

INTRODUCTION

We are a group of young people from all over the world eager to express and share our thoughts, opinions and talents in order to connect with each other.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

Inspired by the current events and achievements of the youth in the Arab world, we conceived the plan of organizing a youth encounter under the theme of “Connecting Youth Ideas” at an organic chicken farm in Bordeaux, France in July 2011.

Change is a phenomenon that is much needed in this world and in Europe in order to provide for a better and fairer life for all of us. We think the best approach to really make change to happen is throughout a non-formal learning programme that allows participants to freely and openly express themselves, to inspire and get inspired by others, to make a difference by creating awareness of a more sustainable attitude and way of living and empower one each other through creativeness to contribute to change the world inside out.

AIMS

This project aims at providing young Europeans with a real platform in which they can connect, share their ideas, and teach other people their knowledge and skills as well as together plan for more upcoming events. What we want all participants to experience during those seven days and to possibly employ afterwards is the use of creative activism as a tool to bring about change in communities.

ACTIVITIES

During the youth encounter in France, several workshops, seminars and competitions will take place, related to four specific fields:

- *Ecology.* The first activity related to this issue will be the “CO2-saving competition” that should encourage participants to use alternative modes of transportation besides planes such as trains, buses, bikes, organising car-sharing initiatives, or even by foot, as well as critically reflecting on what impact individual lifestyle choices can have on our planet. Besides, amongst the workshops planned for this topic, it is worthy to highlight a chat with NGO Locomotive’s spokesperson about sustainability, and a cook workshop by a chef that will instruct a master class about biological food and will provide the participants with ingenious ideas for cooking in the countryside.
- *High-technology.* We will be surrounded by the purest expression of nature, the essential environment where original ideas do flourish. However, we will connect going back to the nature with the modern high technology environment that has become an integral part of working life today. An expertise in ICT will give a master class about interacting design and blogging, providing the representatives of youth chosen to participate in the encounter with the technical acknowledgment to build networks, do their own website, better understand the functioning of

social networks and therefore, employ those teachings to better express themselves in the web and build sustainable projects.

- *Art and creativity.* Several workshops will lead the youth to squeeze all their potential into pieces of art. Hence, talented youth in filmmaking and photography will transmit the participants both the technical skills and especially the essence behind the technique to capture reality sensitively. A professional clown workshop will let participants to liberate themselves from all constraining prejudices, lose the fear to put their ideas into practice and experience the productive results that emerge from a process-making based on inner freedom. Moreover, inspired by TED Talks, Ideas Worth Spreading, we plan to organize mini-TED Talks amongst all the participants where to share ideas, be absorbed by others' passions and specific fields of formation.
- *Political and social dimension.* In order to highlight the social perspective, a lecture on social radios will be conducted for the participants to create their own radio programme based on dynamic formats to hold dialogues and debates about current political and social issues, which will encourage participant's ability to critically analyze the information provided by mass media. A workshop on "Challenging Popular Thought" will strengthen the independent viewpoint of the youth, and a tutorial on "Leadership" will empower youth to take an active role in the society.

More seminars, competitions, workshops, ice-breaking games and group gatherings will be added to the list as soon as we receive application forms from potential participants including their suggestions of activities. During the selection process, special emphasis will be paid on integrating persons with fewer opportunities as well as allowing for an equal amount of males and females to take part. Moreover, our team will ensure that not only talented and/or fortunate people that could already establish themselves and thus will be able to teach their skills and knowledge, will participate, but also those that have not been able to do this, yet show a great interest in learning. All applicants will be then be informed via email whether they will get to participate in the youth encounter.

TARGET GROUPS

People from 18 to 30 years old from all around Europe, eager to share their experiences, ideas and abilities.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND RELEVANCE OF THE ACTION

The youth is very essential to the state of this continent and its future as they are the ones who will lead the way tomorrow. Training them and providing them with opportunities of learning new skills and gaining knowledge will, thus, ultimately benefit Europe as well.

By gathering a chosen group of young people from different backgrounds, perspectives and cultures, we are connecting a European youth sample that will lately enhance cohesion amongst European young generation as a whole.

The expected results of this activity are to create awareness about each participant's talents and abilities, while facilitating the importance of non-formal learning, learning by-doing and learning from each other. Several important points are:

- To increase participants' knowledge through several workshops.
- To create a network for further collaborations with participants.
- To foster young people's initiative and social responsibility,
- To help young people to unfold their creativity and realise their potential,
- To make participants reflect on their standing in society and how they could improve possibly improve the living-together of people in this world.

If you need more information, do not hesitate to contact us:

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