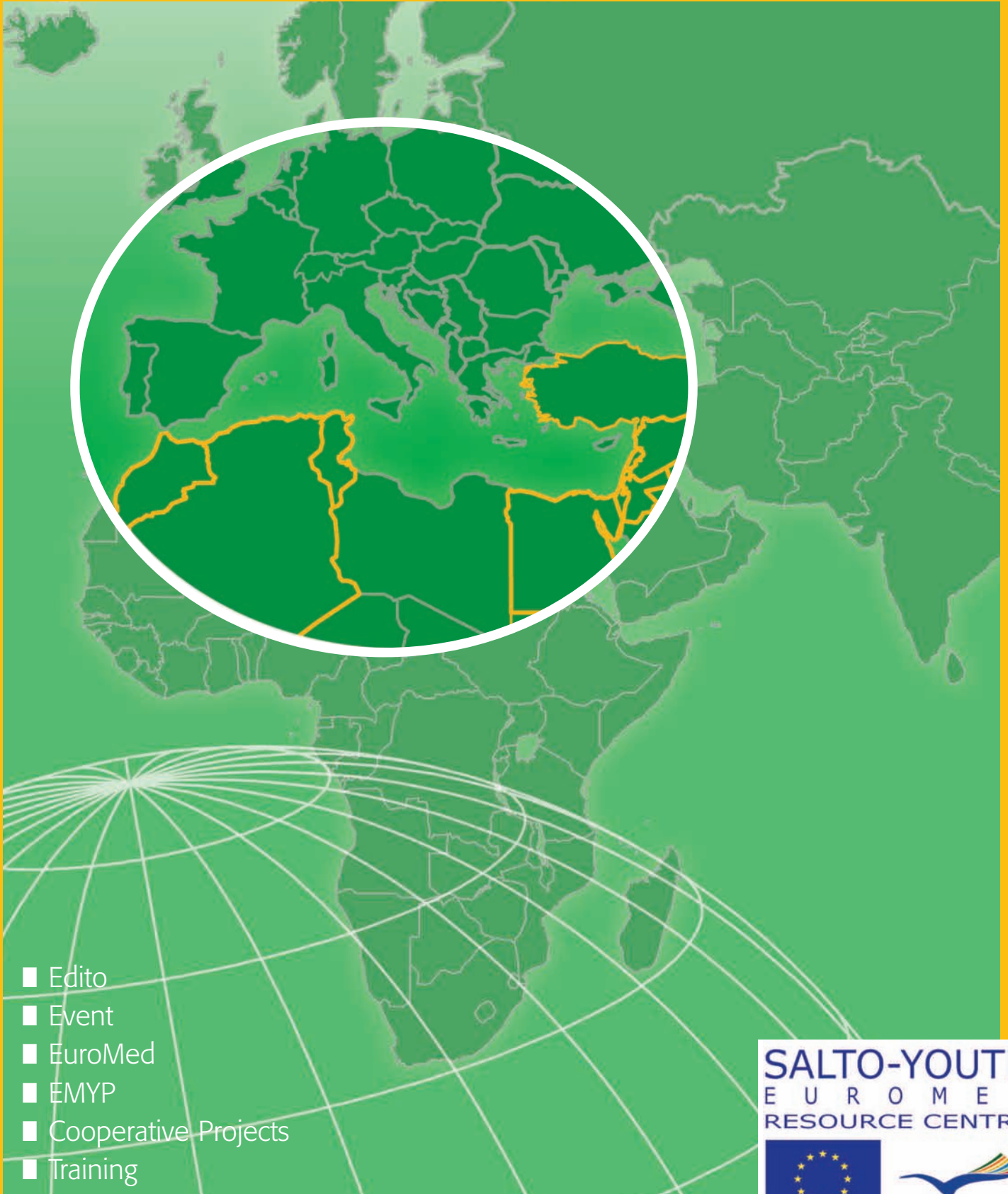


meet'In EuroMed

SALTO YOUTH EUROMED MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2007

9



- Edito
- Event
- EuroMed
- EMYP
- Cooperative Projects
- Training

SALTO-YOUTH
EUROMED
RESOURCE CENTRE



Education and Culture

Edito

This ninth issue of the magazine is the first one since the launching of the two new programmes in the field of youth: Youth in Action and Euro-Med Youth III, which were both created to promote cooperation between European countries, Mediterranean Countries and more widely with partner countries in the world.

So, we begin with a retrospective on the huge kick-off seminar "Let's Meet our Neighbours" held in France and organised in cooperation with the French National Agency and the other Regional SALTO's, to present the new programme and extend cooperation among all the neighbours.

At the same time, we propose some background on the Euro-Med Youth III programme, an overview of the current situation of this programme and the results of the first Selection Committees held in July, marking the launch of this programme. Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation really benefits from both programmes as they are closely involved in promoting it and we are proud to share in this development.

To illustrate these words, let's share some examples of cooperation: the first one is the first Euro-Mediterranean Parliament. Jonas Dreger tells you about his own experience as a participant and an active actor in the field of Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation. The first Euro-Mediterranean session was really successful and will be followed by a

second session in Morocco in 2008. So put it in your diary; we are sure you will be present!

And, because cooperation begins with understanding, Claudio Kogon talks about his experience as SALTO Euro-Med Coordinator for the 3 Training seminars on the "Three Cultures". After the last seminar which will take place in France in the autumn, we will publish an educational report on this issue.

Moreover, we are glad to focus on two organisations which are really involved in the Euro-Med life: the Euro-Med Gender Connection and its amazing network and the Youth and Non Violence Organisation with its great project "Water Management for Peace" which includes 4 Meda countries and 3 European countries.

Finally, as cooperation is not limited to Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation but also involves the neighbouring countries, all regional SALTO RCs are very happy to present their brochure "**Paths to International Cooperation**" which is the result of conscientious work done together over a long period. This brochure will soon be available on line on our website www.salto-youth.net and will be disseminated to all the main actors in the field of youth cooperation.

We hope you will have a great time reading the following pages!

SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed Team



From left to right : Bernard Abrignani, Steph and Caroline Mayaudon, coordinator, assistant, project officer



Let's Meet Our Neighbours and the World

New perspectives for European youth cooperation with our neighbours and the rest of the world

BY DAVIDE TONON

Can a big seminar open the way to new quality projects among young people of regions that have never worked together before?

