can wake up your motivation: people you can admire, people you meet, share, talk to, people that offer you challenges that you haven't thought and heard about before.

*Sakis*

It all started in 1997. At that moment, I was still at high school. Now, 16 years on, I can say that my main motivation was that school was not fulfilling my learning needs and aspirations and was not actively nurturing my creative capacities; this was not conscious at that moment when I was just looking for a way out or just a way in into something different. My curiosity led me to participate in a youth exchange in Alcorcon, Spain, in September of that year. Things have taken a different course ever since.

Please give us a brief description of the youth project(s) that you participated in.

*Klaudia*

I have had the possibility to participate mostly in youth exchanges and short-term European Volunteer Service projects. The exchange I will remember the most is the first one I did with my friends – self-managed, self-mistaken, self-learned. The topic was intercultural learning – neither the definition nor the idea was known at that time. It was a multilateral project with young people from Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, Italy, Portugal and Poland – the perfect combination to discuss differences and stereotypes. Now, it doesn't seem challenging. At the time – it really was!

*Sakis*

That would be difficult since I have participated in countless projects and I have organized as many. In a nutshell, the projects I have been involved in or organized have, more often than not, had an element of creativity (not necessarily as expressed through arts, but in a wider sense, as an effort of giving rise to something novel and innovative) and also some form of sports or better, outdoor activity. In this web site: [creativity.gr](http://creativity.gr), you may see a flagship project hosted by my NGO 'Kids in Action'.

What happened after you finished your project(s)? What did you do next?

Klaudia

The exchange was a real kick to go forward and to learn more about it. We planned some common projects in frame of the ‘Youth in Action’ programme, I did some training courses, and what I was really dreaming about was my own youth NGO. Together with a friend of mine, we decided to start with the Youth Initiatives Awakening Centre – a small local organization that might share information about youth policy, actions, events, exchanges and volunteering among local young people. It is still active now, but we have to change the profile a bit as we also want to reach more children and seniors. Whilst working on my youth NGO, and keeping all the international friendships alive, I was accidentally offered the chance to join the training team of the course, Module International – on intercultural learning in youth exchanges. It’s amazing how much you can learn within a week from the colleagues you work with and from the participants. The positive energy I felt after this week and the frustrations I had experienced gave me so much strength and confidence. This was a place where I was a teacher and student at the same time, and this is what is so special about non-formal education. You can immediately confront theory with practice, your opinion with some counter arguments; you don’t need to know everything and your knowledge is the sum of the experiences of all the group.

Sakis

Back in 1997, when I had my first international youth project experience, the first thing I did was to come back and have more young people of my age take part in similar actions. And this is what I have been doing ever since.

What do you do now?  
Are you still connected to the youth field?

Klaudia

In 2008 I finished my studies and was hoping to get a job. What I felt then was that I actually didn’t have professional experience. I didn’t think that I could find a job that would reflect my interests. I didn’t believe that anybody would ever notice my activity in youth work and volunteering. But still, I applied for a job in the Ministry of Education. The offer said that the person would be dealing a bit with the ‘Youth in Action’ programme and the youth working party in the Council of the European Union. And it was exactly what I needed! I got my first job there and had a great opportunity to see how youth policy is ‘made’ on a national and international level. I could get to know the wider context and all the inside stories of my beloved ‘Youth in Action’ programme. I was always proud and happy that I knew how it felt to be a beneficiary and share some practical problems these young people face when discussing such issues with my colleagues in the programme committee and in the European Commission. When the Polish Presidency in the Council came, I had the most fantastic time in my job till now – I became the president of the youth working party, which was an outstanding experience that I will probably never repeat. Half a year of discussions, document analyses, meetings... Again I was often coming back to my experiences in the youth field and using a lot of the knowledge I had gained in the exchanges and trainings. Now I do work in the department of structural funds in the Ministry of Education. I am responsible for programming interventions in the education sector in the next seven years – another challenge to meet. I am still dealing with ‘Youth in Action’ in Poland, as well as with the Lifelong Learning programme, representing the ministry in committees, cooperating with the National Agency (changing from the beneficiary to the ‘national authority’ was kind of weird!) looking forward to the new ‘Erasmus+’.

Sakis

I am connected to the youth field in many different capacities. I am the head of the international youth projects department of my NGO ‘Kids in Action’, I am a youth trainer and consultant/author cooperating with organizations such as SALTO-Youth Participation, SALTO-Training & Resource Center, the Council of Europe, National Agencies of the ‘Youth in Action’ Programme and more. I have also set up an enterprise (in 2011) with same-age, like-minded people in an effort to promote innovative sports services and activities for mainly young people. Competences gained and developed through my participation in international youth projects have proved to be a compass in my engagement in the business world; one cannot learn, for example, leadership, international communication, team work and the skill to learn throughout life, among other things, in schools (unfortunately).

What are, according to you, the benefits of participating in the ‘Youth in Action’ programme?

Klaudia

The programme gives you the possibility to try things out for yourself – when volunteering abroad, when exchanging with your peers. It gives you competences (sometimes you don’t realize them immediately) – if you are open and want to learn, if you offer yourself new challenges and projects. The programme is really accessible – you can involve people with fewer opportunities. You learn in a friendly environment and you can stop and think for a while. No tests.

Sakis

As a common denominator, I believe that everyone participating in the ‘Youth in Action’ Programme becomes more curious; about themselves, about ‘otherness’, about the world. Never ever have I discovered or lived in any other context that can achieve this with such speed and in such depth. If curiosity is well-triggered, the more things come on the way: your spirit of initiative is awakened, you tend to listen to people more carefully, you are open to learning-and not necessarily through ‘authority figures’, you learn to lead and be led with the same passion, you get doses of independence and also interdependence etc. I would have listed several competences but the benefits of participating in the Programme go beyond one’s abilities ‘to do’ something and embrace the world of ‘standing for something’ and ‘being’.

How did you feel when the ‘Youth in Action’ National Agency from your country nominated you as Youth Ambassador? What did it mean to you?

Klaudia

It is really a privilege as there are so many people with the same track record as mine! I think that the real ambassadors of the programme are in the local communities. Their energy and the programme together really can do miracles.

Sakis

It meant responsibility to do more; for more young people to be engaged and benefit. Only a fraction of the youth population of the European Union has got involved, the work should never stop until the moment every young person has had the possibility to participate.

MISTAKEN  
MANAGED  
LEARNED  
CONFIDENCE

11

In a few words, how would you encourage other young people to participate in the future European programme for young people?

Klaudia

Every young person deserves access to mobility and should take advantage of the programme. Even if we are more and more mobile these days, non-formal education and youth work abroad give you much more. Being young and using your holiday or free time sitting by the swimming pool in the all-inclusive hotel is no good! Isn’t it much better to take a back pack and... renew the old cemetery with 30 peers somewhere in the East, get to know some activating methods of working with the disadvantaged, try out nature photography in Northern Finland, discuss gay rights in different parts of Europe, help to organize an international sports event as a volunteer, learn to create some nice jewellery from recyclable rubbish?

Sakis

At the moment of writing, the new programme has been named ‘Erasmus +’. I’m not happy with the name, but I will not stick to the formalities and I am sure that people will be still using the ‘Youth in Action’ brand in the future when referring to non-formal learning activities in the youth field. But in keeping with the question, my way of encouraging more young people to participate is through sharing my passion about how one’s worldview changes for the better after getting involved; and I’ll do that through the trainings I deliver, through the projects I’ll organize and through my daily contact with young people.

Links

[www.kidsinaction.gr](http://www.kidsinaction.gr)  
[www.creativity.gr](http://www.creativity.gr)  
[www.my-learning.gr](http://www.my-learning.gr)  
[www.salto-youth.net/tools/toy/](http://www.salto-youth.net/tools/toy/)  
[athanasios-sakis-krezios.681/](http://athanasios-sakis-krezios.681/)

10

# ALGARVE 2020: A YOUTH PROPOSAL

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN POLICY DEVELOPMENTS  
AT LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL



PORTUGAL, ALGARVE

26.04.2013 – 28.04.2013

12

*Youth today live in a quite ambiguous and demanding society. Young people are receiving contradictory messages; on one hand, to be aware of the importance of being represented and be more participative, but on the other hand, our society is more individualist and competitive than ever before. Youth is constantly bombarded with information, often with double and contradictory messages, yet we also expect them to have time to be actively involved in youth organizations and in civil society in general.*

*These reasons, among others, make us see and understand the actual scenario for youth participation in terms of involvement in civil society in general, and particularly in the development of youth policies. Youth today feels more and more distant, with a lack of interest in political activity but also with a confusion deriving from an inconsistency between the theory and practice of real politics.*

*In order to invert this tendency, we believe that it is crucial to develop a new culture of youth participation, especially regarding the decision-making processes of the issues that are of direct concern and interest to them. Our public authorities and decision makers should first look towards youth as a source of solution to society's problems, as they can contribute greatly to the development of our communities with their extraordinary energy, creativity and potential.*

*We also consider that the involvement of young people in decision making and developing youth policies is fundamental to increasing their sense of belonging and active citizenship within their communities and regions. This involvement should not only be seen as our local authorities supporting activities aimed at young people, but rather, as we see it in a broader dimension, where youth has an active voice and is a fundamental actor in the development of their local communities. We see youth actively contributing towards the creation of local policies, and consequently the development of their societies and communities.*

