

Meet'In EuroMed

SALTO YOUTH EUROMED QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

JUILLET 2005

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SALTO-YOUTH
EUROMED
RESOURCE CENTRE



Education and Culture



The Mid-Term Evaluation of the Euromed Youth programme (2001-2003)

The European Commission as part of its good governance evaluates regularly its different programmes through internal monitoring mechanisms but also with the help

of external experts hired specially for this task. In March 2004, the European Commission decided to evaluate externally the programme Euromed Youth and it instructed the European Consultants Organisation (ECO) to conduct an independent mid-term evaluation covering the period from 2001 to 2003. The purpose of the evaluation was to assess whether the programme was consistent with the political objectives of the European Union regarding its neighbours around the Mediterranean and also to what degree has the programme responded to the urgent needs of more than 30 millions young persons in the Mediterranean area and especially in terms of youth exchanges, youth work and non formal learning. The intention was also to evaluate the

impact of the programme and to assess how its actions have been received by young people and the extent of the immediate impact in their local community. Finally, the evaluation appraised sustainability and replicability of the Programme. The sustainability here means the capacity of the regional stakeholders involved in perceiving themselves as owners of the programme, the extent to which target groups and youth beneficiaries have participated and have committed themselves to achieve the programme objectives, how deeply they were involved. Furthermore, this evaluation explored the strengths and weaknesses of the Euromed Youth and of its programme structures, as well as the opportunities and main obstacles facing the programme. The evaluation was carried out by two independent female experts. Their evaluation concept and activities included a balanced mixture of documentary research and fieldwork. Field missions to meet directly decision makers in youth policy, project promoters and participants as well as representatives of youth associations and clubs took place in the following countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, and the Palestinian Authority. This odyssey around the Mediterranean encompassed also participatory evaluation workshops, and face-to-face interviews in the nine MEDA countries. The workshop showed through the vivid participation of the young people (over 140 MEDA youth associations) the high interest of this public in the programme. Finally, the direct consultation processes culminated in a stakeholders meeting in Brussels with over 70 participants from Europe and the Mediterranean. This was a great opportunity for the programme participants to discuss



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the programme together with the European Commission, the Technical Assistance Office, the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Platform, the European Youth Forum, the Council of Europe and Salto Euromed. This whole process was additionally supported by on-line questionnaires launched on the web portal of the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Platform. The 80 answers to the questionnaire proved again the commitment of young persons to the programme. It needs to be highlighted that the national evaluation workshops organised by the Meda National Co-ordinators of the Euromed Youth Programme were very efficient and showed the very high level of commitment and enthusiasm of youth leaders for the programme. They insis-



ted on the importance of consulting directly the opinion and experiences of the direct beneficiaries and invited the European Commission to do it on a regular basis. It was indeed a very rewarding experience for the experts who carried a marathon mission to 9 Mediterranean countries in one month time and completed the evaluation in the period of 5 months.

Given that the programme has funded 120 MEDA organisations from 2001 to 2003, the research sample accessed provides a solid and credible base for findings and recommendations for the next phase of the programme, particularly for the MEDA region.

The Key Findings and Recommendations of the Evaluation

The Euro-Mediterranean Youth Programme has become the singularly most focussed and successful regional instrument to promote youth



intercultural dialogue within the Euro-Mediterranean area. No other international organisation deploys such an important budget to regional youth exchanges! Furthermore, the programme fosters the development of the youth associative sector in the MEDA countries. Both the aspects of intercultural dialogue and development are key strategic issues, given the current international political context and the emerging importance in several MEDA countries of creating a basis for a civil society in which the youth sector is at its core. Furthermore, the programme fills a funding gap in MEDA countries that in general have marginal budgets for the youth sector, and scarce support from other international donors.

The 'bottom-up' approach of the programme allows youth organisations to submit projects according to their specific interests and needs, within the current programme framework. Additionally, the strategy of the programme allows a certain degree of independence, creativity, and diversity among the participating youth and civil organisations.

During its second phase, Euromed Youth has achieved important results including:

- A balance in participation between the number of MEDA and EU youth associations in the programme
- Training in Euromed youth work for a significant number of youth leaders and trainers from the countries of both the EU and MEDA
- A satisfactory level of performance of the programme structures: the National co-ordinators, the SALTO resource centre, the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Platform, and the Technical Assistance Office
- Efficient administrative procedures primarily concerning the selection process and the issuing of contracts.

During the second phase of the programme, Euromed Youth has achieved a critical mass. A total of 256 associations have been active in the Programme from 2001 to 2003. Of these, 136 were from the EU and 120 were from the MEDA countries. The programme experiences a genuine commitment and enthusiasm from the

participants and youth leaders. Moreover, the formal and informal networking activities of the programme, such as project partnerships, contact-making seminars, and multilateral training to promote networking, are resulting in the emergence of the first generation of regional networks.

