



DJS/EYCB/Euromed-LTTC/2003/69

Budapest, 19 November 2003

Youth participation and Intercultural learning through Euro-Med youth projects

A long-term training course
for youth workers involved
in Euro-Med youth projects

15 – 28 February 2004 and 14 –25 February 2005
European Youth Centre Budapest

**Profile and aims
of the course
Application form**

A joint effort for further quality training in Euro-Mediterranean youth work by the Council of Europe and the European Commission

It has become a commonplace to state that the history of Europe has been shaped by the exchanges and interaction between peoples and cultures across the Mediterranean Sea. What is less obvious at present is to what extent and in what ways and in what spirit such exchanges will happen in the future.

The interdependence among peoples and societies bordering the Mediterranean is often stated as a political objective by all those concerned, but it often fails to materialise in practical, tangible terms. Instead of co-operation, young people are often confronted with suspicion, mistrust, borders and barriers, obstacles to mobility and youth exchanges that are as much the result of a “fortress Europe” mentality as of typical forms of xenophobia, prejudice and ignorance about each other. Yet, young people are crucial for the future of Euro-Mediterranean co-operation.

The Euro-Mediterranean Youth Action programme of the European Commission was initiated in 1999 and is based on the shared concern to combat prejudices and stereotypes that prevail across the Mediterranean and persistently determine mutual perceptions. The Commission’s resolve to increase dialogue and co-operation across the Mediterranean finds its roots in the Barcelona Process that involved the 15 EU Member States and 12 *Meda* partner countries¹. For the Council of Europe, the promotion of human rights and the development of democratic forms of participation are crucial objectives to further consolidate pan-European co-operation. The promotion of peace, co-operation and human rights in Europe, however, cannot be disconnected from the realities around Europe, in particular across the Mediterranean.

It is within this framework that the Council of Europe and the European Commission have agreed to develop together a two-year covenant on Euro-Med youth training. The activities in this covenant are complementary to the activities of both organisations, notably the activities of the Euro-Med Salto Centre.

Participation and Intercultural exchange through Euro-Med youth projects

Within the Euro-med Youth Programme, the role of youth workers is obviously crucial. Youth workers are not only the interface between policies, organisations and young people. They are also the irreplaceable connection between projects for and groups of young people involved in youth exchange projects.

The realities of youth work and youth workers are full of contrasts within Europe, with regard to social and professional status, training and career opportunities, role and function in youth and social projects, etc. These contrasts are even bigger when we take into account the realities of young people and youth work in the *Meda* countries. The function of youth work as such is more varied and so are the forms of youth work – often more informal, relying strongly on the commitments of individual volunteers and organisations. If the training opportunities for youth workers within Europe have considerably increased in the recent years – at least within the youth programmes of the European Commission and the Council of Europe – they remain largely insufficient with regard to the needs. In *Meda* countries the situation is generally different: although young people represent a significantly

¹ By “*Meda*” countries we refer to the 12 countries signatory – with the 15 member states of the European Union – of the Barcelona Declaration: Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey

higher proportion of the population, the training opportunities for youth workers are not proportionally high, either due to a lack of resources, differences in youth policies or different functions of youth work altogether.

In these contrasting backgrounds, the role of youth work and youth workers in the Euro-Med Youth Programme is nevertheless the same: to be initiators or mediators of projects of exchange and co-operation among young people concerned with the Euro-Med Youth programme, projects that have an intrinsic intercultural dimension and are based on the participation and aspirations of young people. Quality projects, in this respect, depend on qualified and trained youth workers and on adequate support structures at the national and at the European levels.

Within this context, the Covenant on Euro-Med youth co-operation in the field of youth training seeks to explore new ways of training and involving youth workers; local youth leaders and exchange organisers by providing opportunities for training and project development. This long-term training course is innovative in as far as it anticipates the realisation – and the evaluation – of a concrete youth exchange project, itself a practical objective and a way to learn further.

The course addresses two key issues in youth work and in youth exchanges: participation of young people (in society, in the development of forms for the exercise of democratic citizenship, and through youth work) and intercultural learning. How to promote both? What does intercultural learning mean in the practice of everyday youth work? What can the role of an international youth exchange be in developing the participation of young people in developing forms and structures for democratic citizenship the local level and which opportunities does it represent for the young people's future?

