

Final Activity Report

Youth volunteering in sensitive contexts - Training course on Refugees, Migrants and IDP's in EECA and EU countries



From 19 to 25 June, 2006 in Baku, Azerbaijan



This project is carried out by the ICYE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE, Berlin
in cooperation with Association of Young Azerbaijani Friends of Europe,
Baku.

With the support of the
Youth Programme of the European Community

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Introduction

The present document is an activity report of the EU – Eastern Europe and Caucasus training course on Youth volunteering in sensitive contexts, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from the 19.06.2006 – 25.06.2006.

The main objectives of this activity were to train participants with regards to the specific situation of refugees, IDP's and migrants in EU and EECA countries and to transfer know-how on development and implementation of transnational voluntary service projects with sensitive target groups. The participants were youth workers and representatives of host organisations working with refugees, migrants and IDPs. They learned about the work with refugees/IDP's and migrants in each others countries with a particular focus on the context of IDP's and refugee issues in the Caucasus region. They also acquired soft skills for their future tasks in hosting and sending EVS volunteers in sensitive contexts.

The programme included inputs by experts, transfer of know-how, discussion groups and workshops as well as project visits to refugee and IDP Centres in Baku and surroundings providing first hand information and multiple learning opportunities.

Last but not least this training course prepared the ground and supported the implementation of the multilateral EVS project "Europe and Human Rights" which is currently being implemented by the ICYE International office in cooperation, with most of the partner organisations which were represented at this training course.

Both the training and the exchange of young volunteers were carried out to support the work of the respective host organisations as well as to demonstrate the need and potential for cooperation in a European context.

We would like to thank all participants and partner organisations for their valuable contributions, enthusiasm and group spirit which created a positive and warm working atmosphere and led to promising results.

Andreas Schwab
ICYE International Office

Context and motivation:

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, several conflicts have emerged and continue to have a significant negative impact on the economic and social development of the countries in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus region. As a result of the military conflicts in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Russia, several millions of people have become refugees or IDPs (Internally displaced persons). Even at the present time, more than a decade after their displacement, the majority of the people affected by the conflicts are suffering from extremely poor living conditions – in tent camps, dormitories, railway stations, abandoned factory buildings etc. Moreover, post-communist governments are not able to provide minimum conditions for IDPs/refugees because of lack of financial resources. Lack of social provisions, education and economic opportunities makes young people belonging to these groups particularly vulnerable and excluded from society.

Against this background, youth mobility and voluntary service activities supported by the Youth Programme can contribute a great deal to confidence and capacity-building and to strengthening the role of young people from different ethnic backgrounds as “agents of change” in civil society.

Development of EVS projects in post-conflict regions however requires sensitive approaches. When working with

refugees/IDPs and migrants, volunteers and volunteer organisations should be well prepared and aware about the history and situation of the particular target group and should define their work in the context of minimization of probability of escalation of conflict in the future.

Within this context youth workers from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Russia during a recent training course run by ICYE, expressed their interest to develop a new generation of EVS projects focussing on the work with refugees, migrants and IDP's in their countries. The EU partner organisations responded favourably to the idea which builds on their successful experience with similar projects implemented in EU countries in 2003 and in South East European Countries in 2004.

Considering the need for context sensitive approaches in working with these particular target groups, a support measure in form of a training course was deemed essential to prepare youth workers and representatives of refugee/IDP/migrant organisations for their respective roles as sending, hosting and coordinating organisations in future EVS projects, as well as to enable them to establish stable partnerships and develop innovative projects in addressing the needs of the above mentioned target groups.

Programme overview

Day 1		Monday, June 19, 2006
A.M.		
P.M.	Arrival of participants at Baku <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and presentation of the organizing team • Informal get-together 	
Day 2		Tuesday, June 20, 2006
10:00	Opening Ceremony: "Young IDP's and refugees in EEAC countries- a challenge for Civil Society" with guest speakers of Ministry of Youth and Sports, State Commission for refugees and IDP's, UNHCR, NRC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of participants - Ice breaking and name game 	
15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expectations of participants - Introduction to the programme - Presentation of programmes and activities of participating organizations 	
Evening	Intercultural Evening	
Day 3		Wednesday, June 21, 2006
9:30	Plenary presentation: the EU Youth Programme	
10:30	Lectures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to the International Protection of Refugees (30 min) UNHCR - Situation of and work with Refugees, IDP's and asylum seekers in Azerbaijan (30 min) by Mr. Mahir Safarli, UNHCR/Azerbaijan office 	
12:00	Lecture: "Context sensitive approaches to development, humanitarian assistance and peace- building", by Emin Amrullayev, AYAFE and Catholic Relief Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshops to: critically review the organizations' experience in working with the target groups, -define particular needs of host organizations working with refugees, migrants, IDPs with regards to: EVS project planning, project preparation, project implementation, monitoring and follow-up - Presentation and discussion of workshop results in plenary 	
15:00	Visit to the EVS host organization UNHCR Youth and Woman Refugee Center in the City Center of Baku, introductions of hosts and guests, discussion with project supervisor and volunteer as well as socializing with the refugee community. Followed by City Tour Baku, visiting Out Door Museum of "Shirvanshahlar Sarayi" (Shirvanshah's Palace) and Maiden Tower.	
Evening	Dinner at restaurant: OASIS	
Day 4		Thursday, June 22, 2006
10:00	Evaluation of visit to UNHCR Youth and Women Refugee Centre and discussion	
11:00	Introduction to EC reference document: "Rights and responsibilities of host organizations, sending organizations mentors"	
12:00	Working groups: Adapting the rights and responsibilities of EVS project partners to sensitive contexts - Elaboration of detailed task descriptions for all partners in the envisaged EVS project	
15:00	Mid-term Evaluation	

