

*"International Cooperation in the Youth
Field for Building
A Europe of Solidarity,
Creativity and Tolerance"
BG/A4.3/246/2008/R4*

*Youth in Action Programme
(2007-2013)*



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.

This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



The Programme

Youth in Action is the EU Programme for young people aged 15-28 (in some cases 13-30). Youth in Action is the successor of the Youth Programme (2000-2006). It aims to inspire a sense of active citizenship, solidarity and tolerance among young Europeans and to involve them in shaping the Union's future. The programme promotes mobility within and beyond the EU's borders, non-formal learning and intercultural dialogue, and encourages the inclusion of all young people, regardless of their educational, social and cultural background.

Objectives of the Programme

- ❖ To promote young people's active citizenship in general and their European citizenship in particular
- ❖ To develop solidarity and promote tolerance among young people, in particular in order to foster social cohesion in the European Union
- ❖ To foster mutual understanding between young people in different countries
- ❖ To contribute to developing the quality of support systems for youth activities and the capabilities of civil society organisations in the youth field
- ❖ To promote European cooperation in the youth field.



Actions of the Programme

Youth in Action supports a large variety of activities for young people and youth workers through five actions.

- ❖ Action 1 – Youth for Europe
- ❖ Action 2 – European voluntary service
- ❖ Action 3 – Youth in the world
- ❖ Action 4 – Youth support systems
- ❖ Action 5 – Support for European cooperation in the youth field



The Project

“International Cooperation in the Youth Field for Building a Europe of Solidarity, Creativity and Tolerance”
Action 4.3: Training and networking of those active in youth work and youth organizations

The project aims at facilitating the process of building sustainable partnerships at European level and planning joint projects on themes of common interest in the sphere of social inclusion and cultural activity, as well as exchange of experience, expertise and good practices.

Who are we?

- ❖ Europrojects Foundation (EUPF), Bulgaria
- ❖ Multidisciplinary European Research Institute Graz (MERIG), Austria
- ❖ Università degli Studi “Guglielmo Marconi” - Telematica, Italy
- ❖ Association Positive Mind, Latvia



What are the messages of the project?

The main themes discussed were social inclusion of vulnerable youths and activities in the sphere of art and culture.

What are the objectives?

- ❖ To identify ideas for Youth in Action future projects, to plan the concept, scope and activities of the joint projects;
- ❖ To increase the capacity of participating organizations to adequately meet the needs of socially excluded youths through exchange of experience and good practices and suggestion of new approaches in the work with disadvantaged youths;
- ❖ To contribute to building sustainable partnerships and partnership networks between organizations sharing common interests and scope of activity;
- ❖ To identify various local initiatives to the benefit of young people;
- ❖ To promote the Youth in Action Programme.

The target groups of the project are young people with fewer opportunities due to one or more of the following obstacles:

social, economic or geographical obstacles, disabilities, educational difficulties, lower qualification, cultural differences, health problems.

What were the main activities of the contact seminar?

During the contact seminar the participating organizations exchanged expertise and experience in both formal and informal atmosphere and planned the framework of future joint projects in the youth field. The organizations were acquainted in detail with the objectives, priorities, actions and funding mechanisms of the Youth in Action Programme. Various interactive methods were used such as presentations, brainstorming, joint discussions and working groups. During the social and cultural activities organized by the project initiator the participants were acquainted with Bulgarian art, culture and traditions.



Project results

As a result of collaborative discussions among designated working groups project ideas for the following actions of the Youth in Action Programme were generated:

Sub-Action 1.1 - Youth Exchanges

- ❖ Host Organization: Association "Positive mind", Latvia
- ❖ Indicative Submission: November 2009
- ❖ Subject: Favourite youth activities across Europe
- ❖ Duration of activities: 6 days
- ❖ Number of participants: 20-30 youths

Main activities: Young participants will share and experience their cultural specificities through presentation of favourite leisure activities. Participants from each country will share and play together with their foreign peers their favourite sports, favourite art, favourite customs (festivals, specific traditions, folklore activities, etc.), favourite dances and music, favourite dishes. Sharing youth's favourites across the EU involves mutual cultural learning and will allow young participants to get acquainted with and understand cultural differences. The project will raise young people awareness about EU cultural diversity and will contribute to developing youth's moral system based on solidarity and tolerance.

Sub-Action 1.1 - Youth Exchanges

- ❖ Host Organization: Università degli Studi "Guglielmo Marconi", Italy
- ❖ Indicative Submission: September 2009
- ❖ Themes: Media and communication
- ❖ Duration of activities: 6 days
- ❖ Number of participants: 16 youths

Main activities: Practical activities and experiences:

- ❖ E-learning, e-training and t-learning: participants will learn how to prepare an e-learning content.
- ❖ Organization and planning of a course: video simulation of a lesson. This is very important for students because they will receive knowledge they can use.
- ❖ Simulations and art demonstrations: teaching art. Participants will be shown a painting by a famous painter and will be encouraged to comment. Then they will exercise comparison of 2 different paintings. At the end they will have to choose 2 paintings and make a simulation. A sculpture expert may also be invited.
- ❖ Management of a cultural organization: participants will be shown the structure of a cultural organization and will learn the hierarchy of positions, number of employees, etc.
- ❖ Digital libraries, virtual museums and music demonstrations: software for musicians. Classical Italian music will be played. Then traditional music from each participating country will be played.
- ❖ Real museum/ theater: participants will visit a real museum and a theatre.

