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## Youth: in the right direction

### Information Seminar:

#### Youth: the right direction Thessaloniki, Greece, 11-15 June 2007

The Association of the Local Democracy Agencies together with the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe and the Municipality of Mouzaki organised the first seminar in the scope of the Project « Youth : the right direction » sponsored by the European Commission in Thessaloniki (Greece) from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

The 15 participants from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Georgia, Italy and Serbia were greeted by His Excellency Drfano, Greek Minister of Sport and

Mr Karakostanoglu, Head of Stability Pact Thessaloniki Office.

The participants were trained on project drafting, setting up youth information points, networking and youth in action programme.



*The participants*



*From left to right: Dr Karakostanoglu (SPOT), H.E.Drfano, Mr Demergis (SPOT) and Mr Paris (ALDA)*

### Information Seminar:

#### Youth: the right direction: Mostar, BiH, 23-25 October 2007

The Association of Local Democracy Agency and the Local Democracy Agency Mostar organised an information seminar on European Youth in Action programmes. The 24 participants from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Italy, Greece and FYROM were trained on project drafting, setting up youth information points, and networking.

This seminar was the third organised in the scope of the three years project "Youth: the right direction" funded by the European Commission. The participants expressed their satisfaction with the content of the training that mixed concrete exercise with an overview of the different actions of the Youth programme.

The outcomes expected is to set up a network of youth organisations that will be able to draft and implement common projects. The Local Democracy Agencies are supporting the process and set youth info points.

With special thanks to our supporters:



Education and Culture  
Youth in Action



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## Information Seminar: Youth: the right direction: Sisak (Croatia) 25-27 September 2007



A unique intercultural experience, an excellent training session, and a good opportunity to build bridges among youth NGOs representatives... all aptly describe the "Youth: In the right direction" seminar held in Sisak. The 20 participants expressed their enthusiasm in taking part in the second information seminar on the "Youth in action programmes".

The LDA Sisak and ALDA organised the three days of seminars

and welcomed participants from Croatia, Serbia, Italy, and Northern Ireland.

The participants were trained on project drafting, setting up youth information points, networking and youth in action programme.

The last information seminar will be held in Mostar (Bosnia-Herzegovina) from the 23 to 25 October.

## Activities of the project: Youth Exchange

### Cultural Heritage, Traditions/Tales, Rural Development

The first activity was set in **Osijek** - Baranja County (Eastern Croatia) during the spring time - in May 2007.

The main topic was getting to know local tradition, behaviour and different environments.

Young people had the marvelous chance to see Kopački Rit (Nature Park unique in Europe), St. Peters cathedral, the old fortress called Tvrđja from 18th century in Osijek and to taste local food (fish, kulen) and wine.

The second activity was set in **Subotica** from the 29th of August to the 3rd of September.

The main topic was the cultural heritage.

Young people could show the regional traditional dances and tried them.

They also visited the cultural heritage of the city: city hall, synagogue, catholic cathedral and orthodox church; the lake of Palić and learnt a story

about it.

It was organised an excursion to Novi Sad and a visit to Petrovaradin fort from 15th century.

The third activity was set in **Coruna** (Galicia, Spain) on the 23rd of June.

The main topic was to celebrate the tradition about chasing the witches away.

Young people participated on the ceremony and on the party at the beach. they jumped over the fire and drunk the typical „guaimada“ to scare the witches.

The fourth activity was set in **Osijek** - Baranja County (Eastern Croatia) in autumn.

The main topic was the cross border cooperation and cultural exchange.

Young people had the chance to visit our fortress from the 18th century and Kopački Rit - Nature Park. They also tried out domestic food and drinks. They played traditional games and

helped in making wine, rided a horses, drove a paraglide, a bicycle along Baranja and visited ethno villages, went swimming and fishing in Drava and Dunav and saw sea briefs of old roman buildings.

The fifth activity was set in **Hrvatska Dubica** during the summer.

The main topic was the youth camp.

