



European Commission



Egyptian National
Council of Youth

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21 June 2006

Euro-Med seminar

The role of research in youth policy and youth work development in the broader Euro-Med context

Alexandria, Egypt, 27-30 November 2006

Presentation of the seminar
Application form

Youth policy development and cooperation in the Euro-Med context

The issue of living conditions for young people in Europe and in the MENA-region has been on the agenda of the Euro-Med Youth programme for many years. Set up in 1999, the Euro-Mediterranean youth Action programme of the European Commission was and is based on the shared concern to combat prejudices and stereotypes that prevail across the Mediterranean area and persistently determine mutual perceptions.

For the Council of Europe, the promotion of human rights and the development of democratic forms of participation are crucial objectives to further consolidate pan-European co-operation. The promotion of peace, co-operation and human rights in Europe, however, cannot be disconnected from the realities around Europe, in particular across the Mediterranean area.

It is within this framework that the Council of Europe and the European Commission have developed a Partnership on Youth covering 3 main areas of cooperation: youth research and policy; European citizenship and quality development; Euro-Med, Human Rights Education and intercultural dialogue. The role of this Partnership is to explore new areas of cooperation beyond those provided by the Euro-Med Youth programme; youth policy is one of such areas.

In September 2005, the Partnership organised a seminar on youth policy development in cooperation with the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs, the Swedish Institute in Alexandria and the Egyptian Ministry of Youth. This seminar was the first step towards an exchange on how youth policies are being developed in Europe and the Meda countries.

It also constituted the starting point for a process of youth policy cooperation in the broader Euro-Med context, within which two additional seminars were envisaged: one about the role of youth research in youth policy and youth work development and another on youth participation planned for 2007. Covering the three dimensions of the so-called triangle of good governance between public authorities, civil society and the research community in the youth field, these three seminars should lead to the organisation of a high level Euro-Mediterranean conference of Ministers dealing with youth policies in 2008.

As part of this process, an international round table on “Youth policy and research development in the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation framework” was also organised in May 2006 in Cairo, as an attempt to extend cooperation and exchange experiences and information with key partners in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The round table also acknowledged the need to associate researchers in the policy-

making process and to promote their role to gather reliable information about the youth world.

The role of youth research in youth policy and youth work development

There is a shared agreement to understand ‘youth’ also as a code for the future of societies. Effective youth policies have to take into account the reality of youth and the challenges that young people have to face nowadays. There is therefore a need for a comprehensive analysis of the youth situation in the Euro–Med region to provide policy–makers with updated, reliable information. This entails the active involvement of all stakeholders – young people, policy–makers, researchers, NGOs, international and regional organisations.

Research on youth cannot be dissociated from the living reality of young people. Hence, the need to engage youth researchers, representatives from civil society and representatives from governmental institutions involved in youth policy development in a structured dialogue.

This seminar on the role of youth research in the context of Euro–Med cooperation wants to be an opportunity to focus on the research dimension, promote dialogue and the exchange of knowledge among researchers, NGOs and governments in order to further develop research cooperation and to mainstream youth in research and statistics.

Aims of the seminar

This seminar aims at looking into the particular role of research in the development of youth policy in order to develop a process of exchange, mutual cooperation and joint actions between the fields of youth research, youth work and youth policy development in the broader Euro–Med context¹.

Objectives

- To identify strategic partnerships concerning youth research in the field of youth policy development in view of improved cooperation in the broader Euro–Med context.

¹ For the purpose of the activity, the “broader Euro–Med context” refers to the social and political reality of the issues under consideration. It includes the states signatories of the Barcelona declaration and other Arabic–speaking countries concerned by Euro–Arab cooperation as well as all the member states of the Council of Europe.

- To promote possibilities for closer interaction between youth policy, youth research and youth work within the Euro–Med Youth programme and the Partnership.
- To identify priorities and proposals for further development of youth policy cooperation in the broader Euro–Med context.
- To strengthen the process of Euro–Med cooperation in the youth policy field, leading to a foreseen high level conference in 2008.
- To promote a stronger involvement of the civil society and the research world in the youth field.
- To learn about the role of religion, political philosophy, culture, and social stratification in the Euro–Med context.
- To develop a down to earth approach to research: the role of action research, field studies, participative research, research as a learning process between young people subject to research and researchers.

Methodology and programme

This seminar is designed as a mutual learning situation, where participants can share, compare and learn from each other's experiences. The experiences and realities of participants, as youth researchers, youth workers and governmental representatives, will therefore be the starting point of the programme and the core of the learning process.

Inputs from experts from both Europe and the Southern Mediterranean region will provide a theoretical framework for the main topics of the seminar, which will be at the core of working groups' discussions. The main themes that will be addressed during the seminar will include: peace and security, education and its relation with the labour market, employment and unemployment, gender, migration, reproductive health. Special focus will be placed on major cross-cutting themes, such as globalisation, intercultural dialogue and human rights.