Highlighted in this evaluation are a number of elements that need fine-tuning to further improve the performance and the impact of the programme. These include an improved coordination among the multiple programme actors, a more efficient information and communication strategy providing more emphasis in the thematic priorities of the programme, strengthening the Voluntary Service, and a revised approach to training for the next phase.

The overall recommendation of the evaluation was that the Euromed youth programme should be continued given the short-term results and the expected long-term impact at the level of individuals and youth organisations.

The third phase of the Euromed Youth programme is bound to start in the second semester of 2005, with a new decentralised implementation mode, where the Mediterranean national authorities will take full responsibility of the programme, as it is the case for the European national agencies.



Esther Gelabert and Judith Neisse are independent EU experts and the authors of the evaluation.



For more information about the Euromed youth evaluation see:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/youth/program/eval/euromed2004_en.pdf



The strategy of the German National Agency in relation to Euro Mediterranean cooperation in the youth field

Introduction

One of the major issue of the German National Agency concerning the Euro mediterranean cooperation in the youth field was and still is the increase of the number of projects within the EuroMed Youth Programme. In relation to the size of the country and the number of German youth organisations involved in the YOUTH-Programme and compared to the number of projects granted, EuroMed projects still remain a minority within the Partner-Country strand of the YOUTH-Programme.

Involvement in the EuroMed training strategy/cooperation

In 2002 we started our co-operation with the SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed Resource Centre so as to increase the potential contacts for German youth organisations willing to co-operate with partners in the Meda countries.

Between 2002 and 2004 a total of 16 representatives from German organisations participated to the trainings offered by the SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed Resource Centre. Most of them are still active in

■ NA's point of view



the EuroMed YOUTH programme and involved in different youth projects with partner organisations from Meda countries, they got to know during these trainings.

To go a step further and increase the impact of the Euromed programme in Germany the German NA organised in December 2004 a "Step To" training course in co-operation with the SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed Resource Centre. The aim of this training course was to reflect on how to use the EuroMed YOUTH programme and in particular Action 5 as a means of support for a regional and/or national strategy. 27 participants from 16 different countries participated in the training course in Cologne where many projects were planned and took place afterwards.

The decentralisation of the decision process in 2004 enabled us to have a more intensified contact to project holders involved in the EuroMed programme and to give them a more specific support adapted to their needs.

Twinning process

Another field of co-operation of the German National Agency is the twinning established through the European Commission. We started 2003 to intensify the contact with the National Coordinator of Israel and the new Turkish National Agency by exchanging information about our respective structures and work.

The National Coordinator of Israel visited the German National Agency in April 2004 for a job-shadowing where we decided about further common activities. One outcome of this visit was a Short Study Visit (SSV) on Action 2, which took place in May 2005 in Israel with the participation of the Polish National Agency. During this SSV we visited many active and potential EVS projects willing to host european volunteers within the EuroMed programme. This SSV was a great success for all participants so that we decided to organise in co-operation with the Polish National Agency a return SSV in Poland and Germany in 2006 for sending organisations from Israel and other Meda countries.

Perspectives

Our activities concerning Euro mediterranean co-operation for the near future will still be the training activities in order to offer project holders an adequate support for their work. We will also open our European training activities to participants from Meda countries if the theme fits within the EuroMed programme.

We also want to expand and consolidate the co-operation with our "twin countries" by planning common activities and support them

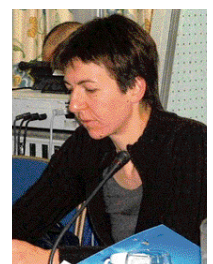


Study visit on Action 2 - 2005.



Salto Euromed "Step to" 2004.

with the re-structuring of the EuroMed programme in the Meda countries. Then this will be one of the biggest challenges for our Meda colleagues in the next years.



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TOTEM TRAINING COURSE

TOTEM is part of the SALTO Euro-Med training strategy for the years 2005 and 2006. It constitutes a complementary training course to TATEM (Training for Active Trainers in Euro-Med), the latter addressing those who are already engaged in training activities within Euro-Med.

Ready... Steady... Go !



How can one start a new year? People usually have New Year resolutions concerning work, education, life, etc... that they try to accomplish during the upcoming year. But thirty youth workers and leaders from twenty one different countries were determined on fulfilling their New Year resolutions; they wanted to become trainers in the Euro-Med, and the path to fulfill these resolutions started in Acireale, Sicily on March 16 th 2005, for ten days during the first phase of TOTEM.

Training Of Trainers in Euro-Med (TOTEM) is a long term training designed to support experienced Euro-Med actors who are interested in developing their skills and competences in order to become trainers in the field of the Euro-Med. This long term training came to life through the collaboration of SALTO-YOUTH Euro-Med and the Italian, Egyptian, and Polish National Agencies. The twenty one countries included: Portugal, Spain, Italy, Lithuania, Poland,

Sweden, Greece, Austria, Germany, Belgium, France, Latvia, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey.