During their stay young people could help building and clearing out the place (old traditional house) with arch yard and the private access to Una river so there could be held many events.

The volunteers could stay in the tents and have workshops with local youngsters as well as young people who could visit them and work together.



## Project: United in Diversity

The main objective of that project is getting to know different traditions, customs and heritage of Italy and Croatia.

*The project activities promote European values, such as equal opportunities, human rights and democracy and respect for other cultures.*

Croatia is a country that will like to become an EU member state, and young people could discover a lot of things from their Italian colleagues through conversation and by working together. Both sides are promoting the highest respect for the other by cooperating in this project.

All the young participants are facing social difficulties such as discrimination of any kind, drug problems, broken families, etc. or disability.

Different and interesting activities such as an intercultural evening, were organised: road trips to see country and visits to traditional households, have a meal with them and discuss and learn some specific customs in the particular area.

Young people learnt a lot about each other through all of these

activities, and local community is going to have another partner in the frame of the "pro-European" efforts.

All these people have been included in all of the workshops, and it was also therapeutical for young people on wheelchairs.

We wanted to give young people the chance to learn the historical heritage of another country, to understand the relationship between two countries, and something about the national cuisine by seeing and doing it. This has been done in workshops, and we also included young people in wheelchairs and took them to therapeutical horse- backriding together with other participants. The participants learnt how to make poetry in a traditional way, and there was also a media workshop where young people could document entire second part of the exchange through their own eyes.

During these two weeks we have documented the exchange, we have organised a making of poetry in the traditional way, a media workshops (short video

clips have been filmed), evening activities such as traditional dances and meetings with the local partners for different workshops.

Before starting these activities we agreed on which specific regions of the two countries will be involved, on the consumers and on the workshops. We also decided how to spend the free time and we established the rules.

We also wrote down a questionnaire about the expectations of the participants (what do you want to learn, expectation from the practical part, etc.).

After all the activities the participants had to fill in a final evaluation (how did they see all the project, were they satisfied with it, ...).

The training included a first week- theory and a second week- practice.

We succeeded in including youth in decision making and in having a huge media coverage (web page, blog, press clippings).

And because it is about creating a common European meeting point intercultural international, everyone could participate.

Finally, 24 young people with social, economic, cultural and geographical problems participated to the project.

The follow up of this activity will be putting our own local mate-

Youth: in the right direction



## Media

This project was set in **Istria** at the end of June in different places: ATP Umag, Motovun film festival, Pula- Arena, Rovinj- Isola Rossa.

The project aims to create a web portal which will be a meeting and infopoint (on web) for youth, including web and radio.

Young people could understand this new kind of media and make experience of what is the job of journalist or web creator, cameraman...

## Citizenship, Democracy, Drugs, Alcohol, Abuse, Racism, Xenophobia



The project fosters young people's sense of European citizenship and helps them to understand their role as part of the present and future of Europe; it reflects a common concern for European society, such as racism, xenophobia and anti-semitism, drug abuse...

The project's theme is of European interest, such as EU enlargement, European institutions, European projects, in fact the project activities promote European values, such as equal opportunities, human rights and democracy, respect for other cultures.

The project focuses on young people who are facing different problems such as Educational difficulties (early school-leavers, etc.), Social difficulties (discrimination of any kind, drug problems, broken families, etc.), cultural differences, economic and geographical difficulties, disability and health problems.

The first part of this project was set in **Subotica** during the summer.

The main topic was Xenophobia. Young people visited the City Hall built in Art nuovo, the big Cathedral, the Reihl palace, fountains, the orthodox church, Palić lake and Palić Zoo. They tasted local food and drinks. They also had the chance to visit "slamarke" (making pictures from strokes), to ride a bike to the Ludas lake- nature park with rare bird species protected by the UNESCO (it is around 25-30 km of a ride), to spend time in nature instead of staying inside a room.

The second part of the project was set in the Eastern part of Croatia: in the cities of **Osijek**, **Vukovar** and **Kutjevo** in May and June.

