



Conference at INJEP on EuroMed cooperation

The French National Agency (NA) for the European Youth Programme and the Salto-Youth EuroMed Resource Centre held a conference at INJEP on 23 November 2005 to mark the 10th anniversary of the EuroMed Partnership. The event was organised with the support of the French Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Education.

On the agenda – an assessment of the French NA's implication in the EuroMed Youth Programme, a presentation of Salto-Youth EuroMed's good practices, perspectives for the future EuroMed Youth Programme III, along with a more general overview of the political framework of the Barcelona Process.

The Head of the French NA, Jean Chiris, and Project Officer, Isabelle Olivier, gave an assessment of the Agency's five-year implication in the Programme. From 2001 to mid-2005, the Agency financed 135 projects (contact seminars, training courses, European Voluntary Services), involving more than 3000 young people from both sides of the Mediterranean.

Salto-Youth EuroMed Coordinator, Bernard Abrignani, presented the Resource Centre's good practices in training. In 2003-2004, Salto-Youth EuroMed held nearly 30 courses which benefited around 700 trainers, participants and leaders of youth organisations from the EuroMed region.

A comprehensive, specialised EuroMed Training Bag in French and English, with documents in Arabic, was created for trainers



to use in their own courses. This pedagogical instrument contains thousands of referenced documents, specially organised into case studies, in order to assist EuroMed trainers in their work.

Silvia Mora, from the European Commission, presented the main lines of the future EuroMed Youth Programme III, whose budget could near the 10 million euros mark. She also discussed the Commission's plan, already in motion, to decentralise the Programme to Mediterranean countries, in an effort to bring it closer to its beneficiaries and create a more transparent mode of selection of participants. Esther Gelabert, an EU consultant who conducted the Programmes' midterm evalua-

tion in 2004, discussed the Programmes' role within the more general context of the EuroMed Partnership. Dorothee Schmid, researcher at the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI), analysed the geopolitical place and role of the EU in the Mediterranean relative to other actors, particularly the United States.

In the audience, a group of around 50 young people from Europe and the Mediterranean, who were at INJEP for two simultaneous Salto-Youth EuroMed training courses (Step To and TATEM) engaged the panel of experts in a vivid discussion, particularly regarding to the future of Programme and their "uncertainties" on the decentralisation process.