The programme of the seminar will include:

- A review of the status of youth research on both sides of the Mediterranean;
- An introduction to the role of youth research in youth policy development and implementation;
- An introduction to the institutional context for cooperation in the field of youth research in the Euro–Med region;
- Opportunities to share experiences and identify limits and challenges in the field of youth research in the Euro–Med region;
- An analysis of the role and function of strategic partnerships between the fields of youth research, youth policy and youth work;
- An exchange of views on the opportunities to develop common pilot research projects or other forms of joint action in the fields of youth research, youth policy and youth work.

Draft Programme outline

Sunday, 26 November

Arrival day

Monday, 27 November

Morning session:

Opening of the seminar

Introduction to the situation and challenges of youth research in Europe and the Arab region

Afternoon session:

Presentation of participants and their roles in youth research, youth work or youth policy development

Working groups' discussion about the role of researchers, civil society and government in the development of evidence–based youth policies

Tuesday, 28 November

Morning session:

Presentation of the context for cooperation in the field of youth research

Definition of strategic partnerships and their functioning

Afternoon session:

Plenary session – Introduction to Globalisation

Working groups on the main themes of the seminar:

– peace and security;

- education and its relation to the labour market;
- employment and unemployment;
- gender;
- migration;
- reproductive health

Wednesday, 29 November

Morning session:

Plenary session – Introduction to Intercultural dialogue

Working groups' discussions continued

Afternoon session:

Plenary session – Introduction to Human Rights
Working groups' discussions continued

Thursday, 30 November

Morning session:

Sharing of experiences from the working groups

Afternoon session:

Evaluation and closing of the seminar

Friday, 1 December

Departure of the participants

Working languages

The seminar will be held in English, with the possibility of translation to and from Arabic especially during the opening and closing sessions.

Profile of participants

This seminar is designed for participants who are involved in youth research, youth work and youth policy development.

Eligible participants should belong to one of the three categories the seminar is directed to, namely youth researchers, youth workers/youth NGO representatives and governmental representatives/civil servants.

All participants should:

- be actively involved or interested in Euro–Med youth policy cooperation and development;
- possess relevant experience in either research about youth, work with/for young people or in youth policy implementation;
- have knowledge/be involved/interested in evidence–based youth policy development
- be motivated to develop their knowledge in the field of youth research, youth work and youth policy and to share their experiences with other participants;
- be able and committed to act as multipliers;
- be able and committed to attend for the full duration of the seminar and be supported by an organisation, institution or service;
- be able to work in English, if possible

Additionally, and more specifically,

- **Youth researchers** should:
 - work/research on the life/social conditions of young people;
 - have experience in field studies;
 - have experience or interest in Euro–Med cooperation;

- **Youth workers / youth organisation representatives** should:
 - have experience in youth work and civil society’s role in youth policy
 - have an interest/experience in youth research
 - have experience of Euro–Med cooperation

- **Government/ Civil servants should:**
 - have experience of Euro–Med cooperation
 - have knowledge/experience in youth research

NB: This seminar is open for participants from the Middle East and North Africa region and the member states of the Council of Europe (including all the member states of the European Union).

Application procedure and selection of participants

All candidates must apply using the enclosed application form. Applications should be sent to the seminar secretariat at the Council of Europe's European Youth Centre Budapest, together with a **letter of support** from their sending organisation or institution stating the added value for the organisation resulting from the applicant's participation in the seminar. **All applications must be filled in English.**

The organising partners will select 40 participants on the basis of the profile outlined above and ensuring a balanced group (gender, geographical regions, different types of experiences, and organisations). A waiting list may be established. Candidates will be informed about whether their application has been accepted or rejected, and if they have been put on the waiting list, by 15 October 2006.

Deadline for applications

The application form must be sent to the address below no later than **15 September 2006**.

Financial and practical conditions of participation

Travel expenses

Travel expenses and visa fees will be reimbursed upon presentation of the relevant receipts according to the rules of the Council of Europe. Only participants who attend the entire seminar can be reimbursed.

Accommodation

Board and lodging will be provided and paid for by the Swedish Institute in Alexandria.

About the organising Partners

Bibliotheca Alexandrina

The Bibliotheca develops activities around 4 main themes: political participation, unemployment, leadership training and future perspectives for young people. An observatory of youth empowerment is also being established to bridge the numerous gaps in the knowledge about youth and respond to the lack of coordination and cooperation between Governmental policies and NGOs developing youth programs. The two main purposes of this project are the development of an info mall, i.e. a website collecting and posting information about NGOs (www.infomall.org); and the development of indicators to measure the initiatives developed in the youth field.

Council of Europe's Directorate of Youth and Sport

Established in 1949 the Council of Europe is the continent's oldest political organisation. It groups together 46 countries. The Council of Europe is committed to the development of parliamentary democracy, the rule of law, the safeguard of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the promotion of Europe's cultural diversity

The Council of Europe has always paid particular attention to matters affecting young people, with a double perspective: to associate young people to the building of a European space of democratic participation and cooperation and to promote cooperation among member states with the view to address issues that affect young people. The European Youth Centres, in Strasbourg and Budapest, and the European Youth Foundation are among the Council's main tools for youth policy and youth work development in Europe.

