LiberaMente2013

What is LiberaMente?

LiberaMente (www.liberamente.bz.it) is a permanent lab thought **by and for young people**, aged from 16 to 25 years old, that wants to promote the principles and values of youth led development, according to which youngsters have to be the **real and effective promoters of change and development**.

During its last edition (LiberaMente 2012 - "Eurovision"), participants moved to Bruxelles in order to develop their own "visions" towards Europe 2020 and to share their opinions and views on themes as education, employment, local identity, politics, communications and networks.

After LiberaMente 2012 and the "eurovisions" developed by young people, the next step is to understand how (european) politics work, what other youngsters from different backgrounds think about it and how to promote these "eurovisions".

Identified problem/s (Why?)

2014 will be the year of european parliament elections. But in most cases, young people today are not aware of the functioning of european politics and institutions. What happens is that most of them feels european institutions as distant and doesn't have enough knowledge on the complexity and importance of european policies on the daily life of our societies.

The consequence is that youngsters don't know or underestimate the different channels and instruments/tools through which they can actually influence decision makers, not only at the local and national level but also at the european one.

What are the programs of the different european parliamentary groups? With which mechanisms do they create their ideas on the future of Europe? How do decisions and visions on public policies originate? How can young europeans influence on these decisions and priorities? Space and time to understand!

General Objectives

Impact - medium and long term effects of the project

- ✓ To promote young people's active european citizenship
- ✓ To encourage active participation
- ✓ To learn about democratic processes
- ✓ To learn to critically analyze political or social issues
- ✓ To learn to make young people's voices heard

Specific Objectives

- ✓ To understand and experiment the mechanisms and logics that bring to the construction of a political program;

- ✓ To understand programs and decisions of European Parliament groups and being able to look for and evaluate information on themes and issues that are relevant for the society;
- ✓ To develop efficient tools in order to communicate ideas both towards peers/youth and towards decision makers.

Expected Results

Output - immediate results, products or services

- ✓ Involvement of a group of at least 80 young people for each project partner;
- ✓ An electoral manifesto on the future of Europe shared among all young people involved: the manifesto will be a summary of the strategy elaborated by participants during the international meeting and on the basis of the needs, opinions and discussions on key themes emerged in the workshops both before and during the same meeting;
- ✓ A guideline, from youngsters' point of view, on the european elections and vote, on the mechanisms, programs, etc. towards 2014.

Outcome - immediate and direct benefits for target group/beneficiaries/participants

- ✓ Knolwedge of the election programs existing among the different parliamentary groups (with consequent AVVICINAMENTO/approaching? to european institutions);
- ✓ Development of skills/competencies on the creation and promotion of innovative ideas;
- ✓ Knowledge of the decisional processes and logics;
- ✓ Development of a broad range of cross-cutting skills/competencies through non formal and peer education;
- ✓ Awareness on different positions, intercultural dimension, opinions, etc.

Duration of the project (When?)

Period: August 2013 - February 2014 (six months)

Phases of the project
1. August/September (according to possible approval time) – November: *promotion of the project and preparation activities with local youth*
2. December (approximately 6 days, Bolzano): *international meeting*
3. December - February: *dissemination of results, follow up and evaluation*

Project implementation (How? What can we do together? What do you have to do?)

Phase 1 – Preparation (3 months)

- ✓ Each partner will involve the groups (to be homogeneous, if possible, for age and gender distribution) of youngsters, who will have to elaborate a real electoral program following some shared criteria (to be identified with partners), such as:
  - ○ To touch and discuss issues related to environment, migration, education and employment;
  - ○ To target mainly youth population but to forecast also positive effects/consequences for the adult population;

- To think about tools and strategies in order to realize an "electoral campaign" that could easily reach youngsters.

✓ Participants will be requested to involve other peers/youngsters at the local level in planning their "electoral program", through participation mechanisms that they will, themselves, identify (interviews, surveys, meetings in schools, etc.): participants should focus on the specific needs and problems felt and shared at the local community level, keeping in mind the ideas, requests and preferences of their peers, etc.