The main topic was learning from the past and live with tolerance. Young people visited places in which they could see how the consequences of the war, which had lasted for few years, could be left by decades (churches, palace, schools, old forts). We also organised workshops with tolerance as topic, includ-

ing young people there and initiating the foundation of a Youth club (partnership with Serbian and Croatian schools). Finally, a visit to Kutjevo was organised.

The third part of the project was set in **Sisak** in July. The main topic was learning how to be active (to use your potential and possibilities of local community).

The fourth part will be set in Belgium next year, during summer 2008.

The main topic is going to be Racism and Immigration. The focus groups will be young people from local and immigrant groups from various countries (multilateral), they will be explained about the issues of racism and immigration- from both points of view. We will also organise several workshops and discussions about the cultural activity (dress, dance, food etc.); the European human rights; the European enlargement; the local actions. Plus a a visits-meetings in Brussels and a making of cd, dvd, paper, charter, website etc.

### Ideas of future activities for the project

The following projects are in fact project proposals from our participants. During the trainings they had the chance to write down their own projects which are divided in 2 groups: **EVS** (European Voluntary Service) and **Youth Exchange**. In the EVS group there are different kind of projects, especially aiming to develop social care and education.

If you are interested in having a partnership with us for one of these projects, please contact

Mr. **Martial Paris**, ALDA's project manager  
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## European Awareness

This project will take place in **Istria, Slavonia and Baranja** and it will last from 2 to 12 months.

The main action consists in helping in the development of the material for the trainings (booklets, flyers..) and in sharing with the others experiences about the present EU.

There will be an assistant (active) in the training process, a relator as a testimony of an EU citizen and a EU mobile info point during all the EU week.

Volunteers should have the right profile, that means experts of communication, public relations, team work, social work, etc. Plus, they should speak Croatian and English.

Volunteers will have the opportunity to deeper their knowledge about Europe and EU opportunities for youth and to get in the contact with our cultures and way of life. They will be fully included in groups work that

will take place during their stay, in the frame of education.

We have good cooperation with local authorities which will expand our project in every city of our region (Slavonija and Baranja, Istria) and also with the University of Pula and Osijek regarding the accommodation of volunteers with fewer opportunities.

## Youth Policy

This project focuses on art and culture and youth policies.

It will take place in small towns of 30 000 inhabitants and the main goal is to rattach differences. A good example is a multicultural town in Italy, on the seaside, closed to the Slovenian border, in a safe environment, a good economic situation and institutional support.

The main activities the volunteers will do are: music, art, drama, Italian lesson for foreign people (possibility), movie making- technical support, citizenship awareness, integration process skills, informal learning activities. They will also have the possibility to have frequent contacts with the local community.

Different kind of workshops, lessons (art, language), technical support, drama courses and professional support (such as: law support) will be organized.

Volunteers are requested to be open minded, to have experience or studies in integration, youth working and artistic backgrounds. They should be interested in unconventional education field.

The first part of the project will be set in **Baranja**. Volunteers will be hosted in private accommodation – extra room with bathroom for 1 month.

Main actions will be: workshops with young people in Baranja, a region affected from war in a mixed area of Serbs and Croats. Volunteers will share their experiences with them, talk about tolerance and peaceful resolving conflicts.

The second part of the project will last some months and it consists in teaching in some courses, participating in valorisation of some activities (art, media, music) and working with youth.

The last part will take place in **Zagreb, Sisak**. Volunteers will be hosted in student housing, private accommodation and friendly families.

They will have meetings with youths of the area and exchanges of knowledge and friendship.

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EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE (EVS)

EDUCATION

“Sharing art and culture to strengthen youth multicultural dialogue”

## KAS—Therapeutic Horse Riding

This project focuses especially on disability and education through sport and outdoor activities. It aims to help young people with disabilities, social and economical difficulties and youth under community service orders.

The project will take place in a town at 2 km from **Sisak**. The main activities are: take

care of the horses, help children with disabilities, provide lessons of Croatian, work with children with disabilities, informal language learning (English and Croatian), horse riding instruct instructions.

