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Euro-Arab Youth Policy Co-operation in the Broader Euro-Mediterranean Context

Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, 1 – 3 June 2010

SEMINAR REPORT

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Budapest, November 2010

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A contribution to the preparations of the International Year of Youth

Dedicated to the Memory of Dr. Abd Albaset Abd Elmo'ti



SEMINAR REPORT

by Susanne Shomali
General rapporteur

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INTRODUCTION

The seminar *Euro-Arab Youth Policy Co-operation in the Broader Euro-Mediterranean Context* was held in the town of Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt, on 1-3 June 2010. It was organised within the framework of the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth in co-operation with the League of Arab States.

A follow-up to various youth policy co-operation initiatives, the seminar aimed at the mutual exchange of knowledge and the update of information about youth policy developments. It hosted Arab and European youth policy experts to explore the “essentials” of youth policy, and how they are being practised in European and “broader Mediterranean” countries. The seminar also aimed at building the competences of a group of experts, based on a shared understanding of youth policy and youth research.

The participants included public officials and leaders in non-governmental youth organisations, as well as researchers in youth issues. Their participation built on needs previously identified in the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the Field of Youth and the League of Arab States, namely to develop inclusive knowledge and experience in the field of youth policy, and to build on the conclusion of the Arab Human Development Report which, amongst others, places emphasis on the development of policies that are inclusive of young people.

The programme of this seminar combined contents and methods of a seminar (input sessions by experts, discussions and group work) with approaches and methods of non-formal training (holistic approaches for skills development). The specific competence areas addressed were:

- co-operation on youth policy
- youth participation and its role in youth policy
- the importance of research for needs- and evidence-based youth policy
- the empowerment of youth organisations
- monitoring and quality assurance of youth policy implementation.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

Since 2006, the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the Field of Youth and the Social Sector of the League of Arab States has been paying particular attention to youth policy co-operation in the broader Euro-Mediterranean context. While it is well noted that there is recent international attention for developing youth policies, the countries' motives to develop youth policies are diverse. In Arab States, the motive for developing youth policies is mainly justified by the need to invest in the demographic "bulge" and to accommodate the needs of young people who represent nearly 65% of the population. On the other hand, attention to youth policy in the Council of Europe is not new but has re-emerged as a policy area of international co-operation as of the first International Year of Youth in 1985. The current attention is on the grounds that exchange on strategies of youth policy may inform the national processes and contribute to more cohesive and inclusive societies based on the active citizenship of young people. In addition, the European Union refined its Youth Strategy in November 2009, introducing the field of action 'Youth in the World'. This action is intended to enhance young people's participation and contribute to global policy processes on issues such as climate change, the UN Millennium Development Goals, and human rights. Under this new field of action, the Commission also seeks to enhance co-operation with "third countries" and with international organisations working in the youth field, sharing models of EU youth policy, complemented by financial support from the 'Youth in Action Programme' and the 'Youth in the World'.

In view of the different realities and contexts, policy makers have used different approaches to develop national youth policies. This diversity in methods, approaches, and understandings for the essentials of youth policy is seen as an opportunity to reflect on "what works" to stimulate a dialogue, and to exchange lessons learnt in this field. Supporting the formulation of inclusive, multi-sectoral, and evidence-based youth policies stand as one of the main pillars in the League of Arab States' regional vision for youth empowerment. Therefore, on-going efforts are being made by the Social Sector of the League of Arab States to strengthen the capacity of youth policy stakeholders to adopt and master participatory and multi-sectoral approaches in developing national youth policies.

Initially, the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the Field of Youth focused its work on training trainers and key multipliers for its own activities and, more generally, supporting the quality development of Euro-Mediterranean youth co-operation. It quickly became apparent that working with trainers and multipliers, although crucial to secure quality and sustainability of youth exchange and co-operation programmes, reached only the surface (and only part of the surface) of European and Mediterranean youth matters. This is because, on the one hand, the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Programme was reaching a limited number of young people, and on the other, its results and actions, although very successful, permitted little impact at "street level" of young people and youth workers (regardless of their formal or professional status). In some countries there was little linkage between the official / public youth policies and the practice of the youth activities of the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Programme. The exchanges, seminars, training courses and volunteering activities were supported, but hardly acknowledged. Conversely, the Euro-Mediterranean co-operation activities could sometimes be held while still ignoring the official instances of youth policy.

The Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the Field of Youth reflects the principles of both entities in relation to youth policy definition and implementation. Both the European Commission and the Council of Europe are committed, *inter alia*, to:

- youth policies and programmes that aim to empower young people, and support their autonomy and well-being
- evidence and knowledge-based youth policies
- youth participation as a pillar of youth policy definition, implementation and monitoring
- promotion of a youth policy that, consequently, takes into account and respects the specific roles and interaction among youth research, public youth policy services and youth organisations (including youth workers) – coined by some as the “magical triangle” (and known by others as a “mystical triangle”).

The Euro-Mediterranean, including Euro-Arab, youth policy co-operation is also more than simply youth exchanges and intercultural competence development. Youth policy is an actor in intercultural dialogue, not only because young people should learn values of peace and tolerance but also because officials and experts in youth policy ought to be part of the “dialogue”. Euro-Mediterranean and Euro-Arab youth policy co-operation slowly emerged as an obvious and necessary area of co-operation for the following two main factors:

- it associates youth policy to intercultural dialogue (mainstreaming intercultural dialogue in youth policy)
- it makes youth policy actors aware of the benefits and needs of intercultural dialogue.

There is of course a very clear and obvious additional dimension to all of this: co-operation on youth policy itself, that is, the possibility to learn from each other, develop co-operation projects and, ultimately, be able to influence each other. This is very much what is at the root of international youth policy co-operation. In this sense, youth policy experts and professionals will/would:

- mutually improve knowledge and update information about youth policy developments
- learn from and about each other and respect each other more
- develop and implement youth policies more effectively
- co-operate and engage in intercultural dialogue.

Sharing a common geographical and cultural space does not mean that the issues and realities affecting young people are in any ways similar. The demographical reality of youth is often totally different between countries of the European and Mediterranean space, notwithstanding disparities amongst each of them, as are the challenges that they face in their path to autonomy, self-fulfilment and active citizenship. The youth policy responses have, therefore, to be different in purpose, scale and resources. However, there are also shared realities and interconnected issues, such as migration, education, citizenship and human rights, intercultural learning / dialogue and environmental co-operation. Furthermore, it is possible and necessary to share experiences in youth policy and about youth policy.

The earlier youth policy co-operation initiatives that involved the League of Arab States and the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the Field of Youth were carried out at the initiative of the Swedish Board of Youth Affairs, in co-operation with the Swedish Institute in Alexandria which hosted the first seminar on youth policy in 2005. It was further developed in Cairo in 2006, with an international round-table meeting, ‘Youth Policy and Research Development in the Euro-Mediterranean Co-operation Framework’, organised at the invitation of the League of Arab States, the Swedish Institute in Alexandria and the Youth Partnership between the Council of Europe and European

Commission.

Two other seminars followed the Cairo round-table event: a seminar on the Role of Youth Research (Cairo) and one on the Role of Youth Participation (Budapest) in the definition and implementation of youth policy. Both seminars played an important role in associating governmental and non-governmental partners to the co-operation and have resulted in better knowledge, exchange and, in some cases, concrete projects.

Meanwhile, other processes and actors emerged, including the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures, the Alliance of Civilizations, and specific initiatives of the International Labour Organisation and the World Bank. A parallel process of co-operation has progressively developed between the League of Arab States, the Council of Europe, and the European Youth Forum through the European participation in the 2nd and 3rd League of Arab States Youth Forum in Amman, Jordan and in Assilah, Morocco (including the Euro-Arab Co-ordination Meeting of Youth Organisations). Moreover, the publication, in 2008, by the Regional Capacity Building and Support Unit for the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Programme, of youth policy studies on Mediterranean partner countries confirmed the importance of associating intercultural Euro-Mediterranean and Euro-Arab youth projects to youth policy in all countries.

Acknowledging the value and considerations of the first round-table meeting, and taking into account the results of an external evaluation carried out by independent experts – the League of Arab States, the Council of Europe and the European Commission within the framework of their partnership in the Field of Youth – a second round-table event on youth policy co-operation, open to international and national, governmental and non-governmental partners active in youth policy development and implementation, and interested in sharing experiences, was organised in view of mutual learning and future co-operation. This second round-table on youth policy co-operation took place on 22 and 23 April, 2009 at the European Youth Centre in Budapest. Besides being seen as an opportunity to share progress and projects among different stakeholders in the region, three years later the second round-table pursued the following objectives:

- to exchange information regarding the on-going and planned youth policy projects and programmes of the participating organisations and countries
- to analyse commonalities, specificities and complementarities between the actions and approaches of the participants and their institutions
- to discuss the priority youth issues in the broader Euro-Mediterranean region and the youth policy responses to them
- to explore the possibilities of co-ordination between the partners and identify the priorities for Euro-Arab and Euro-Mediterranean co-operation in the youth policy field.

The round-table's participants agreed on the importance of deepening the co-operation by addressing more concrete issues and focusing on areas where co-operation can be most effective. One such area is capacity building for youth policy co-operation. The round-table also proposed the organisation of a pilot training seminar.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Aims

The seminar aimed at mutual exchange of knowledge, and information update about youth policy developments of youth policy experts, represented by public officials, leaders in youth organisations and youth researchers. This result was designed by mean of exploring and

learning together the “essentials” of youth policy and how they are and could be practised in European and Arab countries¹. The seminar aimed to have a multiplying effect by also helping to build the competencies of a group of experts based on a shared understanding of youth policy and youth research.

Objectives

- Exchange mutual knowledge and information about youth developments.
- Develop a better understanding of the youth policy principles and programmes of the League of Arab States, the European Union, the Council of Europe and other regional partners.
- Develop a shared understanding of the realities of young people in European and Mediterranean societies, the issues affecting them and the way youth policy provides responses to them.
- Understand different policy realities and existing models applied in formulating, implementing and evaluating the national youth policies.
- Develop participants' competence about the essentials and indicators of youth policy.
- Enable participants and their sending institutions / organisations to increase the effectiveness of youth policy and work schemes.
- Support the work of the co-operating institutions in the field of intercultural dialogue through youth co-operation.

This seminar was organised also as a contribution to the preparation of the International Year of Youth (August 2010 – August 2011).

SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS

The seminar was open to 31 practitioners involved in youth policy development and implementation in their organisations, such as public officials in charge of youth policy, leaders of youth organisations in national or regional institutions, youth researchers and youth workers. Participation reflected a broad geographic diversity of 20 European and Arab countries (namely: Algeria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, the Netherlands, the Palestinian National Authority, Serbia, Slovenia, Sudan, Syria, and Tunisia). Participants came with their own expectations, experiences and knowledge to share during the seminar, and with recommendations for follow-up activities.

