



The great aim of education is not knowledge but action  
/Herbert Spencer/

# YOUTH OPENS THE SPACE

## Intercultural, Civic and Peace Education

Open Space Follow-up Conference  
of the Regional EuroMed UNESCO Youth Forum

July 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Wrocław (Poland)

*People involved in intercultural, civic and peace education, youth trainers, youth leaders, youth workers, gathered in beautiful city in south west of Poland, exchanging experiences, learning from each other, setting up partnerships, planning future projects....  
Feels like joining this group? This invitation is for you!*

### MAIN THEME

Education is a meaningful tool enabling us to introduce and to integrate young people in the world of dialogue, the world of mutual understanding, the world whose future depends on them. . Therefore we have chosen intercultural, civic and peace education as the main topic of our conference. We will approach these issues from the standpoint of non - formal education to let participants understand better the complexity of today's world.

**Intercultural education** (anti-discrimination and interfaith dialogue) helps us to understand differences and similarities among all the people at the same time putting an emphasis on equality. Nowadays, when all the societies of the world become more and more diverse and multicultural, tolerance is one of the main values and preconditions for peaceful coexistence.

**Peace education** (conflict resolution and human rights education) is crucial not only in the areas where conflicts recently appeared but also in all other countries. It not only prevents the break out of a conflict but also spreads the awareness of the role of compromise and human rights in all societies.

**Civic education** (active citizenship, youth participation and youth networking) is an irreplaceable tool to promote the sense of responsibility for what is happening around us, to empower young people in order to become active members of the society. Therefore it underlines that we can all make a difference and have a real impact on our reality.

We believe that there are a common basis and common objectives for intercultural, peace and civic education. We approach them all since we know that these kinds of education show us the

 



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possibility to change the world we live in and lead to constructive dialogue between **people, cultures and civilisations**.

## HOW IS THE OPEN SPACE CONFERENCE RELATED TO THE UNESCO YOUTH FORUM?

The **UNESCO Youth Forum** is a biannual meeting of young minds that takes place as an integral part of the UNESCO General Conference and has, since its inception in 1999, become a unique space for debate and reflection on how to make young people part of the solutions to the manifold problems confronting them. This year in October, youth representatives from 192 countries from all over the world will meet again for the 5<sup>th</sup> time in Paris. During the previous UNESCO Youth Forum, in 2005, young participants strongly suggested the organisation of Regional Youth Forums on the theme of 'Young People and the Dialogue among Civilizations, Cultures and Peoples', in preparation of the 2007 UNESCO Youth Forum.

Following up on this recommendation, the UNESCO Section for Youth, Sport and Physical Education is organizing a series of preparatory **regional UNESCO Youth Forums** in six regions of the world, in 2006-2007. Part of this series of Forums was the **UNESCO Euro-Med Youth Forum on "Intercultural and Interfaith Dialogue to Ensure Peace"**, that took place last year (16-19 November 2006) in Cyprus.

The Open Space Conference on Intercultural, Civic and Peace Education "Youth Opens the Space" is a **follow-up initiative** to the Euro-Med Forum and will continue elaborating on recommendations related to education, training, raising awareness and networking that were adopted in Cyprus. Just like the recommendations of all Regional Youth Forums and of their follow-up projects, the conclusions of our discussions will be channelled into the preparations of the 5<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum in Paris in October 2007.

## WHY OPEN SPACE?

Open space is an effective method enabling to work with large groups, creating a unique atmosphere of **involvement, active participation** and **responsibility for the outcome** of the meeting. It gives people the sense of freedom and puts the responsibility for the learning outcomes on participants.

Open space with the group of youth involved in variety of activities and committed to the topic of the conference brings fruitful results, gives a chance to discuss all the important issues appearing during the meeting. At the same time all possibilities for future cooperation can be explored and new partnerships established.

## AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The main aim of the project is to **create a network** of youth workers and trainers active in the field of non-formal education - with the primary focus on civic, intercultural and peace education.

