Final Activity Report

"YOUTH ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP"

Training Course on fostering positive youth action and partnership between EU and SEE countries

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08.06.05 - 13.06.05
Berlin, Germany

ICYE
International Cultural Youth Exchange

This project has been carried out with the support of the YOUTH programme of the European Community.

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8. EC Ref. Document: EVS Volunteer Training: Guidelines and Minimum Quality Standards	http://europa.eu.int/comm/youth/program/sos/vh_studies_en.html

Introduction, aims and objectives:

Youth participation is an essential strategy for ensuring young people's optimal development – and for achieving wider development goals for society. The main aim of this training course was to enhance young people's participation, leadership skills and their engagement in civil society by providing a common training and networking opportunity to representatives of voluntary organisations and NGO's and agencies active in civic education and youth participation programmes. Given the complexity of issues affecting young people and civil society in EU and SEE countries, this training course was needed to prepare the ground for future theme-related European Voluntary Service projects between the two regions. Both the training and the exchange of young volunteers aimed at supporting the work of respective host projects in promoting youth active citizenship as well as demonstrating the need and potential for cooperation in an European context.

Against this background, this training course brought together 19 youth workers from 4 SEE countries and from 7 EU countries to:

- train them on aims and procedures of the EVS programme as well as preparing them for their roles and tasks as sending, hosting and co-ordinating organisations in envisaged multilateral EVS projects
- empower their organisations in EU and SEE countries to network and engage in partnerships and forge new forms of co-operation
- raise the quality of multilateral EVS projects by enabling transfer of know-how and sharing of experiences regarding participatory methods of youth work

The activity report is structured according to the programme schedule. Some of the used material and presentations can be found in the annex part.

We would like to thank all participants and trainers for their valuable contributions and enthusiasm.

Andreas Schwab
International Office

Programme overview

Date:	Time:	Activity:
08.06.05	afternoon evening	Arrival of participants Getting to know each other, Ice breaking games, Welcome party
09.06.05	09.30 – 11.00	Opening Aims of the TC Presentation of team and participants The Expectations Tree Programme Presentation
	11:00-11:30	*Coffee break*
	11:30-13:00	Presentation of participating organisations
	13:00	*Lunch*
	15.00 – 19:00	Lecture, workshops and participatory methods of youth work "Involving young people in decision making – methods, examples, experiences". Rebekka Bendig, Platform on children and youth policies, Berlin
	19:30	*Dinner* *Intercultural Evening*
10.06.05	09.30 – 11.00	Energizer Input: "Non formal Learning and Youth Mobility – Important Elements of the EU White Paper on Youth" What do I associate with the White Paper on Youth?
	11:30 – 13:00	Discussion Groups: -Country realities regarding non formal learning and mobility opportunities -Strategies for EU SEE cooperation in fostering active citizenship
	13:00	*Lunch*
	15:00 – 16:30	Presentation of "Project P" , Robin Block Presentation: The EU YOUTH Programme's Actions and Priority Regions – Opportunities for EU SEE cooperation Perspectives of the EU Youth Programme beyond 2006
	16:30 - 17:00	Coffee break
	17:00-17:30	Examples of good practice – Action 1 , 2 and 5 Assessment of results
	17:30 – 19:00	Working groups on EVS: strategies for developing EVS projects between EU and SEE countries considering best practice, priority project themes, potential host organisations
	19:30	Dinner

11.06.05	09.30 – 10:00	Mid term Evaluation
	09.30 – 12:00	Workshop to prepare a creative presentation of mobility and voluntary service opportunities provided by the Youth programme.
	12:00	Lunch
	13:00	Departure to Town
	14:00 – 15:30	Participation in Fair: "Interactiv 4" - Getting to know the information stands of organisations involved and the ICYE Germany information stand
	15:30	Presentation (see above)
	16:30	Travel to FEZ – Festival Center of Project "P" – Fair on Youth Participation
	19:30	Concert of "Tocotronic", "The Fantastic 4", and other famous bands
12.06.05	09:30 – 11:00	Training on EVS project implementation I: - Application forms and procedures - The importance of adequate task descriptions, - Practical Exercise: formulating task descriptions Presentation of task descriptions to Plenary
	13:00	Lunch
	15:00– 16:30	Brainstorming on EU-SEE EVS projects - Individually - Presentation of project ideas - Partner finding
	16:30 – 17:00	Coffee break
	17:30-18:30	Presentation of Results in Plenary Working groups to elaborate project outlines
	18:30 –19:00	Presentation of working group results in plenary: Agreements on further co-operation and follow-up activities, developing a co-ordinated plan of action
	19:30	Dinner
13.06.05	09.30 – 11:00	Training on EVS project implementation II: (workshops) - Rights and Responsibilities of Sending Org. , Host Org. and Mentors - EVS volunteer training - guidelines and minimum quality standards
	11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
	11:30 - 13:00	Continuation of workshops

	Presentation of results of workshops in plenary
13:30 – 15:00	Lunch
15:00 - 17:00	EVS Project Management and Reporting Tasks: (plenary) - Insurance - Partnership agreement - Financial Management and Administration - Collecting and Submitting Reports
	Final Evaluation of the activity
	Departure of participants

Daily Reports by participants

Daily report: Wednesday 08th, June 2005

Arrival / Welcome

Participants arrived in the afternoon and got together for Dinner at 18:30. After dinner, participants were welcomed by the facilitators team in the meeting room. After getting to know the team and a few explanations regarding the venue, the participants were asked to form a map of Europe indicating their countries of origin and to explain briefly from where they came and which organization they represented. After this, participants were asked to form a line in alphabetic order, according to the first letter of their names, standing on chairs and without speaking. After this participants got the task to rehearse a “clapping performance” in groups of 5. The presentation of the clapping performance was the lead-over to the welcome party, which took place in a good atmosphere and was a good opportunity to get to know each other.

Daily report: Thursday 09th, June 2005

Morning Session:

In the beginning of the morning session, Andreas Schwab on behalf of the team and the organizers once again welcomed all participants. After a name round and some ice-breaking activities, he briefly recalled the aims of the Training Course emphasizing exchange of experiences on different participatory practices, learning from examples of good practice and developing strategies, activities and networks on fostering positive youth action around EU-SEE voluntary service and mobility opportunities provided by the YOUTH programme. He also briefly explained the situation of the envisaged multilateral EVS project which had not been approved at the first selection round, but would be resubmitted to the November 1 deadline for the year 2006, considering the recommendations and plans made at this training course.

We then moved on to next programme point. We were asked to put on a paper tree different colour papers with our expectations and our fears for this training, and what we hoped to contribute to the course, what we hoped to learn and achieve.
Some of the expectations expressed here were:

- get more information on YOUTH programme, get to know new project partners
- improve the implementation of EVS projects by learning from other organisations
- develop ideas for innovative projects to foster active citizenship / positive youth actions in our communities
- get skills and methods for involving young people in decision-making
- learn from practice of organisations specialised in the field of youth participation

After this the team introduced the programme in detail and asked the group to put forward comments and possibly suggestions regarding the programme planning. A social team as well as a reporters' team where chosen.