Based on the undisputed experience of the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe in long-term training courses, this course seeks to associate theory and practice, a common learning process based on projects developed and evaluated in the framework of the course itself.

Aims of the course

This pilot course aims to develop intercultural learning and youth participation through Euro-Med youth exchange projects by supporting the capacity of youth workers to plan, manage and evaluate sustainable Euro-Med youth projects aimed at promoting the democratic participation of young people.

It will also aim to initiate a series of local youth pilot projects addressing the priority issues in Euro-Med co-operation (such as citizenship, participation, environmental protection, women's rights and human rights education).

Specific objectives:

- To train 30 youth workers and youth leaders youth participation and intercultural learning through and within the Euro-Med Youth programme;
- To initiate innovative Euro-Med youth projects on participation, democratic citizenship and intercultural learning;
- To support and promote youth participation in Euro-Med youth exchange projects;
- To reflect on the manifestations and relevance of issues such as identity, nationalism, Europe, and Euro-Med co-operation in Euro-Med youth projects;
- To enable participants to prepare, run and evaluate a Euro-Med youth project;

- To enable participants to use and adapt the existing opportunities within the Euro-Med programme for developing youth participation and intercultural learning;
- To motivate and enable participants to share their acquired knowledge and experience and to act as multipliers;
- To contribute to the reflection about the meaning and the practical relevance of intercultural learning and participation in future Euro-Med youth projects;
- To gather contributions for the development of the Council of Europe and of the European Commission's projects on Euro-Med youth cooperation.

Methodology and calendar of the course

The course takes place in three phases, with an initial training seminar (February 2004), a project implementation phase and an evaluation and consolidation seminar (February 2005). The course is designed as an open learning process based on experience and exchange among the participants, complemented by inputs and proposals from the team of trainers and invited experts.

During the two residential training seminars, the multicultural group of participants - ideally balanced between participants from Europe and the Meda countries - will be in itself a forum for intercultural learning and the framework for personal development. The programme and contents of the seminars are organised so as to allow for the maximum participation of the group using active and participatory methods based on project development as an interface of the learning process. A team of experienced and representative trainers will organise the learning process and provide guidance on the development and evaluation of the project work. They will be assisted – whenever relevant – by resource persons and invited experts.

During the project implementation phase, advice and support will be provided by the team of trainers and, where appropriate, by the National Agencies and National Co-ordinators of the Euro-Med Youth Programme.

The course relies on practical experience provided by the project work as it is expected that each participant will develop a project based on intercultural learning and participation, if possible together with other participants. The participant's project is both a tool for learning and a concrete initiative that should contribute to improving the participation opportunities of young people, contribute to the development of democratic citizenship and intercultural learning opportunities for young people.

Phase	Dates	Place	Function
Initial training seminar	15-28 February 2004	European Youth Centre Budapest, Hungary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exploring the key issues and institutional framework of the course • development of the projects with the assistance of the trainers and the other participants • basic information on Euro-Med youth work • work on the concepts of participation and intercultural learning • project planning and management skills.

Project phase	March 2004 – January 2005	Participants' countries and organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participants implement their projects in their country • support from the team of trainers, including specific visits to projects that require them • networking with other participants and projects across Europe • regional meetings from European, Maghreb and Mashrek participants (exact venue and dates will be agreed with the participants of the course).
Consolidation seminar	February 2005	European Youth Centre Budapest ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evaluation of the projects • completion of skills training • contributions for the development of networks amongst participants and their organisations • reviewing the key educational approaches and preparing for the course follow-up.

Criteria for the projects

The projects to be developed within the course must conform to the following criteria. They should:

- a) ***aim to empower young people and support their participation at the local level and in Euro-Med youth projects.***
Empowerment and participation should be understood in a broad sense as work strategies and approaches to promote active democratic citizenship and social cohesion and deal with or overcome situations of social exclusion, marginalization or isolation. These can be pursued, for example, through education, training projects, structures for participation, associative development, etc.
- b) ***be concrete and relevant, reflecting the situations and challenges faced by young people in the Euro-Mediterranean context***
They should be rooted in a particular local community or youth group, but they should also consider connections with other youth groups, communities and organisations in the Euro-Med region. They should be based on real needs and aspirations of the target group(s) and represent an added value to the community or to the organisation within which the participants work.
- c) ***be based on an intercultural approach.***
The aims and activities undertaken by the project should contribute to a better understanding and acceptance of cultural diversity and its expressions in the Euro-Med context. In particular, the projects should also consider the role and the rights of social, ethnic and religious minorities and equality of opportunities for young women.
- d) ***have clear aims and objectives.***
The projects must have a beginning and an end - even if a follow-up is anticipated - so as to allow an evaluation and assessment of the results achieved. For the