	<p>Report on results of work groups, presentation of tasks checklists</p> <p>Training groups: "Supporting EVS volunteers and dynamic problem solving"</p> <p>Preparation of role games to demonstrate potential areas of conflict in sensitive areas of work and make suggestions on how they should be dealt with.</p>
Day 5	Friday, June 23, 2006
09:30	Presentation of Workshop Results and 3 role plays in plenary
11:00	Lecture: "The political, legal and social situation of IDPs in Azerbaijan and particularities of the work with IDPs" - by Elnur Nasibov, Norwegian Refugee Council
12:00	Training sessions on: Main contents of Pre-departure, On-arrival, Mid-term and Final Evaluation meetings and the EC reference document "EVS Volunteer Training-Guidelines and Minimum Quality Standards"
15:00	Continuation of Training in groups
16:00	<p>Working groups to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define additional training requirements for volunteers in sensitive areas of work • Make recommendations for methods and material to be used in training sessions
17:30	<p>Presentation of working group results on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programme of On-arrival training of envisaged EVS project - Programme of Mid-term evaluation of envisaged EVS project - Welcome and project information letter for EVS volunteers - Methodology for training EVS volunteers in sensitive contexts <p>Recommendations and agreements</p>
Day 6	Saturday, June 24, 2006
A.M.	<p><u>Visit to EVS host organization</u>- Norwegian Refugee Council in Sumgayit, introductions of hosts and guests, discussion with project supervisor and volunteer as well as socializing with the IDP community.</p>
P.M.	<p>Open space to develop ideas for future EU-EECA bi-and multilateral EVS projects as well as support measures related to the work with refugees, migrants and IDP's.</p>
Evening	<p>Recommendations and Planning of Follow-up Final evaluation</p> <p>Farewell Party</p>
Day 7	Sunday, June 25, 2006
A.M.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departure of participants

Daily Reports by participants

Date: Tuesday, June 20, 2006
Session: Morning
Activities: Opening/Presentation of
Participants/ Expectations

The International training course was officially opened by Mr. Babayev, (First Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports). His opening speech was followed by presentations made by:

- Mr. Nasibov from Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
- Mr. Safarli from the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR Azerbaijan)
- Mr. Kahramanov from the State Committee of Refugees and IDPs

During the official opening of this training course, strong emphasis was put on the issue related to the Nagorno-Karabakh disputed area, which currently lead to the displacement of more than 600,000 persons within Azerbaijan and has also consequences in neighboring countries such as Armenia where 230,000 persons have been displaced because of the conflict in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. In Azerbaijan, the IDPs situation is therefore a crucial component in the assistance provided by the Government, the NGO Sector and the United Nations, especially in the following fields and contexts:

- Integration
- Providing shelter
- Education and Health
- Protection, Legal and Counseling components

- Social and employment policies
- Fundraising

All officials present at the opening ceremony stressed the importance of the EU-EECA cooperation under the EU Youth program as a major component in reinforcing the links between young people of various countries and their work on issues related to refugees and IDPs in Azerbaijan and neighboring countries, as well as the countries of the region.

Following this, the major aims and goals of the workshop and the programme of the training were presented by the representative of ICYE, Mr. Schwab: He pointed out that this TC was supported by the EU YOUTH programme (Action 5) and was linked to the implementation of the multilateral EVS project "Europe and Human Rights" for which an application had been submitted by the ICYE International Office in cooperation with most of the partner organizations represented at this training course. The training was meant to support their work and to ensure a smooth implementation of this challenging project.

Furthermore he stated that the TC was an excellent opportunity to build lasting partnerships between EU and EECA organizations and to develop new EVS projects in fields where EVS volunteers can make a difference.

Mr. Schwab then thanked all speakers as well as the organizers of "AYAFE" for the excellent work and good cooperation in preparing the programme and arranging the logistics for this meeting.

He then asked the participants to express their interests and expectations for this training course and encouraged them to play an active role throughout the training.

After various technical announcements the morning session was closed.



Date: Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Session: Afternoon

Activities: Presentations by participating Organizations

In the afternoon, we continued in plenary with presentations of the organisations represented at this meeting. These are summaries of those presentations:

Association of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Poland – raising the awareness about exile through artistic expression, migration issues theatre, and different activities for integration of asylum seekers and refugees.

FIYE Poland – Association for Promotion of Voluntary Service. Main activities: EVS-Long-term and short-term (hosting and sending organisation), work camps, Long Term Volunteering; MTV; Youth Exchanges, etc.

DEINETA ICYE Lithuania – Centre of Youth Voluntary Activities, EVS LT, Work camps mostly in the field of Environmental Protection.

Refugees Reception Centre in Lithuania – Working with refugees, children.

Volunteers from Spain and Macedonia

SWALLOWS in Russia – ICYE partners, Long-term volunteering and short-term volunteering.

The goals are: support conditions for integration and participation of the young people in the society, to promote the Samara region, youth movement for development

ALTERNATIVE V in Ukraine – Ukrainian Association for Youth Cooperation.

Objectives: Work camps, Exchanges, LTV,

Action 5 and Camp America (partner of ICYE, ALLIANCE)

The Main Direction for Refugees in Moldova – activities designed to help the refugees and to promote the awareness about this target group

VIA BELGIUM – Peace and Pluralism, Intercultural Exchanges and voluntary work.

ASERMUN in Spain – promoting volunteering and youth exchanges, fostering active citizenship among youth, reinforcing tolerance and solidarity (partner of ICYE and observing member of Extremadura Youth Council

Power Point presentations:

League of Young Voluntary Georgians in Georgia – a national host / sending organization running EVS projects and international cultural youth exchanges in Georgia.

Foundation for Development of Human Resources in Georgia – is a non-governmental, non-profit organization and its mission: Promoting human positive potential for peace and well being in civil society. Goals: Psychosocial assistance; Peace and trust building; Civic society building. The organization works with – IDP's, Ethnic minorities, State officials, Professionals and Para-professionals working with children.