The first seminar in Sicily, Italy was the first among three main residential seminars; the two upcoming seminars will take place in November 2005 and May 2006 in Egypt and Poland respectively.

The objective of the first phase was to equip the participants with tools and skills to become conceiver of training activities. Therefore the design of this phase revolved around what is a trainer, and how and why becoming a trainer in the Euro-Med? In order to process and answer these questions, the training team emphasized on the following learning strands:

- Learning in the group which consists of using the group of participants as a source of learning. Several activities along the ten days of the training exhibited this strand such as sharing, in small groups,

Training events



past training experiences where participants were trainers, trainees, or observers. This strand, learning in the group, was also highlighted during the experiential learning, one of the Euro-Med specificities, where participants had to learn from each other on how to work in teams, how to develop group skills, and most of all know and understand what leadership is especially in a multi-cultural setting.

- Learning as a trainer which emphasizes the development of the professional competences of the TOTEM future trainer. The focus on this strand took place when the participants had to divide into groups, establish partnerships among each other, and design a training that should be implemented towards the end of 2005.

The richness of the training was not only measured through the diversity of the participants or the activities but also through the diversity of the members of the training team that included five trainers from Italy, Spain, Poland, Egypt, and Lebanon. This combination from both West and East, North and South helped providing the training team with a better and deeper understanding of issues and concerns related to the Euro-Med region; also, it was a living example for the participants of a successful cooperation that overcomes geographical boundaries.

Eight months is the period that separates the first two seminars, through which the participants have to do an observation of a real training; this observation is an educational process geared towards learning from real experiences, knowledge that is not provided through books. Also during this eight month period, each partici-

part has one of the trainers as a mentor in order to give feedback to the participants and help them to assess themselves as trainers. Furthermore, the mentoring will help the participants become more aware of their strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. Both the observation and the mentoring are parts of the self-directed learner strand, a very important learning process for the TOTEM future trainer.

One of TOTEM's main objectives is to improve the quality of training activities in the Euro-Med through offering a deeper comprehension of the Euro-Mediterranean context. But a greater objective was developed during the first seminar which is a transformation of the self through self-reflection in order to become a more aware trainer in the Euro-Med context. One of TOTEM participants stated:

In Acireale, I experienced real heart and mind opening moments. Through challenging group exercises and self reflections I reached enriching insights and awareness of feelings in order to create deep learning.

Change and improvement don't only happen through learning new skills; they require self reflection and determination to pave the way for them. Nobody said that this road would be easy, but TOTEM is providing a safe space for the participants to go through this transformation in order to become effective and successful Euro-Med trainers!

For further information about TOTEM please visit the following website:
<http://www.salto-youth.net/totemdescription/>



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*Jana was reporter of TOTEM.
She is Lebanese, currently doing a master degree in Conflict Transformation in the United States.
She has been working for two years in Lebanon with youth in the fields of Conflict Transformation and Leadership and she would like to pursue in the future a career in policy making and youth advocacy.*





TATEM TRAINING COURSE

Aims and structure of the training

The aim of this training course organised within the framework of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe and in co-operation with the Euro-Med Salto Resource Centre is to develop and strengthen the know-how and skills of 30 trainers involved in projects in the Euro-Mediterranean region.



Specific objectives of the course

- to maintain and develop the quality and quantity of the training courses organised in the Euro-Med Youth field;
- to contribute to the development and quality of activities organised by young people and youth organisations within the framework of the Euro-Med Youth Programme;
- to create links between trainers and multipliers involved in youth activities in the Euro-Mediterranean context, including the courses held within Salto Euro-Med



- and within the Euro-Med Youth Partnership;
- to identify and analyse the specificities of training in the Euro-Med Youth context (including those related to politics, religion and sex);
- to initiate an informal network of skilled trainers in the Euro-Med Youth context, sharing common values and experiences and able to work with the priority themes of the European Commission's Euro-Med Youth Programme, and to contribute to the development of a Euro-Med network of skilled trainers.
- to lay the foundations for the future development of trainer and multiplier training strategies in the Euro-Med context.

