



DJS/EYCB/EUROMED-YP/2007/34

Budapest, 03 August 2007

Euro-Med seminar

**The role of youth participation and civil
society in youth policy and youth work development
in the broader Euro-Med Context**

European Youth Centre Budapest,
24 - 27 October 2007

**CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS
APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

Youth policy development and cooperation in the Euro-Med context

This seminar about youth participation is the third seminar in a Euro-Med cooperation about youth policy development which started during 2004. The idea to engage in such a cooperation emerged within the framework of the Partnership on Youth between the Council of Europe and the European Commission and the Euro-Med Youth Programme. Since 1999 it has been possible for youth workers and representatives from non-governmental organisations in European and Arab countries to meet and to participate in different study visits and trainings. It was within this context of youth exchanges, human rights education, intercultural dialogue and voluntary service, that wishes to know more about youth policy development was expressed and also developed.

During 2004, the Partnership, the Swedish Institute in Alexandria and the National Board for Youth Affairs in Sweden, took hold of the idea together with The Ministry of Youth in Egypt and developed a cooperation about youth policy which resulted in a first seminar: Youth Policy - here and now! (Alexandria 11-13 September 2005). This seminar focused on definition, implementation and monitoring of youth policy. The seminar resulted in an extended cooperation which involved the League of Arab States and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, and a second seminar was carried out which focused on knowledge about young people: The role of research in the development of youth policy and youth work in a broader Euro-Med context (Cairo 27-30 November 2006) in relation to health, gender, migration and mobility, participation, education and employment. The third seminar will focus on the role of youth organization in civil society.

The role of youth participation in civil society

In the two seminars mentioned above the participation of young people in the making of youth policy has been emphasized. Conclusions from different working groups stress that young people and their organizations should have a key role in the process of developing and monitoring youth policy. Very often, their role is not foreseen either on local or on national level, it has to be fought and defended by the young people and their organizations. The message from the working group about participation in Cairo 2006 is that young people are a resource for the development in a society, not a problem.

Objectives of the seminar

The set objectives for the seminar are as follows:

- to explore underpinning values, concepts, principles and forms of youth participation;
- to better understand socio-cultural context of youth participation and reflect on various factors influencing youth participation;
- to exchange examples of youth participation practice, analyse achievements and challenges related to it;
- to discuss the roles of the different actors (youth organisations, international/regional institutions and agencies) in fostering youth participation in all areas that young people are concerned by;

- to identify areas in Euro-Med cooperation, which are key for youth participation and youth policy development;
- to plan follow-up initiatives enhancing youth participation (in political processes) and concrete ways in which young people can contribute to Intercultural Dialogue.

Expected results

The expected results of the seminar read as follows:

- deepened understanding of the various realities of youth participation in policy formulation;
- shared ideas, information, knowledge;
- strengthened networking among youth organisation and other stakeholders (decision makers, researchers etc.);
- identified follow-up steps on the political level in Euro-Med cooperation (support for youth initiatives, knowledge and expert exchange etc.);
- concrete contribution of young people on Intercultural Dialogue ;
- initiated new youth Euro-Med projects of various types.

Methodology and programme

This seminar is designed as a mutual learning process, 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 conceptual framework of participation and its shaping in the respective region. Participants will share examples of successful projects/activities fostering youth participation.

About the organising Partners

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 47 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.

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. For the current Partnership agreement covering the period from 2007 to 2009 the following fundamental goals were agreed:

- Citizenship, Participation, Human Right Education, Intercultural dialogue
- Social Cohesion, Inclusion, Equal opportunities
- Quality, Recognition and Visibility of Youth Work and Training
- Better Knowledge of Youth and Development of Youth Policies.

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.

Participants

Profile of participants

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

A group of 30 participants¹ balanced in gender and geographical terms will be invited from the Arab Region and from 49 countries covered by the Cultural Convention of the Council of Europe.

From each of the Regions we estimate to invite:

- 2 youth researchers,
- 3 policy makers,
- 10 youth NGOs representatives and independent active youth (youth workers/leaders, bloggers, journalists etc.)

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;
- possess deeper knowledge and/or practical experience regarding the concept and structures of participation within their national context
- 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

Working languages

The seminar will be held in English, with the possibility of interpretation to and from Arabic (to be confirmed).

¹ 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 and countries which have adopted the Cultural Convention).

Application procedure and selection of participants

As the event will be linked to the Arab Youth Forum organised in November 2007 by the League of Arab States, the recruitment of participants will be organised separately by the Arab and European Partners.

The recruitment of **candidates from the North Africa and the Middle East** is coordinated by the League of Arab States in conjunction with the recruitment for the Arab Youth Forum. Further information is provided at <http://www.lasyouthforum.org/en>, and www.poplas.org/youth). All interested persons are from the North Africa and the Middle East therefore requested to address to the League of Arab States, at the e-mail address: youth@poplas.org.

Recruitment of **European participants** will be coordinated by the Partnership Secretariat and based on an on-line application. The application form for applying to the seminar should be filled in on-line, available at <http://coe.opencontent.it>. To access the online application form click on "Role of youth participation and civil society in youth policy and youth work development". Further instructions are provided on the website.

The application form must be filled in English.

Deadline for applications

The application form must be submitted no later than **10 September 2007**.

The organising partners will select 20 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 20 September 2007.

Survey on the role of participation

All participants will have to answer to four questions on their participation experiences. These questions are integrated in the online-application form.

Answering the questionnaire is precondition for your candidature to the seminar.

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 at the [European Youth Centre](#) in Budapest

Draft programme outline

Wednesday 24 October 2007

Arrival day

Thursday 25 October 2007

Morning session

General introduction (framework, earlier cooperation, aims, objectives, expected outcomes)

Institutional framework(s) (concepts, objectives, political strategies, support measures and tools, impact)

Afternoon session

Regional realities - sharing experience among participants [working groups]

Friday 26 October 2007

Morning session

Traditions, socio-cultural dimension and current situation of youth participation across both regions [research presentation]

Success stories of youth policies - good practice examples from Arab and European regions

Afternoon session

Presentation of findings of the survey

Good examples of youth participation practice [fair of participation experience of youth, youth leaders/workers]

Saturday, 27 October 2007

Morning session

Support measures (structures, tools, sources of funding)

Planning concrete activities [working groups]

Afternoon session

Planning concrete activities [working groups] - continued

Presentation of follow-up steps evaluation

Sunday 28. October 2007

Departure of participants