After a coffee break, each participant was asked to presented his/her organization which was done as follows:

ALBANIAN SOCIETY IN DEVELOPMENT – ASD

ASD Albania was established in March 2000 with the initiative of a group of young activist. Its main aim is to promote human rights giving special emphasis to women, youth and children. In

particular, they seek to promote in their work minority groups and equal rights issues. Their main activities are:

- Inclusion of minorities
- Gender balances
- Training courses (HIV, local community)
- Summer camps

BALKAN IDEA NOVI SAD – BINS

BalkanIDEA network has been founded with the assistance of the EYF, Directorate for Youth and Sports, CoE being funded as the pilot project in 2000.

Their main objective is the support of the initiative of intra-regional cooperation between the students and the youth of South-East Europe under the title BalkanIDEA, while paying special attention to:

- Exchange of knowledge and experience in the various fields of science, education and culture.
- Democratic values and active participation in social and political life.
- Action 1, 2 and 5 of Youth Programme.

YOUTH PEACE GROUP DANUBE – YPGD (Croatia)

The Youth Peace Group Danube was created in 1995 and officially registered in 1997 as a non-profit, non-government, humanitarian, and youth volunteer organisation. It currently has about 20 active members from different national groups, including international members. Youth Peace Group Danube objectives are to promote the development of a civil and democratic society based on non-violent culture, ethnic tolerance, and respect for human rights.

ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRATIC PROSPERITY – ZID (Montenegro)

Zid is a NGO founded in 1996. ADP – Zid's mission is to promote and strengthen participation of individuals and organizations in the process of civil society development through implementation of innovative programs to foster democratic processes and contribute to community development. One of the main goals of ADP – Zid is to involve as many young people as possible in its work, which is not always easy to do. ADP – Zid realizes different kind of projects within the following programs:

- Community development programme
- Volunteers' center programme
- Local information and culture

GRENZENLOS (Austria)

The German word “Grenzenlos” stands for “no boundaries”, as well as “no limits”. It has a geographical as well as a personal meaning. The mission of Grenzenlos is: inter-cultural understanding and personal development. Grenzenlos is not dependent on any religious or political party; it is a non-profit NGO. Its main purpose is to promote world peace through international exchanges and intercultural learning. The Grenzenlos programs exist since 1949; since 1970, Grenzenlos is an independent association.

YOUTH FORUM EYE (Macedonia)

Youth Forum EYE works for a multiethnic and open society in the Republic of Macedonia. They also support international 'youth exchange' programs, which they believe will improve the integration with European values. They aim to inspire and help positive social and economic changes, and they are dedicated towards efficient realization of those ideas. They support the cooperation between Balkan and Baltic countries about social inclusion.

ICJA e.V.– International Christian Youth Exchange (Germany)

ICYE Germany offers voluntary services to young people aged 18-30 in the frame of a variety of programmes:

- European Voluntary Service programme
- ICYE / worldwide youth exchange programme
- Civilian Service Program abroad (Latin America and Africa)
- Receiving Volunteers from EU, Russia, Belarus and Lithuania with the support the German foundation “Stiftung Ost-Westliche Begegnungen”

CENTER OF YOUTH VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES (CYVA DEINETA) – (Lithuania)

This agency was established in 1988 as a union of several student clubs. *DEINETA* is an independent non-political voluntary service organization. They support international short-term youth and teenagers voluntary camps in Lithuania and also send volunteers abroad to international projects. In 1999, in close cooperation with East links and ICYE (International Cultural Youth Exchange) Federation, *DEINETA* joined the EVS program and hosted the first volunteers.

Deineta’s main objective is to promote international co-operation and understanding between young people from different countries and different cultures; to put in practice voluntary ideas; to provide opportunities for young people who without distinction of race,

language, religion or social status, who wish to acquire cross cultural skills and gain international experience for their personal and professional development;

YCS YMCA Macedonia

YMCA Macedonia is a youth NGO and part of the international YMCA family. With over 200 members and volunteers, YCS YMCA Macedonia works primarily in the fields of Arts, children-care, youth sport activities and informal education. They have recently hosted some EVS volunteers and are interested in EVS and Youth Exchanges.

VOLUNTEERS' CENTRE ZAGREB (Croatia)

VCZ is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation, founded in 1998. Aims of the organization are to promote human rights, peace, community consciousness, protecting the environment, solidarity, intercultural learning, civil society, stimulating individual development and strengthening the youth initiatives through voluntary work and promoting the same. VCZ's main activity in past five years is international exchange of volunteers, and organising voluntary workcamps.

ICYE UK

ICYE-UK is part of ICYE, a worldwide federation of independent youth organisations established in 1949 with a head office in Berlin and national offices in over 34 different countries. Inter-Cultural Youth Exchange UK aims to promote inter-cultural awareness and youth empowerment through the exchange of people and ideas.

A nationally recognized charity working in the area of youth development, ICYE-UK sends individuals, who want to broaden their horizons, develop personally and make a difference to live and work with communities throughout the world for a year or six months.

JEUNESSE ET RECONSTRUCTION (France)

J&R was established in 1948 as a union of several European young people who have worked in order to rebuild the cities destroyed by the bombs of the Second World War. At the moment, J&R carries out intercultural exchange programmes promoting tolerance, reciprocal respect and fraternity.

EYCI

Educación y Calidad Intercultural was created in 2002, with the support of a Future Capital project under the Youth Programme of European Commission. It cooperates with the BBK

Gazte Lanbidean Foundation to promote intercultural activities, which are of social interest and contribute to local development world wide. It encourages young people to participate in youth voluntary service and exchange programmes to foster mutual understanding among young people from different countries.

AFSAI (Italy)

AFSAI has been working since 1958 in the field of intercultural education and organizes both long and short-term exchanges. It is a non-profit NGO and carries out long-term and short -term exchanges with both European and non-European partners.

The majority of the activities promoted by AFSAI refer to three main areas:

- Intercultural education, through international youth exchanges;
- Development and consciousness of European Citizenship through programs and projects in the frame of European Youth Programs;
- Youth mobility and national, European and international voluntary youth service;

ICYE – International Cultural Youth Exchange

ICYE originated in 1949 as the International Christian Youth Exchange, a post-World War II reconciliation exchange programme between Germany and the United States of America. In 1949, with the world still recovering from the horrors of war, 50 courageous German teenagers ventured across the Atlantic and were welcomed as ICYE “exchanges” into host families in the USA. ICYE was born!

Today ICYE is an international non-profit youth exchange organization promoting youth mobility, intercultural learning and international voluntary service. ICYE organizes long and to a lesser extent short-term exchanges combining home stays with voluntary service in more than 34 countries around the world.

SERVICIO MUNICIPAL DE JUVENTUD (Murcia – Spain)

SMJ deals with projects concerning youth in general. It aims to support young people in their daily life and to develop intercultural exchanges as a tool for promoting active citizenship.

