

Contributors

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Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni is the Council of Europe's Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport. She is the first woman ever to be nominated to the rank of Director General in the Council of Europe, post she holds since 2001 when she was appointed Director General of Social Cohesion. Since 2005, Mrs. Battaini-Dragoni is the Council of Europe's Coordinator for Intercultural dialogue. In this capacity, she is overseeing the preparation of the Council of Europe White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue, the first of its kind at international level, due to be published later this year. Mrs. Battaini-Dragoni is a frequently invited guest speaker at World Bank, UN, OECD, OSCE, and EU meetings.

Jovana Bazerkovska, Bureau Member of the European Youth Forum (YFJ), is 22 years old. She comes from Macedonia, but she is currently working in Brussels as Secretary General of OBESSU (The Organising Bureau of the European School Student Unions). As member of the YFJ Bureau, she is following the areas of Equality and Human Rights, Global education & Global youth work development, Euromed/Middle East.

Claude Bodeving is working in the National Youth Service in Luxembourg and is responsible for the training unit and employability projects. Within his work he focuses on non-formal education and trainings in the frame of employability projects for young job seekers with fewer opportunities. His academic background is social psychology and client-centered coaching. Since 1999 he is member of several international expert groups on non-formal education as for example of the group of experts on the European Portfolio for youth leaders and youth workers.

Gabriella Civico is a former president of the British Youth Council with organisational roots in the UK Scout Association. She had various roles in international youth structures at European and world levels throughout the 1990s. Currently completing a Hull University (UK) Masters degree in E-learning online from home in Spain, she works as a freelance online and face to face trainer and consultant while continuing as a volunteer when needed.

Teresa Cunha was born in Huambo, Angola but she is based in Portugal. She has been engaged in the youth field for a long time as a youth organization leader, as a trainer and as a policy maker. She studied Philosophy, Education and Sociology. She has published five books and many other articles on education, human rights, gender issues, intercultural learning and citizenship. She is currently engaged as a leader of the 'Action for Justice and Peace' NGO and the World March of Women. She collaborates with the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe since the early nineties and belongs to its Trainer's Pool as one of its senior trainers. She is a Professor at the Education College in Coimbra.

Simon Forrester is a Social Development worker and has spent the last 15 years in various countries, in Europe and Asia, contributing to efforts that he hopes reduce social exclusion and promote a more inclusive dialogue in community development. He has attempted to do this through his work as a Trainer - building organisational capacity of voluntary groups, many from the youth sector - and through a range of research and dissemination activities. He is currently living in Turkey and working on a number of EU-funded projects that are contributing to the Accession process.

Jean-Luc Frast is ISCA's International Youth Leader Education programme officer. He has been active in the field of youth policy and training since 1998. Before joining ISCA, he worked as a trainer and acting Director of the European Peer Training Association EPTO. He also served as labour negotiator for Luxembourg's Independent Trade Union Confederation (OGBL), after his involvement as project officer for the National Youth Council of Luxembourg (CGJL) and the European Youth Forum Jeunesse (YFJ).

Nizar Ghanem is currently working as a project officer for a three-year project on peace-building in Iraq. The project brings together 15 NGOs in order to improve their skills on conflict resolution. Nizar is also working as part-time trainer in the Palestinian camps in the south of Lebanon and on few EuroMed projects in his organisation, the 'Forum for Development of Culture and Dialogue'.

Rui Gomes is the Head of the Education and Training Unit at the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe. Based at the European Youth Centre Budapest, he has been coordinating the Human Rights Education Youth Programme as well as the Partnership activities in the area of Euro-Mediterranean youth cooperation, human rights education and intercultural dialogue.

Hanne Kleinemas finished her M.A. in Intercultural Communication and European Studies in July 2007. Since then, she has been working as a free-lance trainer for European Volunteers as well as for students in social, political and religious education. She has been working for several years for GriStuF, a NGO organising among other international student conferences.

Julia-Maria Koszewska was born in 1982 in Poland, where she lived for ¼ of a century. She studied religious studies as well as library and information science. For the years 2006-2007 Julia was a member of the European Team (coordinators) of JECI-MIEC European Coordination. Julia is very active in inter-religious and ecumenical dialogue in Europe. Working as a trainer and being a full-time student for many years, she got into youth reality from two perspectives: as a participant and as a leader. Her life motto is "be brave enough to realise your dreams", while her hobby is photography. Online profile: <http://www.salto-youth.net/find-a-trainer/801.html>

Laimonas Ragauskas is a free-lance trainer in the area of non-formal learning, working for various youth work organisations, as well as local and European institutions. He is currently living in Vilnius, Lithuania, but working across Europe and beyond. He is mainly dealing with topics such as diversity, networking, participation and citizenship in the youth field. He gathered his most valuable youth work experiences in the Centre for Creative Expression since 2000 and is currently active in the Association of Youth Non-formal Education in Lithuania. At home he is exploring youth life by dealing with his three children and other young people around. Additionally he is involved in informal exploration of clubbing and sauna cultures in the World.