*It is therefore fundamental to involve young people in decision-making processes, as this will enable the municipalities, and regional and national authorities to address youth needs and interests. At the same time, this involvement can contribute towards the engagement of young people as active players facing modern challenges, and also an increase in the level of ownership, compromise and involvement of an important part of our communities that is so often neglected at this level.*

*We believe that creating the effective and sustainable involvement of young people in decision-making, alongside cooperation with local authorities, not only demands willingness and compromises from both parts, but also the development of knowledge, a sharing of experiences and tools to further create and develop these spaces of shared decision-making. This demands the creation of strategies, physical structures, and relationships of trust and cooperation between the subject stakeholders.*

*ECOS has been developing its field of expertise and action in order to create and develop further spaces of co-management and structured dialogue at local level. During the last 3 years we have been active in the south of Portugal, the Algarve region, where we have been working intensively with local and regional authorities and the youth movement in order to bring this dimension of youth work into our region.*

*Fortunately, with the current panorama, despite the limitations and difficulties that have appeared, access to decision making structures has been granted and municipalities among other actors are now more willing to see civil society, and in particular youth, as a partner rather than just as a service receiver. In order to make the most of this open opportunity, we have been developing capacity building projects for the municipalities and youth organisations. We would now like to share one of these projects:*

## Youth Participation Practices in the South of Portugal

This project was quite revolutionary, not only in terms of its approach, but also in terms of the impacts on the region. The aim of the project was ambitious from the start, as it aimed to develop a new culture of youth participation in decision-making processes at local and regional levels. Through youth consultations and, in particular, by the establishment of spaces for structured dialogue, cooperation, and collective learning, this project was able to stimulate the development of new partnerships, projects and a collective strategy, not only for the youth within their municipalities, but also for the overall region. This was accomplished during fourteen months of intensive fieldwork, where close to one thousand youngsters and more than 60 entities (municipalities, regional offices and youth organisations) had the possibility to collectively contribute to the development, implementation and outcomes of the project.

The project was implemented and managed mainly by two complementary structures: the Local Coordination Committees (LCC) and the Regional Coordination Committee (RCC). The first structure was composed of the youth organisations and local municipalities of the Algarve region (16 municipalities in total). The LCC were established to provide a forum for debates and reflection among the local councils, young people, local youth



associations, stakeholders and other entities involved in developing activities with the youth in each municipality. The objective was to bring young people and relevant actors closer to their local authorities and to create a basis for dialogue and youth policy planning at local level. The Regional Coordination Committee was the focal point for comprehensive cooperation among the local partners, regional stakeholders, and organisations to reflect, propose and debate on regional strategies suggested by young people in the framework of various processes of consultation. Based on this structure, the partners also had the possibility to shape the project, since it was during these three meetings that most of the details about the project were decided collectively.

In terms of activities, the project involved:

- 16 consultation processes in each one of the municipalities, directly reaching 480 youngsters throughout participatory methods based on non-formal education mapping not only local problems but also proposed solutions;
- Focus groups with youth leaders and youth from the political parties;
- 1 Regional Youth Meeting, where 150 youngsters and youth leaders had the possibility to work together during 3 days developing the document 'Youth Agenda 2020' with 20 policy proposals for our candidates for the local authorities' elections;
- A seminar 'Youth Participation – Challenges and opportunities in the Algarve region';
- The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of counsellors for youth;
- 2 questionnaires: the first, aimed at youth leaders and youth workers, while the second, directly aimed at young people, where close to 300 youngsters contributed to identifying proposals in 12 policy areas;
- A comprehensive outcome document, called 'A contribution for the development of a regional youth policy' where 12 areas of policy development are mapped with solid identified problems and counter proposals based on strategic objectives and specific measures of actions;
- A documentary about young people in the Algarve region.

We believe that this innovative project in our region has paved the way to putting youth in our local and regional authorities' agendas, but also to stimulating a culture of cooperation among different organisations, public institutions and local authorities. This is fundamental when we are aiming to design a strategy that is cross-sectorial and transversal to many levels of our society. We believe that the Algarve 2020 was a fundamental step to show that through cooperation we can achieve a lot more.

One of the reasons that it was possible to implement such a project, involving so many different stakeholders was because of a civil society organisation that decided to take the lead in the project and acted as a facilitator for such processes. Without it we believe that it would have been very difficult to overcome the divisions created among the different political factions and existing visions of the different stakeholders involved in the Algarve2020. With this we would like to highlight the importance that youth-led organisations and youth-oriented organisations can, and should have in setting up such cooperation projects.



## BRUNO ANTÓNIO

### Contact

[bruno.antonio@ecos.pt](mailto:bruno.antonio@ecos.pt)

### Links

[www.algarve2020.ecos.pt](http://www.algarve2020.ecos.pt)

[www.facebook.com/Algarve2020](https://www.facebook.com/Algarve2020)

### Budget

*This project was financed by 'Youth in Action' under Action 5.1 'Meetings of young people and those responsible for youth policy'.*

## ECOS, CRL

*ECOS – 'Cooperativa de Educação, Cooperação e Desenvolvimento', is a recently established organization by professional youth workers and educators active on structure dialogue on local, national and European level. ECOS has as its main goal of action the promotion of non-formal education and social integration. Our Mission is to contribute to the development, nurturing learning, the construction of trust bonds and fruitful alliances among social actors, entrepreneurs and institutions (through dialogue and cooperation) and articulating agendas of action.*

### Links

[www.ecos.pt](http://www.ecos.pt)

[www.facebook.com/coopecos](https://www.facebook.com/coopecos)

14

## GOOD PRACTICE 1.2

# CIVIC EDUCATIONAL LAB

### Brief description

Our project promoted the importance of volunteering and inclusive growth. We organized some workshops for raising awareness of the dangers which result from an intolerant society, full of stereotypes and prejudices against the Roma minority.

We also developed our own competences and those of our participants such as learning to learn, social and civic competences or cultural awareness and expression. We did this because is very important to invest in young people and children and to empower the Roma minority in order to enhance the way in which it relates to the majority, and vice versa.

### How did the idea come up?

Our project was born from the idea that Roma children are struggling with a series of problems related to the educational system and are not receiving any support. Initially we intended to perform the activity of our project in School n°2, Ferentari, but we considered that the students from this school were receiving the necessary support for their development, so we changed the school. This was the main reason that we concentrated our objectives on helping the children from School n°26, located in a suburb of Bucharest.

### Objectives

The objective of the 'Civic Educational Lab' project was to facilitate cooperation between the young people of the Romanian majority and those of the Romany minority in a school in the Obor area of Bucharest, in order to better understand the principles of the European Union: European citizenship, participation of young people, cultural diversity, and inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities.

### Pitfalls/Difficulties

We think that the greatest challenge for our team was facing the fact that most of the Roma students from School n°26 struggled with reading, writing and understanding. Also, they had real problems communicating with each other. They preferred to use violence instead of talking. These facts made it difficult to us to run our activities.

### Strong points

One of the strong points of our project was the good communication between the members of the team. Another strong point was the development of the friendship between the team and the students of School n°26.

### Project Promoters

*'Împreună' Agency for Community Development*

### Partnership

*School n°26, the School agreed to offer us a classroom for 14 months.*

### Budget

*The total amount spent on project implementation:*

€7,595

*Youth in Action:*

€5,194.5

*Co-funding from the 'Împreună' Agency:*

€2,476.45

### Links

[www.agentiaimpreuna.ro/page/Laboratorul\\_de\\_Educatie\\_Civica](http://www.agentiaimpreuna.ro/page/Laboratorul_de_Educatie_Civica)

[www.facebook.com/laboratorul.deeducatiecivica](https://www.facebook.com/laboratorul.deeducatiecivica)

### Contact

[office@agentiaimpreuna.ro](mailto:office@agentiaimpreuna.ro)

[delia.stan@agentiaimpreuna.ro](mailto:delia.stan@agentiaimpreuna.ro)

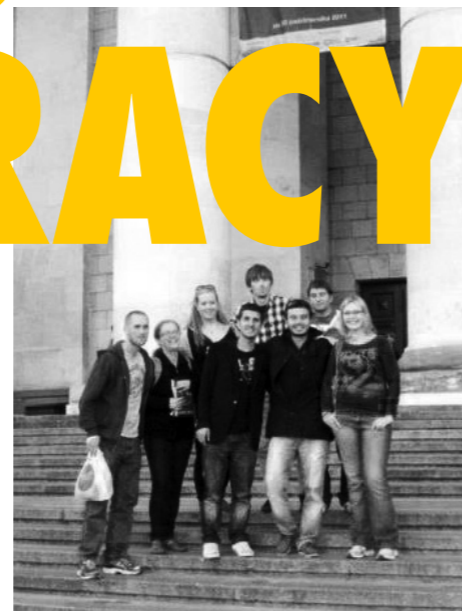
MAJORITY  
MINORITY

15

ROMANIA, BUCHAREST

09.09.2011 – 30.11.2012

# FILMING DEMOCRACY



TURKEY, BOSTANLI/İZMİR

09.2011 – 15.08.2012

16

## Brief description

Our project started in September 2011 and its purpose was to improve awareness and understanding of democracy and youth participation between young people from Turkey, Iceland and Poland. In September 2011 we had a preparation meeting in Radom/Poland. 7 group leaders representing their own organizations had a 5 day meeting and decided on the road map for the project for the coming months. Between September and March every partner organization held local meetings for their participants and tried to increase their awareness of democracy, youth participation, active citizenship and multiculturalism.

