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TOOL FAIR : gathering and exchanging good practices in the youth field.



The "Tool Fair" has been organised in the Youth and Community Education Institute (INJEP) from the 2nd to the 4th of November 2006. During three days, it gathered more than an hundred of participants and visitors, coming from both programme and partner countries. All kind of stakeholders of the YOUTH programme (young people, youth workers, trainers, etc.) have experienced and shared educational tools.

2006 was the end of the European YOUTH programme. Therefore, the French National Agency for the Youth Programme and SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed (and Good Practices !) Resource Centre in cooperation with the National Agency of Belgium FR, the National Agency of the United Kingdom, the National Agency of Hungary, the European Youth Forum and the other SALTO-YO resources centres decided to seize this opportunity to valorise what has been achieved during these years in terms of creation of new tools for non-formal education and in the youth field.





What is a "tool"?

A tool is any educational means, process or material that can be used to support trainers, youth workers or young people themselves to better achieve the aims or goals of their activities. It is understood as something "touchable", "showable", like a video, a booklet, a report, etc. It can be experienced, like a simulation game, a creative workshop, a quiz, a role play or outdoor activity, etc.

This Fair aimed to be a "showroom" for the huge variety and richness of tools developed and used under the YOUTH programme, a place to experiment with methods and exercises used within the different actions (youth exchanges, EVS, youth initiatives, training) and based on different themes (cultural diversity, inclusion, cooperation with partner countries, etc...). In the "Savoir-faire" was gathered in order to experiment with the tools, to analyse and to reflect on the transferability of these tools and support the creation of a "common memory".

A real diversity of profiles (young people, youth workers, youth leaders, trainers, NA representatives,...) brought richness to this event.

There were trainers with a large experience in this field, but also less experienced youth leaders all linked by the Youth Programme actions...

One thing was definitely common: they were all motivated to share and discuss tools. The Fair quickly became the creation



of the participants themselves and enabled their tools to be used throughout the programme. The motto of this event « In the tool Fair, you get what you give » has been respected during the whole event.

"Participants gave a lot... They did get a lot!"

Simply by looking at the evaluation forms, we had the confirmation that participants gave a lot and they received a lot in terms of support, visibility diffusion and contacts. More than 90% of the participants felt that the panel of workshops proposed was adapted. Figures provided the same result about the « quality » of the set up programme and the global atmosphere created during the event.

This leads to a common conclusion, coming from both partners and participants. This tool fair was a great start, a great concept,

than should be reproduced and perfected regularly in Europe, within the new YOUTH in ACTION programme.



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