The answer is still in the air but the challenge, which comes directly from the European Commission and the regional SALTOs (SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus, SALTO South East Europe and SALTO Euro-Med) in cooperation with the French National Agency of the Youth in Action Programme, has been taken up.

The new programme allows youth exchanges, EVS and training/networking projects to be set up with partners coming from programme countries together with other organisations from all the neighbour regions. This opens new perspectives for youth cooperation with the possibility of sharing different experiences in the field and diverse approaches while building together a sense of neighbourhood not even imagined before.

It will also certainly be a huge intercultural challenge. And a big laboratory for preparing the "Europe and neighbourhood" of tomorrow, where hopefully young people will have the chance to work and share with all their neighbours in a mutually enriching process, without walls separating them!

The first idea...

The summaries of the previous Youth Programme, the experience that many organisations gained in projects - first with Third Countries, then with Partner Countries and now with the Neighbouring Partner Countries - clearly showed a big

need to support and develop cooperation beyond the borders of the European Union.

That is how the idea of having a big kick-off seminar came up at the end of last year. An event that would open possibilities for cooperation with the Neighbouring Countries and the World within the Youth in Action Programme

It was our dream to have a seminar where representatives from all the regions - Programme Countries, Euro-Med, South East Europe as well as Eastern Europe and Caucasus - could meet, create contacts and value the importance of wide international youth cooperation. It was also a very concrete aim for the beginning of 2007. Our group, which included the European Commission, the SALTO Regional Resource Centres and the French National Agency had a clear vision of what needed to be organised: An event where the political input would be combined with very recent work on future Youth Exchanges, Training courses, Seminars and European Voluntary Service projects. (Supported by the 3 Regional SALTOs).

More teams, one team

To organize such a big event it was necessary to have a facilitation team. A team that

could, at the same time, stand for cooperation between programme countries and neighbouring countries.

The result was that there was a preparation meeting in the first days of April in INJEP. Hiba Tibi, a Euro-Med Salto trainer from Ramallah in Palestine, Areg Tadevosyan, an EECA Salto trainer from Yerevan in Armenia, Lidja Buric, an SEE Salto trainer from Zagreb in Croatia and Davide Tonon, a coordinator/trainer from Venice-Barcelona, worked out a programme trying to combine content, activities and methodology with the creation of a good atmosphere.





Let's Meet Our Neighbours and the World

It was important to have this balance in order to achieve the aims of the seminar.

What can we say about the logistic team? Starting from the preparation meeting, the logistic team set up by the French NA and SALTO Euro-Med worked in close contact with the facilitation team. Stephanie Henry and Alice Dartout, supported by their structures and coordinated by Jacques Huon, provided everything possible and sometimes even the impossible in order to make the seminar enjoyable for the participants.

Jordan, Lithuania, Moldova, Morocco, Norway, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine); resource people from the European Commission, the Educational, Audiovisual and Cultural Executive Agency, the Regional SALTOS (Euro-Med, SEE, EECA), the European Youth Forum, the Partnership, the French National Agency of the Youth in Action Programme, other National Agencies and Euro-Med Youth Units; a facilitation team and a logistic team. In total 127 neighbours met together.

human bingo and a game with little lies to discover had helped people to break the ice.

What happened was that...

...the following morning the 127 neighbours were welcomed by the French organizers and by Pascal Lejeune, of the European Commission.

After a short introduction to the brand new Youth in Action Programme, it was time to go deeper into the European Policies toward the Neighbouring Countries and, in particular, to link Actions 2 and 3 of the Programme to the general subject of

The aims of the seminar

To introduce:

- the European Neighbourhood Policy
- Youth in Action and the possibilities of cooperation with neighbouring countries (and the world)
- the support structures and some working tools

To explore:

- the richness of our European neighbours

To profit from:

- a space for partner matching and project development



...and what happened?

The venue

Neighbours met from the 30th of May till the 3rd of June, in INJEP (Institut National de la Jeunesse et de l'Education Populaire) in Marly le Roi (Paris). The auditorium, the big and small rooms around the hall, the cafeteria and the magnificent park, were the setting for this huge meeting.

Who were the neighbours?

In Marly le Roi we had participants - mostly leaders and multipliers from NGOs and youth services - from programme and neighbouring countries (in total 37 countries: Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, France, FYROM, Georgia, Ireland, Israel, Italy,

The atmosphere

From the first moment you could feel a special and exciting atmosphere: mixing at tables during dinner, standing in the big hall, sitting around the cafeteria tables, in corners here and there, it was great to see people pushed by curiosity to approach each other: a Moroccan with a Slovenian, a Portuguese with a Georgian, Albanians with Russians but also participants from Azerbaijan talking with Armenians...as if it was a world of neighbours in small scale. A

Neighbourhood Policy. The Regional SALTO Resource Centres had a special role in supporting all this cooperation process.

We discovered their activities and resources through a quiz game starting from a puzzle of the regions!

The wealth of organisations present and the variety of areas of interest was clear during the organizations' market, which gave a first chance to see everybody's work and project.





Let's Meet Our Neighbours and the World



Faces of the Neighbourhood

Of course, a magic Neighbours' Night full of flavours, music, legends and dances brought everyone together and gave the event its extraordinary dimension.

The second day was opened by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency: Fiona Deuss-Frandi introduced the dimension of cooperation with other partner countries of the world. Other important support structures introduced themselves: the European Youth Forum with Gisele Everard and The Partnership, with Marta Medlinska. And then it was time for the parallel workshops, organized by the French National Agency, on the different actions for neighbourhood cooperation: youth exchanges, EVS, training and networking... a lot of new information and inspiration!

One key point of the meeting was the space foreseen for participants' contributions: including the management of the intercultural party and the little workshops on good practice and youth work realities. During this session more than 10 expe-



riences were presented and discussed in small groups.

The SALTO Resource Centres took the opportunity to explain the different regional procedures and after this activity the free evening began... a very important time to get to know new friends/contacts better, to develop ideas and to enjoy the company – in Paris or in Marly.

The last day was devoted to partner matching, with the possibility of consulting the

resource people from the different support structures. A dating system helped to keep the 'real time diary' updated, running from one discussion to another, from a project on environmental issues to one on inter-religious dialogue and so on....