Kinder und Jugendbüro Neukölln

The children and youth office Neukölln functions as a service point and implements activities to foster the engagement of children and youth in decision-making. These activities are:

- Organizing talks between children and young people with politicians
- Guided tours for children and youth to explore their neighborhood
- Development of City maps which serve the needs of young people
- planning workshops to generate ideas as well as prepare proposals and political initiatives to improve the installations and offers for young people in the Neukölln district of Berlin

Daily report: Thursday 9th, June 2005

Afternoon Session

Lecture, workshops and participatory methods of youth work: Involving young people in decision-making – methods, examples, experiences

The expert trainer Rebekka Bendig of the Berlin Platform on Children and Youth Policies received a warm welcome. Before starting the work, she introduced herself, explaining that she is working on different projects of the platform to promote the involvement of young people in political decision-making in Berlin. She then gave us an overview on the whole three-hour workshop, which included the following parts:

- A practical exercise which can be used to get a quick overview regarding opinions and attitudes in a group: Participants were asked several questions regarding their view and background in the field of youth participation and had to answer these questions by sticking dots on the answer choices on a wallpaper. The questions were as follows:
    - Who decides on finances in your organisation?
    - Who chooses the new staff in your organisation?
    - Today I`m feeling….☺😐☹
    - When I was a child I disliked it when adults….
    - My opinion about involving young people in decision-making-processes
    - In this workshop I would like to learn about…
    - These methods I already know….

- An introduction to the "Lonely Planet" game (You are on a planet without civilization. You have the following tasks: 1) find a name for the planet, 2) discuss the three most important rules for the people who will live on your planet.) Participants did this in small groups and got back to plenary with their results. They then discussed the process of finding consensus which in some groups had gone easier than in others.

- As next step, the expert gave an input (pl. see annex III) on the situation of engaging young people in decisionmaking in Germany and in Berlin focussing on: Why engaging young people in planning and consultations, Legal instruments, Forms and Methods, Practice Examples, as well as some theoretic reflections. During this presentation, Monika Hoffmann-Till from the Kinder und Jugendbüro Neukölln gave a practice example of a state funded children and youth participation office which provides "neighborhood maps", organizes

planning workshops to engage children and youth in development of community planning such as playground projects, parks and so on.

- The last hour we made a practical exercise again, called “FUTURE WORKSHOP” which can be used as a method for involving young people in decision-making:

  The “Future Workshop” consisted of three phases:

  Criticism Phase: “What are main problems and difficulties regarding the engagement of young people in our organisation? “

  Participants collected their answers to this question without discussing them and presented the results to the other groups in plenary.

  Visionary Phase: “Supposing there are no limits, no financial problems, What are our dreams and wishes for involving young people in the decision-making in your organisation?”

  Participants collected their answers to this question without discussing them and presented the results to the other groups in plenary.

  Reality Phase: “How can you make your dreams become reality? What resources do you have in our organisation? What would be feasible steps to obtain a higher level of involvement of young people in decisionmaking?” Participants discussed this question and developed little projects which would foster the involvement of young people in decision-making in their respective organisations.

At the end of the “Future Workshop” all participants gathered in plenary. The representatives of the three groups presented their groups’ results. The general feeling was that a lot more is possible in most organisations than what is being done so far. Participants by going through the three phases, had been able to see beyond their actual situation and to get new ideas and motivation for improving the work in their organisations.

As the afternoon session had come to an end, participants were asked to give their feedback on all parts of the workshop by sticking dots on a wallpaper in form of a target. If dots were sticked close to the center of the target, this meant that participants had appreciated and liked this part, were the dots sticked closer to the outside, this meant that they did not like this part.

In a final round some participants expressed their overall satisfaction with the workshop. They had learned and experienced some new methods which they definitely would use in future activities with young people. It was also mentioned that the practice example and the overview on the situation of youth involving initiatives in Germany were found to be very interesting as big differences could be experienced between some of the participants's countries of origin.

Intercultural Evening

After dinner the group gathered again in the meeting room and participants were asked to present the items they had brought along from their home countries in a creative way. The presentations included comments about cultural particularities of the present EU and SEE countries and were done in a humorous manner, which set the scene for an entertaining and pleasant evening and helped to build a good group atmosphere.

Daily report: Friday 10th, June 2005

Morning session

"Non formal Learning and Youth Mobility – Important Elements of the EU White Paper on Youth"

The morning session started with an input by Snezana Baclija on "Non-formal learning and Youth Mobility – Important Elements of the European Commission's White Paper: A new impetus for European Youth" . After an informative powerpoint presentation (pl. view summary in annex) in which we learned about the White Paper consultation process and outcome, we were asked to express our own associations with the "white paper" in form of a "mindmap". After doing the individual mindmaps we split up in three discussion groups to talk about "Country realities regarding non-formal learning and mobility opportunities". We were asked to express our own experience about the meaning and importance of non-formal education and mobility in our countries. Some of the statements made by participants were:

Renan / France: "*there is a lack of information in France about the possibilities of non-formal learning. Everybody should have equal (learning) opportunities but still only formal education is practiced. Good students are active in associations/organisations."*

Ruta / Lithuania: "*Among Lithuanians, there is only little interest in non-formal learning opportunities. Young people prefer going abroad for earning money, and not often, because they want to work on particular skills. If a young person wishes to go abroad for a volunteering service, it is seen as a waste of time."*

Felix ***/*** Spain: *"In my City "Murcia" young people are very much aware of youth exchange opportunities all over Europe, as there is a Department for European Exchanges belonging to the town hall. There is much more demand than the number of places the office can actually offer to young people in their programs. As a result, people working in the department get paid for their job and can concentrate on the work they are doing without having to spend their time in looking for grants and project funding. The budget for youth exchanges is not depending on the political party in power, Instituto de la Juventud is independent in that sense.*

As a second step, we were asked to reflect on the possibilities to make volunteering opportunities provided by the EU YOUTH programme more attractive for young people. The main conclusions achieved were:

- It is important to find innovative forms to introduce young people to the Youth program, using the Internet and as well as other innovative forms of communication.

- People have knowledge about the SOCRATES program because many students have been participating in this formal education program. Young people have to be aware how they can use EVS in their professional career.
- There is not much recognition of the status of a volunteer in mainstream society; not many discounts are given.
- A prolongation of the voluntary service in particular cases should be possible.
- Why not creating a special voluntary service in the field of youth work with detailed job description and the possibility for the volunteers to use this experience for their (youth work) career?
- Young people above 25 years should also have the opportunity to participate in EVS.

In the last phase of the discussion, participants mentioned that we have to consider the difference of working conditions in EU and SEE countries, which make the co-operation in a long-term perspective difficult. The experience in organizing trans-national volunteer exchange is not the same in EU and SEE countries. The number of volunteers exchanged is still very low, there is a different legal and economic situation. Better long-term partnerships must be developed, not only relying on the sporadic approval of EVS projects. It was also mentioned that in some SEE countries it is possible that private supporting organizations leave the program after having been active for a couple of years because they feel that their "job is done". With them, funding goes away, and the local committees might have difficulties to keep on working with almost no support.