The three partner organisations were also actively present: the League of Arab States, the Council of Europe, the European Commission, and the Secretariat of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the Field of Youth. In addition, several guest speakers contributed with their expertise along with the participants who all shared their experiences, lessons learned and insights for future co-operation contributing to the success of the seminar (see the full list of participants in Appendix 4).

¹ The “broader Mediterranean” scope of the seminar is also meant to embrace member states of the League of Arab States which are not part of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This seminar aimed at the mutual exchange of knowledge and the update of information about youth policy developments in support of regional co-operation and the on-going development of inclusive, multi-sectoral and evidence-based youth policies. It examined the fundamental principles of youth policy, and initiated discussions on how those principles relate to the participants' work; it also examined the relationship of workers and experts in the field to youth policy and youth work development.

The seminar explored the understanding and practice of youth policies in specific countries, examining more deeply the gap that exists between the official intention and application, and questioning the reactions to common challenges. The participants also looked into the importance and role of knowledge-based planning and evidence-based evaluation as success elements in the development and implementation of youth policies, as well as the organisation of youth policy in the Council of Europe and the European Commission. The seminar concluded by discussing co-operation possibilities, needs and opportunities.

The seminar celebrated five years of co-operation achievements at both Arab and European levels. In his introduction, Mr. Khaled Louhichi, Director of the Youth and Sports, Population Policies and Migration Department of the League of Arab States, emphasised the advanced level reached in institutionalising the co-operation between the League of Arab States and the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the Field of Youth. Their efforts led to the mobilisation of decision makers of ministers, parliamentarians, and activists in both Arab and European States. Many joint actions have taken place for the development of youth sector and youth work, and additional programming is underway.

Mr. Rui Gomes, Head of Division Education and Training, Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe, reiterated the importance of youth exchanges and concrete projects implemented through the former Euro-Mediterranean Youth Partnership, which brought together actors in youth policy and strengthened the exchange in both regions. Intercultural learning, which not only takes place in intercultural activities, is a priority and an active component in activities across the borders, in that it encourages the understanding of the situation of young people, learning about the other, and strengthening regional co-operation, and also levels the ground for increased co-operation.

Expectations, discussions and interventions of the participants directed the flow of the programme. They examined co-operation in the field of youth policy, approaches for the development and management of the policies, cross-sectoral youth co-operation, inclusion of young people, management, monitoring and follow-up, and the role of different stakeholders. Moreover, they raised questions on ways to transform policy on paper into practice.

The thoughts of the late Dr. Abd Albaset Abdel Mu'ti, consultant at the League of Arab States, who passed away in the days preceding the seminar, were present when looking into three approaches for understanding youth policies, in terms of:

1. the philosophy and developmental objectives in each country
2. the situation of young people and the challenges they face
3. the knowledge-based and evidence-based indicators available about young people.

Dr. Abdel Mu'ti's thoughts went further, explaining the relationship between different stakeholders and emphasising the importance of cross-sectoral commitment, co-operation, and youth participation for achieving inclusive sustainable development and the positive growth of young people.

In her presentation, Youth Policy: Principles and Values, Dr. Metka Kuhar, Assistant Professor, University of Ljubljana, looked into the social and political construction of young people when defining who they are, considering the arguments of being a resource group and also being a challenge. Similarly to Dr. Al-Muti, she examined issues relating to areas of youth policy, youth empowerment, participation, and youth policy development.

In the official talks of seminar partners, the emphasis was put on political will as a major requirement for the success of youth policy development and implementation.

More questions, interventions and recommendations added value to the understanding of these issues and an in-depth examination of the realities of young people and youth policy processes. Participants' contributions confirmed the challenges young people face. It was said that young people have the same concerns and priorities. In view of the different realities and contexts from one country to the other, implementation is not easy within Europe, just as it is not easy in Arab States. Co-operation on youth policies should be on a broader level: inter-governmental co-operation is as important as co-operation between civil society and among young people themselves.

This diversity in methods, approaches and understanding of the essentials of youth policy is seen as an opportunity to reflect on “what works” in youth policies, and stimulate a dialogue and exchange of lessons learned in this field.

The importance of co-operation between the League of Arab States and the European counterparts represented by the Council of Europe and the European Commission was emphasised through the deliberations of work groups. The concluding statement (Appendix 3) recommended further institutionalisation of regional co-operation. It called in particular for the consolidation of the co-operation between the League of Arab States and the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe through:

- further supporting the co-operation in the field of youth policy formulation, implementation, evaluation and further development
- activating dialogue and exchange between European and Arab decision makers (Senior officials, Ministers and Parliamentarians) in relation to youth policies
- supporting national and regional youth surveys and research in favour of creating indicators, evidence and an update of knowledge-based youth policies and local action plans
- exchanging expertise in both regions in terms of study activities and joint research, and translating and publishing significant reference documents, such as relevant policy documents, training manuals and tool kits
- building the capacity of youth organisations, youth workers and other practitioners in the field of youth policy, including training to work as national resource people for the development of youth policies and youth work
- providing technical assistance for countries in the process of developing youth policies within a multi-sectoral and inclusive approach
- facilitating the mobility of young people within countries in both regions and the organisation of youth dialogue and exchanges.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE SEMINAR

There is growing international attention for developing youth policies. While countries' motives to develop youth policies vary from one to another, the motive for developing youth policies in the Arab countries is driven by the need to invest in the demographic "bulge", as young people represent nearly 65% of the population. Nearly nine of the Arab countries have developed youth policies or are in the process of developing them. In the Council of Europe, attention to youth policy is not new, but it has re-emerged as a policy area of international co-operation since the first International Year of Youth in 1985, as a result of the understanding that national youth policy strategies can learn from each other and contribute to more cohesive and inclusive societies based on active citizenship and the participation of young people, as well as the need to respond to the challenges they meet in their path towards autonomy. The European Union (EU) started youth policy co-operation in 2001, complementing the Youth Programme that had been supporting youth projects for many years. In 2009, the EU adopted the first Youth Report and the new Youth Strategy. The new Youth Strategy introduced the field of action 'Youth in the World', which aims at raising the awareness of young people on global issues, exchanging views with policy makers about these issues, and fostering mutual understanding among young people from all over the world.

In light of this, the League of Arab States and the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth have been paying particular attention to youth policy co-operation in the broader Euro-Mediterranean context since 2005. This co-operation has brought the main stakeholders of youth policies to a series of meetings over the last four years. As this process moves forward, challenges and opportunities have been identified, and the demand to further institutionalise the co-operation is becoming more and more relevant and necessary.

Within this context, the Seminar on Youth Policy Co-operation in the broader Euro-Mediterranean context gathered diverse stakeholders of the youth policy development from 20 European and Arab countries. The seminar aimed at discussing the essentials of youth policy and how they are practised in the participants' respective countries. The participants of the seminar called for the consolidation of the co-operation between the League of Arab States and the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe by:

- Further supporting the co-operation in the field of youth policy formulation, implementation, evaluation and further development
- Activating dialogue and exchange between European and Arab decision makers (Senior officials, Ministers and Parliamentarians) in relation to youth policies
- Supporting national and regional youth surveys and research in favour of creating indicators, evidence and an update of knowledge-based youth policies and local action plans
- Exchanging expertise in both regions in terms of study activities, joint research, and the translation and publishing of significant reference documents, such as relevant policy documents, training manuals and tool kits
- Building the capacity of youth organisations, youth workers and other practitioners in the field of youth policy, including training for working as national resource people for the development of youth policies and youth work
- Providing technical assistance for countries in the process of developing youth policies within a multi-sectoral and inclusive approach
- Facilitating the mobility of young people within countries in both regions and the organisation of youth dialogue and exchanges.

INTRODUCTORY NOTES

Khaled Louhichi, Director of Youth and Sports, Population Policies and Migration Department, League of Arab States

In his opening remark, Mr. Khaled Louhichi expressed the importance of this seminar. Firstly, it celebrated five years of co-operation between the League of Arab States and the Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission. Mr. Louhichi emphasised the advanced degree already reached to institutionalise the co-operation between the League of Arab States and the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the Field of Youth, which has led to the active engagement of decision makers of ministers, parliamentarians, and workers in the field in both Arab and European States. The last few years have also contributed to improved knowledge of all stakeholders. There was also extensive learning about the situation of young people.

Through seminars and meetings, a wide-scale exchange took place in relation to youth realities, characteristics, and attitudes, on both Arab and European levels. They also revealed and confirmed the need for more understanding of young people's realities. In this regard:

- the Arab Council of Ministers for Youth and Sport endorsed a recommendation to establish a regional survey on the realities of youth in Arab countries and launched the process for a Report on 'Youth Needs in the Arab Counties 2010' (to be updated annually).
- The League of Arab States created a database for local experts in the field of youth development and organised a Youth Training Experts Committee of 25 active practitioners to contribute to the process of developing the youth sector. The League of Arab States is currently planning a series of training activities intended to update and adapt trainers' skills while establishing an annual co-ordination and networking meeting to promote youth leadership. The League of Arab States is in the process of establishing the Arab Union for Youth Organisations.

Secondly, this seminar intends to emphasise the need to:

- strengthen the relationship between research centres and youth councils
- offer opportunities for networking between youth stakeholders
- promote the continuous creation and translation of youth-related literature within the Euro-Arab region
- develop mechanisms to strengthen youth organisations
- study the disparity and complementarity between youth policies at both regional levels in terms of content, mechanisms and co-operation priorities.

Thirdly, bringing together stakeholders of various expertise – government representatives working in the youth sector, researchers, and active youth organisations and workers from Arab and European countries – contributes to the encouragement of a co-operative role in strengthening civil society youth organisations.

Rui Gomes, Head of Division Education and Training - Directorate of Youth and Sport, Council of Europe

Mr. Rui Gomes placed co-operation on this seminar within a history line of partnership between countries in the Mediterranean area, the League of Arab States and the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth. According to Mr. Gomes, the numerous youth exchanges and concrete projects have

brought and are still bringing together actors in youth policy. The intercultural learning priority approach does not only take part in intercultural activities alone but is also a core component in activities across the border. It results in understanding the situation of young people in Arab countries, learning about the 'other', and providing the opportunity to develop more co-operation links. Intercultural learning has created the ground, and is a necessary condition for increased co-operation.

Moreover, the exchanges have also allowed the League of Arab States and the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the Field of Youth to find out and learn more about what should be focussed on, and about co-operation priorities in the future.

He also mentioned that young people are still working in environments that may not be adequately supportive. Often young people are described as avant-garde of the society, through such co-operation; youth policy stakeholders are expected to go beyond what exists, challenge the borders and not to be trapped in the models others create. Mr. Gomes concluded that youth experts, such as those present in such a seminar, are the ones facilitating co-operation.

OPENING STATEMENTS

Dr. Sima Bahous, Assistant Secretary General, League of Arab States

Dr. Sima Bahous stated that this seminar had come within a new process shift by the Social Sector of the League of Arab States. This process is characterised by giving more attention to the pan-Arab youth work, guided by experience accumulated in this field, research results, and a dedicated response to political will at the highest level of decision making. The direction taken responds to the development scene and empowerment goals of Arab youth.