After the training course the participants should be able:

- to present the Euro-Med Youth programme and describe how it works
- to develop and implement a training project

- to understand the prevailing educational and pedagogic systems in the Euro-Med context
- to make a critical analysis of training tools and techniques
- to create and adapt their own training methods and techniques
- to understand and learn from the intercultural situations specific to the Euro-Med context
- to explain and help participants to understand their intercultural learning process
- to propose a critical analysis of the socio-political context of the Euro-Med youth work, including its historical, cultural, religious and sociological dimensions (and the political framework initiated by the Barcelona Declaration and the subsequent programmes and actions).
- to analyse their profiles as trainers and to work in a multicultural training team
- to adapt their educational approaches and attitudes as trainers to Euro-Med

Training events



publics and contexts

- to present and defend a training project in the framework of action 5 of the Euro-Med Youth programme or similar
- to devise, elaborate on and develop priority themes for Council of Europe and European Commission training activities, in the fields of human rights, racism and cultural diversity, women's rights, participation and citizenship and the environment, for example
- to understand and help others understand the learning processes involved in non-formal education

Stage 1 - Initial seminar

Each participant is to develop a common understanding of the two year's process and each trainer being able to project themselves in the process

- Understanding MEDA and the Euro-Med Youth Programme
- Developing training competencies (principles and practice) – notably in human rights education, intercultural learning and non-formal education;
- Take into account different skills and



experiences

- Review and set individual learning objectives
- Provide the framework for self-assessment of learning objectives and plans
- Prepare the group to serve as a source of learning (and what can/should be planned therein)



experiences

- Develop the training projects of the participants for the first practical phase
- Clarify (provide, if necessary) project planning methodology according to need (at least in as far as participants need to plan a project and learn to evaluate it for their own learning process).

- Identify potential partners from the course for their projects (where appropriate)
- Creating a common ground and atmosphere for communication, interaction, learning and cooperation.

Stage 2 – First practical phase

Practical training experience based on projects identified during stage 1.

- Development of learning plans and their evaluation
 - Co-operation with other trainers on the course.
 - Help participants to learn and evaluate through projects and through evaluation.
- Other measures for learning and support are advisable and needed for this stage:



- Contact with and support by the course directors, the national coordinators and the national agencies.
- Individual trainers and participants should avoid "exclusive" communication. The trainers have a particular role to play on this.

The training projects of the participants in this phase...

- Are compulsory for all participants and

the participants have a direct and explicit role as trainers in their preparation, implementation and evaluation

- Are planned in the course of the initial seminar
- Are prepared and implemented with the advice of the team of trainers
- Last between 5 and 10 days, excluding travel
- Are conducted by a multicultural team, if possible with other trainers on the course – a maximum of 5 participants (ideally, 4) of the course may be involved in the same project. It is understood that trainers or partners from outside the course may also be involved.
- Will be evaluated during the training course (during the consolidation and development seminar)



- Will be used for preparing the consolidation seminar programme.

National trainings may be allowed in this phase, in exceptional and justified circumstances. It is understood, however, that each participant must be directly involved as trainer in at least one multilateral training activity during the course.



■ Training events

Stage 3 – Consolidation and development seminar

- Evaluation of the training experiences from the previous phase
- Identification of individual training needs
- Identification of and work with the principles and aims specific to training courses in the Euro-Med context, also subject/theme wise
- Information about the new Euro-Med programme
- Training on themes

Stage 4 – Second practical phase

- Additional training practice for the participants
- Co-operation with other organisations and partners in the Euro-Med Youth context
- Incorporation of trainers into the Euro-Med Youth context
- Specific goals and learning objectives in relation to the 1st practical phase (probably more general) – also possible emphasis on thematic courses
- Possibility of one meeting in regional or interest (sub)-groups

Stage 5 – Evaluation and follow-up seminar

- Evaluation of the process and the achievements of the training course
- Development of additional individual skills
- Deepening themes and issues in training
- Consolidation of networks and follow-up to the course
- Framework for self-assessment
- Possibility for participant-lead activities during the programme – but this could also be done during the second phase (as it could be easier for involving participants). ■

▼ Dates

Initial Seminar

Venue: European Youth Centre
Budapest : Monday
22nd November.
Friday, 3rd of
November

Consolidation and development seminar:

Venue: INJEP, at
Marly-le-Roi:
Monday 19
September 2005
Saturday 1 October

Evaluation and follow-up seminar

Venue:
a MEDA country
Dates: 18 - 28
October 2006.

I'm a believer...



"I am a big believer in moments that enlighten our lives and lead us to "awareness". These moments surround us all the time. We need to learn to see them. Then, we need to decide which one of them to bring into our lives. It is a brave decision since, most of the time, the way is not easy and it is very demanding too... but when you look back - from time to time - to what you have achieved, it fills your heart with a great satisfaction. When we are satisfied and happy, the world gains from us and from what we are bringing with us."

I wrote those lines in 2000, when I started working on International projects at the Youth Department of my city, Netanya (Israel).

Back then I did not know what a dramatic change I will be entering when I let the Euro-Med Youth Programme into my life.

Since 2002 I have experienced more and more of these wonderful challenging moments and I can gratefully say that the Euro-Med Youth Programme has changed my life for good. Nowadays, I am working as a free lance trainer, facilitating the Euro-Med Youth Programme with the support of the Israeli NC office.