²The final venue of the seminar may be changed at a later date

course, a project is thus more than a single activity or a youth exchange and should be concrete enough to be adequately managed and evaluated.

e) *be run by and for young people.*

The initiators of the project should be youth workers or youth leaders. Participation being a key feature of the course, young people should also have a central role in the project. In other words, the project must also be an *example* or model of participation and democracy. The project should, therefore, have young people as the ultimate target group or to promote their interests as an ultimate aim. Young people should be involved in their definition, implementation and evaluation, not just as “participants” but also as truly concerned partners.

f) *be carried out within the framework of an organisation or a association.*

Purely individual projects will not be accepted; as far as possible, the projects should be supported by and correspond with the priorities of the participants’ organisations. The nature and size of the organisation or association can vary (from small and local to national or European organisations) and so may the form (informal association, foundation, federation, etc.).

g) *be started during the course.*

Since the nature and size of the projects will be very different, it might not always be possible to finish the projects before the evaluation seminar. But to benefit from the support of the course team and in order to allow for an evaluation, at least some activities should be undertaken before the end of December 2004.

NB: Financing of the projects :

During the course, participants will receive information and advice about different funding sources within the Euro-Med programme and the Council of Europe that may be useful for the securing of co-financing of the projects. The Council of Europe and the European Commission, however, cannot make any commitment to finance the projects of the participants. Fundraising and the financial management of the projects is the sole responsibility of the project leader (the participant) and of the sending organisation, group or association.

Working languages

The course will be held in French and English with simultaneous interpretation.

Profile of participants

The course is organised and planned for youth leaders and youth workers who are:

- active in local associations, community organisations or youth services within the Council of Europe member states and the signatory states of the Barcelona Declaration;
- interested in developing strategies and projects around participation and intercultural learning in their organisations;
- engaged or plan to engage in Euro-Med youth projects;
- willing and committed to undergo training and to set up a project within the framework of the training;
- ready and able to attend for the full duration of the course;
- supported by their organisation or association;
- aged between 18 and 30 years inclusive;

- able to work in English or French.

Financial conditions

- Board and lodging are provided and paid for by the Covenant on Euro-Med Youth Co-operation in the field of training.
- Travel expenses are fully reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe, Directorate of youth and Sport.
- An enrolment fee of 20 EURO is due from each participant for each seminar. This fee will be deducted from the amount to be reimbursed for travel expenses.

Procedure for applications

Candidates must send **all 4 pages** of the enclosed application form directly to the EY CB by post, fax or e-mail. The accepted candidates will be informed by mid-January 2004 and will subsequently receive a course file with additional information and programme.

Deadline for applications: **20 December 2003**

Applications must be sent to:

European Youth Centre Budapest

Zivatar utca 1-3

H-1024 BUDAPEST, Hungary

Tel: + 36 1 438 1048

Fax: + 36 1 212 4076

e-mail: mariuca.matanie@coe.int

<http://www.eycb.coe.int>

Other activities within the Covenant on Euro-Med Youth Co-operation in the field of training

The Covenant on Euro-Med Youth Co-operation in the field of training is a common project of the Council of Europe and the European Commission. The aim of this partnership is to provide further quality training and learning opportunities for youth workers and youth leaders active in Euro-Mediterranean youth projects. The two-year programme includes various education and training activities, such as:

- Training course on ***Intercultural learning and human rights education in the Mediterranean area*** held in Mollina Spain in May 2003
- Training course on ***Citizenship matters: promoting the participation of women and minorities*** to be organized in April 2004 in Alexandria, Egypt
- ***Training course for trainers*** to be organised in November 2004 at the European Youth Centre Budapest, Hungary, in co-operation with the Salto Euro-Med Resource Centre
- Production of a ***T-Kit on Euro-Med youth work***.



