

# Meet'In EuroMed

SALTO YOUTH EUROMED QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

JUILLET 2005

# 5



- édito
- NA's perspective
- Training events
- Participant's perspective
- EuroMed good practices

SALTO-YOUTH  
EUROMED  
RESOURCE CENTRE



Education and Culture

# “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.



**RASA VISOCKIENE**  
panoipc@yahoo.com