In March 2012, 9 young people from Turkey, 8 young people from Poland and 8 young people from Iceland came together in Fethiye/Turkey. We held a 7 day meeting and our participants participated in workshops about active participation, youth participation and democracy. In addition, with active games like 'Treasure Hunt', the participants had the chance to meet the local Fethiye people and their traditional culture. In the last 2 days, our participants divided into 3 groups and created their own short film scenarios and recorded their movies. Short movies were shown at a meeting to which the Vice Mayor of Fethiye and the local press were invited. The final meeting of the project took place in Reykavik/Iceland in June 2012. Again 7 group leaders came together and evaluated the project.

## Project Promoters

Frosti Youth Center  
Hagaskoli High School  
Arka Youth Center  
Young Democratic Activists  
Muş Youth Accumulation Center, Turkey  
İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality  
Youth Assembly, Turkey  
FETAV, Turkey

## Partnerships

Frosti Youth Center (NGO)  
Hagaskoli High School (Public Body)  
Young Democratic Activists  
(Informal Youth Group)  
Muş Youth Accumulation Center (NGO)  
İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality  
Youth Assembly (Public Body)  
FETAV (NGO)

## Budget

'Youth in Action' contribution: €38,000  
Sponsors: €12,000

## Contact

[barisozcan83@yahoo.com](mailto:barisozcan83@yahoo.com)



## How did the idea come up?

The group leaders met in the EuroCity Training Course in February, 2011 in Adrasan, Turkey. The project idea came up during this training.

## Objectives

We had 5 main objectives:

- Increasing the democracy and youth participation understanding of young people;
- Encouraging our young people to live in a multicultural environment;
- Learning different traditions, different cultures from Europe's 3 different countries;
- Informing our local people about EU Youth Projects;
- Encouraging young people to create their own youth projects.

## Pitfalls/Difficulties

We had 2 main difficulties:

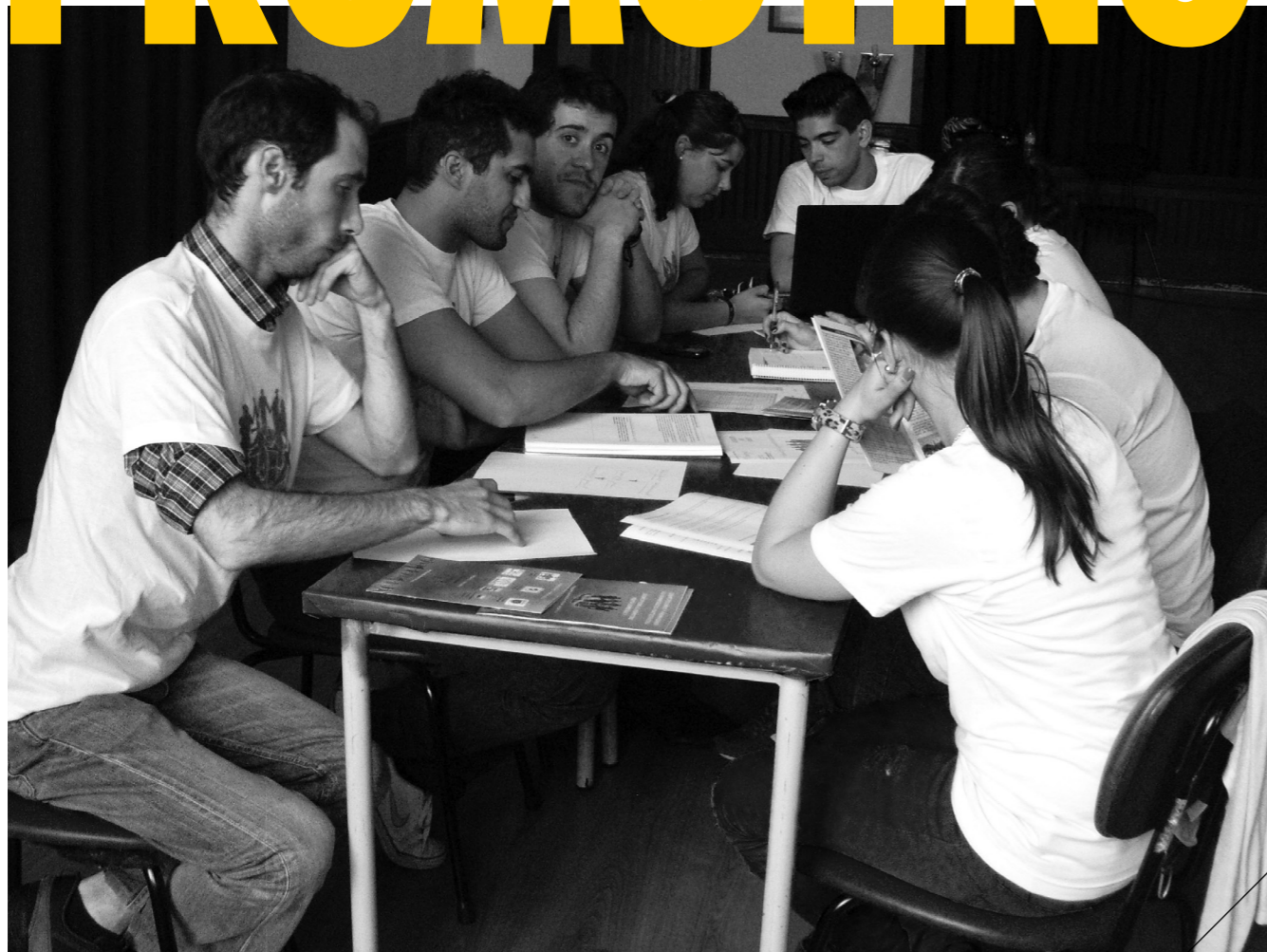
- It was hard to arrange local meetings with local decision-makers; some of them didn't keep their promises;
- English level of the participants: the Polish and Turkish participants' English level was weak, so it was sometimes hard for them to communicate.

## Strong points

I can mention 2 strong points in our project:

- The partnership was great: Everyone was aware of their duty, and did their best;
- The capacities of the project partners: All the partners were strong in their local communities, so issues like transport, food and accommodation were handled professionally.

# IDENTIFYING & PROMOTING



**PARTICIPATIVE  
DEMOCRACY**

**SPAIN, SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA**

**15.02.2012 – 15.08.2012**

18

## Project Description

- Preparatory group meetings with all partners before the main activities on different subjects: Youth employment and entrepreneurship, youth housing and emancipation and youth mobility;
- Visit to democratic institutions: city council of Padrón and regional parliament of Galicia;
- Simulation of parliamentary debates with the participation of senior decision makers, such as members of the Galician parliament, MEPs and representatives from city councils and regional government.

## Aim and objectives of the project

- Developing proposals based on dialogue and consensus of young people, based on the current needs of local youth, at regional, national and European level about: housing, employment and local and international mobility;
- Approaching and normalizing contacts between young people and policy makers. Facilitating a structured dialogue to ensure youth participation in society as a living entity, and responsible for building the present and future society;
- Encouraging proposals and youth initiatives through non formal education, enabling youngsters to gain experience in representative democracy and active citizenship;
- Establishing mechanisms for youth active participation based on consensus, dialogue and interviews with decision makers;
- Getting to know the different democratic institutions: local management bodies, councils, regional parliaments, the European Parliament...

## Outcomes of the project

Besides the fulfilment of the objectives, the project had a big impact not only on the participants, but also on the youngsters of the partner towns, as other youth democracy projects followed in some of the cities, with different partners.

The project also produced a website<sup>1</sup> which is still active.

One of the main and more interesting outcomes was a compilation of good practices within the participating countries and proposals about three topics:

- Youth employment and entrepreneurship;
- Youth housing and emancipation;
- Local and international mobility.

All these best practices and proposals were compiled, translated into English, and edited into a book.

## Challenges and how to overcome them

Logistics-wise the main challenge they faced was that the chosen dates, in mid-June, were not best suited, as a lot of the participants still had exams. But they were still able to have a nice group of participants.

Another big challenge was the compilation and editing of all the good practices and proposals into a book, as it is a very hard and long process. They solved this problem in part by having a very simple design for the publication.

## What makes it a best practice project from your NA's point of view?

As has already been highlighted, this project has produced a compilation of good practices and proposals in three important areas for youngsters (youth employment and entrepreneurship, youth housing and emancipation, and local and international mobility) which is very interesting.

Also, besides achieving the objectives of any youth democracy project, they managed to have a structured dialogue process, as when they simulated parliamentary debates, they had the participation of members of the Spanish and Galician Parliament, MEPs and decision makers from local and regional levels.