The results of the partner matching were shown by participants on the big map, with strange dots of different colours, symbolizing projects that were still at the idea stage, projects starting to develop and those that were almost ready.

After the evaluation, the time came to close. Three days - it seemed really much longer – we finished with words of hope and with a vision of the future from Jean Chiris of the French National Agency, Giorgio Guazzugli-Marini of the European Commission and Bernard Abrignani of the Salto Euro-Med Resource Centre.



The last night of such a special event had to be celebrated French style. The Musical Buffet was a balanced mix of relaxation after the intensive work, enjoying the INJEP park, having a big barbecue and dancing all together under the moon. "C'est cool, ah?" was our world music band, which led us till late into the night in a spiral of 'world dances'. All thoughts about the new people we'd met here and the new ideas to transform into projects in the near future would wait until tomorrow.

Why this Seminar was so special?

Because, since it is allowed from the new Youth in Action Programme, this has been the first time that representatives of Programme countries and of the different Neighbouring countries were present and worked together. In this sense the Seminar has been a sort of kick off for future quality cooperation.

So we can say, like in "Casablanca", that this is just...the beginning of a beautiful friendship!

What participants brought back home

In their evaluation questionnaires, participants stressed the importance of such seminars to allow people to meet, to share experiences and good practice and to establish contacts and new partners for future actions/projects.

In this specific seminar, in part a first hand overview on the Youth in Action Programme, they got an introduction to the European Neighbourhood Policy, discovered possibilities of cooperation with neighbouring countries (and the world) and got in touch with regional SALTOS as well as the Executive Agency and other support structures.

They also found hidden treasures among their European neighbours, discovered some new working tools and made new friends!

And after the Seminar?

After the partner matching session, the following results were shown on the big map: in total we had 34 projects going on,

- 14 projects were still at level of "ideas in the air";
- 10 projects were under way;
- 10 projects were almost "cooked", in an advanced phase of discussion among the partners.

They should be hosted in: Algeria (1), France (4), Spain (3), Tunisia (1), Albania (1), Cyprus (1) Poland (2), FYROM (1), Ukraine (1), Moldova (4), Turkey (2), Bulgaria (2), Azerbaijan (2), Armenia (2), Lithuania (1), Georgia (3), Russian Federation (1)

Gender equality, social theatre, intercultural dialogue, peace education, human rights, inter-religious issues, environmental awareness, art and creativity, active citizenship, immigration, tales, dances, cinema, transferability of results, youth work policies, intercultural communication... are some of a wide range of topics tackled by the projects discussed here.

This seminar has opened the door to cooperation and projects among partners who had the chance to work together for the first time. This is a big step forward.

But to establish sustainable, long lasting cooperation and to promote quality projects, a step by step approach is needed: it's important to "make it grow slowly", without impatience, so as to carry out a project using the process of partnership building.

For this reason it's fundamental to work on common interests, visions and strategies of the new partnership. And to strengthen our intercultural skills, which are essential when working in such a wide international field. A lot of patience is also a good ingredient.

DAVIDE TONON,

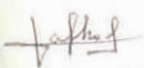
trainer and youth worker
xenaole@hotmail.com
A Spanish writer, Manuel



Vazquez Montalbán, used to say that «we are made of memory and desire». Memory is our history, our identity. Desires are our dreams with open eyes... Let's go for them!



Here are some messages from participants, extracted directly from the Guest Book. We cannot publish all your experiences; nevertheless we were deeply touched by your messages.

Franchement j'ai passé un excellent moment, que je graverais pour tout le temps, des rencontres inoubtables, je tire mon chapeau à toute l'équipe, j'espère vous rencontrer de nouveau dans de similaires moments. Plein de bisous. Merci énormément. Monir de FORCALQUIER.
 À Paris le 2 juin 2007

 Bonne continuation à tous.

My Deepest thanks to all Trainers & Organisers & Participants.
 It was Really a wonderful learning Situation & I gained alot.

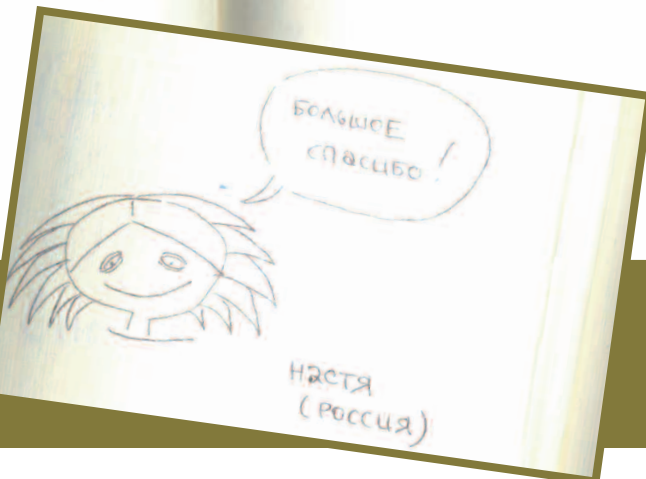
wish you all the best
 Yours,
 Mostafa Sherif
 Egypt
 21/6/2007
 Let's met our neighbors.

We had 3 marvelous days in the city of LUV. (LOVE)
 Thank You 4 giving us the opportunity 2 come here in Paris.
 You're always welcome in Albania.

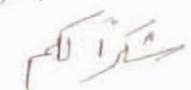
OL\$!

THANK YOU!
 MER SY!
 БЛАГОДАРИМ!
 ALEXANDAR
 MACEDONIA

Поздравляю на доброе и послушание правды и его значение и деятельности.



Thanks to everybody, for the wonderful hosting the great experiences and the lovely neighbourhood that we had.