Sub-Action 1.1 - Youth Exchanges

- ❖ Host Organization: Europrojects Foundation, Bulgaria
- ❖ Indicative Submission: November 2009
- ❖ Subject: Social inclusion through art and culture
- ❖ Themes: art and culture; social inclusion
- ❖ Duration of activities: 6 days
- ❖ Number of participants: 20 youths

Main activities: participation in cultural activities such as: dancing classes; art and literature circles; writing articles in youth newspapers; visiting theatres, cinemas, museums, etc. The cultural activities will involve youths encountering economic, educational, geographical obstacles, etc. and will be directed towards positively influencing the process of personal development of young people and encouraging a culture of solidarity, creativity and tolerance. It will contribute to raising confidence and self-awareness among youths with fewer opportunities and therefore will stimulate their active participation in social life.



Sub-Action 4.3 - Training and networking of those active in youth work and youth organisations

- ❖ Host Organization: MERIG, Austria
- ❖ Indicative Submission: February 2010
- ❖ Subject: Evaluation Meeting
- ❖ Duration of activities: 2-3 days
- ❖ Number of participants: 10-15 participants

Main activities: The purpose of the evaluation meeting shall be to evaluate the results and efficiency of the seminar and to plan follow-up activities. Ex-post evaluation of the Seminar in Pamporovo will be carried out to evaluate the innovative and creative "character" of the project proposals as well as whether new projects have really been submitted and selected for funding. Ex-post evaluation of youth exchanges in Latvia and Italy will be carried out with regard to quantitative indicators (in terms of number of participating youths, duration, time of submission, etc.) and qualitative indicators (in terms of what was proposed and what was done, etc.) set.



Partnership Network

Europrojects Foundation (EUPF)

EUPF is a Bulgarian non-profit organization active in the field of European cooperation in education and training, including vocational training; youth issues; lifelong learning and intercultural communication.

A priority of the organization is to put forward and implement project initiatives on local, national and EU level aiming at influencing the process of personal and vocational development, self awareness and active citizenship of young people, especially young people with fewer opportunities. The activities of the organization are particularly targeted at youths encountering educational, economic and geographical obstacles.

Multidisciplinary European Research Institute Graz (MERIG)

MERIG is a private non-profit research organisation which bands researchers from different scientific disciplines and experts together. Core fields of expertise are:

- ❖ Cultural, economic and social issues dealing with EU policies and market opportunities (e.g. market studies);
- ❖ Employment policies (specifically education and employment of young people);
- ❖ Vocational training, e-learning and VET in SMEs;
- ❖ Management and support of national and international projects;
- ❖ Evaluations and assessments, both thematic and financial, of national and EU-funded projects.

Association Positive Mind

„Positive Mind” is non-profit organization established in March, 2007. The aim of organization is to promote mutual understanding and tolerance of individuals and society groups with different cultural, religion, national, race, social and economical background and health condition. „Positive Mind” realizes and participates in different local and international projects. The core activities are tended to new experience and possibilities. „Positive Mind” stands for positive changes and equal opportunities.

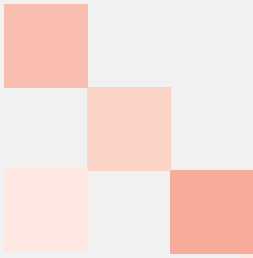
Implemented and current projects in the Youth field:

- ❖ “Learning for Europe through experience – EFEU”, YOUTH Programme, 2006-2008
Coordinator – Internationaler Bund (Germany)
- ❖ EVS project “Health and Human Rights”, YOUTH IN ACTION Programme, 05.2008 – 05.2009
Coordinator – Sezione Laziale UILDM Onlus (Italy)
- ❖ EVS project “Horse Riding for Disable”, YOUTH IN ACTION Programme, 12.2008 – 07.2009
Coordinator – SCI Hellas (Greece)
- ❖ “Creativity and Innovation for Youth Empowerment”, YOUTH IN ACTION Programme, Starting date 12.2009
Coordinator – CESIE (Italy)

Università degli Studi “Guglielmo Marconi” - Telematica

The Università degli Studi “Guglielmo Marconi” is the first Italian “Open University” acknowledged by the Ministry of Education with about 13.500 students and 300 staff. It adopts innovating learning modalities by developing suitable research strategies for most advanced technological solutions, integrating communication tools (e-learning, t-learning, mobile learning, etc.) with in-presence activities (workshops, seminars,

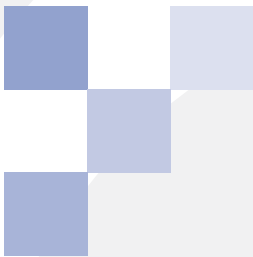




etc). University courses, enhanced by multimedia and communication technologies, are designed to meet the needs of people interested in postgraduate courses, young graduates and working adults.

Implemented and current projects in the Youth field:

ProgettOrient@ - an innovative orientation action, aimed at establishing a network of high schools and sharing best practices for youth guidance and support, funded by the Lazio Region.



Europrojects Foundation (EUPF)
Bulgaria, Sofia 1784,
135 Tsarigradsko shousse, Office
Express Building, fl. 2
+ 359 2 971 89 32
+ 359 2 971 80 91
info@eupf-bg.org;
http://www.eupf-bg.org
Contact person: **Ludmil Manev**

Università degli Studi "Guglielmo Marconi" - Telematica
Italy, Rome 00193, Via Plinio 44
+39 06 377251
+39 06 37725214
n.casalino@unimarconi.it
http://www.unimarconi.it
Contact person: **Nunzio Casalino**

Association Positive Mind
Lauku iela 4 – 11, Tukums, LV 3101,
Latvia
+ 371 29255774
pozitivadoma@pozitivadoma.lv
http://www.pozitivadoma.lv
Contact person: **Ieva Upesleja**

Multidisciplinary European Research Institute Graz (MERIG)
Austria, 8020 Graz,
Dreierschützengasse 37
+43 316 948761
+43 316 914851
info@merig.org
http://www.merig.org
Contact person: **Johann Laister**



Pozitīva Doma