Afternoon session

Presentation of "Project P" , Robin Block

The afternoon session started with a brief presentation of "Project P" by Robin Block. He gave participants a handout (see annex) and explained that the Festival Berlin 05, which takes place from 10-12 June, is the highlight of a nationwide initiative called "project P – misch dich ein" (project P – take part). The initiative aims at raising the interest of young people for political topics and support them in their commitment to politics. In addition, it demands politicians to open up for juvenile participation. Project O was founded by three partners: The Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors Women and Youth (BMFSFJ), the federal centre for political education (bpb) and the German Federal Youth Ring (DBJR).

Presentation: The EU YOUTH Programme's Actions and Priority Regions – Opportunities for EU SEE cooperation

The session continued with a presentation on the EU YOUTH Programme (pl. see Annex 5) starting out with an overview on all actions under the YOUTH programme, followed by an explanation on the

three Actions, which are currently open for cooperation between EU and SEE countries – Actions 1, 2 and 5. The presentation furthermore contained information on the priorities for the YOUTH programme in the year 2005 (cultural diversity and social inclusion) as well as a brief presentation on actors such as SALTO-YOUTH Resource Centres. We also heard about the preparations being done regarding the new generation of the YOUTH programme as of 2007-2013.

Subsequent to the above presentation participants were encouraged to ask questions and to make comments reflecting their opinions and views with regards to the YOUTH programme and opportunities it provides for their organisations. Participants from SEE countries in particular expressed the wish of their organisations to become more involved in YOUTH project activities and to find reliable partners in EU countries.

After a short coffee break Action 1, Action 2 and Action 5 projects, which had recently been implemented by some of the participating organisations, were presented. Participants were encouraged to ask questions and make comments with regards to the results achieved in these projects in supporting the development of local communities.

The session continued with a brainstorming on strategies for developing future EU-SEE EVS projects which would foster the involvement of young people in local development. A number of host placements for EVS volunteers were mentioned here, among them municipalities, youth centers, campaigns on active citizenship, youth radio, youth press, etc.

To give participants enough time for developing project ideas and make agreements on future cooperation, the group agreed on dedicating a full session (Sunday afternoon) to project development.

Daily report: Saturday 11th, June 2005

Morning session

Workshop to prepare a creative presentation of mobility and voluntary service opportunities provided by the Youth programme.

After an energizer we started the day with a practical exercise: in small groups we had the task to brainstorm on ideas for a creative presentation of mobility and voluntary service opportunities provided by the Youth programme. The presentation was then prepared by the whole group in form of an acted song, which was meant to draw the attention of young people on the "Interactiv4" Youth Fair in the afternoon. Furthermore the team gave background information regarding the different activities which the group would have the opportunity to participate in during the afternoon session.

Afternoon session

Participation in Fair: "Interactiv 4"

At lunchtime the group left to Berlin Alexanderplatz, where the fair "Interactiv 4" organised by the Berlin platform on children and youth policies had just started. We first had the opportunity to move around different information stands learning about initiatives and efforts made to actively involve young people on local level. A main attraction was of course the information stand organized by volunteers of ICYE Germany, providing young people with information on voluntary service and mobility programmes.

At 4 pm the creative group performance on "Volunteering / the Youth Programme" started and attracted at least some young people who were passing by the scenery. After this, participants had a few hours for them to get to know the Centre of Berlin or to go shopping. The group met again at 7 pm, at the FEZ Concert site and Festival Centre of Project "P" (please view presentation in Annex) where the group visited an open-air concert, which had been organised to mark and celebrate the end of the nationwide initiative "Project - P".

Daily report: Sunday 12th, June 2005

Morning Session

Training on EVS project implementation I

After an energizer, an introduction was given with regards to the aims of this training part connected to the implementation of European Voluntary Service projects. To underline the importance of quality implementation of future EU – SEE EVS projects, the team presented some statements made by former EVS volunteers on their final evaluation session. These comments reported about problems which volunteers had encountered and which could be related to the tasks of the different actors in every EVS project, such as the organization of training meetings in the host country, ongoing task-related support, interaction between volunteers and mentors, supervisors, host organisations as well as arrangements to be made for food and accommodation, language course, etc. The introduction also touched the following tasks related to the implementation of multilateral EVS projects: recruitment, matching, preparing volunteers and hosts for the EVS experience, contents of training sessions for EVS volunteers as well as monitoring and problem solving.

One major problem of former EVS projects between EU and SEE countries had been, that some of the task descriptions provided for the EVS project application do sometimes not reflect well enough the reality in the EVS host project, particularly when an organisation undergoes changes between the submission of the project and the arrival of the volunteer. In other cases task descriptions were not elaborated enough and therefore led to the rejection of a host organisation, which otherwise would have been able to run a successful EVS project.

The elaboration of the task description is therefore a major factor in EVS project implementation and has to be done very carefully. After this introduction, we were reminded that during the preparation process of this training course we had received the instruction to choose one new EVS host organisation for which we would like to elaborate a task description during the course.

To start the practical exercise that was planned for the second half of the morning, the participants were split in several groups with the task to elaborate at least one task description for an EVS volunteer. The task descriptions were then presented focussing on the following aspects:

- Intercultural dimension
- Variety and balance of tasks
- Responsibilities for certain tasks, specific guidance and support in the case of highly demanding tasks

- Options for a personal project
- Example of a weekly timetable, indicating working hours, free time, holidays.

Based on this, before and during the lunch break, the groups developed several proposals. These proposals were presented after the lunch break in plenary. During the presentation the team, as well as the participants who had more experience, gave comments on how they could be improved. The interest for every project was very high and raised many questions by the other participants.

At the end of each presentation, the groups were asked to put the presented task description under a topic. This was very important since our final goal was to prepare all of these projects "to fit" in one or several multilateral EVS projects. Most of the presented host organisations and respective task descriptions for EVS volunteers could be categorized either in the field "Social Inclusion", "Active citizenship" or "Local development".

Afternoon session

Brainstorming on future EU-SEE projects to be developed under EVS

The participants were divided in two groups. Each of these groups had the task to develop further the proposals for multilateral EVS projects on the topics that had come out of the morning session as well as brainstorm on ideas for new activities. Before starting their work, the participants were given the following headers:

- Aim and objectives of the multilateral EVS project
- Profile of the host organisations
- Countries/HOs involved
- Number of volunteers
- Envisaged countries and host organisations

The outline of one of the developed multilateral EVS project was then presented in the following plenary session as follows:

Theme: Fostering Youth Participation and Active Citizenship in EU and SEE Countries

Aims:

- Foster youth participation in different issues of local communities and European level as well.
- Common values and common European identity through active participation of youth.
- Support youth services of municipalities and NGO's
- Exchange of good practices of youth serving institutions in EU and SEE.

Profile of volunteers: Preferably a volunteer with similar or previous experience and high interest and motivation.

Duration: 9 to 12 months (6 is not enough)

Participating Countries: Albania, Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Macedonia, Spain (Bilbao + Murcia), Austria, France, Slovenia, Bulgaria.