**MOBILITY  
HOUSING  
EMPLOYMENT**

YOUTH  
PEOPLE

19

## Permanent Thematic Priorities

European citizenship  
Participation of young people

## 2011 Annual Priorities

Youth unemployment  
Creativity and Entrepreneurship

## Project Coordinator

Asociación Xuvenil Vrenza, Spain

## Partnerships

Municipality of Mezdra, Bulgaria  
Association for Developing Alternative  
Tourism – Koriten, Bulgaria  
Grupo Instrução e Sport, Portugal  
Junta Freguesia Paiao, Portugal  
Municipality of Brolo, Italy  
Associazione di Promozione sociale 'Sikanie', Italy  
Ayuntamiento de Padrón, Spain

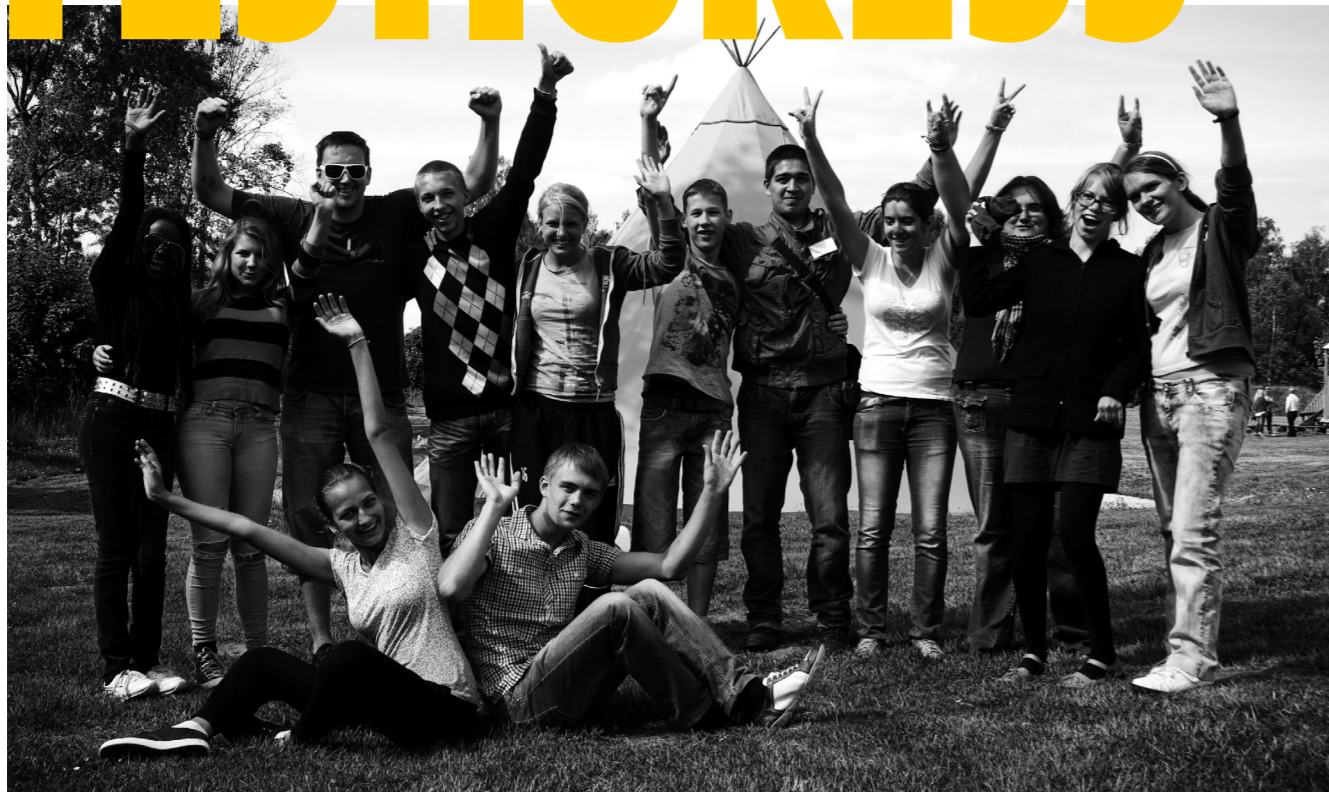
## Contact

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vrenza@gmail.com

## Links

<sup>1</sup> <http://youthdemocracy.eu>

# BANGOL INCLUDING FESTIGRESS



SWEDEN, LUND  
GERMANY, HAMBURG  
LITHUANIA, VILNIUS  
LATVIA, RIGA  
POLAND, ZABRZE

01.08.2011 – 15.02.2013

LEARN TOGETHER  
LIVE TOGETHER

21

## Brief description

The Bangol Including Festigress Project gathered 60 young people from five European countries: Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Germany and Sweden, all with different experiences and social backgrounds. The project motto was: Youngsters, who learn together, learn to live together (Declaration of Salamanca, 1994).

## Main activities of the project

The young participants joined together to explore, compare, discuss and experiment with democracy and inclusion policies and praxis in their own local societies. The youngster's experiences were further developed by acting together in their own local societies according to the project theme.

The project partners sent young representatives to Lund, first to reflect together on common experiences about democracy and inclusion issues and to plan for the Festigress project (Festival and Congress), and then later to participate in a five day inclusive Festigress. These meetings contained inclusive activities, workshops, discussions, social activities and meetings with experts and politicians.

The project closed with a seminar including one of its inspirers, prof. Nira Yuval Davis at East London University, Center for research on Migration, Refugees and Belonging.

## Aim

- Spread good examples of inclusive processes in the project partners' countries;
- Increase inclusion of marginalized people in the project partners' countries;
- Increase recognition and deconstruct stereotypes of marginalized people;
- Increase trust between different excluded people and between advocacy organizations.

## Objectives

- Produce a common information set about the project;
- Map different kinds of national inclusion recourses, i.e. policy document, good examples, networks, organizations etc.;
- Develop national networks and a transnational Bangol Including Network;
- Develop tools for mapping, analysis, dialogue questions and value clarification exercises etc.;
- Document local and transnational learning and development in the project;
- Make adaptations and offer personal support during project meetings and activities, so everyone can participate on their own terms and conditions;
- Arrange five national meetings to discuss democracy, inclusion and specific program ideas for the final Festigress project;
- Arrange one transnational meeting with the same issues mentioned in goal n°7;
- Organize and execute the Festigress project in August 2012;
- Summarize and publish best practices in a booklet;
- Produce a film about the project financed outside the project budget;
- Produce and sign a common Bangol Including Mission Statement;
- Establish a common English Bangol Including website;
- Choose an organizer for a second transnational Festigress 2013.

Fritz, 16, Germany

*When I played wheelchair basketball I got to know another view of life.*

Inga, 29, Lithuania

*Norm critical approach was new for me; I was analysing myself a lot, who I am – norm breaker or norm supporter. I found out something new even about myself.*

Yasmine, 21, Sweden

*If we start by talking, we are going to start listen, and when we listen we can figure out what problems there are in society. Then we can figure out what we can do for each other.*

Peyman, 29, Germany

*Humans are strong together, and if we exclude people we can't hear their feelings, their thoughts, the strengths from the people, and we have no future if we exclude people.*

Emilija, 22, Lithuania

*We feel exclusion and inclusion in every daily life. We should talk about that a lot and trying to understand each other, trying to be together.*

Jacek, 25, Poland

*We should learn more empathy to another person. We should learn more knowledge about society from where this person came from. And it makes us more human I think in this problem.*

Peyman, 29, Germany

*When I see the other people I recognize myself into them. And can see that I am not alone. I am not the only one who wants to change. Together we can maybe do it. Not maybe, for sure we can do it!*

Monika, 26, Lithuania

*We are now in Cologne, we presented our youth club Satrija, our activities, and BIF of course. We felt so well informed about inclusion.*

Alexandra, 29, Germany

*I think I got more independent from the national way of thinking with the help of BIF!*

Emilia, 22, Lithuania

*I'm sorry for those who discuss all the time. They should get to feel inclusion in another way too.*

20

Outcomes of the project

By offering the concept of transversal dialogues, the project participants developed a view of inclusion as a democratic, norm critical process for participation parity

The project successfully fulfilled all its practical goals, though some measures can be taken in the future to increase the outcomes. For example, the self-reflexive processes of rooting and of analyzing one’s own learning could be developed, as well as the local and transnational discussions about taking the subject to a practical political level.

Organising transversal dialogues which are inclusive and suitable for young participants also requires a conscious development of democratic, informal working forms, where everyone feels safe and confident enough to express their opinions and questions. This demands continuous work, and, though the youngsters should be given a lot of responsibility, also confident workshop/discussion leaders and informed staff.

Youth participation could be increased when it comes to project goals and methods, but should be easier from now on, as youngsters in all project countries are now involved in and confident about the project idea.

A seemingly unique and interesting take on the project was the combination of a norm critical approach and the idea of inclusive learning. While learning to be critical and analytic is important, the combination of doing this through personal meetings with differences can strengthen the norm critical pedagogy’s empathic depth. Given that this was the main objective of the project (increase inclusion, trust and recognition), it should be interesting to develop the strategy further.

Challenges and how to overcome them

The challenge was to avoid ending up with a mainstream view of inclusion, by implementing the rather untested theoretical (intersectional and transversal) foundations of inclusion, developed for our global and multi layered

contemporary society. The challenges embedded in this approach were generally overcome by combining experiences of real inclusive activities, closely followed up by reflective dialogues.

What makes it a best practice project from your NA’s point of view?