 Nail - Palestine
 PA

Let's Meet Our Neighbours and the World

02/06/07
 Παιδιά,
 Good Ευχαριστούμε
 παιδι για την υπέροχη
 φιλοξενία.
 You are unique!
 Keep the good
 work!
 Huge, love,
 Kisses
 From Cyprus
 Maria Lontidou

كلمة عليكم
 هذا اللقاء الجميل مع تنظيم
 تطوير أحد أهم مراكز التعاون الدولي
 في المنطقة. الشراكة
 شرفاً جزيلاً.
 محمد العسري
 Maroc

Hi,
 Wish you all the best!
 Great place! Great People!
 happy to be here!
 Greetings from Georgia
 Greetings from Georgia
 Dear Friends!
 it was a very
 nice time we had
 together in
 Marly le Roi and
 I hope that's
 the beginning of our
 friendship!
 see you in Poland!
 Asia

Merci à tous
 les Voisins, à tous
 du monde. Spécial
 dédicaces pour la logistique:
 Jacques, Stéphanie, Alice,
 la Valachie, TRES BELLE
 INITIATIVE
 Now lets the projects
 start!!
 Nicolas
 Honore
 Fran
 Roumanie

Each meeting enriches
 each of us -
 Some of us gain
 new knowledges...
 Some gain new friends...
 Some discover the
 new country...
 And this has big
 influence on our
 personalities --
 as European citizens
 as friends
 as neighbours.
 Thank everybody for
 being here, for giving
 me a possibility to meet you
 Jurgita, Lithuania

Arī šīs laimes publicēti
 ar mūsu semināru, ar
 nepārspējamu saimniecību
 organizāciju, ar puikām
 kompānijām, kas pūnās ar Jūsu
 labklājību! Jūs padarīsit katru
 mūsu laimi, draugu un draugu
 mūsu draugu!!!
 Tāpat dārzā Jūs šeit!
 Mēs esam šīs labas draugu,
 palīdzība, franču un mīļotāji
 mūsu pārdarīšana
 Marly-le-Roi.
 Thank a lot!
 C U SOON!!!
 Bises!
 Jurgita (LT)



Focus on Euro-Med Youth III Programme

Decentralisation

The Euro-Med Youth Programme is a regional programme set up within the framework of the third chapter of the Barcelona Process entitled "Partnership in Social, Cultural and Human Affairs". Its main purpose is to promote mobility for young people and understanding between nations

Euro-Med Youth I (1999-2001) and Euro-Med Youth II (2001-2004) were primarily run by the European Commission from its headquarters in Brussels whereas Euro-Med Youth III (2005-2008) is **a fully decentralised programme**.

Its geographical scope comprises the 27 EU Member States and the 9 Mediterranean partner countries which signed both the Barcelona Declaration (Algeria, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey) and the 2006 Financing Agreement with the Commission.

Applicants (project leaders) from the Mediterranean partner countries can apply directly for grants to their own Youth national authorities, now responsible through a Euro-Med Youth Unit (EMYU) for grant awarding and the overall management of the programme.

The decentralisation aims to reinforce the partnership between the European Union and the Mediterranean partner countries, to take action as close as possible to the beneficiaries and to adapt to the diversity of national systems and situations in the field of youth.

Objectives of the programme

Among the main objectives of the programme feature:

- 1.** Fostering mutual understanding and intercultural dialogue among young people within the Euro-Mediterranean region
- 2.** Promoting young people's active citizenship and a sense of solidarity
- 3.** Enhancing the contribution of non-governmental youth organisations to civil society and democracy, and
- 4.** Contributing to the development of youth policy.

A number of key areas are considered central for the development of the youth sector at the Euro-Mediterranean level. The Euro-Med Youth III Programme will fund projects that promote one or more of these thematic priorities:

- Fighting against racism and xenophobia
- Active citizenship
- Gender equality
- Minority rights
- Heritage and environment protection

Gender balance and inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities will be promoted as cross-cutting issues of the programme.

Actions

EuroMed Youth III promotes mobility, non-formal education and intercultural learning through three types of action:

- **Youth Exchanges** (2 EU +2 MEDA partners)
- **Voluntary Service** (1+1 partner), and
- **Support Measures** (2+2).

With the new phase, Euro-Med Youth grants are awarded on the basis of Calls for Proposals launched by the different Euro-Med Youth Units. A first Call was launched in April 2007 by 5 countries (Israel, Lebanon; Morocco, Palestine and Turkey)

and a second one should be launched in September by all 9 countries. A 3rd and last call will be launched in February 2008.

Focus on the first call for proposals in April 2007

Calls for proposals were submitted to the European Delegation present in the country for approval. Following up the approval, the 5 EMYUs launched the first calls for proposals on line. The launching of the call for proposals means that the Unit is ready to receive and treat the requests for subsidies for all the projects which will take place in their countries.

So, last July, applications were examined and evaluated by the EMYU with the possible assistance of external assessors. An Evaluation Committee, composed of experts in the youth field, selected the applications; the European Delegation acted as an observer.

Evaluation and selection of applications

All proposals submitted by applicants (project leaders) will be assessed according to the following steps and criteria:

1st step: Opening session and administrative check

The Committee checked if the deadline had been respected and that the application form fulfilled all the criteria mentioned in the Checklist.

2nd step: Evaluation of the application form (following an evaluation grid)

There are 5 main sections and the maximum score is 100.

1. Financial and operational capacity /15
2. Relevance /30
3. Methodology /30
4. Sustainability /15
5. Budget and cost-effectiveness /10



Evaluation Committees Calendar of the first calls for proposals

Countries	Launching	Receipt Deadline for the projects	Number files received	Evaluation Committees	Number of files provisionally accepted
ISRAEL	3 April	3 June	21	25 July	6
LEBANON	19 April	19 June	9	9 July	5
MOROCCO	9 April	11 June	7	16 & 24 July	3
PALESTINE	25 April	25 June	20	24 July	3
TURKEY	11 April	11 June	4	6 & 18 July	3

Actions	Number of files received	Number of files provisionally accepted
EVS	15	2
Youth Exchanges	19	8
Support measures	24	13
Not defined	3	0

3rd step: Eligibility of the applicant and partners.

The eligibility verification, based on the supporting documents requested by the EMYU, was only done for the proposals that had been provisionally selected according to their score and within the available financial envelope.

rent countries (greater in Israel and Palestine than the others, with only 4 in Turkey).

23 projects were provisionally approved (38%) because of the quality of the project, the good partnership presented and the well-constructed presentation of the applications.

The most important reason for the elimination of projects was the lack (sometimes total) of partners. It's a pity, because the most important aim of the Euro-Med Youth Programme is to enhance the Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation through a relevant partnership between European countries and Mediterranean countries. The second reason for the elimination was the non presentation of administrative documents such as statutes of the organisation.