She also noted that the preparation for youth policies and its development is a continuous and an elaborate process that requires pre-conditions at the level of vision, experiences, and mechanisms. Accordingly, a successful policy requires:

- a comprehensive vision for priorities (one which includes all young people, their issues, and goals and aspirations now and for the future), accompanied by a responsible and serious dialogue that involves all stakeholders (government, civil society organisations, youth, business sector, researchers, and experts)
- evidence-based and youth-participatory research
- cross-sectoral youth policies, as youth issues are diverse, intertwined, and distributed over many sectors
- active participation and intensive co-ordination amongst all stakeholders.

Dr. Bahous also indicated that the challenges being tackled now are related to the developmental philosophy, the general developmental and sectoral goals, and the status of youth policy in each society. Other challenges are the limited finances, infrastructure, democratic management, expertise and qualified human resources within Arab civil society organisations, in general, and among youth organisations, in particular.

At the end of her speech, Dr. Bahous reiterated that the Arab–European partnership, co-operation, and co-ordination constitute support to both sides (i.e. exchange of experiences, lessons learnt and good practices, joint efforts in the field of scientific research and training, and capacity building of youth organisations), and are surely of added value to outline youth empowerment policies and provide for conditions of success, continuity and revision.

Ulrich Bunjes, Head of the Youth Department, Council of Europe

Mr. Ulrich Bunjes noted that the seminar is one in a chain of educational and political co-operation events organised or co-organised by the Council of Europe in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The Council of Europe, in partnership with the European Commission, sees these activities as part of Agenda 2020 and as practical implementation of the principles guiding their work, namely: human rights, democracy, the rule of law; the strengthening of civil society; the participation of young people and co-management; intercultural dialogue, and social integration. The strategic relevance of this seminar lies in the task of enabling young people and their organisations to fully contribute to the regional dialogue, to advance reflections, and to advance peace, pointing to the previous two days' violent incident (the Israeli attack on the Gaza flotilla) as an example of the importance of continuing and moving forward with dialogue.

According to Bunjes, the Council of Europe is one actor among several European institutions engaged in the region. The Council of Europe's motive is because of the strategic relevance of the "other" region (under various aspects) and, as the region lies on (what some people see as) a cultural fault-line, the embodiment of cultural diversity at a global level. Acknowledged in the Council of Europe's White Paper on 'Intercultural Dialogue', intercultural dialogue must also extend to neighbouring regions (including the southern shores of the Mediterranean). Accordingly, the work of the Council of Europe on youth policy is characterised by co-operation with youth policy stakeholders, the strengthening of civil society in Europe and beyond, in addition to focusing on themes such as women's participation, the social integration of young people, and intercultural learning.

He concluded that the seminar comes within the framework of co-operation with the League of Arab States, a success story since 2005. It also complements the efforts made by the Alliance of Civilisations, which is currently developing a regional Euro-Mediterranean strategy including youth, intergovernmental organisations (such as the Islamic Conference Educational), Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO - with which the Council of Europe is organising the annual Intercultural Dialogue in Youth Work course in Morocco), the Anna Lindh Foundation, and the Union for the Mediterranean.

Karin Lopatta-Loibl, Youth Policy Unit, Directorate General for Education and Culture, European Commission

Ms. Lopatta-Loibl presented the EU Youth Policy Model. Youth policy development in the EU started in 2001 with a consultation of young people and led to the White Paper 'A New Impetus of European Youth'. In a Resolution, the Council of Youth Ministers agreed to apply the open method of co-ordination. Under this method the Member States set themselves common objectives in priority areas such participation, information and voluntary activities on whose implementation they report to the Commission. The Commission then analyse their reports and make suggestions as to how to develop the common objectives further. With the adoption of the revised common objectives, the policy cycle, which involves young people at all stages (policy making, implementation and evaluation), is complete. This active involvement of youth organisations has given civil society and young people ownership of the youth policy process.

The current EU youth policy is marked by the EU Youth Strategy and the first EU Youth Report. Both were presented by MS Lopatta-Loibl in greater detail the following day. At this stage she pointed out the new action field 'Youth in the World', which aims at supporting young people's participation in and contribution to global processes of policy making, implementation and follow-up on issues such as climate change, the UN Millennium

Development Goals, and human rights. It also encourages co-operation of European young people with regions outside of Europe.

She also referred to the economic crisis, which hit young people hardest with serious implications on youth employment in different parts of the world. Ms. Lopatta-Loibl stated that experience shows that youth policies need to provide flexible answers to the changing situation of young people.

At the end of her presentation she showed a video about the EU Youth Strategy.

She also referred to the Youth in Action Programme and the Euromed Youth Programme of DG EuropAid, as well as mentioning the SALTO Youth Resource Centre for the Mediterranean region.

She concluded by expressing the expectation that the seminar would provide a useful opportunity for exchange on youth policies in Europe and the southern Mediterranean.

Dr. Mohamed Abou El-khir, Advisor to the Director, National Youth Council of Egypt

Dr. Mohamed Abou El-khir indicated three core issues in youth work. The first is 'contemporisation', in which young people are open to other nations – their values, cultures, and sciences. The second is intercultural dialogue among young people, in which they share and learn from each others' experiences by means of interaction, visits, and awareness of various customs and traditions. The third aspect is represented in co-operation and partnerships to develop and move ahead with youth work, and brings more young people together with a focus on their similarities. Throughout, he emphasised on the importance of the participation of society as a whole, as an on-going process.

Dr. Abu ElKheir also outlined Egypt's efforts in developing youth work. He pointed to the greater importance the country is giving to the 40% of its population who are under 30 years of age. In 2005, a presidential decree was issued to establish the National Youth Council (NYC). This aims at the empowerment of young people in the social, political, and economic fields as well as discovering and presenting talented young people. The following are some of the initiatives managed by the NYC:

- Developing youth centres that include libraries, computer clubs, and sports fields
- Establishing youth cities and civic education centres
- Organising adolescents and youth parliaments which deal with local, national, Arab and international issues
- Organising youth training activities covering, for example, languages, computer literacy, and micro-business development
- Organising and co-ordinating youth exchanges with Arab and other countries
- Creating partnerships and co-operating with national and international civil society organisations
- Organising Arab and international conferences that cover youth issues
- Organising publications targeting young people and adolescents.

THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES VISION AND POLICY FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

The late Dr. Abd Albaset Abd Elmo'ti, PPMD Consultant, League of Arab States
Presented by Mr. Ahmad Alhindawi, PPMD Youth Specialist, League of Arab States

The presentation prepared by the late Dr. Abd Albaset Abd Elmo'ti looked into the concept of youth policies, steps for setting up a youth policy and its references, requisites for success, and the importance of mainstreaming youth policies in the overall development policies, their monitoring, evaluation and review.

In his presentation, Dr. Abd Elmo'ti noted that the understanding of the concept and the essentials of youth policy varies according to the developmental philosophy of each country, the situation of young people, and their challenges and opportunities, in addition to the state of knowledge and evidence available about young people. He also considered a youth policy to be a declaration of a comprehensive society's commitment that includes a vision for the rights of young people, which also means providing the requisites for its empowerment by the government, civil society organisations, businesses, and other stakeholders concerned with youth issues nationally and internationally. He also noted that a youth policy is a cohesive and continuous process that is based on the on-going challenges towards a certain insight for young people within a period of time. Such challenges may include investment patterns and employment opportunities for young people, education and training shortcomings, the increase of poverty rates and the weakness of civil society organisations working with youth.

In terms of the basics and pre-requisites for success, the following are suggested:

- political commitment to youth issues
- general developmental direction of the society (progress, justice and equality, participation, democracy)
- public developmental and sectoral policies and their inclusiveness
- availability of data and information about the situation of young people and their aspirations
- good governance principles
- society's support to youth issues and consensus on the policy's requisites and goals;
- government financial support and youth budgetary allocation, and
- contribution of private sector and civil society organisations.

The presentation also listed models (that may be combined) in developing a youth policy. These include the decision-makers, the centralised-planning, the rational-pragmatic, the youth-participation, and the balanced-interest models. These models lead the setting up of youth policies and its references. Again, in his presentation, Dr. Abd Elmo'ti focused on the importance of making research and data available for evidence-based planning, carrying out SWOT analyses with young people, their organisations, researchers, and decision makers in public, private, and civil society sectors. Also important are placing youth empowerment issues on the general developmental policies, challenging the goals by generating new opportunities to achieve the set goals, and establishing programmes and projects following a comprehensive economic, social, and cultural feasibility study, while defining the cross-sectoral policy management. Mainstreaming youth policies in the general development and sectoral policies are a key to its success. In this regard, defining roles and responsibilities at the centralised, decentralised, regional and international levels are essential approaches for good results. Partnerships, co-operation and networking strategies are also important in that they help build capabilities of organisations and their partners, and create stronger co-ordination mechanisms and consensus to participation's legislations, criteria and indicators.

The presentation concluded by shedding light on the role of follow-up, evaluation and review

of youth policies through data bases, evidence-based analysis, monitoring and evaluation reporting, and documentation of good practices’.

Mr. Khaled Louhichi, Director of Youth and Sport, PPMD, League of Arab States

Mr. Khaled Louhichi remarked on Dr. Abd Elmo'ti's presentation, mentioning the successes of the League of Arab States and several principle elements in youth policies which he had focussed on. Firstly, he reiterated the decisions taken at the Arab Leaders summits to develop and implement youth policies. Already nine Arab States have developed national youth policies. Many others have executed national youth surveys. Moreover, the Arab Youth and Sports Ministers Council have adopted decisions to establish a periodical Arab youth survey and an annual Arab report on youth policies, launching the regional youth statistics report, participation in the International Year of Youth, amongst others. Secondly, he looked into three elements: access to knowledge, active participation and the enhancement of civil society organisations, and participative and multi-sectoral youth policies. Examples provided included: supporting governmental and non-governmental youth organisations and youth unions; facilitating dialogue and partnership opportunities between different stakeholders; conducting several Arab surveys and research that cover youth issues and trends; disseminating data and information; providing training opportunities.

YOUTH POLICY: PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

Dr. Metka Kuhar, Assistant Professor, University of Ljubljana

In her presentation 'Youth Policy: Principles and Values', Dr. Metka Kuhar looked into the social and political construction of young people when defining who they are, considering them as a resource group of active participants in the continuous construction of the society, as a challenge for social peace, as a vulnerable group who require attention and protection, and also bearing in mind their own identity. In this regard, she looked into youth transition phases from childhood to post adolescence, and policy responses at each stage, describing three particular responses: childcare, youth work and integrated youth policy (which cross over, for example, into education, employment, health, and many other areas).