Potential EVS Host Organizations:

- Municipal Youth Services such as the Youth service of the Municipality of Murcia (Spain)
- Volunteer / youth participation campaigns on local and regional level such as the ones run by VZC in Croatia
- Youth info contact points
- Youth Parliaments
- Youth Magazine in Macedonia
- Youth clubs
- Local NGO's dealing with young refugees or migrants

At the end of the plenary session, the participants were given a space to make agreements on further cooperation and follow-up activities, which resulted in a number of concrete proposals such as:

- Action 1 youth exchange
- Bilateral EU – SEE EVS projects
- A training for youth workers on EVS project management

Daily report: Monday 13th, June 2005

Morning session

Training on EVS Project Implementation II

Rights and Responsibilities of HO, SO and Mentors

The morning started with an energiser. Then we formed working groups to look more in-depth at the:

- rights and responsibilities of host organisations (h.o.), sending organisations (s.o.) and mentors.
- EVS volunteer training - guidelines and minimum quality standards

The task of both groups was to extract the most important points of the relevant European Commission reference documents and to share experiences.
After a coffee break the group met again in plenary to share the results of the work groups.

The most important responsibilities of the sending organisations (s.o.) were presented as follows:

- before and after the EVS experience, they must provide training
- the recruitment, considering the profile of the volunteer
- encourage and motivate the volunteer
- share information with the volunteer about EVS
- provide and use evaluation documents
- to be checked beforehand:
    - identify social background and motivation
    - ensure insurance package
    - visa organisation
- mediation and resolution of conflicts between volunteer and host organisation

The group reported that special cases of experiences with former volunteers were brought up and discussed. In one case, participants had asked themselves what was the responsibility of the sending organisation in case a volunteer had HIV when going on EVS. The main conclusion was that the s.o. would have the right to ask the volunteer, but the s.o. does not have any other means to find out. Nevertheless it was mentioned that the co-operation between the s.o. and the h.o. has to be based on confidence which means that as much accurate information as possible on the volunteer and on the host organisation have to be provided beforehand, to avoid unnecessary risks or disappointment for both sides.

The rights of the host organisation (h.o.) were then presented:

- to obtain information about the volunteer that may be relevant to the EVS project and for the on-arrival training.
- to be able to change the project and also end the EVS program in case of inappropriate or dangerous behaviour.
- to know about the EVS experience (final report of s.o., follow-up information)

The responsibilities of a h.o.:

- to describe a clear profile of the volunteer's project and to provide information of any relevant partner
- with the signing of the tripartite agreement, the h.o. should fulfil all legal requirements concerning the EVS-project and the volunteer in the host country.
- to provide on-arrival training within the first two months
- to provide language training
- to assign a mentor
- to check health and safety conditions
- to provide accommodation

In this group a discussion on the question "has the volunteer the right to a single room or is it ok to share a room?" had come to the conclusion that to provide a single room is in most cases better and therefore should be recommended. A single room offers the possibility of hideaway and privacy.
The group reported that another question had been raised: "Is it possible that volunteers add their own money to rent a flat?" This was considered a very critical point because it would be in conflict with the EVS financial guidelines. It is the h.o.'s responsibility to provide accommodation.

We went further into the rights of a volunteer and it was stated that a volunteer has got the right to two days holidays per month additionally to the weekends. Volunteers should receive on-going training and task-related support. Their experiences should be evaluated together with them. Support should also be provided in case a volunteer would like to present a "Future Capital" project as follow-up of his/her EVS experience.

At the end of the working group the rights and responsibilities of a mentor were considered:

Rights: - to get information and support
- to organize meetings with volunteer(s)

Responsibilities: - assist in case of problems, health issues, visits to the doctor

- act as a middleman/mediator
- personal support and open communication with the volunteer

Discussion: The group members felt that things might go wrong in cases when a mentor could be far too much of a friend. When talking about how intensive and time-consuming the mentorship can become some of the group members expressed doubts whether they would be able to do so much work. We agreed that being a mentor is more of work in the beginning and that it can be rather difficult when having a full time job at the same time.

EVS volunteer training - guidelines and minimum quality standards

In the meeting, the group reported, that the guideline document was based on the acquired experience with EVS training sessions over the last years and states the necessity of guidelines and minimum standards to ensure the quality of training provided for EVS volunteers. Then, the paper describes the details about the four different trainings, which are pre-departure training, on-arrival training, mid-term meeting, and final evaluation.

Concerning the pre-departure training, the document mentioned among others the following points:

- should take place right before leaving
- should allow volunteers to share expectations/ideas/information/fears
- should start the learning process including resolution of conflicts and intercultural experiences
- should provide technical information regarding the stay abroad

A discussion started around the idea of creating on-arrival or mid-term meetings involving people from the local municipality, from local authorities or national NGOs. By doing this, the Youth programme would become more visible. Another idea for improving in-service communication was to enable online communication especially for multilateral projects.

After going through the contents of all meetings, we found that the mid-term and final evaluations are very important for a successful learning experience in an EVS project. They are possibilities to look back, to reflect and conclude, and also to look into the future.

Afternoon session

EVS Project implementation III:

EVS Project Management and reporting tasks:

During the afternoon session Andreas Schwab of the ICYE International Office introduced important tasks of implementing / managing multilateral EVS projects and presented the respective documents as follows:

- Insurance Enrollment and Handling of claims

Within this session we were presented the following scheme to simplify the insurance processes in cases of illnesses or accidents. The scheme refers to the group insurance coverage provided by AXA / EUROPEAN BENEFITS. The ICYE International Office enrolls volunteers centrally. This insurance includes medical and dental care, repatriation and assistance and third party liability as well.

The handling of insurance claims for medical and dental care is represented in the following scheme:

VOLUNTEER

consults

⇩

DOCTOR / HOSPITAL - DIAGNOSIS / PRESCRIPT/TREATM.

⇩

INVOICE

⇩

PAYMENT

⇩

SEND CLAIM AND PROOFS TO AXA / PARIS

⇩

REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES TO BANK ACCOUNT OR CASH

$

- Partnership Agreement

The next important task was an example of a Partnership Agreement, the agreement between a co-ordinating organisation, a host- and a sending organisation, a volunteer and his/her host project. All parties declare that they "undertake to carry out the following voluntary service project in a spirit of co-operation, under the YOUTH programme's Action 2-European Voluntary Service". The agreement stipulates the duration of the project, the activities of the young volunteer, any arrangements made to enable the young volunteer to take a break during the period of service, monthly allowance allocated to the young volunteer and paid by the host organisation, accommodation arrangements offered by the host organisation (board and lodging) as well as local transport provided. Moreover the roles and responsibilities of the actors of the agreement such as the co-ordinator, the sending organisation, the volunteer and the hosting organisation are defined in the agreement as outlined in the reference documents that had been discussed in the morning session.

- Financial management and administration tasks:

Agree on distribution of funds with partners, administer funds according to guidelines, collect and send proofs for real expenses, etc…

- Collecting and submitting reports
  - Part V – host org report (done by volunteer placement!)
  - Part V – Volunteer report (including the statement on pocket money received!)
  - Annex to Certificate (done by volunteer placement and volunteer jointly!)

After each introduction, participants already working at project management level were encouraged to share their experiences with the work on these tasks and to give hints.