International Organisation for Migration in Moldova – Thematic areas of the organization are: Capacity building in Migration management; Counter-trafficking; Labour migration.



AMEBENTO in Spain – is an organization of immigrants from different countries, located in Don Benito. A private, non-profit making organization aimed at providing the necessary conditions for the development of the immigrant population.

VOLONTARIUS/AFSAI in Italy – is a voluntary association, which works within the framework of solidarity in order to defend human rights and dignity to help everyone in every moment. The organization tries „to give“ power and the will to live by bringing any kind of help to the people in need.

Grenzenlos in Austria – the aim of the organization is to promote world peace and tolerance though international exchanges and cultural learning. The philosophy of the organization is to create worldwide networks of personal friendships between people of different cultures, replacing racism and ethnic intolerance by ideas of peace and justice. The services of the organization are: LTP; STP; SP; Programmes which require special skills.

INTERDOM in Russia Federation – working with projects that are aimed at integrating children who had to leave their

countries due to conflict in their new environments.

ADVIT in Moldova – „Europe without borders“ is a youth non-profit organization based in Chisinau, Moldova. The goals of the organization are: to promote dialogue and contact between young people from the entire world; to create favourable conditions for cooperation between youth from different cultures and nations.

The evening programme started at 8:30 pm with presentations of the different country groups featuring typical dances, songs, poems, games as well as food and drinks which the participants had prepared and brought along.



Date: Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Session: Morning

Activities: Plenary presentation/Lectures
Workshops

In the morning we had several presentations in plenary, starting with the EU YOUTH Programme and the EVS programme. Participants asked many questions regarding these presentations and explanations were given.

With regards to Action 1, 2 and 5 different projects were presented as practice examples.

Since the focus of this TC was more on EVS, examples of bi- and multilateral EVS projects were presented and evaluated regarding their impact on volunteers and local communities in the field of refugees, migrants and IDP'S. The present refugee organizations reported positively about their experiences with EVS volunteers so far. It was noted however that volunteers in such sensitive areas had to be more mature and able to work autonomously, given the lack of staff in most of the refugee and IDP centres.



Date: Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Session: Afternoon

Activities: Visit to UNHCR/ City Tour in Baku

The main activity of the afternoon was to visit the Refugee Woman and Youth Centre (RWYC) in Baku, which is supported by UNHCR, the UN-Refugee Agency.

In this project Päivi Hemilä, a young volunteer from Finland was carrying out her European Voluntary Service (EVS) project since 4 months. She works with children, teaching them songs and games in English as well as playing different games with a group of refugee-children, which she had organized by herself.

Päivi provides workshops of art and computer lessons for the young members of the RWYC, where the students are very happy to have such an opportunity to meet somebody from another country, who shares his/her knowledge with them. Päivi plays an important role in the project and we could notice that her presence has a very positive effect on the youngsters.

We had the possibility to take part in one of Päivi's English culture and game workshops, in which all her children participated with lots of enthusiasm, joy and motivation.

After the workshop, the structure and the main activities of the RWYC were presented to us by the coordinator Sevda Aleskerova. Participants asked many questions regarding Päivi's role in the project and the benefits for

the host organisation and shared their own experiences with EVS volunteers in similar projects.

After the project visit we went to the old historical city centre of Baku,



where we visited some interesting monuments like the Medintower and the palace of Shirvanschah. Some of us went on a small boat trip on the Caspian Sea in the surroundings of the Azerbaijani Capital.



In the night an Azerbaijani Cultural Evening was organized by the “Association of Young Azerbaijani Friends of Europe – AYAFE”, where we had the possibility to get in touch with the Azeri culture by eating typical Azeri food and listening and dancing to typical Azeri music. We feel that this was an excellent opportunity for intercultural learning and dialogue...



Date: Thursday, June 22, 2006
Session: Morning
Activities: Plenary/ Introduction to EC Reference document/
Working groups

The morning programme started with a brief evaluation of the project visit to the UNHCR Women and Youth Refugee Centre. Participants gave a very positive feedback to the project and to the entire visit. Some participants commented on the enthusiasm with which the children were participating in all activities. Others complimented the work of the volunteer Paivi Hemilä commenting that she seems to be very integrated in the project and is carrying out activities which are benefitting the children a great deal and for which the project usually would not have the resources.

Then an introduction to the EC reference document: “Rights and responsibilities of host organizations, sending organizations mentors” was given.

Following this, we split in three groups to discuss the contents of this document and to adapt it to the work with volunteers in sensitive contexts. We then came back to the plenary to present the results of our discussions and to exchange experiences with the issues we had seen of importance for the field work with refugees, migrants and IDP's.

Date: Thursday, June 22, 2006

Session: Afternoon

Activities: Mid-term Evaluation/Report of Work groups/Role Games

Participants worked with enthusiasm until the end of the afternoon, sharing experiences and preparing the role games to be presented the next morning.

The mid-term evaluation of the TC was carried out using the creative method of a "wheather forecast". The majority of participants stayed in the sunny corner, stating that they appreciated the contents and methodology of the training course so far and enjoying the good weather and convenient location, as well as the good group spirit. Some participants felt that sessions should start more on time and that some time had been lost by waiting for participants arriving late at the plenary session.



After this, the group split in training groups on "Supporting EVS volunteers and dynamic problem solving". These contained information on intercultural learning, how to train and support host placement supervisors (techniques of on-going dialogue/ resolution of conflicts / intercultural team building); Selection/training of mentors role of support person/mentor, arranging for local contacts, In-service meeting (regularity / contents and methods).



Participants were then asked to prepare role games to demonstrate potential areas of conflict in sensitive areas of work and make suggestions on how they should be dealt with.

Date: Friday, June 23, 2006
Session: Morning
Activities: Workshop results/Lecture/
Training Sessions

The morning began with the introduction of the program of the day to the participants. Then the three groups (named Belgium, Lithuania and Italy) presented the role games - each with two possible solutions.