The aim will be achieved by following objectives:

- **to open the floor for discussion** about the possibilities of using intercultural, civic and peace education as a tool for positive changes,
- to create a **platform for exchange of experiences for practitioners** in the field of non formal education,
- **to plan future international youth projects** (international youth exchanges and local initiatives co-ordinated by international networks),
- to prepare future participants of the UNESCO Youth Forum in Paris (October 2007) for more active and fruitful involvement in discussions, and also in planning future common actions

## PARTICIPANTS

We aim at young people interested in and active in the field of intercultural, civic and peace education from EuroMed countries (especially from Central - East Europe):

- **youth trainers** with years of experiences in non formal education

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- representatives of **youth organisations**, involved in non formal education **projects**, maximum 2 people from one organisation
- **youth workers** involved in educational youth projects
- **youth activists** involved in educational initiatives
- 18 years old and more

#### We invite participants from the following countries:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Latvia, Malta, Morocco, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

#### COSTS

- costs of food and accommodation will be covered by organisers from the UNESCO Participation Programme
- as well as 50% of travel expenses (2<sup>nd</sup> class ticket, cheapest mean of transport), we will reimburse max 200 euro per person (what means 50% of your ticket should not be more than 200 euro)

#### PROGRAMME

##### 1<sup>st</sup> day

arrivals

20:00 ice-breaking & getting to know each other, dinner

##### 2<sup>nd</sup> day

10:00 - 12:30 **opening ceremony (introduction into the topic and into the idea of UNESCO Youth Forum)**

12:30 - 14:00 lunch

14:00 - 19:00 **open space phase 1**

20:00 - 21:00 intercultural dinner

##### 3<sup>rd</sup> day

10:00 - 19:00 **open space phase 2**

20:00 - 21:00 polish dinner

##### 4<sup>th</sup> day

10:00 - 13:00 **future action planning**

13:30 - 15:00 lunch

15:00 - 19:00 **closing ceremony (final report)**

20:00 see you again party

##### 5<sup>th</sup> day

departures

The treasure and visible **result** of the project will be an **Open Space Book of Proceedings** - with reports on all the discussions that will be held, next steps of future projects and a contact list of all participants. It depends on participants how they want to make use of the book and whether they will implement new ideas for common projects that will appear during the conference.

There will be also a **website** of the project containing results of discussions, interesting links and a database of youth organisations, initiatives and activities connected to the project.

 



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## FOLLOW-UP

- a regional platform / network of people involved in intercultural, civic and peace education,
- common future activities - international youth exchanges, local youth initiatives coordinated in international networks,
- stronger partnerships cooperation between National Commissions, UNESCO chairs and regional NGO's in order to work in the field of civic, intercultural and peace education.

## WHO OPENS THIS SPACE?

Facilitator - Yaari Pannwitz, experienced open space facilitator

Team and organisations involved - UNESCO Information Centre, The Point, Semper Avanti, Edit Stein Society, Youth Information Centre, Global Education Centre and group of volunteers from University of Wroclaw and UNESCO ASP Schools from Wroclaw involved in organisation of the project.

## WHERE DO WE OPEN THE SPACE?

**Wroclaw**, the capital city of the Lower Silesia region, is one of the biggest, oldest and most beautiful urban centres in Poland; a place of historical crossroads for over ten centuries, established over one thousand years ago at a convenient crossing on the Odra River and a junction of major old routes leading from the south of Europe to the north, towards the Baltic coast, and from the west to the east, towards the Black Sea.

In the swirl of history Wroclaw had moved from hands to hands, being under the rule of many lineages and countries. Polish in the beginning of its history, became Bohemian (Czech) in the 13th century, when it was passed to the house of Luxembourg. In 16th century the city went under the rules of the Habsburgs and in 18th century became a Prussian city. After the First World War Prussian Wroclaw became German and after the Second World War - Polish again.

The multinational, multicultural, multireligious and multilingual urban centre has kept its tolerant spirit and today still is a melting pot of cultures, traditions and religions. With the fall of communism and freeing of its potential the city became an important Polish centre of education, economy and transportation. With its long history, beauty, rich culture, proud and happy citizens - became an interesting place to visit and live in, with its strongest NGO activity in Poland - a place with many possibilities and alternatives. With You - an open space for open-minded people.

More info: [www.wroclaw.pl](http://www.wroclaw.pl)

Programme is financed within the UNESCO Participation Programme.

## CONTACT / HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in taking part in our event, please do contact us:

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Contact person for future details:

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