FINAL ROUND

At the end of the afternoon session participants were given some time to fill in a questionnaire. After that a more interactive method was used to measure the level of satisfaction of the participants with the different programme elements, the facilitation, the venue as well as the overall results of the training course. Among others we had to fill a balloon with air to the extent as how much we liked the seminar (the bigger the balloon, the better we liked it) and then write on it the word which was for us most matching to our feelings about the seminar. The trainers then encouraged the participants to address the plenary with their comments and feedback as well as suggestions for future training courses. Some of the comments made by participants were:

- I really enjoyed myself during these days and the TC met my expectations
- The TC programme was very interesting, but maybe covered too many areas in too short time
- The TC was well organized and provided with everything we needed
- I got a clearer view on how to formulate proposals for EVS host projects
- I liked the facilitation a lot. The input could have been more according to individual weaknesses.
- More time for exchange of ideas and developing plans for future initiatives/projects would have been useful for me
- I definitely increased my knowledge about youth participation issues in theory and practice

The group then officially thanked the trainers for their hard and professional work. On behalf of the coordinating organisation - ICYE, Andreas Schwab thanked all participants for their valuable contributions and the positive spirit that could be felt through the entire meeting and wished them a good journey home.

ANNEX 1 / Participants List:

Surname	Name	Organisation	Country	Gender	E-mail Address
Ainhoa	Oribe	Deineta	Lithunania	F	csa@kaunas.omnitel.net
Xheni	Sinakoli	Albanian Society in Development	Albania	F	xhenis@yahoo.com
Block	Robin	ICJA e.V.	Germany	M	robin_block@web.de
Brandoni	Alice	AFSAI	Italy	F	a.brandoni@afsai.it
Bendig	Rebekka	Drehscheibe Kinder u. Jugendpolitik	Germany	F	drehscheibe@stiftung-spi.de
Bumbaroska	Emilija	EYCI – BBK	Macedonia	F	e_bumbaroska@yahoo.com
Cestar	Marijana	Volunteers' Centre Zagreb	Croatia	F	vc@zamir.net
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Cojaniz	Anselm	ICJA e.V.	Germany	M	ute.clausner@grenzenlos.or.at
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Nezhevich	Maria	ICJA e.V.	Germany	F	icja@icja.de
Milosevic	Igor	Association for Democratic Prosperity (ADP-ZID)	Serbia and Montenegro	M	igor_milosevic@cg.yu
Poposki	Jovan	Youth Forum EYE	Macedonia	M	jovan@youthforumeye.org.mk
Reefschläger	Anja	ICJA e.V.	Germany	F	icja@icja.de
Ruta	Gedzeviciute	Deineta	Lithunania		rutagedzeviciute@hotmail.com
San Mateo	Felix	Plan Joven Murcia	Spain	M	planjoven@ayto-murcia.es
Sartre	Ronan	Jeunesse et Reconstruction	France	M	icye@volontariat.org
Schrefel	Magdalena	Youth Peace Group Danube	Croatia	F	m_schrefel@yahoo.de
Snezana	Baclija	Balkan Idea, Novi Sad	Serbia and Montenegro	F	baclijas@neobee.net
Schwab	Andreas	ICYE International Office	Germany	M	icye@icye.org
Ware	Louise	ICYE UK	UK	F	louiseware@hotmail.com;

ANNEX 2 / Evaluation Questionnaire:

1. Please identify your 5 (maximum) most important learning points of the Training Course:

- Commitment to the multilateral project
- Rights and responsibilities of h.o.'s, s.o.'s, and mentors.
- Active citizenship and youth mobility, what does it involve.
- Political and social situations on the Balkan/SEE esp. concerning youth.
- How to involve young people in decision making projects.

2. Has the Training Course dealt with some of your difficulties or weaknesses in developing / implementing YOUTH Action 1 or 2 projects?

- Yes, this TC has developed my own skills in Action 2, especially increasing my capacities in order to write a good description of volunteer tasks
- Yes, but it was not technical enough
- Yes, clear views of how to formulate/prepare and host projects.

3.Using the 5 statements below, how do you rate your present feelings about participating in future YOUTH programme projects? (Please tick a box)

I feel well prepared *I feel overwhelmed*

1	2	3	4	5	6

Rating Average: 2,8

I feel supported *I feel alone*

1	2	3	4	5	6

Rating Average: 2,6

I have the skills *I am inexperienced*

1	2	3	4	5	6

Rating Average: 3,1

I feel confident to go ahead *I am unsure what to do*

1	2	3	4	5	6

Rating Average: 2,2

I am committed to developing projects *I feel sceptical*

1	2	3	4	5	6

Rating Average: 2,3

2. How did you like the facilitation and input provided – any suggestions for future Training Courses?

- Great, professional.
- Well organized and provided with everything that we needed.

- Sometimes the tasks were difficult to understand because I don't have so much knowledge of the program.

5. Were the project visits interesting and useful for you?

Very interesting *not useful*

1	2	3	4	5	6

Rating Average: 2,6

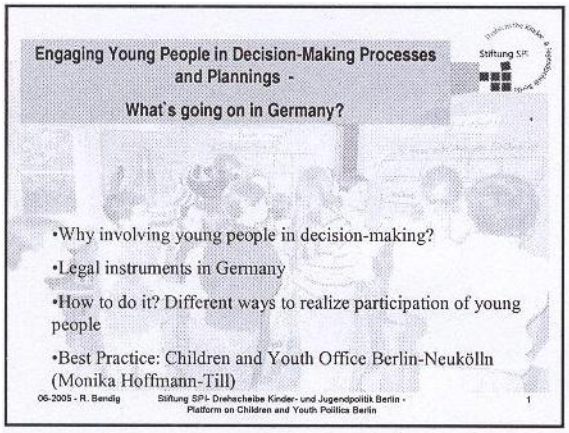
6. How did you like the logistical arrangements for this workshop (accommodation, organization, food, etc.)?

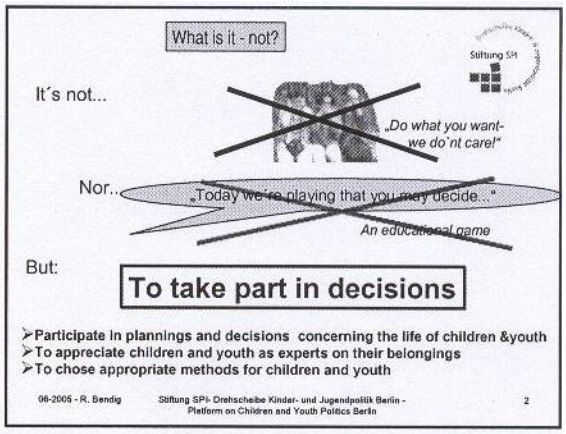
- Really good!
- Good. All Inclusive was great
- If we could have chosen the weather…everything else was fine
- Was very good! I liked the family a lot.