Youth transition phases and policy responses (Siurala 2006)

GROWTH PHASE	CHILDHOOD	EARLY ADOLESCENCE	ADOLESCENCE	POST-ADOLESCENCE
	- 11 yrs	12 – 17 yrs	18 – 24 yrs	25 yrs -
TRANSITION ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • security • development support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • citizenship education & training • early prevention of social risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • institutional participation, citizenship action • life management • labour market integration • risk prevention, harm reduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • independence • facility formation • labour market stabilisation
POLICY RESPONSE	CHILD CARE	YOUTH WORK	INTEGRATED YOUTH POLICY	

Dr. Kuhar also examined issues related to areas of youth policy, youth empowerment, participation, and youth policy development. As a basis for her discussions, she looked into selected definitions of youth policy to examine its framework, which is described as:

- knowledge and understanding of youth
- goals, aims, and visions to be achieved
- priorities
- principles
- implementation structures (from international and State level, to the local authorities)
- policy networks - the agencies and actors who have an interest in the youth policy field (politicians, civil servants, interest groups, academic think tanks, the media, street level professionals, etc.)
- activities and (legal) norms (legislation, strategies, programs, actions, etc.)
- resources (financial, structural, human)
- monitoring, evaluation
- continuous development.

Additionally, she quoted author Dr. Howard Williamson, a Professor of European Youth Policy, his "5Cs" of youth policy, which contribute to the successful management of youth policy development. The 5Cs are: *Coverage* (geography, social groups, policy domains),

Capacity (infrastructure, state and voluntary organisations), *Competence* (management, professional skills), *Co-operation* (co-ordination / coherence – horizontal / vertical – political / professional) and finally, *Cost* (financial and human resources).

The presentation concluded by examining the dynamic cycle for youth policy development from the participatory dialogue of politicians, professionals and young people to decisions, delivery and development at a decentralised level.

YOUTH POLICY: FROM PRINCIPLES TO PRACTICE

Ms. Miriam Teuma, Lecturer, University of Malta

Ms. Miriam Teuma addressed the concept of youth policy, basing it on five horizontal threads, namely, participation and engagement, youth information, social inclusion, family, and mobility of young people, which cross over vertical themes ranging from education, employment, health, arts and sports, and community cohesion, to information society, youth justice, and so on. She also addressed principles of youth policy development and general practices in the field.

She first looked into the policy circle that is described to constitute policy stakeholders and institutions (government, non-government, communities, and individuals), policy development processes (issue framing, agenda setting, data analysis, advocacy, dialogue, formulation), resource allocation, policy implementation (including organisational structure, resources, and evaluation), policies, laws, regulations (law explicit or implicit national and operational policies, resource allocation plans), which all feed in to addressing the political, social, cultural and economic context of youth, and identify challenges and solutions.

She also described three categories of youth development:

Category 1: Population-based youth policies: these policies typically include a framework that articulates a desired vision for youth outcomes (i.e. youth that are healthy, socially engaged, employable, etc.). Population-based policies and strategies are universal in that they apply to the entire youth population as well as to any sub-groups that make up the youth population.

Category 2: Targeted policies for sub-groups of youth: these policies focus on a single facet / a particular sub-population of youth. For example, targeted policies may focus on assisting youth in an area such as employment. They may also address the needs of particular groups at risk of social exclusion or marginalisation because of race, ability, religious affiliation, or geographic location. Targeted policies for sub-groups of youth may exist on their own or within the context of a population-based policy.

Category 3: Targeted policies for individual youth: these are policies designed to address personal barriers. These policies might include rehabilitation programmes and other such individual interventions; they may also exist within a broader population-based policy.

Ms. Teuma also looked into four theoretical approaches that are employed in the development of youth policy, which may also be interwoven to make up a youth policy:

1. Population Health Approach: *Premise:* social institutions, geographic surroundings, and social relationships are the social determinants of health. Inequalities can be prevented or improved through social supports that target the well-being of an entire population.
2. Risk Prevention and Resiliency Approach: *Premise:* building an individual's resilience to specific dangers and threats can assist them in managing or coping with

significant adversity or stress. Policies should counter specific dangers and threats, known as risk factors, which are strongly associated with negative outcomes. This approach builds resilience by developing preventive mechanisms in individuals, families and communities.

3. Asset-Based Approach: *Premise*: successful policy interventions identify and build on individual and group strengths and skills, rather than emphasising limitations. Policy responses aim for wider community change through positive social relationships and broad mobilisation efforts.
4. Youth Engagement Approach: *Premise*: all youth benefit from opportunities to have a voice, access, and shared power with adults. Policies using this approach seek to limit the marginalisation of youth by finding avenues for proactive involvement in the development of programmes that affect them.

As for youth policy development, the presentation looked into the implementation of youth policy through the promotion of policy, formulation of a national youth action plan and development of specific projects that specify concrete measures for each of the areas, identification of the institution(s) responsible for implementation, as well as the respective time period and the budget. The success of the proposed measures depends strongly on available capacities and the inclusion of all stakeholders. Development of a policy also depends on the creation of appropriate mechanisms for implementation and co-ordination to liaise and ensure the necessary co-ordination between government departments and other agencies in the implementation of youth services, measures or initiatives proposed by government, and to ensure that all government programmes concerning the affairs and interests of young people are implemented in accordance with the National Youth Policy. Another development is based on the creation of multiple spaces for youth participation, by promoting youth organisations, youth and school councils, youth forums and youth parliaments, the use of media and so on.

A continual and systematic examination of all policy aspects is considered a measure of progress in relation to the expected or desired output and a means of identifying successes and problems, in order to make any necessary corrections.

Ms. Teuma concluded her presentation by recommending action points that may help have a strong youth policy:

- a shared vision for determining action
- mechanisms for intergovernmental service co-ordination
- a strategy for measuring outcomes
- mechanisms for reviewing and realigning services based on the needs, aspirations, and expectations of youth
- the sharing of good practices.

Mr. Foued Ouni, Tunisian Youth Observatory, Ministry of Youth and Sports

In an intervention, Mr. Foued Ouni examined the preparation of youth policies in a way that emanate from the realities of young people and respond to their needs, aspirations, and expectations. He sees that the analysis of youth issues requires an inclusive scientific approach, benefiting from social science methodologies and the knowledge obtained in youth studies, especially those falling within the fields of sociology, psychology, pedagogy, and partly economic studies concerned with employment and economic integration. He also added that the importance of youth research, studies, and surveys means:

- determining the situation of young people and their aspirations
- monitoring their views and attitudes

- drawing on the general features of youth and identifying aspects of their developments
- providing quantitative and qualitative indicators to help formulate / review youth policies
- enriching the database on youth.

Examining the Tunisian experience and its use of research as a tool for youth policy review, Mr. Ouni referred to the nationally conducted surveys of 1996, 2000 and 2005, in addition to the five-yearly consultation of young people, to coincide with the review of developmental plans in Tunisia. The conclusions brought about by the national survey in 2005 could be summarised in the importance enhancing employment and support mechanisms, revising university counselling parameters, increasing productive health centres, increasing youth participation in social and public life as well in civil society institutions, and in the facilitation of more recreational spaces and sports facilities. In addition, the survey also showed an emergence of new social behavioural phenomena among young people and increased psychological pressures of work and study life. The Tunisian government adopted the survey recommendations and integrated the actions into its next five-year plan.

PRACTICES AND CHALLENGES IN YOUTH POLICY DEFINITION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Dr. Mohamed Abou El-khir, Advisor to the Director, National Youth Council of Egypt

Dr. Mohamed Abou El-khir stated that Egypt's youth policy strives "to create a generation that understands the past, reacts to the present and is ready for the future". The National Youth Policy focuses on the activation of the role of youth. The establishment of the National Council for Youth in 2005 is one of the means of reaching out for this aim. The strategy of The National Council for Youth provides a framework for the enhancement of youth contribution in public life. The National Council for Youth carries out programmes that aim to empower young people politically, socially and economically through 4,300 youth centres distributed around the country. In its programmes, the centres focus on providing basic employability skills, such as foreign languages, computer literacy, and business management. The National Council for Youth also carries out various programmes to enhance and build the capacity of youth, such as the Youth Parliament Model, cultural activities, and camping activities.

The Parliament Programme aims to encourage young people's political participation and dialogue skills by encouraging them to take part in parliamentary sessions and express themselves in a democracy simulation covering local and international issues.

The Cultural Programme encourages literary and artistic creativity and research, arts, music, and theatre. In addition, it empowers young people through seminars and meetings in topics related to global warming, cross-cultural dialogue, scientific and creative thinking, water usage ethics and other environment-related issues.

As far as the Camping and Travelling Programme is concerned, the NCY manages youth hostels in all governorates, and organises exploration visits and voluntary work activities.

Mr. Ihab Hamed, National Union of Syrian Students

Mr. Ihab Hamed explained that Syria is currently going through an accelerated economic transformation causing a social market economy. This transformation is accompanied by challenges for the youth sector that require active youth participation, represented in youth-positive initiatives to find solutions to the changes. A success story is already being told in the amount and type of volunteering initiatives developed and run by young people throughout the country. It is considered as one solution in developing the employability skills of young people and preparing them for entering the market place.

In terms of structure and youth policy development, young people in Syria are represented by the Syrian National Youth Organisation and student councils at universities and colleges which are in turn actively co-ordinating between governmental and non-governmental organisations working with and for young people aged 16 – 30. Consultation sessions with young people on national strategic goals and implementation mechanisms are being developed. Additionally, the government is managing intensive training programmes with local and international partners for youth workers to support the development of the youth policy.

Mr. Ezzahi Abdelkhalek, The Youth Institute, Ministry of Youth, Sport and Physical Education of Tunisia

The Tunisian National Youth Strategy (2009 - 2014) is said to be at the forefront of the new priorities identified in the presidency agenda for the next five years “jointly to meet the challenge”. The agenda aims at establishing permanent and holistic dialogue with young people, strengthening the democratic process, pluralism, and youth participation in public affairs, strengthening the rule of law and institutions, and participating in the local development process of all aspects of life.

Extending on the areas of work of NYS, Mr. Abdelkhalek outlined the following priorities:

- young people and participation in family affairs
- young women's health and well-being, including health-risk reduction behaviours amongst adolescents and young people
- young people's increased participation in public affairs, qualifications' development, and on-going dialogue at national and regional levels
- young people's access and participation in the field of information and communication technologies; media, communication, and information society
- young people's participation in the cultural, recreational, environmental, sporting and physical activities at school, and university levels, and new impetus to the national programmes for the advancement of the sport's sector
- young people's participation across protection, prevention and community reintegration policies.

Mr. Ezzahi Abdelkhalek referred to the methodologies considered in the NYP, focussing on the human-rights, objectives-focused, and participatory-planning approaches. The process undertaken constitutes a careful scientific study of the current status, which includes analysis of quantitative and qualitative data and outstanding concerns, addressing field survey results, the desired status, and strategic objectives; these include an in-depth review of evaluation criteria, partners, and performance indicators, amongst others. Throughout the presentation, multi-sectoral participation in the formulation, implementation and review process were emphasised.

