



# Coyote gets to 20!!

**As Coyote reaches its 20th edition, we asked the first two editors about their memories and their vision of the magazine as it is now.**



**SONJA MITTER ŠKULJ (Editor from 1999 to 2002)**

## How was it for you to be editor?

In 1999, when we started, *Coyote* was a new project, the first European networking tool for trainers active in European youth work. At the time, there were no social platforms like Facebook or tools like the SALTO TOY or Toolbox that would encourage exchange and give visibility to the different reflections, approaches, practices, etc. of all those trainers working in the European youth work field. So the idea of creating a tool that would encourage just this was very exciting and challenging. The Youth Partnership as a whole was a new project which had to develop its role and identity. So did the magazine. It was great fun to work with the other members of the team, brainstorming about what we felt was relevant and important, what our readers might like to read and how to make it all serious, readable and fun at the same time.

## What do you think of Coyote as it is now?

My first thought? I'm very happy *Coyote* still exists! None of us would have dared to expect this when we started. In a great way, *Coyote* has gone with the times and remained innovative and inspiring.

The approach has changed, without giving away its core. It's become wider and more focused at the same time. To me this makes sense: there's so much happening out there, and so much information is floating around in different places, it's good to have a place to bring it together, focusing on one theme per issue. European youth work has become more influenced by policy issues, and youth workers, trainers and others involved also want to have a say, so it's important to pull attention to political priority topics, to allow people to take a wider look, encourage reflection and active involvement. Each *Coyote* issue is a great kaleidoscope of experiences, stories, and perspectives. At moments I'm thinking that *Coyote* should make sure not to lose focus by

being so all encompassing, to stick to what makes it special and leave out contributions that can be and are covered by others. I wonder.

I very much like the new design and layout! It's in line with our digital and fast moving world, dynamic, moving, colourful, yet special and really attractive.

## Is there an incident or an article that stands out for you during your editorship?

Going through the different magazines again after so many years has been amazing. Some of the big topics of today were present already 10 years ago, the same questions and concerns. International volunteering and EVS and its role for the personal and professional development of the volunteers, for instance, and competences and skills gained in (European) youth work and their recognition by employers.

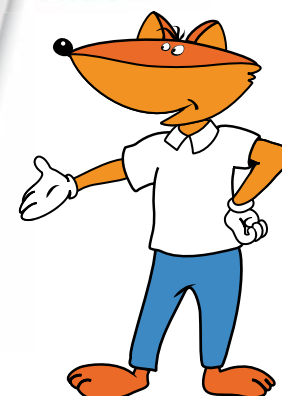
It is interesting to see how much we've moved forward, but also to realise that the concerns and questions posed in these articles are still surprisingly to the point also today.

From my personal perspective influenced by years of work with the Balkans for the SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre, the articles of those first *Coyote* issues that stand out for me now are those addressing the situation in the Balkans. With some years having passed since the end of the wars and conflicts in this region, political attention, like that of the media, has shifted to other regions of the world. Much has happened in this part of Europe since then. Maybe it could be time to take another look.

Happy birthday, *Coyote*, and all the best for the next 20 issues!



Sonja Mitter Škulj



Jonathan Bowyer



**JONATHAN BOWYER (Editor from 2003 to 2010)**

## Reflections on Coyote

It would be easy to only remember the number of times I missed deadlines or struggled to accept a version of English that everyone else understood apart from me, but if I go a little deeper, I also easily remember the way in which *Coyote* educated me. I learned so much about intercultural competence – not only through reading drafts several times over, but also through the example of my colleagues in the editorial team. *Coyote* is genuinely a group effort, and the changing editorial group over the years has been full of committed and insightful people.

Looking back through many editions of *Coyote*, it is really difficult to pick out one article that I would

call a favourite. I particularly enjoyed the early interviews and the articles where two individuals are in conversation. There is one article in issue 12 which exemplifies this and would be great if not for the violent orange colour of the whole edition – which editor allowed that?!

*Coyote* now is a breath of fresh air: the creativity in the layout complements the content so well. I'm sure that this makes it more accessible and more attractive to a wider audience. Indeed it makes it more of a "Coyote" – as the definition on the back cover states – "a resourceful animal whose success and blunders explain the condition of life in an uncertain universe".

