



by Bernard Abrignani

# EUROMED UPDATE THE EUROMED TRAINING BAG



There was once a resource centre called “SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed”. It had been set up by the European Commission to support the development of Euro Mediterranean co-operation and partnership. After three years of intensive work, which had enabled over 600 trainees from 35 different countries to take part in 40 training events, Salto decided that it was time to capitalise on and disseminate all of the tools that had been used or developed. The question was: in what form?

On Salto’s initiative, a meeting was therefore held at the INJEP (National Institute for Youth and Community Education, Marly le Roi, France). All the leading institutions working on the subject were invited:

ANDRADE, Marcos (*Council of Europe North-South Co-operation Centre*) - ASLANIAN, Elisa (*EuroMed National Co-ordinator, Lebanon*) - BARA, Luiza (*European Youth Forum*) - BUTTIGIEG, Giovanni (*EuroMed Youth Platform, Malta*) - LAANAN, Fatima (*National Agency of the Youth Programme, Belgium*) - MARTINEZ, Alejandra (*European Commission YOUTH Unit*) - All of the staff of SALTO-EUROMED: Bernard ABRIGNANI, Flavia GIOVANELLI, Marc MULLER

The result was the EuroMed Training Bag. The name was chosen so as to highlight links with the training kits and the EuroMed Training Pass. We did not actually produce a “T’Bag”, which was not really our “cup of tea”. Under the guidance of Mark Taylor, however, the “companions” began by deciding what the tool should be, what it should not be and what it should be used for:

## WHY SHOULD THERE BE A TRAINING BAG?

- To meet the needs of the national agencies/ national co-ordinators
- To pass on the EuroMed spirit
- To publicise and highlight best practice
- To explain the context of EuroMed co-operation
- To underline the thematic priorities
- Institutional recognition / legitimacy
- Because of the number of issues that exist
- To have a check list
- Because it can have a snowball effect

## WHAT SHOULD BE IN THE TRAINING BAG?

- The five EuroMed thematic priorities (women, environment, minority rights, citizenship, anti-racism)
- Religion
- SALTO training reports
- T-Kits
- EuroMed T-Kits
- Annotated bibliography
- Discography
- Webography
- Where to get more information and contacts
- How to deliver presentations
- A section for additions, further development and suggestions
- «Brief Guide» on how to use the Training Bag
- The Youth User’s Guide
- A EuroMed Youth Map
- SALTO and Platform Newsletters
- Coyote Magazine
- CD-ROM, mixed media
- Training programmes with examples and tips about cultural sensitivities
- Evaluation of Training Bag and development suggestions for new editions
- Leaflets about the Commission, Council of Europe and Platform
- Reference to other relevant programmes
- Summit conclusions
- The wider political context
- Recent developments
- History of EuroMed
- A funding sources guide

## THE TRAINING BAG SHOULD NOT BE

- Static – It should be constantly updated and “under construction.”
- Heavy, confusing
- Dogmatic
- Limited
- Too simple – Stimulation and creativity are needed.
- A manual
- Single level – It should cater to all needs and levels of knowledge.
- Too specifically focused
- Only in English
- Insensitive to realities and difficulties
- Euro-centric
- Mono-type – It should be multi-disciplinary.
- Cynical by not providing answers
- Exclusive – It should cover various minorities.

On that basis, work then started on the design of the tool. Several scenarios were devised and considered in relation to presentation and content. The direct outcomes which emerged were as follows:

- Create a Training Bag for two types of people: those with Internet access and those without
- CD-ROM - each CD presenting a separate theme, ie, the political framework, the added value, technicalities, etc
- Guide-like CD book (visual) helping user find his/her way around
- Not too heavy, not too big. The suggested size is A4.
- Sturdy, durable, good quality
- Folding map of MEDA
- EuroMed-related material
- List of where to get resources: T-Kits, reports, documents, speeches
- Could be a CD in a CD holder with a booklet summarising what is in the CD.

The participants then devised a logo which would be sufficiently clear and would not require any explanation. They selected the dolphin; a very Mediterranean animal, which connected one shore to the other and sometimes supported humans in difficulty.

Finally, after four days of hard work and heated discussions, the design of the end-product was put forward; **covering all of the necessary parameters, as well as the target groups, means of dissemination and the image and format.**



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## WHO ARE THE TARGET GROUPS?

- National agencies
- National co-ordinators
- EuroMed multipliers
- Youth NGOs
- European Institutions dealing with training

## THE FINAL PRODUCT

At the end of the one-week meeting, it was agreed that the final product would include a CD-ROM allowing quick and easy access and use. In addition, there will be a CD holder, where all the relevant CDs, containing T-Kits, copies of the Coyote and Platform magazines, reports on the EU partnership with the Council of Europe, a specialised bibliography, discography and inspirational videos can be placed and easily accessed.

It was also agreed that various situations taken from the SALTO\*TEMM training courses in the six MEDA countries should be included in the Training Bag as examples of best practice, along with the new tools developed by the multipliers during some of the training courses.

To give an idea of what the final product will look like:

- \* Case studies relating to training or information: approximately fifty
- \* A number of datasheets describing tools linked to the technical aspects of the programme, Actions 1, 2 and 5, and with general information on the same subject.
- \* Datasheets presenting various aspects of the political framework of the programme: for example, the Barcelona declaration.
- \* 5 sets of datasheets of different colours (1 colour for each thematic priority): fight against racism and xenophobia, place of women, minorities, environment and heritage and active participation, with each referring to a relevant CD comprising videos, useful Web links, documents, etc.
- \* A series of datasheets on other topics such as religion, history and human rights.
- \* 35 country profile sheets including statistical indicators, photographs, etc.

Under the “case studies” heading, users can look for situations similar to those which they will have to deal with in training or information sessions: they can then consult the datasheets for each category to find lists of the relevant tools before turning to the CD for the tools themselves.

Naturally, space is left in the form of blank sheets and empty CD sleeves to enable users to add their own tools. After all, it should be remembered that one of the principles of this “Training Bag” is that it is intended to be developed further and that individual trainers have to adapt it to their needs.

The Training Bag is a unique tool that will stimulate users to make the most of it both for themselves and also with a view to passing on the relevant knowledge to other beneficiaries.