Mr. Mohamed Osman, National Federation of Sudanese Youth

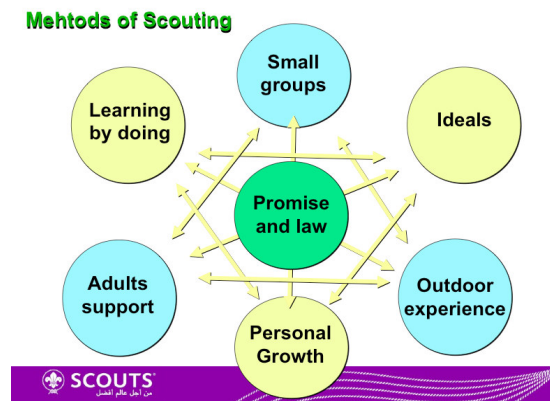
Mr. Mohamed Osman referred to the fact that the Sudanese Youth Policy was approved by the National Centre for Strategic Planning with a focus on issues related to peace, the promotion of Sudanese identity, good governance and participation, sustainable development, poverty reduction, and computer literacy. The youth policy has been formulated with a focus on the values, vision, and challenges they face. Successes seen following the first year and following consultation with young people are the introduction of the marriage support project, the vocational training project, and the youth housing project, all supported by the government. In addition, there has been an increase in the number of young voters (67%), and the access of 16% of Parliament seats to young people, according to the results of the latest elections.

Mr. Atif Abdelmageed, World Organization of the Scout Movement - Arab Regional Office

Mr. Atif Abdelmageed presented the general framework and the strategy of the 2011 – 2020 internal policy paper of the Arab Scout Movement. At the core of this policy paper are the following: reaching out to children and young people, and young people with special needs,

capacities and circumstances; contributing to the education of the youth through an educational system that aims to promote values based on the “Promise and the Law”; creating committed individuals with a constructive role in their societies. It also has region specificity, in that the scout movement:

- helps establish citizenship, pan-Arab, and internationalisation spirit
- promotes tolerance
- evolves and develops in accordance with the modern world's requirements
- forms partnerships with various local and international bodies
- is active with a sustainable social impact.



Despite the challenges the organisation face in terms of financial and technological resource limitations, and few co-ordination possibilities to disseminate results and alleviate the level of programming, the Arab Scout Movement has set its programmes for the next period to focus on equal opportunities, social inclusion, volunteering, programming development, and membership increase. This is seen by means of updating the Arabic scout curriculum with a continuous focus on life skills, leadership and coaching skills, the development of new leadership programmes and training approaches, scientifically managing programming outcomes, as well as strengthening the Arab region network and partnerships with public, private and international organisations.

PRESENTATION OF EUROPEAN MODELS OF YOUTH POLICY CO-OPERATION

The European Union's Youth Strategy: Investing and Empowerment Ms Karin Lopatta-Loibl, Directorate General Education and Culture

Ms. Karin Lopatta-Loibl presented the EU Youth Strategy of 2010 - 2018. She stressed the cross-sectoral approach and outlined the Strategy's eight fields of action. She explained the structured dialogue with young people, and spoke about youth work and the evidence-based approach of the Strategy. In addition, she explained the three work cycles and spoke about the Youth Report.

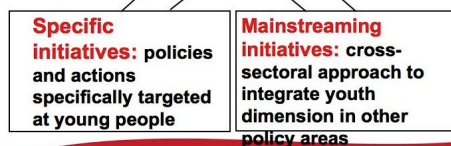


A NEW EU YOUTH STRATEGY 2010-2018

Overall objectives:

1. To create **more and equal opportunities** for all young people in **education** and on the **labour market**
2. To promote active **citizenship, social inclusion and solidarity** of all young people

DUAL APPROACH



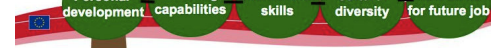
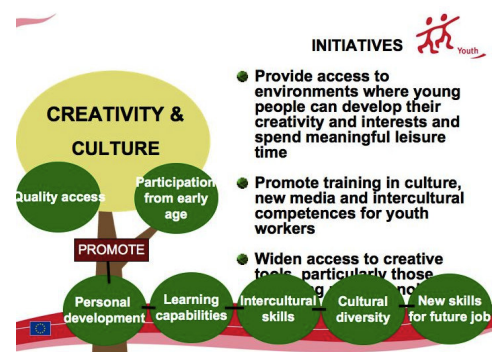
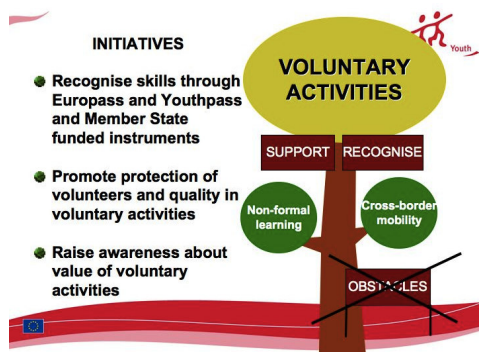
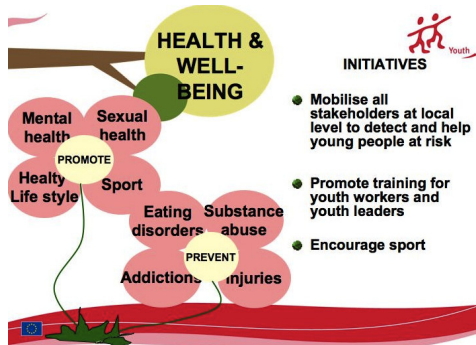
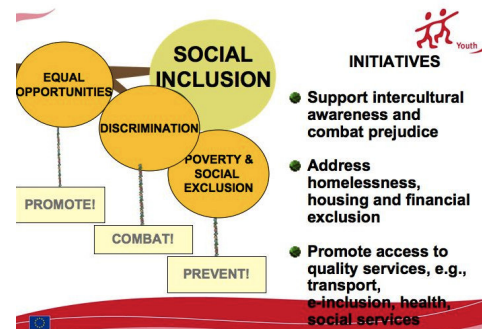
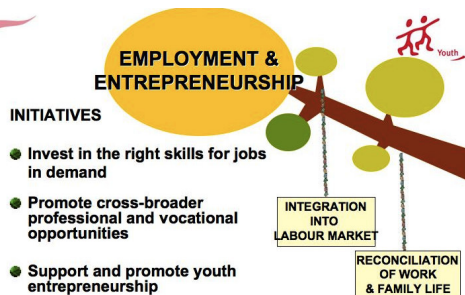
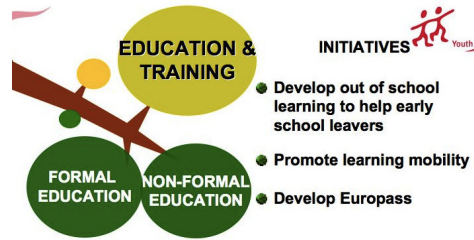
WORK PLAN

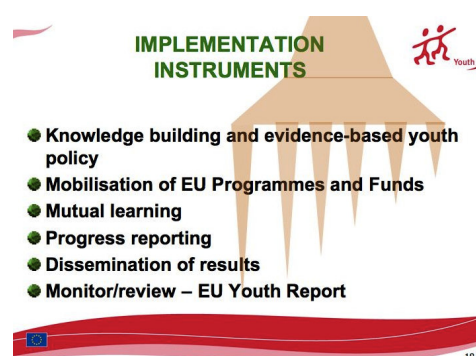
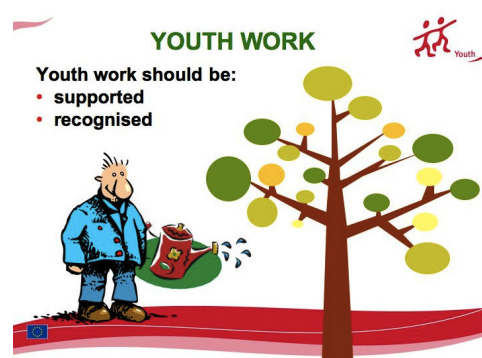
- 3 work cycles/3 years each
- Priorities of Presidency Trio for each cycle
- 2010-2012 (Spain, Belgium, Hungary)
Overall priority: Youth Employment
Specific priorities: Social Inclusion, Youth Work, Participation

Structured Dialogue



- Based on working-cycles of 18 months
- Involving consultations with young people and youth organisations at all levels in the Member States and at EU conferences organised by Presidency countries and during the European Youth Week
- Implementation supported by European Steering Committee (representatives of young people, youth organisations, Trio-Presidencies, Ministries, the European Youth Forum, National Youth Councils, YIA National Agencies)
- More than 15 National Working Groups have already been set up
- Importance to involve « organised » and « non-organised young people »





The Council of Europe Mr. Rui Gomes, Directorate of Youth and Sport

Mr. Rui Gomes noted that one of the priority objectives of intergovernmental co-operation in the Council of Europe's youth field is to promote and support the development of youth policies in the member states. The approach of the Council of Europe's youth sector to youth policy is one that aims to support young people's participation as a citizen and their - often complex - transition to autonomy.

The governing ideas of youth policy are: (a) (lifelong) learning (b) inclusion / social cohesion (c) citizenship and participation and (d) safety, health and well-being. It continues to approach young people and their issues not as problems to be solved – a so-called 'fire brigade approach' – but holistically across policy domains and through clear objectives that can be assessed. Youth policy makers can also display a commitment to being 'for, by and with young people' by involving young people in their formulation, and by being made meaningful through evidence-based development, research-based assessment and evaluation.

Youth policy in the Council of Europe's youth sector's approach, combines a multi-dimensional concern with ensuring young people's well-being, providing them with relevant learning opportunities, increasing the probability of their successful integration into society and transition to autonomy, and enabling them to participate in decision making and civil society. This multi-faceted focus on different aspects of young peoples' lives is supported by a set of principles on which sound policy making should be based.

The Final Declaration of the VI Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for youth (2002) stipulated that: "Youth policies need to be as comprehensive as possible, taking into account the overall needs of young people and recognising their diversity and

their many facets and resources". To achieve this end, the Council of Europe uses several approaches and instruments that include:

- multilateral youth co-operation
- field activities
- standard setting and "soft monitoring" mechanisms
- working with multipliers
- intercultural learning
- human rights-based approaches
- access to decent living conditions
- European Youth Centres
- European Youth Foundation

The Council of Europe also implements a number of intergovernmental programmes, such as international reviews of national youth policies youth policy advisory missions, the ad hoc advisory Group on Child and Youth, the ad hoc advisory Group on Child and Youth Participation, the Summer University of the CDEJ, the partnership with ERYICA (youth information), ad hoc working groups (on specific youth policy issues) leading to standard-setting activities, and conferences of (youth) Ministers.

Mr. Gomes added that the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for youth VIII (2008) adopted a declaration setting out the priorities of the Council of Europe in this domain for the coming years to focus on Human rights and democracy, Living together in diverse societies, and Social inclusion of young people. The Council of Europe also works on international reviews of national youth policies that aim at looking into the opportunities provided to young people by public authorities in a constructive and supportive manner. The process aims at advising governments on key national youth policy issues, contributing to a learning process about the development and implementation of youth policy in Europe, and identifying components of youth policy that might inform an approach to 'youth policy' across Europe.