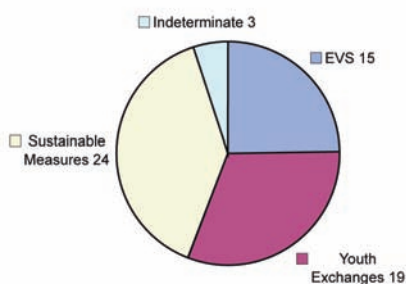
However, it was the first call for proposals and we are sure that we will see a considerable improvement in the way the applications are presented in the future.

During the summer, Jordan, Tunisia and

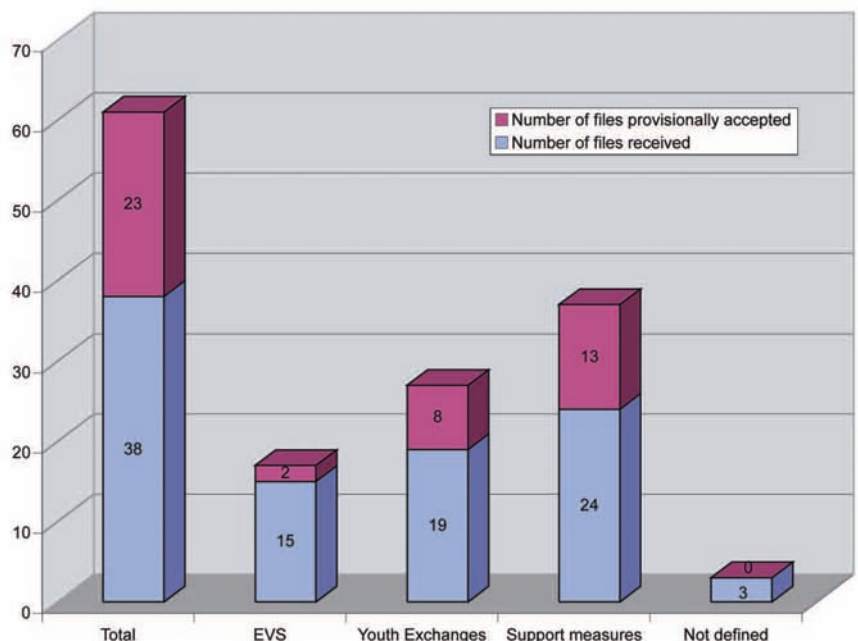
Evaluation Committee: which actions are the most in demand?

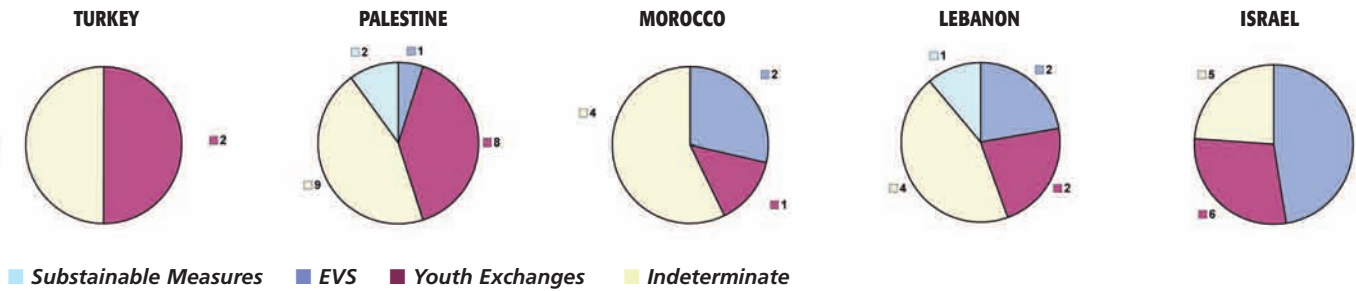
All 5 countries taken together, 61 applications were evaluated. The first action, with 39%, is Sustainable Measures; the second one is Youth Exchange (31%) and finally the last is EVS with 25%. We notice an imbalance in the requests from the diffe-

Files received : Sort of actions



Provisional Results of Selection Committees





Syria received the official approval from the Commission and are now ready to launch their first call for proposals for September. We think that Algeria will also be ready in a few weeks ... and we very much hope that all the 8 countries will be operational

for the next call for proposals whose deadline is 1st November.

Follow all the news about the Euro-Med Youth Programme and the Euro-Med Youth Units on the website www.euromedyouth.net

The EuroMed Youth Units are at your service

ALGERIA

Ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports
3 rue Mohamed Belouizdad
Palce du 1^{er} mai
16000 Alger
Tel / Fax: +213 21 65 06 17
Mail: uemj@algerie.euromedjeunesse.net

ISRAEL

Ministry of Education
Division A International Relations and UNESCO
2 Devora Ha'Nevia Street
Jerusalem 91911
Tel: 02-56 03 707 / Fax: 02-56 03 706
Mail : uemj@israel.euromedyouth.net

JORDAN

Ministry of Political Development
4th Circle – in front of Jordan Hospital
Amman
Tel: 00962 65 69 52 16 ext. 232 / Fax: 00962 65 68 65 52
Mail: emyu@jordan.euromedyouth.net

LEBANON

Ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports
3è étage, immeuble du Ministère
Avenue Sami el Solh
Beyrouth
Tel /Fax: 00961 1 424387
Mail: uemj@liban.euromedjeunesse.net

MOROCCO

Rue Jbel Toubkal, Immeuble 2
4^e étage apt. N°16
Agdal, Rabat
Tel: 00212 37 68 19 79 – 00212 37 67 80 65 /66/67
Fax: 00212 37 68 19 80
Mail: emyu@maroc.euromedyouth.net

PALESTINE

Al-Ersal
Zahret al-Masaif Building, flat -1
West Bank, Ramallah
P.O. Box: 0000
Tel: 00972 2 2975377 / Fax: 00972 2 2975376
Mail: euromed@emyu-pal.org

SYRIA

Syrian Commission for Family Affairs
Damascus
P.O. Box 9554
Tel: 00 963 11 31 34 803
Fax: 00 963 11 31 26 398
Mail: emyu@syria.euromedyouth.net

TUNISIA

Direction Générale de la Jeunesse
Ministère de la Jeunesse, des Sports
et de l'Education Physique
37 avenue de la Liberté
1002 Tunis
Tel: 00216 71 834 258
Fax: 00216 71 833 981
Mail: uemj@tunisie.euromedjeunesse.net

TURKEY

Hüseyin Rahmi Sokak n°2
06680 Cankaya Ankara
Tel: 0090 312 409 61 39
Fax: 0090 312 409 60 98
Mail: euromedyouthtr@ua.gov.tr



The first Euro-Mediterranean Youth Parliament: young leaders, sustainable cooperation, passionate debates



Both sessions were made possible thanks to the intensive co-operation of a number of partners. The idea originated with the German Foreign Office during their EU Presidency and the Goethe Institute, while the European Youth Parliament provided organisational knowledge to put the idea into practice. All three organisations profited greatly from the input of stakeholders in the Euro-Med Dialogue, such as the Anna-Lindh-Foundation, the European Youth Forum, SALTO, the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, the Arab League, CESIE, the Council of Europe and the CAP, as well as Wunsch Grafton Development.