Personally, I consider that being a SALTO trainer is a way of thanking for the opportunity I seized: to share, to learn and to contribute to this wonderful programme and to the positive process it brings into the Euro-Med region.

Being part of the TATEM Team (Training Active Trainers Euro-Med) is more than an honour and it means hard work – more responsibilities and understanding that we really have the power to make the difference...

It is not an easy, but we trainers /educators know it takes time...

ESSIE ARBIV
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Common memory, common heritage

Heritage and culture have always been "objects" of intrigue and study throughout the world. I have always had a strong curiosity towards these topics without really realizing their true meaning. This was the case until June 2005.

During that month I have been lucky enough to participate to the Salto training course "Common Memory – Common Heritage" which took place in Greece.

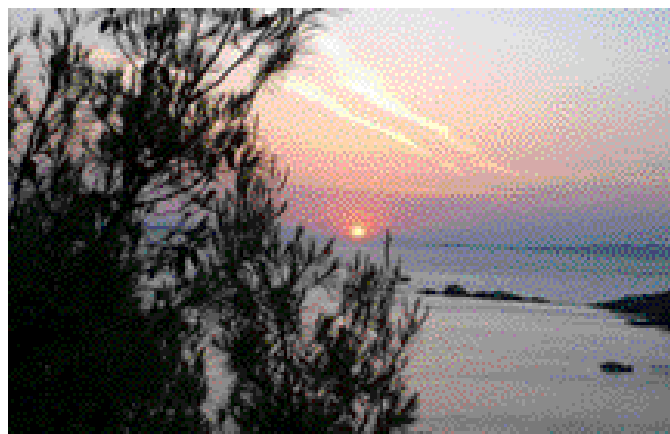
I applied thinking that these topics were interesting and useful to my volunteer work with young people... but I did not realize that by applying I was giving myself a chance to undergo a life changing experience.

At the airport, while I was waiting for my flight to Athens, I began to wonder if this was a good idea to spend an entire week in a foreign land with complete strangers. Freshly arrived, I met 18 people from different countries of different ages and backgrounds!! I felt distant from everyone not knowing how to connect with them but through something as simple as a fairy tale, events took a welcoming turn.

We came with our own backgrounds, presenting fairytales from our own countries and through these stories we were able to find binding ties between us, searching for the common features and looking beyond the differences. I was not only able to experience all these cultures, but also to take a deeper look into my own.

It was not an easy job, analyzing and dissecting the tales and by using the infrastructure given to us we were able to transform a rocky beginning into a smoother road.

The climax of this process was when we began the creation of original tales based on our collective cultures. Even within my own group, we had many barriers to overcome: those of culture, language, age... Yet none of them seemed to matter, the creativity flowed like a well oiled machine; everyone had something to offer building the new tale piece by piece.



For me, as well as many others, the peak of the training course was the final night (the night of the tale) when we presented our tales. Each group had worked really hard and managed to present something truly original nevertheless infused with a diverse cultural feeling. It was a truly "magic" night filled with joy for what we accomplished and with sadness for our imminent departure.



Each one of the participants gained something different to bring back home. Maarika from Estonia felt it was an amazing week: "Before I came, I was afraid of miscommunication and not getting along with



anyone. Now I realize how much cultural differences are over-emphasized, it is true they exist but it does not mean that "we" as "people" are really different".

Samer from Palestine also had a lot to say

about his experience: "This is my first time on an airplane and out of the Middle East; I did not know what to expect when I landed, but it was a pleasant surprise, for the participants were great, they have a wonderful spirit and were very supportive of me"

This is how we ended our week. In the "mythic" atmosphere of Greece, between gnomes and the genies, we discovered that the world was open to us.



RAZAN NASSER

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“My tales country”

Euro-Med Youth exchange “My Tales Country”, August 2004, Lithuania.

It was the first Euro-Med project in Lithuania organised by our structure, Panevezys County NGO's Information and Support Centre.

I was the coordinator of this project.

The idea of the project was to get to know different culture through folk tales and to know each other better by creating new tales together. For us it was one of the most important projects, because we worked with young people from disadvantaged suburban areas and we were happy that young people with fewer opportunities had a possibility to start Euro-Med projects in our country.

The partners came from 3 different countries – Belgium (“MJA”), Jordan (United Globe Association – Jordan Interfaith Action C.C.) and Israel (“Dr.Hirshberg Foundation”).

An important part of the project was to bring Arabic and Jewish people together out of their conflict region. We believe that some-

times you can deal with conflicts “indirectly” (even the most sensitive ones) more effectively than dealing with them “directly”. Participants had an “open space” to discuss this issue during the project and to discover each other.

tion for the project. All teams had to choose one folk tale and to make a presentation in creative way for other participants. It was really nice to share: tales we heard while growing up, what these tales were about, who told the stories in the families (mother, father or older sister), what memories these tales brought to us and what our childhood was like. It was very important that we could discover so many common features by sharing our personal experiences. We presented our experiences by drawing, acting, discussing.