Ms. Sonia Mejri, Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe

Ms. Sonia Merji elaborated on youth participation and the position of the Advisory Council on Youth within the system of co-management of the Council of Europe. She explained that this system involves representatives from youth non-governmental organisations sitting on committees with government officials to jointly work out the priorities for the youth sector and make recommendations for future budgets and programmes. The recommendations are adopted by the Committee of Ministers and the Council of Europe's decision-making body.

She explained that the European Steering Committee for Youth brings together representatives of ministries and organisations responsible for youth matters. It encourages closer co-operation between governments on youth issues and provides a forum for comparing national youth policies. The Steering Committee also organises the Conferences of European Ministers with responsibility for youth matters and drafts youth policy laws and regulations in member states. On the other hand, the Advisory Council on Youth provides input on all youth sector activities and ensures young people's involvement in the activities of the Council of Europe. Meanwhile, the Joint Council on Youth brings the Steering Committee and the Advisory Council together in a co-decision body which establishes the youth sector's priorities, objectives, and budgets.

Ms. Mejri concluded that the Programming Committee on Youth is a subsidiary co-decision body that establishes, monitors, and evaluates the programmes of the European Youth Centres and of the European Youth Foundation.

WORKING GROUPS CONCLUSIONS

WORKGROUP 1: Realities of youth policies

The realities of youth policies:

G1 - Sources which bring about policy development

G2 - The concept of youth

G3 - The needs, concerns and aspirations of young people

G4 - Involvement of stakeholders

G1: Sources that bring about policy development

Two main points were elaborated on by this working group dealing with the sources that bring about policy development: the first is the current situation of youth policy in the participants' countries in terms of institutions, laws, and funds; the second is the development of the youth policy in each of these countries.

A. Current situation of youth policy in the participants' countries:

There is a focus on youth affairs in represented countries. However, the institutional form varies from one to another. For instance, Denmark and Hungary do not have a ministry of youth affairs, unlike Egypt, the Palestinian National Authority and Morocco which all have one. Youth issues in Denmark are integrated into several working structures, every sector having its own responsibilities, such as the youth division of political parties, public institutions, the Danish Youth Council, and non-governmental organisations. Palestine and Morocco, on the other hand, are centralising youth policy management through the Ministry of Youth and Sports, which in turn co-ordinate with stakeholders to implement the designed youth policy, while in Egypt and Malta, it is mainly through National Youth councils. In contrast, Hungary's management of youth policy is through a department of Youth Affairs sitting at the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Labour National Youth Strategy, and the Youth in Action Programme.

The role of public institutions to establish and facilitate a widespread youth infrastructure has been seen by participants as essential as its role in civil society and private sectors in achieving effective and successful youth policies.

In terms of financial mechanisms, these have been considered as an issue of specificity of each country. Many stakeholders share the finance of the youth sector, be it through taxes, government activities, parliamentary allocated budget, or donations and grants. Whatever the structure or focus in the youth sector, all agreed that young people are a priority in the policy field, and that there is an increased interest in addressing youth issues and improving their conditions for healthy growth and development.

B. Youth policy situation development:

The participants examined the motivation to start youth policies in their countries, and the forces behind their development and review. Youth lobby, impacted by social, economic, and political participation challenges, was the force behind strategically implementing a policy that accommodates their needs, expectations, and the countries' development vision. This step has been accompanied, in recent years, by the encouragement of national parliaments, international donors, the media, and bi-lateral agreements. There are other motives influenced by youth movements of the '60s and '70s.

G2: The concept of youth

Two issues were deliberated by participants in an attempt to examine the concept of youth:

the first relates to the dividing line between youth age and childhood, and the second is whether young people are seen as a resource for the country or a challenge to it.

Participants said that when talking about young people, it is important to keep the historic dimension in mind. History helps to understand the current status better. For instance, the UN considers young people at the age of 14 to 25 as having the needs of a human being in the development phase up to the stage of autonomy. It was suggested that the age classification is a necessity for a “social political function”. A diverse opinion was that “age group generations are closing down”. Others agreed, yet added that research shows that this particular age group requires guidance from adults. Another voice argued a preference for defining young people between the ages of 18 – 35 years old, considering the education cycle for many and the dependency level during this period. The challenge, although it varies from one country to the other, is reflected in economies, namely that young people are resource-demanding, but similarly, are good market consumers.

G3: Needs, concerns and aspirations of young people

The group explored the division of needs in policies according to countries and looked more specifically at young people’s needs and challenges in the Arab States. They discussed that needs cross every day but they may be classified by their degree of importance in situation, local culture, special circumstances, and armed conflicts, amongst many others. Basic needs refer to financial, developmental, social and welfare requirements, as well as for education, health, citizenship rights, and freedom.

It was also discussed that the integration of young people does not necessarily ensure they participate. Their unwillingness to participate may refer to the different understanding of the concept and shape of participation. It is possible that the public discourse does not attract them. As put by participants, young people in many Arab States are facing degrees of unemployment and disguised employment, the consequences of the economic crisis, globalisation, discrimination, violence, the adaptability of the educational system and a stereotypical role in the family. Regarding young people's mainstream voice, governments should change their presumption that they always require adults' support. Increasing communication on both sides and young people’s access to media may connect between needs of different target groups in order to reach a state of well-being and satisfaction. Utilising studies and surveys aims initially to support policies from a rights-based approach rather than needs. This is explained in that needs are variables and do not sustain plans, while rights ensure sustainability and would help meet different needs.

G4: Involvement of stakeholders

Discussions of the group were centred on mapping 'stakeholders' as being the focus in their country's youth policy. Several groups were considered as partners with the public sector: young people themselves, their NGO representatives, political parties, the media, the private sector, donors, regional programmes, and the community at large. Parents are seen to have the weakest representation in the policies of their countries. More focus should be given in involving them in the formulation, review and implementation of policy processes.

WORKGROUP 2: Practical implementation of the principles of youth policy

The workgroups examined the perspectives and positions of their country's national youth policy by looking at, and analysing, policy development and implementation. Participants agreed that in their countries the policies focus primarily on reducing youth unemployment, yet the approaches differ. While in Serbia, Hungary and Greece, the tools are vocational training, education system reform, job counselling and coaching, Egypt aims to support small enterprises through micro-grants and, at the same time, the government intervenes to create new job opportunities. Further discussions covered aspects of youth policies, as follows:

The visions, the 'political wind' behind

The global objectives of national youth policies often react to notions of democracy development, participation, and human rights, yet they are highly influenced by the economic situation and labour market, youth unemployment, and education and training reform. The level of focus on these issues varies according to the priority of the governments' sectors, their agendas and their desire to minimise gaps in the implementation plans.

Evidence-based action

The triangle of "policy makers – youth organisations – researchers" is key to a positive evidence-based youth policy development. The participants expressed that the application of evidence-based youth policy is different from one country to another. Its application is based on the availability of holistic and independent data and statistics. In contrast, some countries may assume instead the analysis of general trends. Research may also take a longitudinal and comparative approach or be in the form of regular sectoral studies produced by several public and private institutions. Whatever the approaches, research and studies are a crucial component in the process of the assessment and review of policies.

Resources

The participants examined the importance of finance, human resources, physical infrastructure, and training and support measures to develop youth work. They admitted the weakness that still exists, especially with finance and the number and quality of youth workers and their employment and training opportunities. Nevertheless, they pointed out that a delivery system and access to it may produce good results in the absence of resources.

The package of implementation (legislation, stakeholders, indicators)

Approaches to involve young people in the processes of youth policy development vary. Participants expressed that a 'top-down' approach, in which the public sector suggests a mechanism and consults other stakeholders to finalise and put it into action, is seen to have shown favourable outcomes in Egypt and Jordan. Serbia has employed a dialogue approach to jointly develop a youth policy. Public institutions concerned with youth affairs in Greece and Hungary have initiated communication on youth policies to develop into a co-operative strategy.

The establishment of quality indicators, the engagement of a multiplicity of stakeholders in the development and implementation of youth policies, and the availability of multi-youth-structure and co-ordination mechanisms are an advantage for the effective management of youth policies and a stimulant for high impact. The participants said that co-operation between stakeholders had not reached the desired sustainable level. They recommended the presence of relatively medium-term integrated assessment and co-ordination work mechanisms among stakeholders.

Specific laws governing youth work at large were not seen as a case in the participants' countries; nevertheless, there are legal obligations on the criteria of civil society work, namely the Right of Association. Such legislations impact on the strength of formal and informal groups, liberal and controlled practices, and financial resources. For the participants, when talking about stakeholders, it was important to understand the social and political role of the civil society: "What kinds of traditions have been created? What sorts of approaches have been developed? Does the source of finance or co-operation with the government have an impact on an organisation? Is civil society framed within a charity perspective? What is the understanding of the third sector, non-profit organisation and non-governmental ones?"

WORKGROUP 3: Perspectives and priorities for further Euro-Arab youth co-operation in the youth policy field

The workgroups, in their discussions, focused on long-term programming and support, and sustainable regional co-operation mechanisms that reach for government representatives at the highest level, civil servants, political youth representatives, multipliers and young people. The following remarks were put by participants in response to the question, "What should Euro-Arab youth policy co-operation focus on?" The participants discussed their aspirations and recommended means for further co-operation within the Euro-Arab partnership.

Participants' aspirations:

- Change in the negative pre-conceptions about young people and the ability to see this group as a potential rather than a challenge
- Continued review of youth work approaches and methodologies
- Improved local and regional legal frameworks for youth work and youth mobility
- Sustained youth work structures and partnerships.

Tools to contribute towards further co-operation:

- Use existing networks to co-ordinate and co-operate on youth policy development
- Promote and increase the visibility of existing initiatives and partnerships
- Maximise available resources, access to different stakeholders, and the pooling of resources
- Encourage stronger intergovernmental co-operation in relation to mobility issues, exchange of good practices, technical expertise, publications and information
- Stimulate and facilitate mobility of youth in the context of Euro Arab co-operation (education, Intercultural dialogue, cultural exchanges)
- Explore the possibilities to expand the agreement of the "Youth Card" in the Arab countries
- Develop initiatives that focus on policy development based on success experiences in both regions by means of memoranda of understanding, media access, organisations networking, and technical support
- Assume negotiation and communication on regional programmes at a regional level (e.g. EU-Arab) rather than at a country level for higher efficiency and impact
- Support the Euro-Arab Co-ordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (EACMYO)
- Establish a co-ordination committee between the League of Arab States, the Council of Europe, and the European Commission to follow up and devise new co-operation programmes.