Whenever something new is created, there is excitement in the air. Add some curiosity and an element of stress, then the pulse beats faster and the visions break down the borders. In March 2007, the moderators of the parliamentary committees of the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Parliament (EMYP) met for the first time in Alexandria. Moments of inspiration and question marks alternated rapidly during the preparatory training. The task was as fascinating as it was challenging: to form a team consisting of up to 12 young leaders from Europe and the Mediterranean Area who would agree on a resolution to propose at the forthcoming General Assemblies of the EMYP.

The first half of the year 2007 saw a unique attempt to bring young leaders of the Euro-Mediterranean Area together. At two events, more than 100 delegates from the European Union and Egypt, Algeria, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Mauritania, Palestine, Syria, Turkey and Tunisia gathered to debate the pressing issues of today's youth in the region. The preparatory session in Alexandria in March 2007 and the preceding session in Berlin (26th of May to the 3rd of June) stimulated an intense and productive intercultural dialogue between the participants aged 18 to 25.





The first Euro-Mediterranean Youth Parliament

The sessions followed a tripartite structure of teambuilding, committee work and parliamentary assembly. In the first, the strong individuals formed their international teams with the help of group challenges. During the committee work, the multicultural teams discussed the issues at stake and agreed on a resolution. In the parliamentary assembly, they defended their resolutions and asked the assembly to adopt them. The participating delegates



were representative of civil society in their respective countries and had been chosen by a competitive selection process. As a result, the debates were notable not only for the enthusiasm and the passion of youth but also for the maturity of these shapers of society.

Topics tackled in the resolutions included: Euro-Med co-operation, the role of the media, the role of youth, the role of the European Union, globalisation, culture, energy, corruption and so on. The plenary sessions were held in the Goethe Institute, Alexandria and the Federal Parliament of the City, Berlin and seldom have these venues seen debates of such vigour and passion. This also applies to the discussions with the visiting experts during committee work and for general lectures on the Barcelona process. The resolutions adopted have been passed on to the main political institutions involved in Euro-Med, including the European Commission.



In the shadow of what remains of the Berlin wall and under the burning sun of Egypt, the joy of a meeting of like minds was contagious. The participants willingly shared their national cultures and individual talents. During the Euro-Med Village, the delegates celebrated their culinary diversity by sharing their national dishes. During the Euro-Med Concert, the most gifted musicians filled the music hall in Berlin with songs of outstanding beauty and overwhelmingly deep feelings. It goes without saying that the nights in Alexandria and Berlin were long, filled with music, dance, laughter and joy.

However, the sessions were much more than an exercise in intercultural exchange and political education. Without exception, the participants used the opportunity to meet young people from the Euro-Med region and to create a reliable network. Every free minute was used to discuss in depth the problems and prospects of their respective countries. Later a projects fair using open-space technology provided them with inspiration and contacts to turn their enthusiasm into concrete projects.

A Euro-Med journalist academy and some national Mediterranean Youth Parliament initiatives were among the many new projects for the region.



Both the press coverage and the interest shown by high-level politicians prove that this initiative has been a great success. The participants have expressed the wish for the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Parliament to continue. The German Foreign Office, the Goethe Institute and the European Youth Parliament are currently carrying out the evaluation process with a view to continuing EMYP in 2008.



JONAS DREGER
*Moderator at the first EMYP meetings
in Alexandria and Berlin.
Student of European Political and Administrative Studies
(M.A.) at the College of Europe in Bruges.
Contact: jonas.dreger@eyp.de*

Cooperative Projects



EuroMed Gender Connections Network



The **Euro-Med Gender Connection** Network has been active since November 2005 and is made up of individuals and not-for-profit organizations that work to guarantee, advocate and effectively put into practice real equality between men and women in all fields. It also promotes awareness of gender issues, for example rights and their application, in the 37 countries of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

The previous lack of permanent and structured networking between youth organizations working on gender issues in the region resulted in the following: A lack of communication and sharing between organizations, leading to repetition of projects and initiatives instead of a coherent evolution; a lack of awareness among youth organizations of the exact meaning of equal opportunities; an absence of knowledge about the role and the representation of women in other Euro-Med countries; limited impact of youth work on gender issues in civil society, policy making and at institutional levels (local, national, European and Euro-Med).



The mission of the **Euro-Med Gender Connection** is to increase gender equality within the 37 countries of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (27 European Countries and 10 Mediterranean Countries). Its aim is to develop and coordinate the work of European and Mediterranean youth organizations and structures actively promoting gender equality. Members of **Euro-Med Gender Connection** work together to promote gender issues and the respect of women's rights as a universal value, particularly in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership countries.

Cooperative Projects

EuroMed Gender Connections Network

All founding partners decided that the Network should have the following general objectives:

- To develop within the Euro-Med region, effective coordination of activities in civil society and in particular those carried out by youth organisations, which promote action on gender issues;
- To ensure a coherent dialogue and long term cooperation on work related to gender issues between civil society actors and public institutions;
- To encourage the effective participation of youth organisations at all decision-making levels;
- To intensify the sharing of good practice and relevant experience;
- To improve the quality and quantity of local, national, European and Euro-Mediterranean projects promoting gender issues;
- To empower youth organizations at all levels (local, national, international) that promote gender issues; and to enhance the impact of their actions at the political level through lobbying and advocacy.