Developing a norm critical view of the concept of inclusion, compared to an affirmative action approach; The motto for the project: ‘Youngsters, who learn together, learn to live together’, was borrowed from the Salamanca Statement (UNESCO, 1994). The statement’s focus is formal and non-formal education, stating that children and youth, with and without disabilities, both benefit from learning together, in inclusive (school) milieus. As the project took the concept of inclusion further, this motto should be understood in the broadest intersectional sense and was, together with the transversal dialogue, the important normative foundation for the project. These basic foundations were implemented by combining the practices of learning by doing (empathetic) and dialogue (reflective).

Looking at inclusion in this way makes it more important to create sustainable forums where people can ask questions and execute their natural curiosity about what is building up, and what is tearing down equal participation, than to adapt to pre-set goals or ideal conditions. The problem with picturing inclusion as a desired state or goal is that the conditions there are not stable, only temporary, in a constant state of movement and change. That is why we will achieve more if we try to imagine inclusion as a challenging process. Widening norms, passionate engagements and unexpected outcomes on the way, should be the purposes of an astonishing journey.

Action type

Youth in Action, programme, sub-action 1.3, Youth Democracy Projects

Permanent Thematic Priorities

European Citizenship  
Participation of Young people  
Cultural Diversity  
Inclusion

2011 Annual Priority

Inclusive growth

Project Coordinator

Culture and Leisure dept. of the Municipality of Lund, Sweden

Partnerships

Lund, Sweden  
Lund Municipality, The Culture & Leisure Department.  
IFK Lund Track and Field, (Sports association, non-profit)

Hamburg, Germany  
Jugendclub Struenstrasse (Youth club, public)  
JuBa ASB Jugendzentrum Bahrenfeld (Youth club, non-profit)

Riga, Latvia  
Daugmale Children and Youth Centre (Public)  
Association of YWCA/YMCA of Latvia (Non-profit)

Vilnius, Lithuania  
Satrija Children and Youth Club (Public)  
Negalia – Lithuanian Association of People with Disabilities (Non-profit)

Żabrze, Poland  
City of Żabrze (Public)  
Stowarzyszenie Misericordia (School association, non-profit)

Contact

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Links

[www.bangolfestigress.n.nu](http://www.bangolfestigress.n.nu)  
[Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)



# A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT IN PALESTINE



PALESTINE, RAMALLAH

19.06.2013 – 26.06.2013

24

IDEAS  
ASIDES  
BIASSED  
SUBSIDE  
USESIDS  
BUSINESS / 25

*From the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2013, SALTO-Participation was invited to take part in a study visit in Palestine entitled 'Youth in Palestine and the surrounding challenges'. This event was organised by the EuroMed Youth Unit in Palestine, The Higher Council for Youth and Sport and SALTO-EuroMed with the support of the Finnish National Agency. The programme for the visit enabled participants from the programme countries to explore the reality for Palestinian youth organisations and to get an introduction to the youth policy applicable in Palestine. During one week, they had the opportunity to meet experts from the youth field and representatives from NGOs. One of the organisations visited was 'Leaders'. This is a youth lead initiative, established in 2002 and currently funded by 13 national and international donors such as the European Commission, the World Bank, and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social development, among others. The 'Leaders' organisation implements regular programmes which are intended to support youth projects related to human rights, participation, employability and entrepreneurship. Let's read more about them and get some inspiration...<sup>1</sup>*

The first Palestinian accelerator, thriving business hubs, and opportunities to patent and commercialize research results, these are among the opportunities 'Leaders' Organization offers Palestinian youth. 'Leaders' is centered around two priority programs: Social and Political Leaders and the Economic Empowerment Program. Both programs harness the energies of Palestinian youth to actively engage them in the development process.

Established in Ramallah in 2002, 'Leaders' prides itself on its innovative approach to development in the Palestinian territories. Through programs like the Business Development Center, Fast Forward and Patent which fall under the Economic Empowerment Program, 'Leaders' opens the doors to research and development, fosters the creativity of entrepreneurs and creates business opportunities. Support for entrepreneurs, primarily in knowledge-based industries, enables young Palestinians to drive the market forward by empowering innovation and developing entrepreneurial skills and drive.

The Business Development Center (BDC) provides established and emerging businesses with the services they need to expand their enterprises. Start-ups are offered the tools to transform their ideas into businesses. With 'Leaders' providing business development services, legal advice, marketing, financial management consulting, plus the physical space for start-ups to launch their business, the energy of entrepreneurs can be directed towards where it is most need – product development. The BDC program is offering services to start-ups and enterprises in fields such as chemical manufacturing, ceramic manufacturing, web and e-commerce, technology, tourism, security and logistics, and film production. To date the BDC has launched ten start-ups; some are fully functional businesses while others are still at the product development stage.

Among the beneficiaries of the BDC is Subhi Dajani, a talented visual artist, who has graduated from France with a Master's degree in graphics and visual effects. Now Subhi manages a production company, 'Lilitt Films', that he has recently started with the support of

'Leaders'. Thanks to DSLR cameras with HD movie recording capabilities, a work-station PC, and video-editing software provided by 'Leaders', Subhi can create competitive content, materials, ads, and even music videos. In less than six months, 'Lilitt Films' has managed to attract numerous clients, locally and even from the US. Their production so far has focused on promotion videos, advertisements, corporate work presentations, and a music video production.

Building on its experience with the BDC and the success of entrepreneurs like Subhi, 'Leaders' has recently launched 'Fast Forward', the first acceleration program in Palestine. 'Fast Forward' provides each of its 10 companies with \$20,000 in investment. More importantly, the program exposes entrepreneurs to a network of mentors and venture capitalists seeking to invest, and an array of services valued at \$30,000 per company. In essence, the program creates a much-needed entrepreneurial ecosystem that enables start-ups in the technology field to excel.

In addition to these programs, 'Patents' fosters innovation by capitalizing on the potential of research and development activities to drive economic development. The program promotes collaboration on research and development projects in the fields of health, environment, water, energy, biotechnology and food production, leading to either the patenting or commercialization of the research results. Under this program Shadi Mahmoud and his team are working on the industrialization possibilities of cactus pears in both the medicinal and cosmetic fields. Their research is aimed at producing two products; anti-aging cream and thermal burn treatment cream. These products will be made out of cactus pear seed oil and cactus pad extracts. 'Leaders' has provided the team with the research material, access to labs, and mentors who guide them in the research process.

By fostering innovation and supporting entrepreneurs, 'Leaders' encourages businesses that, in-turn, assist the community in the creation of employment opportunities and provision of high quality services.

#### Introduction and context in which the project has been implemented

'Leaders' Organization was established by a group of young Palestinian university graduates seeking to tackle issues posing the greatest social and economic concerns for youth.

#### How did the idea come up?

The Economic Empowerment Program is designed to address the issues impeding the economic integration of youth in the Palestinian economy, including:

- Enhancing the role of youth in developing the Palestinian Economy;
- Addressing unemployment of graduates who have great potential but insufficient access to opportunities;
- Creating an ecosystem to support entrepreneurship;
- Supporting innovation.

#### Description of the project

The Economic Empowerment Program focuses on supporting enterprise development for young people as its key strategy. Under this Program Leaders develops the capacities of young people through training, career awareness, and business development services to enable them to engage more fully in economic activities. Leaders also help them through creating opportunities, through market linkages, and building on their capacities to establish viable enterprises.

#### Objectives

'Leaders' Economic Empowerment Program aims to develop the professional skills of young people in the fields of relevance to the local market. This program also focuses on enabling young Palestinians to drive the market forward through empowering innovative youth and developing their entrepreneurial skills.

#### Project challenges/Difficulties

- Weak entrepreneurial drive and skills among youth;
- Laws and regulations affecting enterprises.

#### Project strengths

- Generating income;
- Increasing employment;
- Enhancing the entrepreneurial culture.

#### Project Promoters

Potential leaders in the fields of politics, human rights, and social and economic entrepreneurship. Young people aged 21-35. While employability or microenterprise programs tend to target youth living in marginalized communities that are economically disadvantaged, the knowledge based entrepreneurial programs target youth with feasible ideas and an entrepreneurial drive.

#### Partnerships

'Leaders' Organization is funded by 13 different donors and in 2010 was granted Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

#### Budget

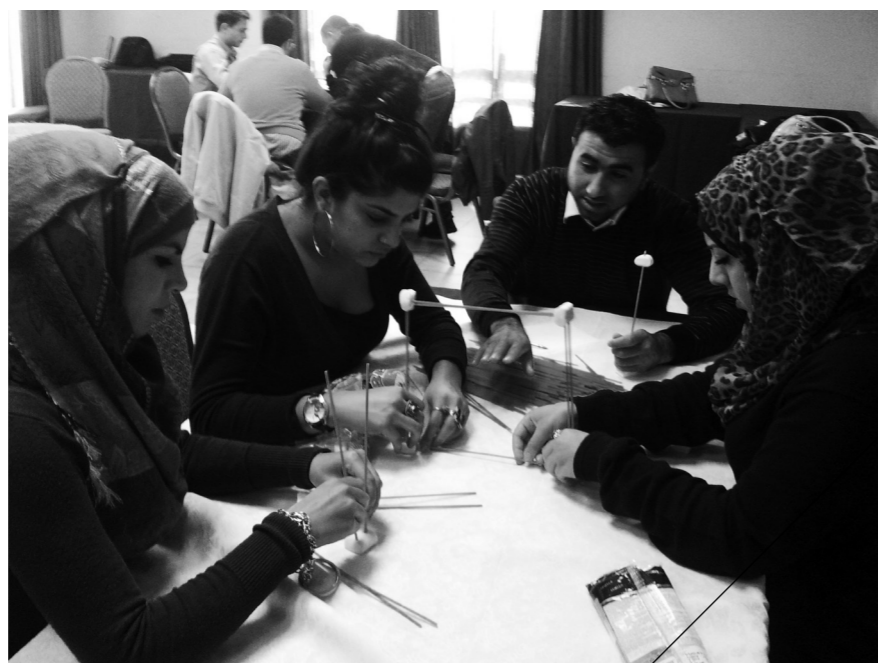
Leaders operating budget for 2013 is \$2.5 million.