✓ Participants should also be led through a critical analysis and study of the different positions of parliamentary groups on specific themes (one for each partner); so for example: participants in Tortona will be asked to deepen the issue of environment, analyzing different positions from different european parties/groups (what do they want, what do they propose, what are their values and opinions on the issue, etc.).

[Some preliminary meetings among all partners are also foreseen, in order to create a shared organizational framework and to prepare the action in the most efficient way (for example: training on the capability of looking for/evaluating/choosing information and on fact checking...)]

Objectives: creation of the "electoral campaign" and data/info collection, both to be presented during the meeting in Bolzano.

Phase II – International meeting (approx. 6 days)

All the participants (80) meet in Bolzano for the international meeting/seminar.

Program of the meeting:
- Presentation of the groups and of the created programs
- Presentation of the info on electoral programs studied and common/shared discussion on their feasibility, credibility and positions, etc.
- Meetings with politicians/professors/experts + lab activities: how do things work in reality? which kind of logics lie behind electoral campaigns and programs?
- Practical simulation: the functioning of the European parliament (how decisions are taken?)
- Creating the ideal electoral campaign shared among all participants
- Elaborating common strategies to efficiently and effectively reach youngsters in order to push them to participate/vote
- Common evaluation on the implementation of the meeting and its methodologies and contents.

Objectives: Implementation of the event and realization of a shared "electoral manifesto" on how youth wants and see the future of Europe.

Phase III - Visibility, Dissemination, Follow Up and Evaluation (3 months)

The "Manifesto" will be disseminated and shared, if possible some sort of "agreements" will be signed with local representatives that will run for european elections.
Practical guide/guidelines to 2014 European elections will be disseminated in all the partner countries.
Possible future activities and follow up of the project through different program actions and with different focuses/accents will be discussed.
Diffusion and dissemination of results (and visibility of the action) through web, media tools, conferences, public meetings, etc.

Objectives: structuring and disseminating the guidelines and the manifesto; visibility and dissemination of results.

...and then?

During the shared preparation phase we will discuss and think about activities that at the end of the project could transform the 20 participants of each partner into real "multipliers" at the local level (ex. activities in/with the schools), increasing therefore the number of youngsters directly involved within the objectives of the action/project.

Involved partners and participants (Who?)

Promotor: Social Cooperative "Young Inside" - Bolzano, South Tyrol (Italy)

The cooperative organized the last edition of LiberaMente Campus, thanks to the collaboration of some former participants of LiberaMente who, in 2011, also organized (within the same project) a successful international meeting in Bolzano with youngsters coming from different countries of Europe and of the world.

      South Tyrol on wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Tyrol

National partner: Town hall of Tortona - Tortona, Piedmont (Italy)

LiberaMente and the Town Hall of Tortona met each other during a YiA seminar (action 5.1) organized by the same Town hall of Tortona: Liberamente was invited to share/exchage best practices in the seminar "Future in 3D: democracy, from dialogue to decisions". The town hall of Tortona (together with its Youth Center OFF) already realized and implemented different and numerous YiA projects (actions 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 5.1) and is extremely active in the YiA and European scene since the past 20 years.

      Tortona on wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tortona

Who are we looking for?

We're looking for **2 partner organizations (they have to be from the same country), possibly from countries that have recently entered the EU or that are in process and/or will join the EU soon**. Participation from this kind of countries wants to promote the exchange of knowledge and know how among partners of a nation, Italy, with a long and historical experience within the European Union and a "new born" European member state.

Participants: 80 young people in total (approx. 20 per partner), aged between 17 and 25 y/o.

Budget

The co-funding of the action requested by YiA fundings procedures will be covered through a request for contribution/funds addressed to the Youth Services Office of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano. The request will be made by the promoter (Cooperative "Young Inside") and therefore no cash contribution will be asked to partners.