Concrete activities:

- "Know-how" to develop and implement youth policies
- Means for youth-policy evaluation by young people
- Periodic research and studies, and monitoring reports about young people's situation and needs in a regional context
- An Arab youth empowerment centre in the Arab region that focuses on youth policy and youth work development
- Advocacy-focused training for youth organisations
- Establishment of networks for youth organisations and youth parliaments that share successful experiences and ensure continuous co-operation and partnerships between all parties.
- Organisation of a follow-up seminar in Egypt in 2011 hosted by the National Youth Council of Egypt.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Agenda of the seminar

Tuesday, 1 June

- 09:30 Introduction and presentation of the participants
10:00 Presentation of the seminar's programme
10:15 'The League of Arab States' vision and policy for youth empowerment', Presentation dedicated to the memory of **Dr. Abd Albaset Abd Almo'ti, Consultant at LAS-PPMD**
Presented by **Mr Ahmad Alhindawi**, Youth Specialist, LAS-PPMD
Session moderated by **Dr. Khaled Louhichi**- Director of Youth and Sport, Population Policies and Migration Department - League of Arab States
11:30 Break
12:00 Opening of the seminar by **Dr. Sima Bahous**, Assistant Secretary General, League of Arab States
Opening speeches and introductory notes by:
- **Ms Karin Lopatta-Loibl**, Youth Policy Officer, European Commission - Directorate General for Education and Culture
- **Dr. Mohamed Abou El-khir**, National Youth Council of Egypt
- **Mr Ulrich Bunjes**, Deputy Director of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe
13:00 *Lunch break*
15:00 'Youth Policy: Principles and Values', input by **Dr Metka Kuhar**, University of Ljubljana, followed by a discussion
16:00 *Break*
16:30 Working Groups on the realities of youth policies in the countries represented:
Sources which bring about policy development
The concept of youth
The needs, concerns and aspirations of young people
Involvement of stakeholders
17:30 Sharing results of the working groups in plenary
18:30 End of the day's formal programme

Wednesday, 2 June

- 09:30 Opening and presentation of the programme of the day
09:35 'Youth policy from principles to practice', inputs by
- **Ms Miriam Teuma**, Lecturer, University of Malta
- **Mr Foued Ouni**, Tunisian Youth Observatory, Ministry of Youth and Sports
Questions, answers and discussion
11:00 *Break*
11:30 Working groups on practical implementation of the principles of youth policy
13:00 *Lunch*
15:00 "Practices and challenges in youth policy definition and implementations", Round-table session with national youth policy experts (**Syria, Tunisia, Sudan, Arab Scout Federation**)
16:00 *Break*
16:30 Working groups on practical implementation of the principles of youth policy continued
18:30 End of the day's formal programme

Thursday, 3 June

- 09:30 Presentation of European model(s) of youth policy co-operation
- The European Union, with **Ms Karin Lopatta-Loibl**, Directorate General Education and Culture
- The Council of Europe, with **Mr Rui Gomes**, Directorate of Youth and Sport

and Sonia Mejri (Advisory Council on Youth)

11:00 *Break*

11:30 Working groups: perspectives and priorities for further Euro-Arab youth co-operation in the youth policy field

13:00 Lunch

15:00 Working groups continued

16:15 Break

16:40 Presentation of the conclusions and proposals of the working groups

17:30 Conclusions of the seminar by the General Rapporteur

18:00 Evaluation and closing of the seminar

Appendix 2. Speech by Dr. Sima Bahous, Assistant Secretary General of the League of Arab States (in original language)

تأتي الندوة الراهنة مواكبة لنقلة كيفية في مسيرة اجتماعات ونشاطات القطاع الاجتماعي بالأمانة العامة، ذات الصلة بالعمل العربي الشبابي المشترك. وتتجسد أهم ملامح هذه النقطة في تغيير مهم في رؤية العمل العربي الشبابي المشترك وتجسيد الإرادة السياسية على أعلى مستوى لصناعة القرار، وفي التفاعل بين مصادر المعرفة والخبرة خلال المرحلة السابقة فتبلور التوجه إلى الفعل التنموي التمكيني للشباب العربي .

فعلى مستوى الرؤية أسهمت نشاطات وخبرات القطاع الاجتماعي، العلمية والواقعية، في بلورة الوعي العلمي والتنموي بالشباب، وتجاوز اعتبار الشباب مشكلاً مجتمعياً وصانعاً للمشكلات، إلى فهم أوضاعه وتحدياته وفرضه كنتاج ومحصول لديناميات المجتمع العربي، وما تم تبنيه من سياسات شبابية خلال السنوات الماضية، كما تبلور الوعي بقدراته على مواجهة المشكلات والتحديات التي تواجه تمكينه والتي تواجه أيضاً التنمية المستدامة، وطنياً وإقليمياً، وتجاوز التعامل معه أنه طرف متلقي سلبي لما يقدمه له الآخرون في المواقع المختلفة، إلى الاعتراف بأنه شريك وفاعل أصيل في تحقيق الأهداف التنموية والمجتمعية.

لقد تجسدت الإرادة السياسية وعلى مستوى القمم العربية في مجموعة متتالية متواصلة من القرارات، التي تبلورت في اتجاه دعم الشباب وتمكينه وتوسيع خياراته في المشاركة بكل مجالاتها ومستوياتها. لقد حدث هذا بدءاً من قمة الخرطوم عام 2006 وحتى قمة الكويت، الاقتصادية والتنموية والاجتماعية، في عام 2009.

وإذا أتينا إلى تواصل وتراكم خبرات القطاع الاجتماعي سنجد أنها قد أفضت إلى تأكيد الحاجة إلى التخطيط العلمي والواقعي الجاد، لتطوير سياسات تمكين الشباب العربي.

ولهذا تأتي الندوة الراهنة في موعدها الصحيح والدقيق، فهي التتويج العلمي والعملية لما بذل من جهد عربي، على مستوى البلاد العربية، وعلى مستوى العمل العربي المشترك، سواء ما يتعلق منه بفهم أوضاع الشباب أو إدراك تطلعاته وطموحاته، ومن ثم تأتي مهمة إعداد وتطوير سياسات تمكين الشباب مرحلة فاصلة في العمل من أجل الشباب، وبالشباب. فالسياسات هي الإطار المحدد للأهداف ذات الأولوية، وبرمجتها وفق مراحل وعمليات متقاطعة ومتتابعة أحياناً وهي أيضاً المحدد للآليات والإجراءات والوسائل القادرة على تحقيق الأهداف، بعد بلورتها إلى برامج ومشروعات، سواء كانت تلك الوسائل والآليات تنظيمية أم بشرية أم تشريعية أم مالية.

وأدرك كما تدركون جميعاً، أن إعداد السياسات وتطويرها، عملية متواصلة ومتشابكة بحاجة إلى توفر شروط ومتطلبات مسبقة تقريباً على مستوى الرؤية والخبرات والآليات. ولهذا تحتاج كل سياسة يتوقع لها النجاح والإنجاز:-

1. أن تنطلق من رؤية شاملة للأولويات، تستوعب كل فئات الشباب بلا أي تمييز. وقضاياهم وطموحاتهم، وأهدافهم، في الحاضر والمستقبل. وأن تلقى تلك، الرؤية توافقاً وإجماعاً عليها، فهي بحاجة إلى حوار جاد ومسؤول تشارك فيه كافة الأطراف المعنية بتمكين الشباب: المسؤولون في المؤسسات الرسمية، وفي منظمات المجتمع المدني، الشبابية، ورجال الأعمال والباحثون والخبراء.

2. أن تستند الرؤيا وصياغة السياسات وتطويرها، على معلومات وقراءات علمية تعتمد على البحث العلمي بمشاركة الشباب Youth Participatory Research باعتبار الشباب المستهدف الأساسي من السياسات، وباعتبار أن رؤاه واقتراحاته تعبيراً عن تحدياته وطموحاته، وتطلعاته، بالإضافة إلى أن مشاركة الشباب في إعداد الرؤيا والسياسات، حق أساسي له وضمان لتواصل السياسات وتجديدها وتزايد قناعات الشباب بها ودفاعه عنها وحرصه على تحقيق أهدافها.

إن تتوفر لها الكوادر والخبرات، البشرية، الواعية بالقضايا الشبابية والمقتنعة بأدوار الشباب والملتزمة بتحقيق أهداف تمكينه.

3. نظراً لأن قضايا ومجالات وأولويات تمكين الشباب متنوعة ومتداخلة وموزعة على قطاعات متعددة ، في التعليم والتدريب والتشغيل والصحة الإنجابية والحقوق الإيجابية والمشاركة والزواج وتكوين الأسرة وقضاء الوقت الحر، رياضياً وثقافياً وفنياً وأدبياً، فإن واقع هذا الحال يقتضى أن تكون السياسات الشبابية عبر قطاعية، لضمان شمول الأهداف وإتساقها وتأثيرها المضاف إيجابياً لبعضها البعض.

4. إن توسيع التشارك العميق في آلياته ومجالاته والتنسيق بين الأطراف كافة المعنية بالسياسات الشبابية، على مستوى الإعداد والتنفيذ والمتابعة والتنظيم، يعد من أهم أسس نجاح أي سياسة شبابية، وبدون هذا نكون بصدد أفعال عشوائية، وازدواجيات معطلة ومعوقة، وتبعثر في الإمكانيات والجهود ، وإهدار الزمن التنموي المواتي لتمكين الشباب.

ودون حاجة الى الاستفاضة والإطالة في متطلبات وخصائص السياسات الشبابية الفعالة، إدراكاً مني بأن مثل هذه الأمور وغيرها سوف تحظى بحواراتكم ومناقشاتكم التفصيلية والمستفيضة، والعميقة، سوف اطرح على الحضور الكريم مجموعة من المعوقات والتحديات المتوقعة التي يمكن أن تواجه سياسات الشباب وكلية فناعة بأنكم سوف تتحاورون بشأنها وتفسرون مقتضياتها وتبدعون مقاربات وأساليب لمواجهتها.

إن أول التحديات التي تواجه صياغة أي سياسة شبابية وتنفيذها يرتبط بالفلسفة التنموية، والتوجهات والأهداف التنموية العامة والقطاعية على مستوى المجتمع المحدد.

فاذا لم يتوفر الاتساق والتناغم بين الأهداف والأولويات التنموية المجتمعية، والأهداف والأولويات ذات الصلة بتمكين الشباب، فإن هذا يعوق بلورة السياسات وتنفيذها وفق الأسس والمعايير المحددة. غير أنني ومن ناحية أخرى أرى أن توفر الإرادة والدعم السياسي على أعلى مستوى، وتزايد اهتمام الحكومات العربية بقضايا الشباب على المستوى التنظيمي المؤسسي وعلى مستوى إعداد سياسات في بعض البلاد وشروع الأخرى في إعدادها، وأيضاً تبلور وتطور العمل الشبابي العربي المشترك الذي تضطلع به الأمانة العامة لجامعة الدول العربية من جميعاً تسهم جميعاً في تذليل وتجاوز بعض المعوقات، إضافة الى أن قضايا الشباب وفي المجالات والقطاعات المختلفة التي أشرت إليها، تكاد تكون قضايا المجتمع العربي، على نحو يكاد يكون شبه حصري، ولهذا أرى أن سياسات متكاملة شاملة. وعبر قطاعية للشباب، يمكن أن تكون رائدة وقاعدة انطلاقاً لتطوير السياسات التنموية العامة والقطاعية على مستوى البلاد العربية، وعلى مستوى العمل العربي المشترك

ولعل من التحديات المهمة أيضاً أن المجتمع المدني العربي عامة، والمنظمات الشبابية تحديداً لا تزال تعاني من معوقات التمويل والتنظيم والإدارة الديمقراطية، وتوفر الخبرات والكوادر البشرية. وكما تعلمون فإن المجتمع المدني تاريخياً، وخاصة في أوروبا، وكما نتطلع الى أدواره التنموية عربياً ، هو شريك أساسي في التنمية وفي العمل الشبابي التنموي، حيث يحوز المجتمع المدني على المستوى النظري ومستوى الوجود، فرصاً أوفى للوعي باحتياجات الناس وسرعة الحركة في التفاعل معهم واستيعاب قدراتهم وامكانياتهم وتعبئتها.