#### Contacts

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[www.leaders.ps](http://www.leaders.ps)

#### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> An exhaustive report is being finalised and will be made available by SALTO-EuroMed in the coming weeks.  
[www.salto-youth.net/euromed](http://www.salto-youth.net/euromed)



26

## EVENT

# AGORA JEUNES CITOYENS



This fifth edition of the 'Agora Jeunes Citoyens', Youth Assembly, amounted to 4 days of activities, forty participants (young people and youth workers) from the 4 corners of the globe – the European Union, Eastern Europe, the Balkans, Africa and Quebec, 6 trainers, 5 media associations and the technical team of the 'Bureau International Jeunesse' (BIJ – International Youth Bureau). In short, 60 people gathered to tackle and discuss and act against social injustice in the world through the media and new media.

Inspired by the Social Charter of the Council of Europe, the organisation put in place this year was experimental and innovative, the aim being to talk about social injustice and the fight against all forms of discrimination through the creation of two virtual characters.

The participants had the opportunity to participate in different 'agoras' (forums) of discussions organised by the facilitators and/or by themselves in order to create a space for debate and to provide the media workshops with the topics of access to social rights and the fight against injustice and discrimination. Participants were able to share their ideas and discuss the situation

in their country, on such subjects as: gender equality, racism, hate speech, migration, housing, youth participation in society but also in the political debate, especially online...

A lot of exchanges took place, a lot of ideas were put on the table, a lot of new knowledge was gained, especially on the different national contexts and responses to some situations... But a lot of questions also arose, such as: how to deal with racism and hate speech, how to react? How to involve more women in the political sphere? In this field, are quotas the right thing to impose? Or in the field of housing: is it ok to make profits from one of the fundamental rights? So, the debates were rich but still with a lot of open space to be explored...

In any case, the participants were subsequently able to convey these ideas via media creations, divided into 5 workshops: radio, reportage, improvisation, talk show and a final one on establishing a strategy on the use of social media. The facilitators and media team then had to collaborate and bring the 'agoras' and the media workshops together, with the aim of producing media material for dissemination of all the above mentioned issues.

This year's approach, as described above, was original in the fact that the participants were involved in the creation of these characters, destined to

become the initiators, heroes, and prescribers of civic actions by the media, in which everyone can find their own reflection and convey messages, information, and their indignation in relation to current affairs in their own country and elsewhere in the world.

All this was aimed at encouraging a process of active participation from the participants, in favour of social inclusion and human rights, not only online, but also in their local or national environment, using new reflections and new skills in their daily youth work and encouraging their young public to be more active in the field of Human Rights and fight against any kind of discrimination.

Last but not least, a whole working session was dedicated to defining a 'Charter on media ethics' which allowed participants to reflect on the comments and posts, objectivity and subjectivity, the rules of use, control and management of the characters. This dynamic and productive work resulted in the creation of a document of 19 articles to use as a reference framework.

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WEDIA – Online Action for Social Justice

BELGIUM, BRUSSELS

02.04.2013 – 07.04.2013

# CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE

RESPECT & PERSPECTIVE

ROMANIA, IASI

01.02.2013 – 31.07.2013



28

## Brief description

The project aims to provide visibility to disabled people, who have the right to an active and dignified life, without the fear of stigma from a society that does not seem to understand or respect their needs and abilities.

Since changing the mentality of a society begins with its young people, the project aims to create a team of young volunteers, both abled and disabled, to engage in the process of creating an accurate image of a vulnerable group in society and support their case in front of all authority forums, other young people, and the population of Iasi City.

The project aims to encourage young people with disabilities to participate in projects that can give them the opportunity to have an active life, and with their presence in public spaces, to determine the authorities to ensure them adapted public spaces in conformity with their needs, but also to provide a public example of the active lifestyle that they can have.

The project also aims to create an interactive platform in order to provide explicit information about the types of disabilities, stories about young disabled people from Iasi which will help the majority to better understand the cause, and also an open dialogue with the authorities from Iasi City to raise awareness about people with disabilities.

## How did the idea come up?

The idea to develop a project based on equal opportunities, respect and solidarity with young disabled people living in Iasi was inspired by the everyday reality this social group is dealing with in the public arena. There are many disadvantaged youngsters willing to live an active, normal life, but they have to overcome negative stereotypes, the lack of adaptation of public spaces and, in many cases, their own fear of rejection.

Thus, we designed a series of activities developed in mixed groups, conceived to build self-confidence and solidarity, emphasizing the idea that

direct involvement is part of the solution of every given problem: training courses and workshops, a public survey, an information platform, a photography exhibition, a public artistic event, meetings with local authorities, and an awareness campaign for drivers parking in adapted spaces.

## Objectives

The project is designed to highlight values such as equality, diversity and tolerance, acceptance and civic support of the underprivileged, starting with the assumption that all of these values must be based on correct understanding of the disadvantaged.

## Pitfalls/Difficulties

The lack of adaptation in public spaces made mobility less easy for youngsters using wheelchairs, but this negative aspect was also useful in our awareness campaign for public accessibility.

We also encountered difficulties with some families of the youngsters having physical disabilities. Some of them did not agree to let their kids participate, although they were out of school and had no other activity to spend their time on. The idea that our activities were developed in mixed groups and in public places was especially challenging for them. In this way, we understood that in our attempt to empower youngsters in the process of demanding their rights to avoid exclusion, parents must also be involved as partners and convinced to get their children out of their comfort zone, to give them the chance to evolve and have a normal life, in correlation with their abilities.

## Strong points

The trainings and workshops in mixed groups were amazing and helped to create a dynamic group, and built-up confidence and solidarity amongst the youngsters. The photo exhibition and artistic event were also a great success as a great deal of people identified with the cause of these young people and showed their support.

People facing exclusion took the challenges very seriously and learned to make new friends, developed their communication skills and built up the confidence to demand their rights in society. The contact with the authorities made them aware of their power to change the negative aspects in the community they live in. As a follow-up activity, a smaller group of volunteers organized a trip to the seaside (500km away from Iasi) including two young disabled people who had never seen the sea and had never hoped to get there.

The message of the project was conveyed by two public figures who endorsed our awareness campaign. The singing group invited to one of our activities became a permanent partner. In 2013, they have been working on a video clip of their original music, sharing relevant pictures from the Change your perspective! Project, and promoting the rights of young disabled people, encouraging solidarity and a call to action for disadvantaged youngsters.



**Project Promoters**  
euRespect Association, Iasi

**Partnerships**  
House of Culture Iasi  
Mihai Ursachi  
Librarium Palas Bookcenter  
Costache Negruzzi (College from Iasi)

**Budget**  
The Romanian National Agency, through the 'Youth in Action' programme: €5,200  
euRespect Association,  
Migali Dental Clinic,  
Polirom Publishing House: €300

**Contact**  
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[office@eurespect.ro](mailto:office@eurespect.ro)

# REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

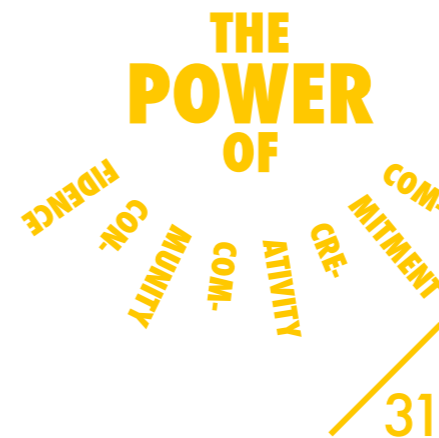


THE POWER OF YOUTH  
TO CHANGE THE WORLD



GERMANY, BROMBACHTAL

01.05.2011 – 31.10.2011



## Main activities of the project

180 youth from 20 (12 European programme) countries gathered for 'Reaching New Heights', at MA Center Germany near Frankfurt. In their home countries and while meeting in Germany, the youngsters discussed some of the main challenges faced by young people in today's society, ranging from drug abuse to violence, lack of self-confidence to environmental crisis. A total of three local projects were implemented during the week, among them a final musical performance in the city's biggest public event location with 500 guests. The Musical portrayed the problems the youngsters had identified and their solutions and opportunities for change – the youth development goals. Furthermore, a park was renovated and the 8 youth development goals were placed in the form of an artistic monument in the park. The project was organised by the young people themselves and supported by the European Commission with €34,464.

## Aim and objectives of the project

Through artistic performances in an intercultural setting the young people try to 'reach new heights', focused on eight main challenges they face in today's society: lack of self-confidence, depression and suicide, addictions and substance abuse, erosion of culture and values, violence, poverty and unemployment, lack of perspective and meaning, family and social crises and environmental challenges. Each country group

chose one specific challenge to deal with during the initiative. Four powers were then identified to deal with these problems: the power of confidence, the power of commitment, the power of creativity and the power of community.