1) Group BELGIUM:

The role-play:

- Volunteer at home in the morning: a problematic situation in the house (no water....)
- Volunteer in the Bus: difficulties with transport in bus and then with taxi
- Volunteer in the Project: late and the coordinator has no time to hear him.
- Volunteer in the Host Organization: they take care of him too much.
- Volunteer.... solution....

After this session, the importance of better preparation and organization was raised and the participants agreed on paying more attention to this issue in the future work to assure that the volunteers will have more information and support regarding the task description as well as the logistical arrangements.

2) Group LITHUANIA

The role-play is divided into two scenes, the office of the host organization and the volunteer's apartment. There is a big mess at the volunteers flat that causes problems with the house owner. The host organization is contacted by the owner who requires to see that the problems are solved soon. The owner also demands to inspect the apartment. The host organization then contacts the mentor to talk with the volunteers. This intervention does not resolve the bad situation. Finally the office decides to clean up the flat to show the volunteers how simple it is.

Conclusions:

- A positive approach of the host organization to solve the problem
- In cases when volunteers do not like participating in domestic activities the HO is responsible to talk to them and to find a solution

3) Group ITALY

The scene begins with the volunteers being together in a shared flat. Some of the volunteers see the host organization to make certain requests. One of the volunteers brings in a boy friend without the consent of the other housemates. This situation aggravates the existing problematic relationship between the housemates. The host organization is called to intervene but finds it impossible to resolve the conflicts. Besides the volunteers demand a separate flat or a hotel.

Conclusion: HO should closely monitor the living situation of the volunteers to detect

potential conflicts and resolve them right away. There are situations which cannot be resolved anymore and volunteers prefer to quit the project, or the HO has to send them back home.

This should be always the last solution after a long process in which efforts have been made by all actors to change the situation.



Second part of the morning session

After the coffee break, Mr. Elnur NASIBOV (deputy director of Norwegian Refugee Council Azerbaijan office) held a lecture on the UN Guideline Principles on Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees. (see power point presentation in annex)

From the presentation we learned that the NRC monitors government practices according to the UN Guideline Principles.

- Elaboration of Guideline Principles
- IDPs, a vulnerable category of people

We learned that the IDPs' situation in Azerbaijan has the following characteristics: economic privileges of recognized IDPs; Limitations to civil and political rights of vulnerable IDPs, Political efficiency/ strategy

prior to a democratic approach; Access limitations for NGOs to public IDP centers; Difficulties with identification and documentation of IDPs.

Date: Friday, June 23, 2006

Session: Afternoon

Activities: Training/Working groups

The afternoon program was a training on "Main contents of Pre-departure, On-Arrival, Mid-term and Final Evaluation Meetings". It started with a brief introduction to the EC reference document: "EVS volunteer training guidelines and minimum quality standards"

Participants were then divided into three training groups to discuss and elaborate an:

- A. On-arrival training programme
- B. Mid-term evaluation programme
- C. Welcome letter.

On-arrival training programme:

Italy, Georgia, Russia and Poland suggested a programme of ten days. The programme includes:

- Daily language courses
- Presentation of the host organization, the host country, EVS.
- Intercultural learning
- Information course on refugees, migrants and IDPs
- Discussions on " what can happen when working with refugees and IDP's and how to encounter difficult situation"

- Meeting with local young people, volunteers, mentors
- Workshops "Rights and Responsibilities of the HO and volunteers"

During the following discussion in plenary it was suggested to:

- Shorten the training time to 4-5 days, putting language courses after the on-arrival training
- Invite other EVS volunteers to this training
- If possible send the volunteer to on-arrival organized by NA.

Mid-term evaluation meeting.

Belgium, Georgia, Poland, Russia suggested that the duration of this meeting should be of 3 days. The following activities should be included in the programme:

- Game "Getting to know each other"
- Workshops and plenary "Expectations and realities"
- Discussion "How to change?"
- Role game "Resolving Conflicts"

Session on technical matters

In plenary the participants agreed on the programme but didn't agree on the introductory game "Getting to know each other". After 4-5 months the volunteers know each other, so other activities should be proposed.

Welcome letter:

Group "D" decided that in this letter it is important to put detailed information about

the project's activities and the actual tasks of the volunteer. Furthermore the accommodation, training, food, transport and other technical things related to the volunteer's stay in the project country should be carefully described. Also the staff and other international volunteers who already are in the country should be introduced and it should be explained who is in charge of the volunteer.

Date: Saturday, June 24, 2006

Session: Morning

Activities: Visit EVS Host Organization

In the morning we went to visit the EVS host organization "The Norwegian Refugee Council" in Sumgayit. There we met the hosts, we had a discussion with the project supervisor and the EVS volunteer Rouven Höfer and we had the opportunity to socialize with the IDP community. NRC's overall objective is to work towards the improvement of international protection and humanitarian aid to refugees and people displaced within their own countries. NRC is the only Norwegian humanitarian organization that specializes in the protection of displaced persons. The volunteer spends time and works together with children of IDP background and organises various social and cultural activities to develop their social skills in order to help them to integrate into society. Activities include English language and culture workshops for youth, music classes and sporting activities for the younger children. The volunteer works with selected

groups of IDP/Refugee children according to age and social needs. The activities are organised in co-operation with the hosting organisation, AYAFE and staff of NRC.



Date: Saturday, June 24, 2006

Session: Afternoon

Activities: Development of ideas/
Follow up/ Final Evaluation

The afternoon programme started with some free time for participants after lunch in Sumgayit and return to Baku. After lunch, the participants were given time to continue further elaborating the project development and partner finding, the results of which were presented to the group once in Baku.

The following projects were then presented:

Project proposal 1, presented by Agata:

Title/Main Contents: Youth Exchange between Italy, Poland and Georgia about Refugees.