ويهمني التأكيد في ختام كلمتي، على أن الشراكة والتعاون والتنسيق العربي الأوروبي، هو دعم للسياسات الشبابية للجانبين، فتبادل الخبرات واستخلاص دروس وقصص النجاح والعمل المشترك في مجالات البحث العلمي والتدريب، وتنمية المؤسسات الشبابية، بالتأكيد يحمل في طياته قيمة مضافة لبلورة سياسات تمكين الشباب، وتوفير أهم شروط نجاحها وتواصلها وتجديدها.

وفي ختام كلمتي يسعدني أن أتقدم بكل الشكر والتقدير لقطاع الشباب والرياضة في المجلس الأوروبي للشباب، ووحدة سياسات الشباب في الاتحاد الأوروبي، على مبادراتهم وحرصهم على التعاون البناء والإيجابي مع القطاع الاجتماعي بالأمانة العامة في إقامة الندوة الراهنة والحرص على وصولها لأهدافها، وأذكر في هذا السياق جهوداً مشتركة سابقة للمشاركة الفاعلة والتشارك في مننديات الشباب العربي الأوروبي وفي تنمية قدرات القيادات الشابة العربية، كما أقدر كل التقدير إدارتي الشباب والرياضة، والسياسات السكانية والهجرة بالقطاع الاجتماعي، اللتين أراهما الآن أهم احد مكاسب تطوير العمل الشبابي العربي المشترك واللتين حرصتا ولا تزالان أيضاً على أن تكون الندوة على أعلى مستوى من التنظيم والإدارة وصولاً الى أهدافها ومخرجاتها المتوقعة والمأمولة.

Appendix 3. Speech by Prof. Dr. Mohamed Abou El-khir, National Youth Council of Egypt (in original language)

أهلاً ومرحباً بحضراتكم في مصر،،

أهلاً ومرحباً وتحية مفعمة بعطور الريحان والياسمين الى حضراتكم جميعاً في هذا الصباح المشرق وفي هذه الندوة المتميزة التي تدور حول سياسات الشباب في الإطار العربي الأوروبي.

وفي البداية احب أن أتقدم لحضراتكم بتحية أ.د. محمد صفى الدين خربوش، رئيس المجلس القومي للشباب متمنياً لكم كل التوفيق والنجاح في مسيرة هذا العمل الجاد الذي يسعى للاستنارة والتقدم في مجال العمل الشبابي.

عنوان هذه الندوة يركز على ثلاثة محاور جوهرية في منظومة العمل الشبابي:

المحور الأول: المعاصرة، أي لغة العصر

الشباب اليوم يعيش عصر العولمة، عصر السماوات المفتوحة، عصر العالم الافتراضي، عصر الإنترنت، ومن ثم فهو منفتح على الآخر بكل قيمه وثقافته وعلومه، الشباب يفكر خارج الصندوق. هذه الندوة تدفعنا الى الرحابة، والأفق الممتد من شاطئ النيل الى الفرات، الى الأطلسي الى التايمز والسين والدانوب...

المحور الثاني: الحوار الثقافي للشباب

سؤال يلح على كثيرنا وبشجاعة أيضاً، أما أن الأوان للثقافة العربية وبخاصة في العمل الشبابي أن تخرج من شرنقتها، أن تنفك عن ماضيها، أن تتوقف عن النظر في مرآتها الوحيدة. إن هذه الندوة يمكن أن تكون نقطة تحول في فتح حوار ثقافي مع الآخر يتعلم الشباب منه الكثير من الخبرات والكثير من المعارف نتيجة الاحتكاك وتبادل الخبرات والزيارات والوعي بثقافة وعادات وتقاليد الآخر.

المحور الثالث: التعاون والشرابة مع بعضنا البعض

عالم اليوم قائم على التعاون، والتعاون في المجال الشبابي يؤتي ثماره الطيبة بالفهم والتنظيم والعمل الجاد، ويوجد لدينا في العالم العربي والعالم الأوروبي الكثير الكثير من نقاط الالتقاء، فلنبحث ونتمسك بالموضوعات التي تحت على التعاون بين شباب البلدان المختلفة.. فالشباب دائماً هم قاطرة التنمية، هم الروح الابداعية، هم المستقبل.

ولأن جمهورية مصر العربية تهتم اهتماماً كبيراً بالشباب لأن الشباب تحت سن الثلاثين يمثلون أكثر من ٤٠٪ من المجتمع، لذلك صدر قرار الرئيس محمد حسني مبارك في كانون أول ٢٠٠٥ بإنشاء المجلس القومي للشباب، حيث تقوم فلسفته على تمكين الشباب اجتماعياً وسياسياً واقتصادياً ورعاية وبناء نشئ وشباب مصر في مختلف المجالات واكتشاف المواهب وتقديمها الى المجتمع.. ومن هنا تأتي البرامج والمشروعات مواكبة لهذه المنظومة. فعلى سبيل المثال لا الحصر:

١- تطوير مراكز الشباب على مستوى قرى ومحافظات مصر وتزويدها بالمكتبات والحاسب الآلي والملاعب الرياضية

٢- بناء المدن الشبابية ومنتديات ومراكز الشباب ومراكز التعليم المدني كمراكز إشعاع حضارية تستقبل الشباب ويمارس فيها الشباب الأنشطة المختلفة.

- ٣- برلمان الطلاب وبرلمان الشباب الذي يناقش القضايا المحلية والقومية والعربية والدولية.
 - ٤- تدريبات الشباب على اللغات والكمبيوتر والمشروعات الصغيرة وفتح آفاق لسوق العمل.
 - ٥- تبادل الوفود الشبابية مع الدول العربية والأجنبية.
 - ٦- التعاون مع المنظمات الدولية في مشروعات تهم الشباب (يونيسيف – جامعة الدول العربية – مؤسسة فريديش ناومن – كونراد اديناور .. وغيرها).
 - ٧- التعاون مع الجمعيات الأهلية...
 - ٨- المؤتمرات العربية والدولية التي تحاول أن تناقش سياسات الشباب.
 - ٩- سلاسل ثقافية للنشأ والطلاب حول موضوعات مهمة وغيرها الكثير
- معاً يمكننا أن نحلق في سماء العالم بأفكار متألئة نرسم أحلاماً بألوان قوس قزح على أرض الواقع مكونة ومبدعة لوحة من الفسيفساء على جدران العالم العربي والأوربي بفخر واعتزاز..

Appendix 4. List of participants

Algeria	
Mohammed Lounici	Trainer/ Consultant Youth Without Borders
Belgium	
Fatima Laanan	Coordinator SALTO-YOUTH Participation Resource Centre
Croatia	
Ivana Bunjevac	Expert Assistant Ministry of Family / Veteran's Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity
Denmark	
Birgitte Søgaard Andersen	Program Officer The Danish Youth Council
Egypt	
Atif Abdelmageed	Regional Director World Organization of the Scout Movement - Arab Region Office
Maram Anbar	Trainer/ Consultant (Spain, Egypt)
Mohamed Abou El-khir	Consultant for the Chairman of the National Council for Youth
Mohamed Kadry	Youth Outreach Program Officer Social Contract Centre
Tamer El-Fouly	Consultant Federation of Egyptian Youth NGOs
France	
Sonia Krimi	Trainer/ Consultant Pass-Med
Sonia Mejri	Vice Chair Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe Directorate of Youth and Sports – Council of Europe
Khalil Raihani	Trainer/ Consultant
Greece	
Stavros Christodoulidis	Special Advisor to the Secretary General Ministry of Youth and Sports
Hungary	
Judit Balogh	Programmes Officer Mobilitas National Youth Service
Peter Wootsch	Freelance Expert/ Consultant
Italy	
Noemi Ruzzi	Secretary General Italian Youth Forum
Marco Angelillo	Journalist/ Scout leader Italian Scout Organization
Jordan	
Rana Al-Turk	Country Director International Youth Foundation
Ibrahim Nayef Al Hayek	Training Manager Partners Jordan

Lebanon	
Manal Hassoun	Training Unit Manager Lebanese Association for Development
Malta	
Miriam Teuma	Lecturer University of Malta
Marvic Debono	Programmes Officer Euro-Med Youth Platform European Union Programmes Agency
Silvano Cristauro	European Union Programmes Agency
Morocco	
Isbouia Yassine	Coordinator The Mediterranean Forum for Youth and Childhood
Netherlands	
Camelia Nistor	Bureau Member The Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe Network Unites for Intercultural Action
Palestinian Authority	
Rasha Rafat Saleem	Project Manager Ta'awon for Conflict Resolution Institute
Serbia	
Aleksandra Mitrovic	Advisor for International Cooperation Ministry of Youth and Sports
Slovenia	
Metka Kuhar	Assistant Professor University of Ljubljana
Sudan	
Mohamed Osman	General Manager National Federation of Sudanese Youth
Syria	
Ihab Hamed	Board Member National Union of Syrian Students
Tunisia	
Ezzahi Abdelkhalek	Director of the Institute of Youth Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Physical Education
Foued Ouni	Vice-President of the Tunisian Youth Observatory Ministry of Youth and Sports
Council of Europe	
Ulrich Bunjes	Deputy Director of Youth and Sport
Rui Gomes	Head of Division Education and Training Directorate of Youth and Sport / European Youth Centre Budapest
European Commission	
Karin Lopatta-Loibl	Head of Youth Policy Unit European Commission - Directorate General for Education and Culture Youth Policy Unit

League of Arab States	
H.E. Sima Bahous	Assistant Secretary General Director of Social Sector
Khaled Lohichi	Director Youth and Sport, Population Policy and Migration Department
Ahmad Alhindawi	Youth Specialist Population Policy and Migration Department
Abdullah Mosaad	Programmes Officer Population Policy and Migration Department
Secretariat of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the Field of Youth	
Marta Medlinska	Educational Advisor
Viktoria Karpatska	Project Assistant
General Rapporteur	
Susanne Shomali	Freelance consultant
Interpreter	
Ahmed Mubarak	Freelance translator