In this way each of us had a possibility to express him/herself personally. We had great cultural evenings open for local people. “On behalf of our entire group I can say that we learned a lot about each other, from each other while being, communicating and working together. I am very happy that it was just beginning of our cooperation



times you can deal with conflicts “indirectly” (even the most sensitive ones) more effectively than dealing with them “directly”. Participants had an “open space” to discuss this issue during the project and to discover each other.

For us, as Lithuanian group, it was the first time to meet Mediterranean countries on our own land, in our small town, so we felt the necessity to present our project to the local people by running some activities together with them and also by showing to participants the real life of local communities. We had a workshop during which we got into small international groups and visited local people in the village to collect information about tales, opinion of inhabitants about the importance of tales in their social life and the relationship within the family. It was also very interesting and pleasant to find out what the local people knew about participants' countries.

The programme was really rich. Each group had a strong prepara-

and communication.” (Sandra Vienazindyte - Lithuanian group member).

When partners were designing the programme, we came up with an idea: to paint and decorate the yard of local kinder garden. Even if we did not plan to ask local children to help us, they came to kinder garden and joined us. So participants had a possibility to play and to paint with them. The director of kinder garden said to the participants that this place which was changed by project participant, will remind local people of them, their countries and the project for long time.

Participants had activities in Panevezys city. During these activities they visited the local government and other institutions. They also communicated with people in the streets by leaving flyers and distributing posters about the project and inviting people to project presentation. After these activities we were happy to receive the attention of our local authorities, because they gave us much more

support for our activities than before. During the project presentation, the participants shortly presented their countries and they performed new tales created by them. Afterwards all together with local people we watched the performance presented by Panevezys' Puppet Cart Theatre.

Project was presented in Israel as well as in Jordan. The follow up of the project is the youth exchange project in Belgium in September 2005, which is already approved, and CMS in Lithuania in September 2005 with 18 different countries from Mediterranean and EU.

It shows, that project was successful, despite faced difficulties during project preparation when partner organisation from Jordan refused to participate and we were lucky to find new partners, with whom now we have very strong friendship and cooperation.

During project preparation and implementation we had quite many difficulties. But I think it was a part of the learning processes. In the beginning our first partner organisation from Jordan refused to participate. The reason was that the visa process took much more time as they were planned before but finally after changing the date of youth exchange project they just said no. As I had some personal contacts after LTTC "Youth participation and Intercultural learning

excelled to the other projects I had, such as; the notion of visiting your local people in Upete and asking them face fo face about what they say about our country, whether they know it or not and feeling their reaction when they met us as another people from south far away countries, it was truly the most affective reaction I had.

2. The notion of our project was brilliant and rather educational experience -as I recall- when you asked us - all four countries- to present their tales by performing them on the stage and discussing the moral after every performance. Here I would add that mixing the tales and stories we all came up with in one tale and perform it was the best ever experience.

3. Allowing us - Jordanian group - to cook our traditional was so generous and hospitable of you, and how we felt when you had our meals "Maglooba, Kabseh and the Oreintal Salad" – you will feel bored when you eat them daily here in Jordan. We always talk here about the traditional meals we cooked in LT.

4. No doubt the voluntary work we carried out in the Kindergarten had the highest and the most precious value that we put our own finger prints in that kid's yard. I really admired that experience as I it added a lot to my morality and manners. One more comment



through Euro-Med youth projects" our project was implemented together with new Jordanian partners. My recommendation after such experience would be – to work with partners who you know personally or recommend by your friends and of course prep-meeing is necessary and very important part of each project to have a real partnership.

During project implementation we also had some technical problems with showers, toilets, with water. We lived in a school, participants had to sleep on mattresses in classrooms like 7-8 persons in each room. But participants said that this place was the best and they would not change it.

Some feedbacks regarding the experience in Lithuania

1. I have attended few Euro-med projects some of them here in Jordan and the others abroad, and your project has surpassed and

I would like to add, we all loved your country simply because you are simple, cheerful and hospitable people as we are the Jordanian ones. Finally, we are very proud, that this was the first Euro-Med project in Lithuania organised by our organisation, Panevezys County NGO's Information and Support Centre and that our local youth had a possibility to be part of it.



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EMVS (Euro Med Voluntary Service) comes to Kfar Vradim, Israel

After one and a half year of SALTO training courses, Action 5s and 1s both as coordinators, hosting and sending structure, the “Kfar Vradim Euro Med desk” has almost finished its first successful volunteer project.

The project consisted of four volunteers (2 from Germany and 2 from Austria) working with disabled and disadvantaged young people.