Main Aims: Information-sharing and building of network between Refugee Centres in the three countries, raise awareness on each

others situation and work and establish on-going dialogue and communication to foster future joint projects

Envisaged Venue: to be confirmed / Tbilisi or Bolzano or Warsaw

Envisaged Dates: spring / summer 2007

Project 2, presented by: FIYE Poland, Volontarius Italy

Title/Main Contents: Job shadowing and Training

Main Aims:

Train staff of refugee centers (supervisors EVS) and mentors of EVS volunteers on volunteer management and sensitivity issues.

Partner Organisations involved: 5 EU and 4 EECA (Poland, Italy, Austria, Spain, Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova,)

Envisaged Venue: Georgia

Envisaged Dates: spring / summer 2007

Project 3, presented by: Jaroslav Patus

Title/Main Contents: Multilateral EVS project with Environmental Organisations

Main Aims: enable volunteer work in environment protection activities, exchange of experience, partnership building between EU and EECA environment NGOS

Partner Organisations involved: Austria, Moldova, Lithuania, Ukraine, Belgium, Azerbaijan, Russian Federation

Envisaged Venue: participating countries

The programme carried on with the final evaluation of the Training Course. Participants were asked to write their comments in three different panels:

- A suitcase for those things they wanted to take from the TC because they considered them to be good
- A washing machine for those things they liked but felt could have been done better
- A garbage bin for those elements they considered useless.

They were asked to take into account the following aspects of the training course:

- Preparation before the seminar
- Program
- Venue, food, accommodation
- Cultural program / Leisure time
- Group atmosphere/integration

Participants were quite satisfied with the overall results of the Training Course. They stated that the program contents had been useful for the work of their respective organizations. They considered the information obtained on Refugees, Migrants and IDP's to be interesting and accurate, particularly the project visits by which participants were able to see and experience the reality in such projects and to have examples of how volunteers can be of benefit to them.

Furthermore the TC had prepared the implementation of the forthcoming EVS multilateral project. It was an excellent opportunity to meet the sending, coordinating and hosting partners and to get a better understanding of the kind of hosting projects where volunteers actually will be placed.

Some negative comments were made with regards to delays in program implementation, which sometimes was due to organisatoric problems (for example when buses were late) but also in some case due to the lack of punctuality of some participants. Some of the participants mentioned, that they would have liked more explanations during the cultural visit to the City Center of Baku.

The participants were quite happy with the cultural and social activities, particularly the night at Baku City Center. They had enjoyed the fact that the venue was located by the Caspian Sea, enabling them to relax from intensive work sessions on the beach. Furthermore some of the comments showed that a strong group feeling had developed.

After this evaluation the dinner and a farewell party followed, at which certificates were handed out to all the participants.



Conclusions:

Participants assessed the training course as very positive for themselves and enriching for the development of their associations. They found the information provided on the YOUTH Programme useful and the methods applied adequate.

The discussion on the situation of refugees and IDP people in EU and in Eastern Europe and the region countries was highly appreciated as it supported the understanding of possible problems and challenges for youth work in both regions.

Another positive aspect was the enriching contribution of experienced organisations presenting examples of good practice as well

as the joint development of ideas and project proposals for future activities.

Participants felt better prepared and equipped for engaging in the upcoming multilateral EVS project on "Youth Volunteering in sensitive contexts".

Furthermore the possibility to communicate closely with each other in the leisure time helped to break barriers and to build trust.

This resulted in a number of new cooperation agreements among the partner organisations involved in this training course and will have a positive impact on the implementation of future projects in this field.

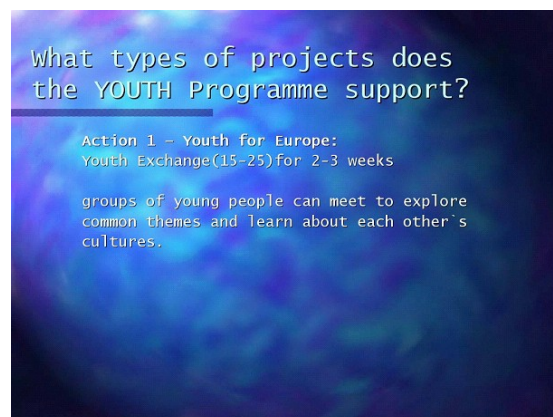
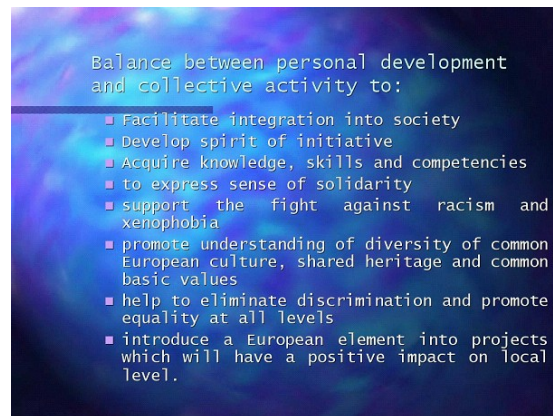
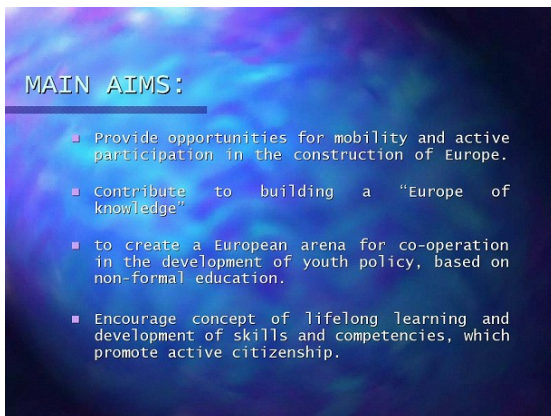
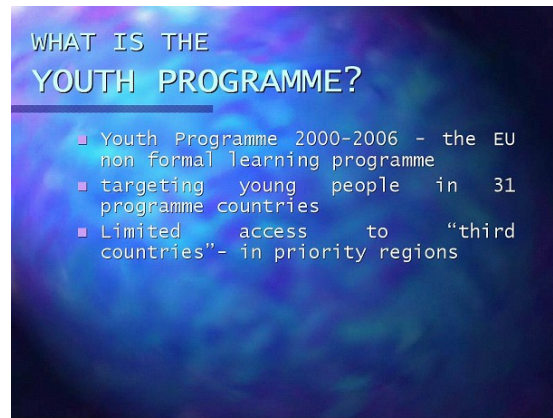
Annex 1: Participants' E-mail List