Volunteers will be part of different activities such as: fund-raising for organization, raising of awareness, animal welfare,

web-design (promoting materials, recruitment).

Volunteers should be aged 18-28, come from the community service juveniles or face social exclusion, from any region.

The organisation will provide the accommodation, food, travel, equipment (boots, helmets..), insurance, social activities.



## Primary school children

The project will take place in **Zavidovici** in 2 primary schools.

The main themes for this project are: art and culture, urban/rural development, education through sport and outdoor activities and environment.

We will need several volunteers who are interested in working

with children and who already have some experience in that field. They will be hosted by private families during their stay.

Volunteers will have the chance to participate to different meetings and courses on local culture and traditional language, theatre, games and

trips.

All the volunteers will have to take part to a special training to get used to the environment before starting the work.

## Cultural activities

The main activities of that project focus on **art and culture and on local and rural development**. We are planning to involve young people with fewer opportunities, those who are facing a situation that makes their inclusion in society more difficult. This project aims to help small towns, to organize activities for the people of the region, to support low economy areas and areas of social exclusion.

Volunteers will be involved in different kind of activities such as: multicultural learning, team building, peace building, construction skills, trust, managing with limited resources, building, decorating, landscaping, learning about the region, learning from similar programs in the region, group work, working with young people disabilities.

After school they could have several kind of courses as for

example: theatre, scouts, ethnic minorities, woman rights, etc.

Volunteers should have the right profile to participate in this project, that means they have to be interested in working in rural environment, open to new experiences and skills and have practical knowledge in similar projects. They will all have a training support and will be introduced to the local municipality- integration in the society, cultural experience,

SOCIAL CARE

develop programs in the society.

The first part of this project will take place in **Sisak**. Volunteers will be hosted in private accommodation for 1 month.

The main actions will be: consultations, workshops, helping with leading student organizations.

The second part will be set in **Hrvatska Dubica** and it will last 2 months.

The main actions will be: reconstruction of an old traditional house with arch yard and direct access to river Una.

Volunteers could help in reconstructing of traditional house and yard which could be a future youth center. They could also help us activating young

people more in a way of helping the community as well as themselves in a sense of saving the traditional values, way of living. Saving the cultural heritage from disappearing and losing.

## Children

This project will focus on minorities and children with problems.

Volunteers will help them in different activities. They could be both guys and girls aged 18-30, have different competences (educational, art, sport, intercultural, language, computer), be motivated, open minded and creative. People interested should present their CV with their motivations and good will.

The organization will be transparent and will put all the info on the database of the website

The first part of this project will take place in **Subotica**. Volunteers will be hosted in student campus for 6 months.

The main actions will be: working in the „Cradle“- local institution for the children without parents, spending time with children during the day- helping them in everyday life activities: feeding, clothing, playing games, just paying attention at them because there is not enough employed staff, show the children some love.

The second part will be set in **Pescaro** and will last from 2 to 12 months.

Main actions will be: helping in any way preparing games, cooking, cleaning, buying food, driving to the hospital, check ups.

Volunteers will help in Maria Chierica, a house for children with cancer. They will be charged of animation, cooking, playing games with children and their families from all over the world,

having regular contacts with families, the hospital, doctors and Italian volunteers.

Volunteers can be hosted in that house and they will have their own room.

cooperating with single mothers.

The last part of the project will involve English speaking volunteers who will help children immigrants from India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka during the 1st term of the school year (September - December) or the whole year. They will be charged in helping children with school subjects, so that they could keep up with the rest of the class.

The third part will be set in **Kinderdorf International - Villagio SOS of Vicenza**. Volunteers will be hosted for 12 months in apartments very near the village.

Main actions will be: working with these children, one part of them does not have a family, helping them with education,

**“Rebuild an old traditional house in Croatia”**

**“Volunteer with children with difficulties, help them to have a better life”**

## Youth Centre: Info Centre



The main themes for the activities of this project are the European awareness and Youth policy linked to media and communication and youth information.