One of the volunteers worked in the Druze village of Chofesh in the upper Galilee with children at risk and youngsters from very low socio economic background. The volunteer was involved in informal activities with these youngsters after school hours including such activities as arts and crafts, dance and help with homework.

Two volunteers worked in Maalot – Tarshicha, a multi cultural community in the Cochav (Star) Center working with autistic people. Their activities included working with them in arts and crafts, the carpentry shop, the plant houses and the special paper factory where paper is made in the traditional method from the bark of cherry trees. This paper was then used to make gift items (place-mats, cards, bookmarks, photos and so on).

All these activities were aimed not only at helping to occupy the participants and at helping them to physically and mentally develop, but also at providing a source of additional income to these participants plus a way for them to be accepted by the community.

The fourth volunteer worked in two places one in Kfar Vradim in the junior high school with youth with special educational needs and in Hadera with the minority Ethiopian community who are suffering from alienation, unemployment and socially related problems. The volunteer worked with these young people after school hours helping them in their school work and developing and implementing activities.

All projects allowed the volunteers to experience the different cul-

tures existing in Israel. The volunteers lived all together in Kfar Vradim. This gave the volunteers the opportunity to experience independence and the need for flexibility while living with others.

All volunteers were given a 'family' (mentor) who they could visit and experience the daily life of a family in Israel and celebrate religious holidays and festivals.

▼ Description Kfar Vradim Euro Med Desk

The Kfar Vradim Euro Med desk was established 2 years ago. The desk is situated in the picturesque village of Kfar Vradim in the hills of the Western Galilee of Israel and although partly supported by the local council of Kfar Vradim, the desk's objective is to provide services and help to all organisations that fall within the framework of the region.

This includes all cultures, religions (Druze, Tchakazis, Muslims, Christians, Jews and Beduins).

Presently the desk is working with 2 regional councils, 1 local council and specific organizations that work with minority groups (Ethiopians, Muslims, Druze), disadvantaged groups (socio-economic) and disabled (autistic and mentally challenged).

A mid-term meeting was held with all volunteers in Israel under the hosting of the Israel National Coordinator (Mr. David Krausz). During the 10 months in Israel various trips were organized to see, learn and experience the different aspects of Israel, its history, cultures and geography.

We believe that the project was positive for all those involved (volunteers, participants, host & sending organisations and for the mentors).

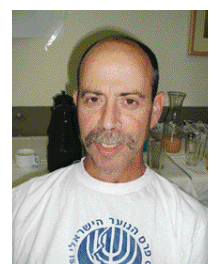
We thank Euro Med and SALTO for the possibility of this most successful experience and we hope that this will be the first of many.

▼ Dan Wollner

Director – EuroMed Desk (Kfar Vradim)

Dan has a Masters Degree in Commerce with majors in Industrial Psychology and Finance. He has had over 23 years success in the private business sector (specializing in the area of marketing), holding many executive positions.

Four years ago, Dan decided to change direction and attempt to make the world a “better place”. The start in this direction was after hearing of Euro Med and the attendance in SALTO courses and Action 5 projects.



DAN WOLLNER

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"A Thousand and One Nights..." EVS in EuroMed countries

INFOECK – Jugendinfo Tirol – is an EVS sending and hosting organization in Tyrol – an Austrian province in the Alps, in the "heart of Europe". People from other countries describe the Tyroleans as friendly people who favour traditional views and quite conservative values. Maybe these values are connected to our landscape which is characterized by high mountains and narrow valleys. Almost every valley has its own dialect...

Our main motivation to invite young people to join EuroMed projects was to fight the prevailing prejudice about Arabic cultures and Islamic religion among European citizens. Our idea was that these young people with their experience would be able to live and later on promote the EuroMed Youth Programme's objectives of peace, dialogue, tolerance and solidarity.

My first contact with organizations from MEDA countries involved in the Youth Programme was the training course "Step To".

As a result of this course, we started to cooperate with a local youth club and organized a youth exchange, which was the motivation to do more projects with partners from EuroMed countries.

During the Salto training course "Civilization and Education" in Marrakech, I had the chance to gain a deeper insight into the culture of Arabic countries. The participants shared information on their education systems, their culture, traditional food and performed songs and dances. One of the main aims of this training was to bring people together to create EVS projects – and we have been successful in this attempt...

Our organization has sent a young man to work for a local TV station, a young woman to assist in a community with disabled people and another one to work with children – all of them are enjoying their EVS in MEDA countries. Of course, it is a big challenge for

young Europeans to spend some months in a region where living conditions, regulations and traditions are very different from the life they are used to in Europe. However, after an "introduction" period most of them adapt themselves very well. Thanks to the hospitality of MEDA countries, the volunteers easily get in contact with the local community (which is sometimes quite difficult in our northern countries...).

