

SALTO'S EUROPEAN TRAINING CALENDAR: GREATER POSSIBILITIES FOR PUBLIC ACCESS

by Tanja Kaltenborn

When SALTO's website was relaunched in 2004, the calendar listing international training courses, within the YOUTH Programme and beyond, also changed decisively. Training organisers outside the closed community of National Agencies, National Co-ordinators, and other actors in the YOUTH Programme have, for the first time, the possibility of inserting their training proposals into the European Training Calendar themselves. They can also use this working tool to present their concepts of international youth work and to promote their training activities.

SALTO-YOUTH (Support and Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities within the YOUTH Programme) has completely redesigned its website.

At <http://www.salto-youth.net>, the new site offers an attractively designed, single point of access to all of the eight different Resource Centres (RCs) which are united under the SALTO umbrella:

- Cultural Diversity
- Eastern Europe and the Caucasus
- Euro-Med
- Inclusion
- Information
- South-east Europe
- Training and Co-operation
- Youth Initiatives

The different working tools which SALTO has developed for actors in international youth work also appear directly on the front page:

- TOY – Trainers Online for Youth
A data bank with an ever-growing number of experienced trainers for international training activities in the youth field.
- Toolbox for Training
A collection of training methods, simulation games, background texts, presentations, and course reports.
- The European Training Calendar
Everything at a glance: training within the YOUTH Programme and beyond!

The European Training Calendar was introduced in 2001 to improve the quality and show the diversity of activities organised within the European Union YOUTH Programme at national and European level. Since then it has established itself as a valuable working tool for potential beneficiaries from the YOUTH Programme to find training proposals that directly support national training strategies and the Training and Co-operation Plans of the National Agencies (NAs). To increase the number of training events in the European Training Calendar (185 between January and September 2004) as well as the number of visits (10,568 during the same period of

time), SALTO Training and Co-operation RC is continuing to promote the calendar and constantly making it more user-friendly. One of the latest developments is the opening of the online calendar to the public.

The calendar contains current training proposals from different institutions and organisations such as SALTO, the NAs and the National Co-ordinators (NCs) of the YOUTH Programme, non-governmental youth organisations, the Council of Europe Youth Centres and the Partnership Programme on European Youth Worker Training. They are aimed at disseminators, group leaders, mentors, and other specialists as well as young people involved in international youth work.

The calendar no longer works as a one-way street from which you gather information about international training courses published by the NAs and the NCs of the YOUTH Programme. It is to be used as a platform from which you can present your own training proposals. External training organisers have the opportunity to add training events to the online calendar themselves.

To be published in the European Training Calendar, the training activities should at least meet the quality standards of YOUTH Action 5 projects and/or the minimum requirements established by SALTO. They should concern European, non-formal, open and non-profit making training events in the youth field

Go to SALTO's new web site, take a good look around, and seize the opportunities offered by the European Training Calendar at <http://www.salto-youth.net/training/>!

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