In addition to youth policy development, the Council of Europe's youth sector has three other work priorities: human rights education and intercultural dialogue; youth participation and democratic citizenship; social inclusion.

The Directorate of Youth and Sport has had a pioneering role in developing youth policy standards and cooperation in Europe, including a system of national youth policy reviews. A Ministers conference is organised every three years.

Egyptian National Youth Council

The National Youth Council is the main governmental institution responsible for youth policy in Egypt. Building on the principle that young people should be the starting point to develop an understanding of different cultures, the National Youth Council aims at empowering young people through skills and knowledge in order to strengthen democratic participation and build peace and intercultural dialogue.

The League of Arab States

Various studies and activities are being implemented in the field of Arab youth empowerment with a special focus on the important role of youth in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those related to reproductive health and reproductive rights of youth. In the field of youth research, the Arab League supports youth studies and research in the region in order to bridge the gap in data and provide reliable information on a regular basis.

Partnership on Youth between the Council of Europe and the European Commission

The Council of Europe and the European Commission have an outstanding record of cooperation in the youth field. The role of the Partnership on Youth is to explore new areas of cooperation beyond those provided by the Euro-Med Youth programme.

The current Partnership agreement covers 3 main areas of cooperation: youth research and policy; European citizenship and quality development; Euro-Med, Human Rights Education and intercultural dialogue.

In addition to the work initiated in the field of youth policy, activities under way in the context of Euro-Med cooperation include a series of regional training courses in Human Rights Education based on the Arabic version of Compass, the manual on Human Rights Education with young people. The purpose of these courses is to establish a network of trainers and multipliers in the Arab region and to develop the capacity of youth organisations to introduce Human Rights Education in their work.

More information is available on the Partnership's website: www.youth-partnership.net.

The Swedish Institute in Alexandria

The Swedish Institute in Alexandria has become one of the regular partners of the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the Euro-Med region. The Institute is dedicated to the dialogue of civilizations built on a strong commitment to promoting intercultural understanding in view of rebuilding the trust between the peoples of Europe and the Arab world. The Institute places strong emphasis on developing cooperation and networking in the areas of Youth, Media and Education/Research.

The Swedish National Board for Youth affairs

Sweden has over 30 years experience of youth policy development. Central to the Swedish youth policy is the idea that young people are a resource for society. During the 1990s a system for implementation and monitoring was created, which also included regular evaluations of objectives and content. The National Board for Youth Affairs is the coordinating body for this process. It is a governmental authority working within the areas of young people's leisure and associative activities and international youth programmes. In addition to this, the Board stimulates the

development of municipal youth policy and coordinates and follows up the objectives of the national youth policy. The National Board for Youth Affairs is also the national agency for the Youth programme in Sweden.

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APPLICATION FORM

Please type or write legibly in English

I. INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANT

1. Name: Sex: Male/Female	Age:	Surname: Nationality:
Working languages (<i>please specify all your working languages</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> Arabic <input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> Others (specify):		
Main profession or occupation:		
2. Contacts – <i>Please note that all correspondence will be sent to this address, so please ensure it is complete!</i>		
Postal address (street, number, city, postal code, country):		
Telephone:		Telefax:
Mobile telephone:		e-mail:

II. INFORMATION ON THE ORGANISATION/INSTITUTION

3. Sending organisation/institution	
Name:	
Postal address:	
Telephone:	Telefax:
E-mail:	Internet address:
Please describe briefly the scope and main activities of the organisation/institution and its relation to youth research, youth work and/or youth policy development:	

4. Your organisation/institution is...

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> an International youth organisation | <input type="checkbox"/> a national youth council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a national youth organisation | <input type="checkbox"/> a local/regional youth organisation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a governmental institution | <input type="checkbox"/> a research institute |
| <input type="checkbox"/> an academic institution | <input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify): |

5. What is your function or role in the organisation/institution?

III. EXPERIENCE IN YOUTH RESEARCH, YOUTH WORK OR YOUTH POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

6. In what capacity are you involved in research, youth work or youth policy implementation?

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> youth researcher | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth worker | <input type="checkbox"/> Civil servant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer in youth work | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth NGO representative | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): | | |

7. What kind of research activities are you involved in (if any)? (Please indicate briefly the target groups and themes or aims of the activities)

8. In which ways are you active in the field of evidence-based youth policy development?

9. Have you attended any other youth activity of the Council of Europe or the European Commission in the past two years? (If yes, which one(s)?):

IV. MOTIVATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

10. Your motivation and reasons for wanting to take part in this seminar:

11. Your expectations: which results should the seminar produce and how would they connect with the reality of the young people you work with?

12. Follow-up and implementation

In which ways do you or your organisation expect to be active in future youth research and evidence-based youth policy development or/and in Euro-Med cooperation? *(Please provide details about expected or planned projects, research activities, organisers and target groups)*

This form must be sent - **together with a support letter of the sending organisation/institution** - to the European Youth Centre Budapest either by email or by fax or by post

before 15 September 2006.

Please quote: "Research seminar" in the object of your message.

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