The main aim was to prepare the final musical performance for 500 guests and to create a peace monument for the park.

## Outcomes of the project

Throughout the program the youth spoke about different obstacles in life and learned how to deal with different situations. Professional trainers and artists helped them to understand the importance of developing self-confidence as a tool for personal empowerment and suggested ways in which to achieve an increased sense of self-worth and integrity. This both mental and creative support through talks, hands-on activities and discussions strengthens the self-confidence of youth and promotes a positive life style.

It's the seventh European Youth Initiative organized by AYUDH that will go on year after year and give benefit to a European community based on caring, equality, non-violence and religious tolerance.

## What makes it a best practice project from your NA's point of view?

The collaboration of youth coming from different countries and working on peace, multiculturalism, inter-religion, self-empowerment and art is an extraordinary example for promoting the ideals of Europe.

## Permanent Thematic Priorities

European Citizenship  
Participation of Young people  
Cultural Diversity  
Inclusion

## 2011 Annual Priorities

Creativity and Entrepreneurship

## Project Coordinator

M.A. Center Germany – Seminarzentrum  
Hof Herrenberg e.V., Germany

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Dassi Matia, Italy  
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Ayudh Ireland  
Ayudh Netherlands c/o Maaikje Happel  
Ayudh Spain  
Ayudh Switzerland 35

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[www.ayudh.eu](http://www.ayudh.eu)

# FACING UNEMPLOYMENT & ITS IMPACT ON YOUTH



CYPRUS, LARNACA

01.11.2011 – 30.06.2012

32

## Main activities of the project

This project took the form of an informative campaign on the issue of unemployment at national and European level and its impact on young people. Within the frame of this project, participants recorded and codified existing programmes and institutions working to reduce unemployment, either through job seeking, or schemes providing economic incentives to employers for employing young unskilled people, young scientists etc.

During the 8 months of the project, 3 groups of young people were established, each with specific responsibilities (a Coordinating Team, an Editing Team and a Research Team). Twenty young people were directly involved in the project. The outcomes of this initiative reached hundreds of people through the presentations carried out and the material produced.

Meetings with the Minister of Labour and other policy makers, seminars and lecture given by experts, questionnaire design and analysis, and presentations of the project's outcomes were the main activities of this project.

## Aim and objectives of the project

The main objective of the action was primarily to discuss and document the problem of unemployment at regional, national and European level. The aim was to trace all those institutions, public or not, which deal with the issues of reducing unemployment, provide information on job opportunities, give employment motives, and then codify and present the results of this research in special events, discussions and seminars.

## Outcomes of the project

This initiative gave young people living in rural areas the opportunity to get involved in an E.U. Programme and, at the same time, inform themselves about the opportunities provided by various bodies for the reduction of unemployment. The outcomes of the project (the results of the questionnaire and all the information collected) were presented to the Minister of Labour. The booklet produced was distributed to thousands of young people. The organisation plans to expand this initiative in other districts of Cyprus.

## Challenges and how to overcome them

The main challenge was the delay that the group of young people faced in setting up the teams and starting to implement the project. This challenge was overcome with the help and guidance of the coach.

## What makes it a best practice project from your NA's point of view?

It is considered a best practice project since it dealt with the issue of unemployment but also with the specific opportunities offered nowadays to unemployed people. All the information gathered during this project was codified and documented in a booklet.

UNEMPLOYMENT  
X  
OPPORTUNITIES / 33

## Permanent Thematic Priorities

*Inclusion*

*Participation of Young people*

## 2011 Annual Priority

*Youth unemployment*

## Project Coordinator

*District Council of EDON*

*Larnakas (organisation), Cyprus*

## Contact

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## Links

*The material produced during the project can be found at:*

*[www.edon.org.cy/index.php?cID=1297](http://www.edon.org.cy/index.php?cID=1297)*

# CYBER-VOLUNTEERS



THE POWER OF THE  
CONNECTED CITIZEN TO  
IMPROVE THE WORLD

SPAIN, MADRID

10.2013

34

## A social entrepreneurship story

Electric blue, for me is the color of cyberoptimism. Electric blue was the color of the place where a friend in 1995 told me: 'look here', and I discovered Internet for the first time. He taught me to take my first steps in the network, and opened, in my environment, a world of possibilities. That person, that friend was the first cybervolunteer I met. So my life changed completely.

I was fascinated by the latest technology, I wanted to share it, to unite people with the same passion. So finally, along with three other friends, I co-founded Campus Party in 1996, the highest concentration of Internet users in the world, now present in several countries. Campus Party is an event that brings together young geeks worldwide. After that came really intense years for me where, thanks to the Campus, I started companies and projects oriented towards advanced technology. I experienced the internet 'boom', lived and enjoyed exciting years where I learned a lot, but at the same time, I realized how institutions and companies were generating needs.

Then in 2001, I started hearing about digital exclusion, how technology meant separation and division. And I thought, how could people live without technology? How would they communicate, participate, share or work collaboratively, network etc It had been only six years since the first time I'd been on the Internet, but it was part of my DNA, my way of seeing the world and interacting with my surroundings. I was certainly privileged to have had the opportunity to discover that world of possibilities. I could have been on the other side. So I had no doubt I had to do something. I began to share an attitude innate Network with others: collaborate to grow, engage and empower themselves, and so Cibervoluntarios began.

Cibervoluntarios became my cause. Leaving everything I had done so far behind, and starting from scratch, without any support or institution I started the Cibervoluntarios Foundation<sup>1</sup>. This is how I became, unknowingly, a social entrepreneur.

## With technology, social innovation is in our hands

We Are Cybervolunteers, we are cyberoptimists. Because we live in a historic moment, like no other, in which the appropriation of technology is key to eliminating social gaps. Inherited gaps that have to do with education, labor, social, participation, health development... that have to do with human development.

And closing these gaps is, for the first time, in the hands of citizens themselves, because technology gives every single one of us a chance, to become the main characters, technological social entrepreneurs, capable of changing the world. This transformation is the result of an informed and engaged citizenship. A citizenship that knows how to use the tools, applications, contents and technological services at its disposal to generate a wealthy and better world. Because addressing real needs means generating innovation and social change.

## The power of connected citizens is the power to change the world

Nothing is more human than technology, because technology is communication, participation, action and we are social beings by nature. Technology allows us to communicate. But technology is also health, as we can see from the example of Maria Amelia<sup>2</sup>. The grandma blogger, with her blog 'With my 90 years old' explained that there is greater pain than the disease itself: loneliness. Thanks to the internet videoblog, she never again felt alone. And thanks to the Internet, you can also get off the streets, as we can see with the story of Pedro Cluster<sup>3</sup>, a former homeless person who started a blog about his life story; through it, he was able to recount the problems of more people living on the streets and help others to visualize his life during those years. It gave rise to a whole new social network, a new life, and today he works and has published a book about his story. But technology is also work, education, participation, democracy...

Today, thanks to technology, and with ideas, enthusiasm, time, and not many resources, any citizen has the

power to change and improve the world. It's in our hands to mobilize and act to get everything we want or dream of; even fighting for peace is possible, as the Israeli designer Roni Edry explained in his campaign 'We love you'<sup>4</sup>. With a two minute video and using only social networks, he managed to mobilize thousands of people to his cause of achieving peace. I could give you hundreds, thousands of examples. In this way we work through our multiplatform project, [Empodera.org](http://Empodera.org)<sup>5</sup>, in which we highlight and show dozens of initiatives like these worldwide.

In short, new technologies are today one of the best tools we have in our hands to empower citizens and promote human rights. So from the 'Cibervoluntarios Foundation', we work every day to promote the social use of technology to generate intangible social processes that achieve real social transformation, as a means to generate social innovation.

Nothing  
is more human  
than  
technology  
/ 35

Unlike technological innovation, what social innovation generates is not a product itself, but the social practice of it: the attention to a specific need. We achieve this with the support and collaboration of hundreds of cybervolunteers. The key is to not create needs, but to solve existing ones.

## The Cybervolunteers

The Cibervoluntarios Foundation team has been working for twelve years training social and technological entrepreneurs and area leaders, who seek, detect and analyze social needs within their environment and improve it through the social use of technology. The Cybervolunteers generate their own projects, framed by social innovation, by the use of new tools to solve old problems in a different way. And they are convinced that new technologies should not generate more gaps, but delete existing ones.

That is why their way of contributing is to constantly seek innovative and creative solutions and channel the needs and demands within its scope. Because they are close to the situation within their own environments, they are therefore aware of the solutions needed.

The Cybervolunteers are social change agents, social and digital entrepreneurs, local heroes offline and online, using any type of technological tool to alleviate a social need. They are characterized by:

- Curious and proactive people, eager to learn, with a passion for sharing and enthusiasm for ICT;
- Area Leaders: they detect and analyze social needs within their environment;
- Speakers on the needs of their environment: they channel opportunities and demands;
- Prescribers of creative and innovative solutions in their environment;
- They use technology tools to solve old problems in a different way;
- They disclose, as volunteers, the potential for new technologies in a useful, simple and effective way;
- Their initiatives and projects are marked by social innovation, creating replicable processes from the 'Cibervoluntarios'.