As we all know the huge difference between the cultures offers a lot of learning experiences and adventures, but also a high chance of misunderstandings, conflicts and problems. So I think it is very important to elaborate the EVS project in all possible details : what are the tasks, the support, the rules, the living conditions, risk assessment...

For our organization, the personal contact with partners is vital because it is impossible to plan everything. In case of difficulties or problems, it is absolutely necessary to have a reliable partner.

Both of us are responsible for "our" young volunteer. In the cooperation with EuroMed countries, this mutual confidence and support is even more important.

For the benefit of our young people and our excellent cooperation with partners from MEDA countries, we will certainly realize more EVS projects in EuroMed – and we would like to encourage other organizations to participate as well! We hope that the EuroMed Youth Programme will start in both directions very soon.

For those who are interested in setting up a project, I recommend to take part in one of the trainings or seminars organized by Salto Youth EuroMed. As a participant of such a training, I got an idea of the EuroMed dimension and found trustworthy and motivated partners. With a good EVS project we will open new horizons for young people and bring people (and cultures) together.



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Training Courses 2005

>> until December 2005

Environment and Human Ecology

AUGUST 28 - SEPTEMBER 05
Hungary

This course has been conceived on the assumption that each culture is a whole with the surrounding environment (natural, sociological, historical, traditional...), and that "exploring the environment" can provide young people with a good opportunity to "explore the local culture" and undertake intercultural learning path. In this regard, the youth leaders participating to this course will be called to act as "human ecologists", first exploring the local environment of Hungary and then to setting up activities suitable for young people they might involve in future youth exchanges.

Step To SEPTEMBER 17-25 France
"Step To" is the second "step" of a three level training curriculum. The training course is designed for youth workers and youth leaders (professional or volunteer) from both sides of the Mediterranean Sea experienced in the (EuroMed)

YOUTH programme to extend their competencies to develop a Euro-Mediterranean co-operation strategy within their organisations. Participants will approach a variety of subjects, as Action 5 and its use. Special emphasis is put on a common project development.

TATEM (phase II)

SEPTEMBER 17-30 France

TATEM (Training for Active Trainers in Euro-Med) is one of the two long-term training courses organised this year within the framework of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe and in co-operation with the Euro-Med Salto Resource Centre.

The aim is to develop and strengthen the know-how and skills of 30 "active" trainers involved in projects in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Step At - NOVEMBER 18-27 - Egypt
"Step At" is the last course of a three level training curriculum. The training course is designed for youth organisation

leaders and decision makers from both sides of the Mediterranean Sea familiar with the (EuroMed) YOUTH programme to extend their competencies to develop management techniques adapted to their organisations reality, to their projects and to their cooperation strategy and to build EuroMed networks.

Participants will deepen their knowledge on transnational networking activities of Action 5 (Support Measures), analysing different types of organisation and project management, developing tools adapted to their working environment and exploring common values of both sides. Special emphasis is put on a common networking project development.

TOT EM (phase II)

NOVEMBER 18-27 Egypt

This other long term training course developed at institutional level within the Euro-Med area has been designed to support the learning of those youth workers and youth leaders - already

experienced in Euro-Med - who manifested their will/need to develop their competences as trainers in this field. More specifically, TOT EM responds to the need of developing specific EURO-MED-related competences in the field of training.

Let's meet the three cultures

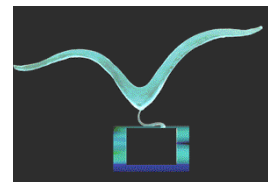
DECEMBER 04-12 Israel

This course aims at developing Euro-Mediterranean co-operation, reinforcing the quality of the Euro-Med YOUTH Programme within an intercultural context, increasing the participants' skills in cultural management and their active participation in the Euro-Mediterranean process. The three cultures, Christianity, Islam and Judaism, have been present in Jerusalem since early times. The participants will get to know and experience different aspects of the cultures, mean analysing their relation to them and creating tools to be applied in intercultural work.

For more information, please visit our website: www.salto-youth.net/euromed



EUROMED YOUTH AWARDS 2005



To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration and significant achievements of the Euro-Med Youth Programme, a special event will be held in Cairo, Egypt, from 12 to 16 October 2005. This event is co-organised by the Egyptian National Coordination Office, Salto Youth Euro-Med RC and the Euro-Med Youth Platform, under the patronage of the European Commission and in cooperation with the European Youth Forum.

For four days, key actors and beneficiaries of the Euro-Med Partnership and the Euro-Med Youth Programme will discuss future cooperation during round tables, share good practices, hold workshops on the role and place of Euro-Med NGOs, and network partners.

On the last day, a jury will reward the most significant achievements and best projects during the Euro-Med YOUTH Awards ceremony.

For more information, please visit our website: www.salto-youth.net/euromedyouthawards

SALTO-YOUTH
EUROMED
RESOURCE CENTRE



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