The **Euro-Med Gender Connection** activities are:

- Collecting and sharing of good practices and experiences relating to gender issues;
- Dissemination of information and of educational and pedagogical materials;
- Support of the network members' initiatives regarding gender issues;
- Facilitating the search for partnerships, and the development of partnerships between organizations;
- Developing the visibility and impact of member's activities, giving them a stronger influence through the network.

Activities in which the network Members have been actively involved or organised by them: **"Wo-Men"** Youth Exchange in Nov 2005 –Youth Programme, **"The Role of Women in Conflict Transformation"**



training course in August 2006 –CoE, category A, Documentary **"To be or to Appear, representation of Gender in European Medias"** –CoE, category B, **"Women in Contemporary Society - The Ladder of Inequalities"** seminar in April 2007 realised by the Gender Group of Cooperation and Development Network (CDN), **"Euro-Med Gender Connection"** workshop in April 2007 (Anna Lindh Foundation- theme F), **"Behind the door: Violence against women in the Euro-Med area"** training course in May 2007 (Euro-Med Youth Programme- Action 5).

Between the 22nd and the 28th April 2007, in Palermo, Italy- 13 female representatives of the **Euro-Med Gender Connection Network** from some of the founding organizations met to consolidate the network's foundations and to work on its impact and future developments. This workshop organized by CE.S.I.E (Centre of Studies and European Initiatives) was financially supported by the 'Anna Lindh Foundation between Cultures'. COPPEM actively collaborated in the realisation of some of the workshop's events.

The Network is the partner of Euro-Med Network for Youth Trafficking Prevention,

the Network of Young People for Gender Equality and the Gender Group of the Cooperation and Development Network (CDN).

The Euro-Med Gender Connection Network is a member of the Euro-Med Youth Platform (www.euromedp.org). The Network has been supported from the start by the OING AFEM –Association des Femmes d'Europe Méridionale- (<http://www.afem-europa.org/>)

If you would like to take part in the Network or wish to have more information about it, please contact us at the following email address: info@genderconnection.org.

You can also visit our website: <http://www.genderconnection.org/>



MARIE MARZLOFF



Youth and Non Violence

Water management for Peace

Training Course Project

“Youth in Action” Programme

Water management is a priority for the coming years. The lack of resources and the inequality of access to water cause discrimination and social exclusion and don't help development. As priority is given to certain tourism or agricultural sectors, there is inequality in the allocation of resources which has enormous consequences on the development of civil society. High levels of contamination of rivers and oceans affect the health of all citizens and a considerable economic and energy investment is needed to produce drinking water.

If water management can respect everybody's rights, it becomes a factor of peace and cooperation. On the other hand, if we neglect this fact or fail to deal with it as a matter of urgency, the lack of access to water as resources run out will lead to new conflicts in the coming years.

The objective of the seminar is:

To make Youth Program trainers and volunteers aware of these issues and to give them pedagogical and technical resources for use in youth camps or during activities in working groups dealing with conflict resolution or discrimination.

To encourage lasting cooperation and partnership between associations in order to fight for equal opportunities and the respect of universal rights of access to water.



To use education to develop awareness of the responsible management of resources.

The plan is to organize a youth exchange with the same partners in August 2008.

The participants should present the results of the work done during this period of lasting cooperation at various events such as the World Water Congress in September 2008. It will show what can be done by a group involved in peace and cooperation on the topic of water management for peace. The language will be English and French

In its program, the training course incorporates:

- Experts' advice on the following topics:

Presentation of the international and local context; water resources policy and related research; new innovating forms of reinforcement of capacity.

- Management of water conflicts.
- Management of water resources and its influence on civil society, on health and in terms of discrimination if the access to water is limited or polluted.
- Visits of places concerned with water policy in the Hérault region.
- Workshops on inter-cultural dialogue.

The group will consist of two participants by country from Spain, Portugal, U.K., Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon and France.

Cooperative Projects



Water management for Peace

This training course is addressed to program trainers and volunteers from associations who are involved in international cooperation and issues connected with respect for the environment. They also need some knowledge of water policy. In addition, they must want to build a common program in the medium and long term with other international partners in order to build international projects of cooperation.

The activities will be organized according to the principles and methods of non-formal education. The pedagogical approach will be active and interactive with analysis of exchanges and practises, team projects, thematic debates, daily evaluation and analysis and production of materials.

Four countries (Spain, United Kingdom, Israel and France) took part in the feasibility visit (Dates: from 2 to 7 September 2007) in connection with the other partner countries.

The elaboration of the training course program was completed during this visit. The training course will be held in 2008.

The project consists of:

- a preparation visit
- an educational training course (16 participants)
- a youth exchange in the summer (40 participants)



- a network for long-term cooperation to solve problems created by regional or international water policy. A delegation would take part in The World Water Congress in Montpellier in September 2008.



SYLVIE CREMER

Tel. + 33(0)467588715

Mobile. + 33(6)65485261

j.n.v@hotmail.fr

www.jeunesse-non-violence.org

The partners:

Palestinian Youth Union for Cooperation and Peace
Gaza , Palestinian Authority
Paz y Trabajo
Albacete, Spain
Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research
Sede Boqer, Israel
The University of Newcastle
Newcastle, United Kingdom
Al-Hayat Center
Irbid, Jordan
AMWAJ of the environment
Beirut, Lebanon
AICOP
Coimbra, Portugal
Jeunesse et Non-violence
Montpellier, France

Trainers:

Hebah Tibi (Euromed trainer, West Bank)
Sylvie Cremer (YNV, France)

Experts :

Gilian Cadic (ENGREF, Montpellier)
Julie Trottier (UNEW, Newcastle)
Ahmed Said Al-Yaqoubi (Gaza, AP)
Yaakov Garb (BIDR, Israel)
Hervé Ott (IECCC, France)

Organizations that support the project:

Youth in Action
Fondation de France (Fondation un Monde par tous)
Conseil Général de l'Hérault
Agropolis International
Arche de Lanza del Vasto



“Let's meet the three cultures”: an ongoing discovery

Cordoba, Jerusalem, Antwerp.

Torre de Calahorra, Tower of David, The Cathedral.

A mixture of images crosses my mind – faces, senses, places, feelings and experiences.