Meg Rybicki was born in Zambia to a Polish father and an English mother. She has lived in Ireland for the last sixteen years. She is strongly involved in volunteering activities in the North west of Ireland, and works closely with groups of young refugees and asylum seekers, plus local youth, many of whom have left mainstream education. Many of the projects that she runs use art, music, drama, and film as a tool to reach youth who have become marginalised from mainstream society. She also works closely with local schools and youth organisations, and provides anti-racism and interculturalism training to youth leaders, facilitators, and some statutory bodies. She has five children, a husband and a menagerie of animals!

Hans-Joachim Schild has been living in Strasbourg since summer 2005 and works as manager of the Youth-Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe. Previously Hans-Joachim lived and worked in Brussels for the Youth Policy Unit in DG Education and Culture of the European Commission; amongst other topics he was responsible for the relationship of the youth sector to «lifelong learning», specifically for the whole subject of recognition of non-formal and informal learning. In this period he was involved in drafting and implementing the White Paper on Youth.

Mark Taylor is a freelance trainer and consultant currently based in Brussels. He was recently elected as chair person of the UNIQUE network. He has worked on projects throughout Europe for a wide range of organisations, institutions, agencies and businesses. Major areas of work include: intercultural learning, international team work, human rights education and campaigning, training for trainers, and developing concepts and practice for the recognition of non-formal learning. A founding member of the Coyote magazine editorial team, he is still waiting to meet Spiffy!

Monica Urian de Sousa has found roots in many cultures in Europe, Latin America and the Middle East, while cherishing her Romanian origin. By growing-up behind a «Wall», she learnt that tolerance and dialogue are not empty words, but living concepts that can change your daily life. She joined the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue team in July 2007, after working several years in consulting and cultural marketing.

Silvia Volpi studied Linguistic and Philology and holds a master degree in International Studies. In 1992, she created with 5 friends-colleagues an independent local association promoting "alternative" ways to learn how to live together peacefully, through non-formal education activities, mobility projects, international meetings, etc. She is a founding member of the European Network of Animation, promoting action-trainings as a tool to foster youth participation and empowerment. She is working as a trainer at local and international level. Her main areas of interests are youth participation, human rights education, evaluation and follow up of the educational processes.

Mariam Yassin Hagi Yussuf was born in Somalia in 1977 and moved to Italy in 1991, when the Somali civil war broke out. Her experience motivated her to work for the integration of migrants and refugees in Italy. She started her human rights activism at the age of 15 and has been working since then for different organizations, designing, planning and evaluating various projects on intercultural learning, cultural mediation, integration and human rights development. She also works as a trainer and lectures on migrations issues. She is the president of Young Women from Minorities (WFM), a member of the Advisory Council on Youth Issues of the Directorate of Youth and Sport (Council of Europe) and of a Somali Women NGO (IIDA Women's Development Organization).

Editor

Jonathan Bowyer is a consultant trainer working in a variety of fields in the UK and Europe. He has a particular interest in values-based management and partnership development for organisations. Jonathan worked for youth NGOs for over 18 years, most of which was with the national Council of YMCAs in England. He was editor of the T-Kit on Organisational management and a contributor to the T-Kit on Funding and Financial management. He lives in the beautiful English Lake District with his wife and two sons.

Co-ordination and administration of Coyote

Florian Cescon is currently working as educational advisor for the Youth-Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe. His main responsibilities include planning, implementing and evaluating the Partnership training activities, as well as coordinating the Partnership educational and training publications (including Coyote!). Previously Florian was the general manager of a large European NGO organising vocational trainings for young professionals. He also worked in European affairs & EU policy in Brussels, and in the field of organisational management in Paris. Florian now lives in Strasbourg with his wife and three daughters.

Tatiana State-Masson is the administrative assistant for the training activities and publications of the Youth-Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe since August 2006. Previously she worked in France as a project manager in the private sector and in Brussels as an expert for different projects at the European Commission.