Foundation, we track (training-management-consulting-coordination) each cibervoluntario that finally manages to create their own social innovation project, or collaborate in the project of a fellow leader. And we, of course, certify its completion and the type and number of skills acquired during the process. In short, we have managed to develop

Cybervolunteers, through their efforts, a vital connection between local and global information society. We got to innovate and become social entrepreneurs in technology, while acquiring a series of basic generic skills for professional, personal and social development.

### Pioneers in technological volunteering

The Cibervoluntarios Foundation is a pioneer in technological volunteering, an international benchmark. We are passionate about technology and the social good. Cibervoluntarios brings both qualities and is based on a proven methodology for over 12 years. Throughout our history we have managed to identify replicable processes, allowing, through the social use of technology, the managing of intangibles and the building of projects that achieve social impact by improving the quality of life in an environment. Cibervoluntarios is a recognized brand and internationally valued: Cibervoluntarios™.

We obtained an award from the Princes of Asturias<sup>6</sup> in recognition of 'the creation of new forms of participation and social innovation in support groups at risk of exclusion'.

### Cyberoptimism: connected to an attitude

In short, it's time to share, time to act. Here, there. Whatever? Wherever? The boundaries are blurred to a common attitude. People connected by their causes, convinced that together, we can all transform the world. Everyday heroes are not sitting waiting for better times; this is our time. Collective heroes able to empathize with their environment and use the transformative power of technology to change the course of what they are concerned or outraged about. Social heroes, anonymous, privileged citizens, empowered, using their right of being and to be on the internet, responsibly, with a clear objective: to produce social, economic and human improvement.

## YOLANDA RUEDA FERNANDEZ

Founder and CEO  
Cibervoluntarios Foundation

### Links

[www.cibervoluntarios.org](http://www.cibervoluntarios.org)  
[www.twitter.com/cibervoluntarios](https://twitter.com/cibervoluntarios)  
[www.facebook.com/cibervoluntarios](https://www.facebook.com/cibervoluntarios)  
[www.youtube.com/cibervoluntarios](https://www.youtube.com/cibervoluntarios)  
[www.empodera.org](http://www.empodera.org)

### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>Further info:  
[www.cibervoluntarios.org](http://www.cibervoluntarios.org)

<sup>2</sup>Maria Amelia's Blog:  
<http://amis95.blogspot.com>

<sup>3</sup>Pedro Cluster telling his story  
in a digital meeting:  
[www.elmundo.es/encuentros/invitados/2006/10/2207/](http://www.elmundo.es/encuentros/invitados/2006/10/2207/)

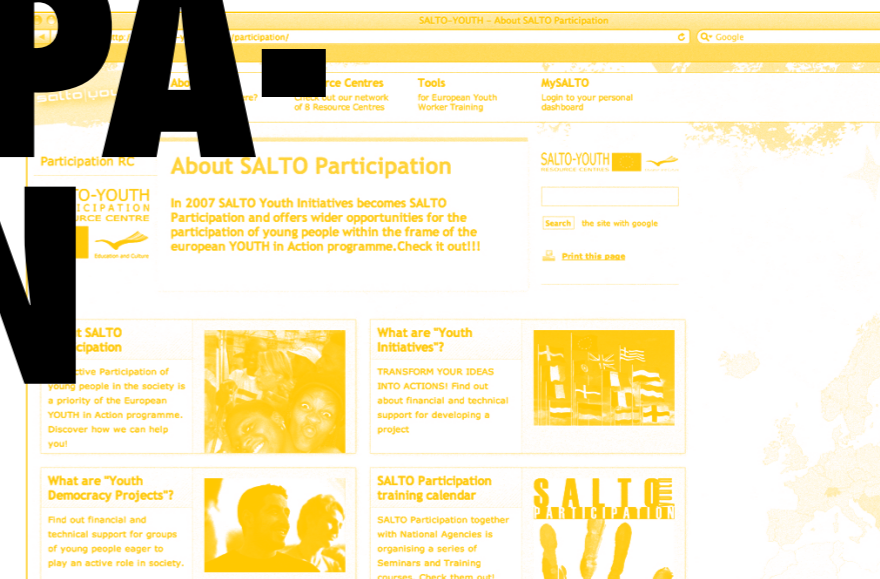
<sup>4</sup>Video of Roni's campaign 'We Love You':  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6sPCSJu31U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6sPCSJu31U)

<sup>5</sup>Further info:  
[www.empodera.org/publicaciones](http://www.empodera.org/publicaciones)

<sup>6</sup>Video:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Wz\\_IRiZoyM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Wz_IRiZoyM)

## ABOUT US

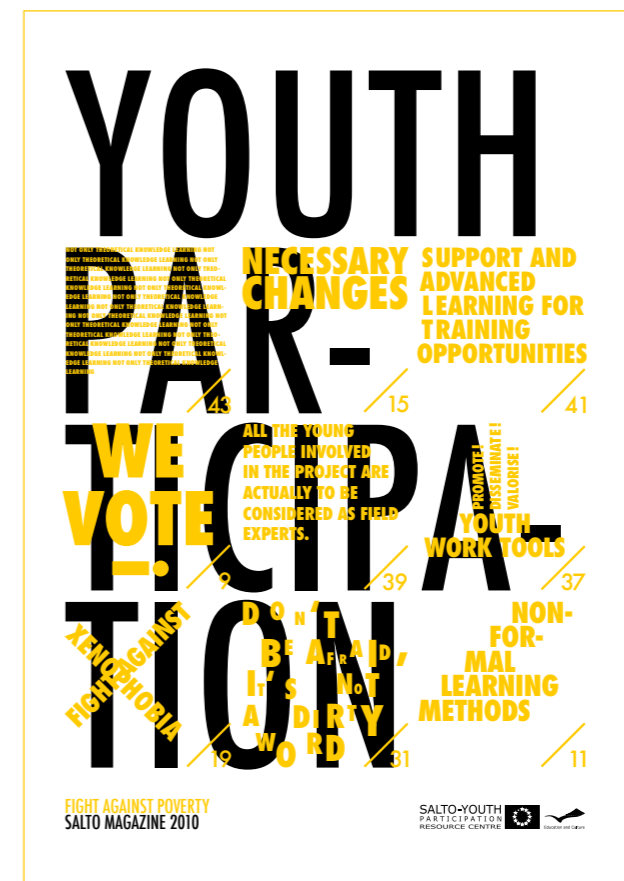
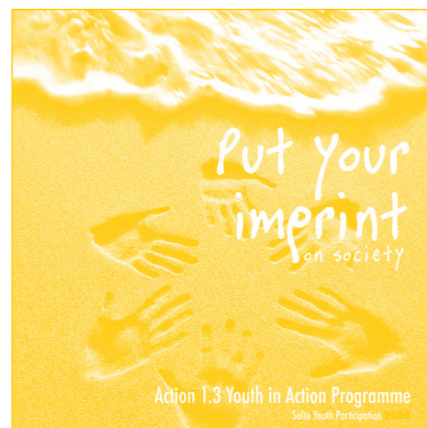
# SALTO-YOUTH PARTICIPATION



## WITHIN THE 'YOUTH IN ACTION' PROGRAMME



BELGIUM, BRUSSELS



## What do we do?

- Strengthen and promote active participation;
- Collect and disseminate information, projects and articles on active participation;
- Support the management of youth initiatives and Youth Democracy Projects (sub action 1.2 and 1.3).

## How do we do it?

- A website;
- Practical guides;
- Publications;
- Magazines;
- Newsletters;
- Training courses;
- Organisation of events;
- Best Practice Projects Database;
- Partner Finding Database – OTLAS.

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[www.salto-youth.net/Participationcourses](http://www.salto-youth.net/Participationcourses)

**SUPPORT,  
ADVANCED  
LEARNING &  
TRAINING  
OPPORTUNITIES**

39

38

**WHY**

WE CONSIDER THAT THE 1.2 SUB-ACTION OF THE 'YOUTH IN ACTION' PROGRAMME NEEDS OUR SUPPORT NOW MORE THAN EVER. JOIN OUR CAUSE TO PROMOTE AN ACTION THAT BRINGS THE EUROPEAN UNION CLOSER TO ALL YOUNG PEOPLE!

**A MANIFESTO**

FOR GIVING (NATIONAL) YOUTH INITIATIVES A PLACE IN THE FUTURE EU PROGRAMME FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, YOUTH AND SPORT (2014 – 2020)

STATING THE CASE FOR YOUTH INITIATIVES

THIS IS AN INITIATIVE OF THE SALTO-YOUTH PARTICIPATION RESOURCE CENTRE TO MARK ITS 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY (2003-2013), IN COLLABORATION WITH ACTION 1.2 PROJECT OFFICERS OF 'YOUTH IN ACTION' NATIONAL AGENCIES.

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# SALTO

TAKE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

LEARN TOGETHER  
LIVE TOGETHER

7

21

# MAG

MOBILITY  
HOUSING  
EMPLOYMENT

IDEAS  
ASIDES  
BIASSED  
SUBSIDE  
USES BIDS  
BUSINESS

19

25

# ZINE

HAVE A NORMAL LIFE

MISTAKEN  
MANAGED  
LEARNED  
CONFIDENCE

29

11

# MAJORITY

MINORITY

15

5

ENHANCE THE FEELING OF BEING A CITIZEN OF THE EU