Country	Organisation	Participants		Contact:
Armenia	UNHCR - Armenia			-
Azerbaijan	AYAFE -Associat. Of Young Azerbaijani Friends of Europe	Gafarova	Afag	volunteer@ayafe.org
Azerbaijan	NCR -Norwegian Refugee Council	Nasiobov	Elnur	elnur@nrc.baku.az
Azerbaijan	UNHCR Azerbaijan	Safarli	Mahir	safarli@unhcr.ch
Georgia	LYVG - League of Young Voluntary Georgians	Vachadze	Avtandil	lyvg@rambler.ru
Georgia	FDHR - Foundation for development of human resources	Sushania	Nino	ninofdr@yahoo.com
Georgia	LYVG / Society and Justice	Palavandishvili	Nino	lyvg@rambler.ru
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Annex 2- Power Point Presentation about the YOUTH Programme



What types of projects does the YOUTH Programme support?

Action 2 – European Voluntary Service (EVS):
 Young people can spend up to 12 months abroad as European volunteers helping in local projects in various fields.

What types of projects does the YOUTH Programme support?

Action 3 – Youth Initiatives
 People between 15-25 can obtain support to carry out a project at local level.
 „Future capital“ – multiply impact of EVS experience
 -professional activity start-up
 -One-off projects
 -personal development
 Not open for LA

What types of projects does the YOUTH Programme support?

Action 4– Joint Actions
 bring together Socrates, Leonardo and Youth in complementary activities
 not open for LA

What types of projects does the YOUTH Programme support?

5 – Support Measures:
 Support for activities which consolidate or enhance the benefits of other YOUTH programme Actions and raise the quality of youth projects.

- Practical training experience
- Feasibility Visit
- Contact-making Seminar
- Study Visit
- Seminar
- Training Course
- Youth Information
- Transnational Partnerships and networks
- Support for Quality and Information

who can participate?

- Young people aged 15/18 - 25
- Project managers, youth workers, youth leaders, trainers or organisers in the youth field
- Non-profit-making NGOs
- Public authorities
- Others experienced in the field of youth and non-formal education
- European youth organisations which are based in a Programme country and have member branches in at least 8 Programme countries

which are the Programme countries?

25 Member States of the European Union (EU)	+ countries which are candidates for accession to the European Union (pre-accession countries)	3 countries in the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) which are members of the European Economic Area (EEA)
Austria Belgium Cyprus Czech Republic Denmark Estonia Finland France Germany Greece Hungary Ireland Italy Latvia Lithuania Luxembourg	Malta Netherlands Poland Portugal Slovak Republik Slovenia Spain Sweden United Kingdom + Bulgaria Romania Turkey	Iceland Liechtenstein Norway

Objectives for co-operation with other regions

- Contribute to peace and stability at the borders of the enlarged EU, by enhancing intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding and tolerance among young people
- Contribute to the strengthening of democracy and civil society by facilitating the integration and active participation of young people, and by developing youth structures and the voluntary sector
- 1st priorities: South East Europe and Eastern Europe and Caucasus region
- 2nd priority: Latin America

What are the general rules for activities with partner countries

- Only Action 1 (Youth for Europe), Action 2 (European Voluntary Service) and Action 5 (Support Measures) are open
- Projects should involve countries from the same region, i.e. projects with partner countries in EECA cannot involve partner countries from other regions.
- Projects can only be presented and implemented in cooperation with a partner in an EU country
- Activities can take place in any of the countries which are involved in the respective project.

Budget

- The YOUTH programme budget increased from 520 to 605 million after enlargement (for the period 2000-06).
- Around 7-10% for cooperation with 'partner countries'

Structures / Projects in support of developing youth cooperation

- 31 National Agencies in Programme countries
- SALTO-YOUTH Resource Centres
- Education, Culture and Audiovisual Executive Agency

FUTURE PERSPECTIVES – YOUTH

The Commission presented proposals for a new programme in July 2004: Youth in Action, 2007-2014:

- Budget 915 million €,
- ages 13-30,
- strengthening of co-operation in the field of youth work and political dialogue, collective volunteering
- new Action Youth of the World (focus on neighbours and increase of geographic scope), opening for participation of Balkan countries

Annex 3- Context sensitivity

Outline

- What is context sensitivity?
- Why do we need context sensitivity?
- How to apply context sensitivity to international volunteer exchange- EVS?