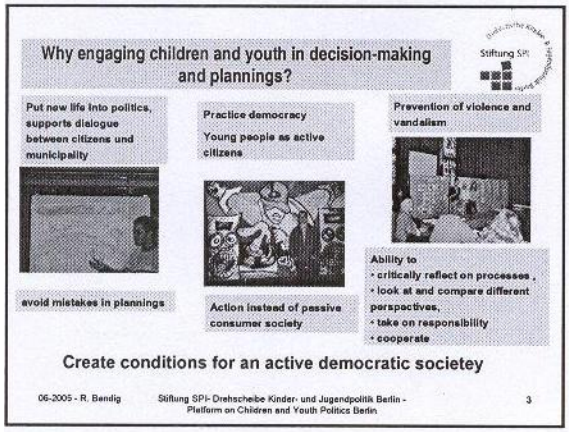
7. Is there anything else you would like to add?

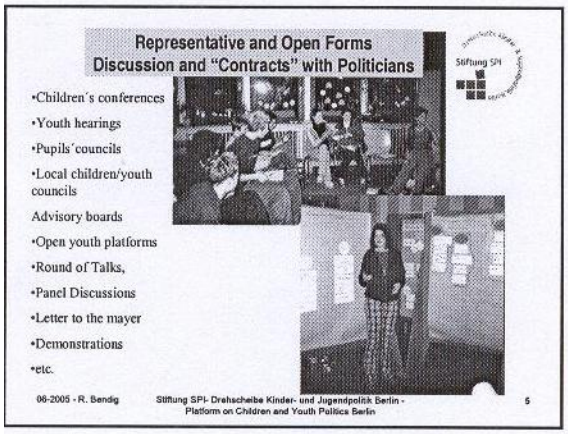
- Yes, I really enjoyed myself during these days – My expectations were fully covered and my fears have disappeared.
- Follow up, further commitment, Brazil? I'd like to work on youth participation more and more.

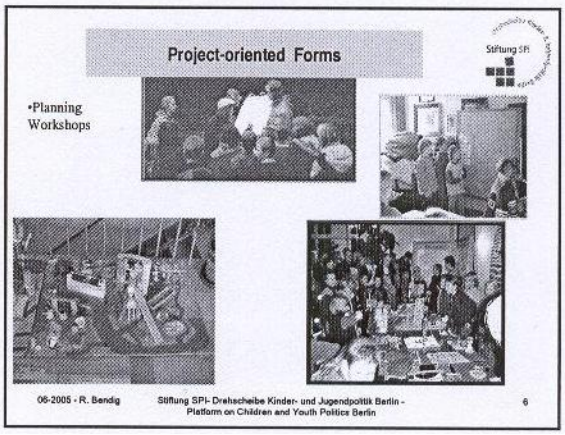
ANNEX 3 / Lecture by Rebecca Bendig: " Engaging young people in decision-making processes and planning – What's going on in Germany?"

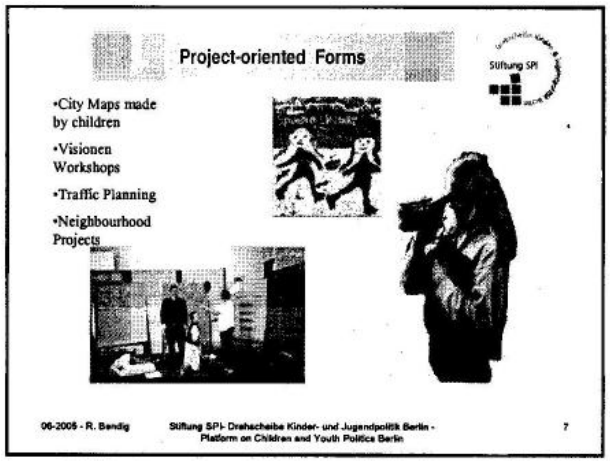











Project-oriented Forms
Stiftung SPI
•City Maps made by children
•Visionen Workshops
•Traffic Planning
•Neighbourhood Projects
06-2005 - R. Bendig
Stiftung SPI- Drehscheibe Kinder- und Jugendpolitik Berlin - Platform on Children and Youth Politics Berlin
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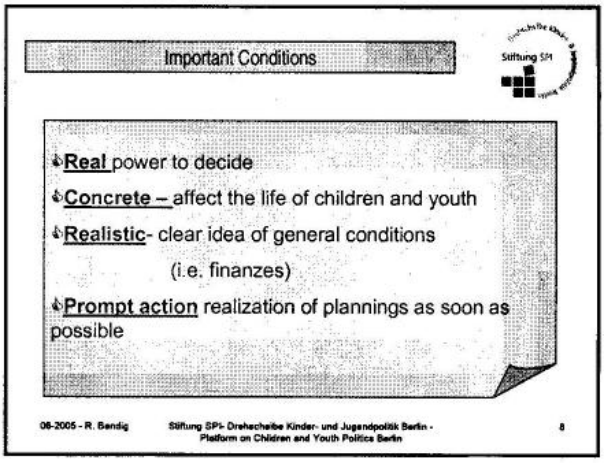
Important Conditions
Stiftung SPI
Real power to decide
Concrete – affect the life of children and youth
Realistic- clear idea of general conditions
(i.e. finanzes)
Prompt action realization of plannings as soon as possible
06-2005 - R. Bendig
Stiftung SPI- Drehscheibe Kinder- und Jugendpolitik Berlin - Platform on Children and Youth Politics Berlin
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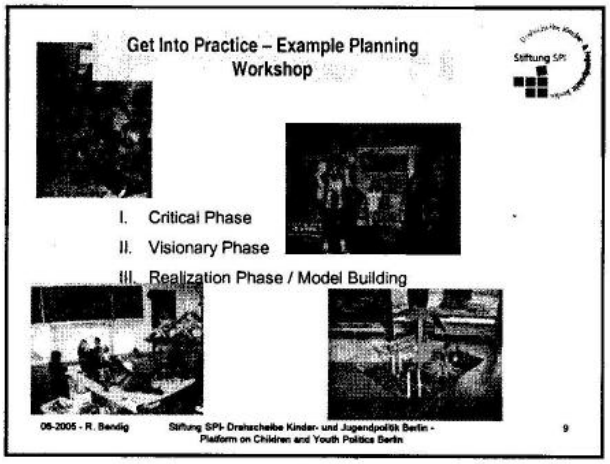
Get Into Practice – Example Planning Workshop
Stiftung SPI
I. Critical Phase
II. Visionary Phase
III. Realization Phase / Model Building
06-2005 - R. Bendig
Stiftung SPI- Drehscheibe Kinder- und Jugendpolitik Berlin - Platform on Children and Youth Politics Berlin
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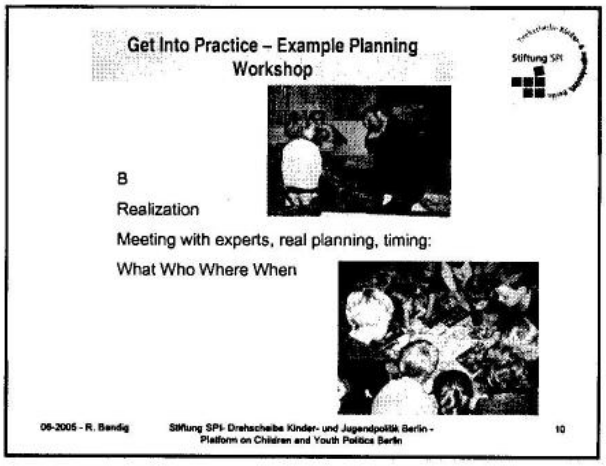
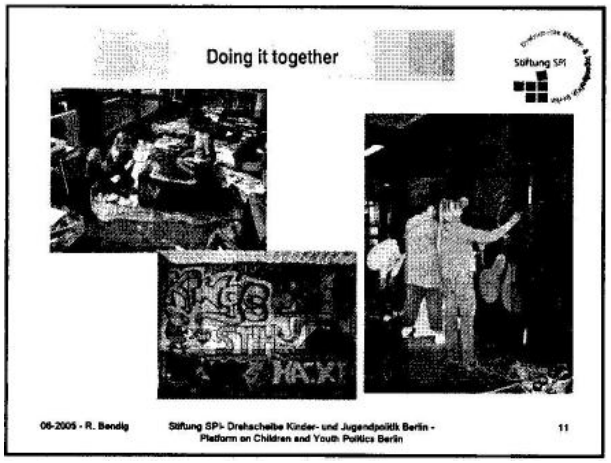