May 2004 – Alfonso X the Wise, Averroes, ibn el-Arabi, Maimonides, six centuries of flourishing Al-Andalus as the backdrop for our TC. It was a unique experience to find ourselves in a youth hostel in the middle of the Old City of Cordoba, working together for the first time. Our purpose was to meet, learn, experience and create, based on the three main monotheistic cultures in the Euro Mediterranean Region and using three languages - English French and Spanish. December 2005 – a new challenge. The intense reality of the City of Jerusalem, celebrating 3000 years of existence, the Old City and the new one. Again a multicultural team coping with the challenges of a city, holy for the three cultures, a place for pilgrimage for millions around the world and a media-target every day of the week.

We walked a lot in the streets and alleys of the Old City, getting lost in place and content, finding ourselves again and again, learning from each other, discovering similarities, exploring differences, creating educational tools to be used by youth workers in all the Euro-Mediterranean region.

October 2006 – one of the oldest ports in Europe, gateway for millions of immigrants throughout history, Antwerp is a city which nowadays has citizens from 157 different nationalities.

We invited the participants to jump into the Three Cultures boat and to set sail on a journey on the open sea. Going deeper into the content, far from conflict zones, we managed to identify common elements within the three cultures, to explore participants' cultural identities, and overall, to

discover and exchange ideas about the complex Euro-Mediterranean geopolitical situation in relation to the three cultures and religions.

I was glad to be involved in this TC from its very beginning, as a trainer in Cordoba and then as coordinator in Jerusalem and Antwerp. There were nine trainers from seven countries, representing a wide variety of Euro-Med cultural backgrounds with the support of local and national partners who worked with us constantly at different levels.

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Each time the venue brings a challenge in itself; each time it is the creativity, the dedication and the professionalism of the team which recreates this site-specific TC, blending the contents of the TC with the uniqueness of each venue (city).

■ Training



The work is hard as we have to deal with and respond to the needs of the TC, the participants and the different stakeholders (SALTO-YOUTH Euro-Med, hosting NA, partner organizations). At the same time we must look after the well being of the participants, the training team and the team at large while, overall, ensuring that the participation in this TC is a fundamental learning and personal experience for each and everyone involved in it.

As time passes, the know-how and expertise of the team increase. We explore the history, we face the reality, and we search for future clues. New tools are developed thanks to the continuous requests from the participants. A new space for intercultural dialogue among youth workers is created. We also develop an informal network of youth organizations interested in giving young people from the four corners of the Euro-Mediterranean region an



opportunity to discover these three cultures and their place today in daily life. I invite you to join our journey, wherever

you are, because only the joint effort of people dedicated to exploring, discussing and creating a better future will bring our young people and ourselves to a new harbor from which we can depart again and again.

The sea is calm, the sea is stormy, the sun always rises from the east and we are ready with our compass and our senses to embark on this adventure.

See you in Paris for the fourth training seminar on "Let's Meet the Three Cultures" (27 October – 4 November 2007).....



PHOTOS : CLAUDIO



CLAUDIO KOGON

Coordinator

For related info:

<http://www.salto-youth.net/threecultures>

<http://3cultures.blogspot.com>

NEXT ACTIVITIES	DATES	VENUE	COOPERATION
Training seminar "Place and Role of Minorities within the Euromed context : Ethnic, Linguistic, Religious"	-	BASQUE COUNTRY SPAIN	SALTO-Youth Euromed RC with the support of the Basque Government and the collaboration of the Spanish NA.
Training seminar "Inter-religious Dialogue within the Euromed and Eastern Europe and Caucasus contexts"	-	ISTANBUL, TURKEY	SALTO-Youth Euromed, SALTO-Youth Eastern Europe and Caucasus RC with the collaboration of the Turkish NA.
Training seminar "Let's meet the three Cultures"	27 OCTOBER- 4 NOVEMBER 2007	PARIS FRANCE	SALTO-Youth Euromed RC, French National Agency of the Youth In Action programme.
International Conference : "EU Neighbourhood policy and migrations» Role of YIA and Euromed Youth programmes	27 NOVEMBER- 2 DECEMBER 2007	CANARY ISLANDS SPAIN	SALTO-Youth Euromed RC with the collaboration of the Spanish NA and Gobierno de Canarias.
"Tool Fair" 2nd edition	12 - 16 DECEMBER 2007	ANTALYA TURKEY	SALTO-Youth Euromed RC with the collaboration of a lot of other partners.

You will follow all the details about these activities in our next issue n°10



The three Regional SALTO Resource Centres, SALTO-YOUTH Eastern Europe and Caucasus, SALTO-YOUTH Euro-Med and SALTO-YOUTH South Eastern Europe are very pleased to inform you about the publication of their brochure **"Paths to International Cooperation in the Youth Field"** dedicated to Action 3.1 of the Youth in Action Programme.

This is the result of a great cooperation and conscientious common work with the kind participation of the European Commission - DGEAC.

We really hope that this publication will be helpful and informative for you!

The publication will be disseminated in each NA, and during the training courses. It will be available in different languages on line on our website www.salto-youth.net

Enjoy the neighbourhood cooperation...

To follow

- Next Salto EuroMed Reports on "Multipliers", "Step to", Totem, and "Three Cultures".
- SALTO "Making Waves" Booklet: a publication devoted to the "Dissemination and exploitation of projects".
- A report on "Religious, Faith and Dialogue" created by SALTO Cultural Diversity, SALTO Eastern Europe And Caucasus, and SALTO EuroMed.

All the information is available on our website www.salto-youth.net/euromed

SALTO-YOUTH
EUROMED
RESOURCE CENTRE



Institut National de la Jeunesse
et de l'Education Populaire
(INJEP)

Etablissement public du ministère de la Santé,
de la Jeunesse et des Sports:
11 rue Paul Leplat - 78160 Marly-le-Roi - France
Tél.: +33 1 39 17 27 55
Fax: +33 1 39 17 27 57
E-mail: euromed@salto-youth.net
Web site: www.salto-youth.net/euromed

Salto Youth EuroMed team:
Bernard Abrignani (Coordinator);
Caroline Mayaudon (Project Officer in charge of the
Communication and Good Practices);
Stéphanie Henry (Project Assistant);
Publication Director: Hervé Mecheri,
INJEP Director General
Editorial team: B. Abrignani
Editor: Caroline Mayaudon
Design and layout: Zephyr.Communication
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