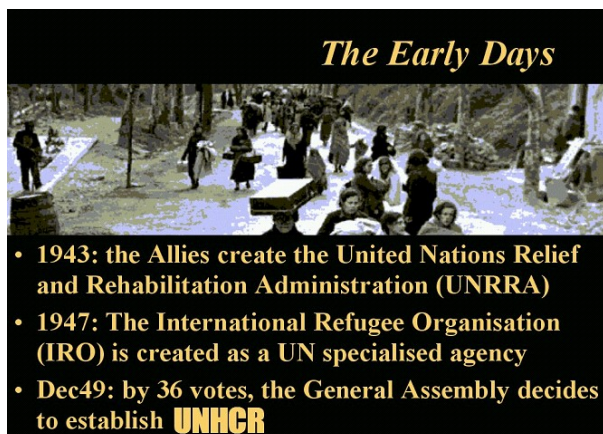
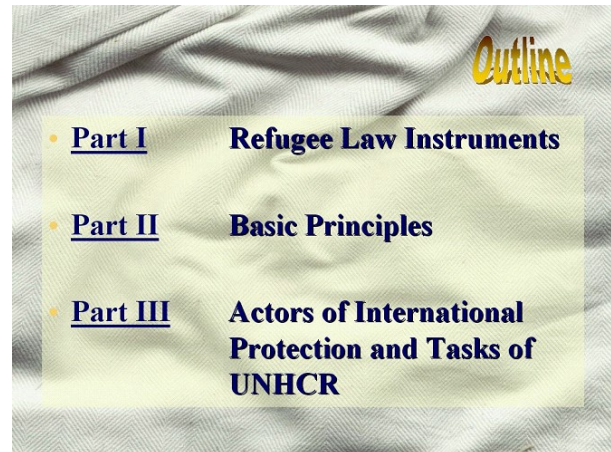
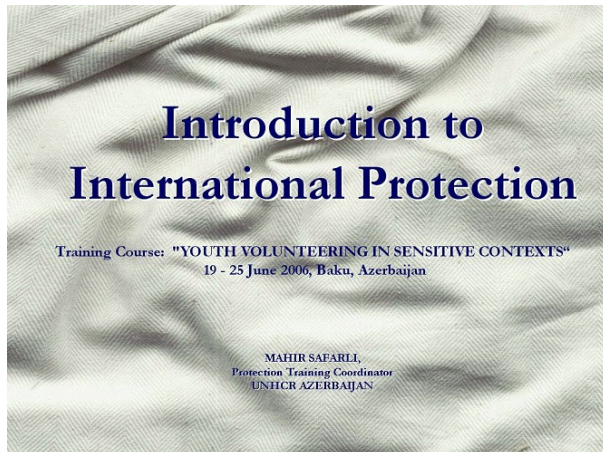
Context Sensitivity is

- Understand the context in which you operate
- Understand the interaction between your project and the context
- Act upon the understanding of this interaction, in order to avoid negative and maximize positive impacts

Project Phases & CS

- Project planning
- Project preparation
- Project implementation
- Evaluation & Follow up

Annex 4: Power Point Presentation



The 1951 Convention: a Major Achievement in International Refugee Law

- Provided for a refugee definition
- Embodied the “Non-refoulement” principle
- Set minimum standards of treatment
- Recalled duties of refugees vis-à-vis country of refuge
- Contained provisions regarding legal status
- Required State Parties to co-operate with UNHCR

Who is a refugee and who is not ?

- Outside his/her country of origin
- Has a well-founded fear of persecution
- Is unable and/or unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country, for reasons of fear of persecution.

The Refugee Definition -cont'd-

Well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of:

Race
Religion
Nationality
Political opinion
Membership of a particular social group



What are the main practical differences between you and a refugee?

- A refugee is outside of his country (alienage)
 - “Undue serious harm”
 - “Genuine risk”
 - Failure of State Protection, and
 - Presumably no national passport.
- However, possession of a passport is not a bar to refugee status (e.g. when obtained illegally or when passports are issued to send “undesirable” citizens away).

What is Persecution?

No universally accepted definition

Life or freedom threatened

Sustained or systematic violation of basic human rights

Persecution is a Violation of Core Rights

- freedom from arbitrary deprivation of life
- protection against torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment or treatment
- freedom from slavery
- the prohibition on criminal prosecution for *ex post facto* offences
- the right to recognition as a person in law
- freedom of thought, conscience and religion

Are there any other Legal Instruments than the Refugee Convention?

- 1969 OAU Convention
- 1984 Cartagena Declaration
- State practice and national legislation
- Expanded Definition

Other Human Rights Instruments

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- International Covenants (ICCPR/ICESCR)
- Convention Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- UN Convention Against Torture,...

Part II

Basic Principles of International Refugee Law

Is there a right to asylum?


- Only a right to seek asylum...
- ... from persecution.
- “Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution”
Article 14 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- The granting of asylum is a peaceful and humanitarian act.

Principle of Non-Refoulement

“No Contracting State shall expell or return (“refouler”) a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion”

Article 33
 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugee


What Does the Principle of Non-refoulement Imply in Practice?



No forcible return until the claim for asylum has been thoroughly assessed

Duties and Obligations of Refugees

- Every refugee has duties to the country in which he finds himself/herself
- The refugee has to conform to laws and regulations, as well as to measures taken for the maintenance of public order



Part III

Actors of International Protection

Tasks of UNHCR

Main Actors of International Protection

- States
- UNHCR
- Other International Organisations (ICRC, UNICEF, UNHCHR, etc.)
- Non-governmental organizations
- Refugees
- Public opinions



UNHCR's Main Functions

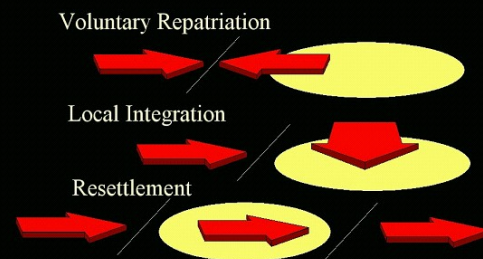
- To provide international protection to refugees
- To seek permanent solutions to refugee problems

UNHCR's work is entirely non-political, humanitarian and social

UNHCR's Tasks: To Bridge the Gaps

- To promote the conclusions and ratification of international conventions and supervising their application
- To promote respect for principles of international protection
- To promote the admission of refugees
- To promote measures to improve the situation of refugees
- To promote voluntary repatriation, local settlement and resettlement
- To co-operate with Governments, inter-governmental organisations and private organisation
- To facilitate co-ordination of their efforts

Durable Solutions to Refugee Problems



Voluntary Repatriation



- Always Voluntary
- Conditions for promotion by UNHCR:
 - Conditions conducive to repatriation
 - Return in Safety and Dignity
 - UNHCR's access to returnees in country of origin

Resettlement

- For refugees only
- Resettlement may be the only available durable solution, especially when:-
 - Repatriation is not an option in foreseeable future
 - Refugees are without local integration prospects
- Facilitation
- Promotion: only if refugee falls within UNHCR's resettlement criteria


"There is no greater sorrow on earth than the loss of one's native land."
 — Euripides, 431 B.C.