Long-Term Training Course
**"YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND INTERCULTURAL LEARNING THROUGH
 EURO-MED YOUTH PROJECTS"**

*EYC Budapest, 15-28 February 2004 &
 EYC Budapest, 14-25 February 2005³*

APPLICATION FORM
Please type or write legibly. If necessary, please attach an extra sheet.

I. INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANT:

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

II INFORMATION ON THE ORGANISATION:

3. Sending organisation or institution		
Name:		
Postal address:		
Telephone:	Telefax:	
e-mail:	Internet address:	
4. In what way are you involved in Euro-Med youth work?		
<input type="checkbox"/> an international youth organization	<input type="checkbox"/> a national youth council (name):	
<input type="checkbox"/> a national youth organisation	<input type="checkbox"/> a local/regional youth organisation	
<input type="checkbox"/> a National Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> a governmental institution	
<input type="checkbox"/> a Euro-Med national co-ordinator's office	<input type="checkbox"/> a minority or minority rights association	
<input type="checkbox"/> other (<i>please specify</i>):		
5. What is your role/responsibility within your organization?		
<input type="checkbox"/> volunteer (elected)	<input type="checkbox"/> employee	<input type="checkbox"/> board member
<input type="checkbox"/> active member	<input type="checkbox"/> civil servant	<input type="checkbox"/> other
<i>Please specify:</i>		

³ Venue and dates to be confirmed

III. EXPERIENCE

6. What is your experience of the Euro-Med Youth Programme?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I organised an exchange | <input type="checkbox"/> I participated in an exchange |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I attended a Salto Euro-Med training course | <input type="checkbox"/> I attended a seminar or study visit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I participated in an EVS project | <input type="checkbox"/> none |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other - please specify | |

Please provide details about the two most recent relevant experiences (dates, venue, participating countries, organisers, etc.)

7. What type of training have you followed in youth work or in project management?

8. Please describe the social context of your youth work practice: social profile of the target group(s) of young people, type of activities developed, etc.

9. Is your youth work practice related to youth participation and intercultural learning? If so, in which ways?

10. Have you applied for, or attended, any other training or language course of the Directorate of Youth and Sport, of the North-South Centre or of the Salto Euro-Med Resource Centre? If so, please give details.

11. Have you any special needs or requirements (e.g. dietary, disability, etc.)

12. Visas

If you are accepted as a participant on this course, will you require assistance in obtaining a visa for Hungary? No Yes

If yes, please indicate:

Date of birth:

Passport No.:

Issued at:

Place of birth:

Date of expiry:

Place:

IV. MOTIVATIONS, NEEDS AND PROJECT:

<p>13. What is your motivation for taking part in this course?</p>
<p>14. What are your training needs? What do you expect to learn? Which competences do you expect to develop?</p>
<p>15. Please give a short description of the aims and youth activities of your organisation/association:</p>
<p>16. Please give an outline of your project idea⁴:</p> <p>a. What is your project idea? What do you intend to do?</p>
<p>b. when and where will the project take place?</p>

⁴ The project idea of the participants may change and develop as a result of the initial training seminar.

c. Which group of young people will be involved in the project and what will be their role?
d. In which way do you envisage that the project will contribute to the development of youth participation in your social environment or community?
e. In which way does the project promote intercultural learning in the Euro-Med region?
f. What do you expect to achieve with such a project?
g. What kind of support do you have from your supporting organisation to carry out such a project? <input type="checkbox"/> Full support and financial backing for any quality project that I suggest on the topic <input type="checkbox"/> Full support and financial backing for any quality project that is in line with the organisation's programme <input type="checkbox"/> Support but no financial assistance for any quality project that I suggest on the topic <input type="checkbox"/> Support but no financial assistance for any quality project that is in line with the organisation mission <input type="checkbox"/> Limited support <input type="checkbox"/> No support
17. Any other relevant information

Date:

Signature:

The 4 pages of this form must be sent together with a letter of support from your organisation/association/service to the European Youth Centre Budapest

Before 20 December 2003

<p align="center">EUROPEAN YOUTH CENTRE BUDAPEST</p> <p align="center">H-1024 Budapest, Zivatar utca 1-3, HUNGARY</p> <p align="center">Tel: +36-1/438-1048 Fax: +36-1/212-4076 e-mail: mariuca.matanie@coe.int</p>