All young people, but especially those with educational difficulties, disability, cultural, economic and geographical difficulties will be involved.

The project will be set in **Nis** in the LDA's office. Nis is a very young city (500.000 inhabitants) with an important university, a multicultural and multi-ethnic environment close to the borders.

The activities proposed to the volunteers are the exchange of experiences, having relevant contacts and the chance to be part of an international environment by visiting and keeping in touch with the NGOs and other associations.

Volunteers will be charged of the administration, gathering and distributing information about the opportunities for young people, especially in their own country but also in foreign ones, participating to local projects.

They could also meet the Embassies and the Cultural Centres of their countries.

The most important skills a volunteer should have to participate to this project are: educational background, lan-

## Disabled children

The main activities for this project are anti - **discrimination and disability**. We envisage involving young people with fewer opportunities and with cultural and economic difficulties as volunteers.

The target group will be disabled children and the activities will basically aim to promote friendship and help children

who are hosted in a kindergarten for children with special needs.

We will need 5 volunteers and each one will get 3 - 5 children. Volunteers will work and help disabled children by organising sightseeing of the city. They will also have to take care of them and pay attention to their emo-

tional development.

Volunteers should be mature (24 - 30 years old) and sensitive, studies in social sciences will be an advantage.

During the summer vacation language courses will be organised.

The project will last for 1 year.

## Fight against racism and xenophobia—intercultural issues

The theme of the project is fighting against racism, xenophobia and prejudices; discussing about diversity, intercultural and experience exchange.

The project will take place in 3 different countries: Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.

The 4 EU partners will be: Greece, Italy, Romania and Bulgaria.

The activities will focus on **learning through working**. A lot of meetings, dialogues, workshops and groups activities will be organised in the frame of the project.

Our EU partners will promote European values such as democracy, tolerance and diversity to fight against racist ideas. This project will have a deep impact both on young people and on the local communities.

They will learn new ideas, new initiatives and will have the chance to socialize with other people coming from the EU.

The follow up of the project will be a multiplication of new experiences, an enlarged network and cooperation with other NGOs, institutions and organisations.



## Youth Activism and Voluntary Participation

The project's theme is of European interest because we promote European values, such as equal opportunities, human rights and democracy and respect for other cultures. The project fosters young people's sense of European citizenship and helps them to understand their role as a part of the present and the future of Europe. The project will be set in **Mostar** and will last 2 weeks.

We will organise international evenings, work on the field, exchange of ideas about being a volunteer, a presentation of the different organisations, one day excursion, games and discussions.

The objective is to learn new things from new cultures and from the differences which exist between different countries, to exchange experiences and to acquire practical experience.

We want to involve in the project young people who are facing different kind of difficulties, such as educational, social, cultural, economic and geographical difficulties.

We have also planned an Advance Planning Visit a month before the starting up of the project and we will ensure the safety of our participants with an insurance and doctors available 24/7.

## Drug Abuse

This project aims to **exchange experiences on drug abuse in the European Union**. It will contribute to raise awareness about drugs and will teach young people how to run an anti - drug campaign, a drug - abuse seminar on a local level and how to organise training courses in their own countries. This project will involve three different countries: Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia. Our partner group from the EU will be the country of Slovenia.

A group of experienced trainers

from our partner country will conduct a short training course on drug abuse, then a seminar on drug abuse will be organised. The final objective is that young people would gain valuable experiences on how to organise an anti - drug campaign, seminars and training courses in their local communities.

Both the training course and the seminar are open to everyone. People with special needs are not directly the target group, but they are in a position to attend this seminar, especially if they are facing social

difficulties such as discrimination, drug problems, broken families, etc.

Trainers should come 3 months before the starting up of the project for an Advance Planning Visit in order to organise the activities and to specify the special features included in the seminar.

We could ensure visibility because after the training course and the seminar participants will be able to organise other seminars and anti - drug campaigns.

Youth: in the right direction

YOUTH EXCHANGE



To get more information contact

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