Annex 5: Power Point Presentation

NRC: Protection of Refugees and IDP


“We will make the difference!”



1
12/6/2006

Topics of the presentation

- General Overview
- International protection
- Main pillars of the international protection:
 - Human Rights
 - Protection of refugees and IDP
 - Humanitarian law and humanitarian principles



2
12/6/2006

1. General Overview

NRC Mandate:

“The NRC shall *promote the rights* of all people who have been forced to flee their countries, or their homes within their countries, regardless of their race, religion, nationality or political convictions.”

Target groups:

The NRC is an independent humanitarian organization whose task is to assist and protect rights of the people who have been *forced to flee their countries, or their homes within their country, due to war or conflict.*

3
12/6/2006

How to carry out NRC objectives

“This will be achieved by acting as an independent and dedicated spokesman for the refugee rights nationally and internationally, by providing humanitarian assistance in emergency situations, and by strengthening the capacity of the UN organization to offer and coordinate international aid and protection.”

4
12/6/2006

NRC Protection Activities

- Advocacy
- Program Core Activities
- The Emergency standby roster

5
12/6/2006

NRC Advocacy Strategy document

- Advocacy is representing a person, group or cause, actively advocating that group's interests or rights, and contributing to their efforts to win acceptance for their views or defend their rights.
- Advocacy shall influence attitudes and activities, and obtain public and political support for the refugees, returnees and IDP.
- Protection and promotion of refugee, returnee and IDP rights through advocacy should be an integrated part of all of NRC's activities, separately, through special advocacy projects, as well as method of reaching the different programs' objectives

6
12/6/2006

Advocacy activities:

- Establish a dialogue with national authorities
- Systematic documentation of relevant knowledge and experience (Global IDP Database)
- Arrange workshops for training of local authorities, local NGOs and IDP/Refugee communities on IDP/Refugee rights
- Establish dialogues with partners, donors, UN and other stakeholders
- Facilitate and support to roundtable's bringing together relevant actors
- Writing in depth reports regarding relevant issues
- Support to local IDP/Refugee-NGO-networks or target groups themselves, who aim at strengthening the civil society generally so that more groups in society are able to advocate their own or others rights

7
12/6/2006

Program/Core activities:

In order to develop competence and quality in its field work, NRC concentrates and specializes on the following activities (NRC Strategy document):

- Education
- Shelter/Reconstruction
- Distribution of food and non food items
- Legal assistance, information and counseling on return

8
12/6/2006

The Emergency Standby Roster:

- Objective - To enhance the ability of UN organizations to rapidly deploy personnel and equipment for emergency relief operations.
- Concept - Rapid response in an emergency situation that requires preparedness in actual program (core) activities, plans and resources, and a system for monitoring/early warning of potential emergencies.

9
12/6/2006

2. Main Pillars of International Protection

2.1 Human Rights

"The activities of the NRC are based on the principle that all people are born free and equal, and that all have the right to life, liberty and security of person*."

*NRC Policy Paper, page 3.

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12/6/2006

Human Rights are:

- Rights and freedoms that every person is entitled to enjoy just by virtue of being human;
- They guarantee and protect dignity and equality for all persons from birth;
- Human rights are claimable under domestic and international protection mechanisms.

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Conceptual issues on human rights:

- Nature of human rights: individual and universal, moral and legal, negative and positive;
- Freedom from and freedom to;
- Category of rights;
- "The law limits my behavior, my rights limit others behavior";
- Restriction of rights and non-derogable rights:
 - Public emergencies
 - Public order
 - National security

12
12/6/2006

Domestic and International sources of human rights

Domestic sources:

- Constitution
- Laws of Parliament
- Decrees, orders, by-laws
- Court decisions, precedents etc.

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International Sources:

- International Bill of Rights:
 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948
 - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966
 - International Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights, 1966;
- Other international conventions and treaties on thematic issues that individual states join to;
- Regional human rights treaties:
 - European Convention on Human Rights and Freedoms, 1950
 - American

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12/6/2006

3. Program/Core activities

In order to develop competence and quality in its field work, NRC concentrates and specializes on the followings:

- ⊗ Education
- ⊗ Shelter/Reconstruction
- ⊗ Distribution of food and non food items
- ⊗ Legal assistance, information and counseling on return

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1. Education



- Provision or development and adaptation of educational materials, textbooks etc.
- Production of material, teaching aids and equipment
- Recruitment and training of trainers and teachers
- Organization and implementation of school programs

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2. Shelter/Reconstruction

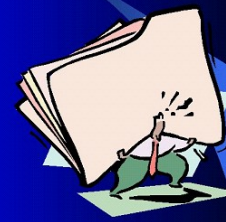


- Rehabilitation/construction of houses
- Camp set up
- Camp management
- School rehabilitation/construction

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3. Distribution of food and non food items

- Registration of beneficiaries
- Assessment and monitoring
- Warehousing and reception
- Transport and logistics
- Procurement



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Legal assistance, information and counseling

- Legal assistance
- Info and counseling on durable solutions
- Facilitation of return
- Provision of relevant documents
- Documentation, registration/database
- Advocacy



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Additional activities might be added to NRC core activities, if they meet the following criteria:

- The activity is closely linked to core activity and needed for a successful implementation
- No other NGO/Institution are able, present or possible to find to do the work
- NRC has competence and resources available to carry it through

20
12/6/2006

Micro Credit Azerbaijan



- It was needed
- NRC had competence and resources

21
12/6/2006

Alternative energy



- No other Institute/NGO was able, present
- NRC had resources and competence

22
12/6/2006