Get Into Practice – Example Planning Workshop
Stiftung SPI
B
Realization
Meeting with experts, real planning, timing:
What Who Where When
06-2005 - R. Bendig
Stiftung SPI- Drehscheibe Kinder- und Jugendpolitik Berlin - Platform on Children and Youth Politics Berlin
10


Doing it together
Stiftung SPI
06-2005 - R. Bendig
Stiftung SPI- Drehscheibe Kinder- und Jugendpolitik Berlin - Platform on Children and Youth Politics Berlin
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ANNEX 4 / Presentation: " The EC White Paper – A new impetus for European Youth"

(http://europa.eu.int/comm/youth/whitepaper/index_en.html)

What is a White Paper?

a document containing proposals for Community action in a specific area; it presents a detailed and well argued policy for discussion and for decision; it is NOT a legislative text. When a White Paper has been favourably received by the Council of Ministers, it may become the action programme for the Union in the area concerned.

The characteristics of a White paper?

it is a kind of declaration of intention in which the Commission commits itself to a clear policy and actions that go with it; It has to be well argued, comprehensive, coherent, and it should be the consequence of intensive prior consultation within and outside the Commission; It has to be carefully drafted; It is a prospective document that seeks to deliver innovative proposals.

Since 1985 there have been 17 White Papers. Its objective is to "deepen the Community co-operation to the benefit and with the involvement of young people, as a specific and essential element of a policy which is resolutely directed towards the future."

The White Paper covers not only the situation of young people but also studies their concerns and desires. It attempts to draw action lines in order to answer the former and satisfy the latter.

This White Paper is in no way a purely programmatic document. It represents an answer to the expectations of young people, but also to the demands of the Member States and the European Parliament.

It is fully coherent with the Commission's White Paper on Governance adopted in July 2001 - the point is to open up the (EU)'s decision-making process to the people who will be affected by those decisions, and that includes young people.

What else?

Promoting new forms of European governance is one of the four strategic priorities set by the Commission. This modernisation of European public action is supported by five fundamental principles: openness, participation, accountability, effectiveness and coherence. The decision to publish the White Paper on youth policy, and in particular the decision to run the earlier consultation exercise, are one outcome of this "governance" approach.

How was the White Paper prepared?

The players...young people themselves; national officials in the Youth field; researchers;and civil society (nongovernmental organisations).

Key messages

Four key messages have merged form the consultation process: Active citizenship for young people, Expanding and recognising areas of experimentation, Developing autonomy among young people, For a European Union as champion of values

The main objective of the White Paper is to give the European Union a new framework for cooperation in the field of youth.

There are two main aspects to this new cooperation framework: Application of the open method of coordination in the more specific field of youth; Taking more account of youth in other policies.

The open method of coordination offers, as underlined by the White Paper on Governance, a "way of encouraging cooperation, the exchange of best practices and agreeing common targets and guidelines for Member States… It relies on regular monitoring of progress to meet those targets, allowing member States to compare their efforts and learn from the experience of others".

Taking more into account other youth policies

As a result of the consultation exercise, the European Commission believes that following priority areas:

- Education, lifelong learning, mobility
- Employment
- Social integration
- Young people against racism and xenophobia
- Autonomy for young people

are the ones in which the youth aspect has to be taken into account.

During the consultation process, young people pinpointed five major areas: Participation; Education; Employment, vocational training, social inclusion; Well-being, individual autonomy, culture; European values, mobility, relations with the rest of the world.

For each of the topics, the Commission analyzed the results of the consultation exercise, making every effort to reproduce what the young people said.

No democracy without participation

A clear demand

Participation of young people – a learning process

Participate? Yes…but how?

Conditions of participation

Proposals

Participation of young people in public life

There are two aspects to this: formal / involves the mechanisms of representative democracy,

informal / aims to develop new forms of participation.

Proposals

The courses of action proposed are based on the following principles: The importance of local level; The need to extend participation beyond young people who belong to organisations and beyond issues specific to youth; School remains one of the forums for participation which must be given priority, even though importance of non-formal education learning and education is recognised; Helping young people to participate is not restricted to asking their opinions.

Information and participation

The aim of European action is not to increase the structures, channels and quantity of information already available but to improve the quality of information available to young people.

At national, regional and local levels Rely on people (sometimes referred to as resource persons) who are active in youth organisations, sports clubs, schools and universities, to provide young people with relevant information. Mobilise young people themselves as resource persons.

Encourage youth information networks. At local level in particular, distribution of general information should be coupled with proper, personalised advice. At national and regional levels there should be increased opportunities for training in how to inform young people.

Education, a crucial stage for young people

The global objectives of learning are threefold: personal fulfilment, social inclusion, and active citizenship. Learning also plays a fundamental role in fostering employability.

The complementary character of formal and nonformal learning

What we learn in formal settings (schools, colleges, training centres etc) is only one part of acquiring skills. Learning through civil society organisations and in social environments is part of informal and nonformal learning. The youth sector has over the years gained experience in providing nonformal learning. At European level the YOUTH Programme is a good example of this work and the experience it can bring.

The complementary character of formal and nonformal learning In the consultation with young people, nonformal learning was often seen as the most positive, efficient and attractive counterpart to a largely inefficient and unattractive system of formal education.

The advantage of nonformal learning lies mainly in: its voluntary and often self-organised nature, its flexibility, the possibilities of participation, the “right to make mistakes”, the closer link to young people’s interests and aspirations. Integrating disadvantaged young people was also seen as an asset of nonformal learning.

Proposals coming out form the consultations In other (out-school) learning environments – at all levels

The specificities of nonformal learning in the youth field, its objectives and tasks should be looked at in more detail, and the relevance of nonformal education and the complementary character of formal and nonformal leading should be made more visible; dialogue between relevant actors in the field, as well as social partners, researches and policy makers, will be needed with a view to improving the recognition of nonformal learning.

Monitoring and evaluation tools should be improved with a view to guaranteeing quality standards.

Training on various topics should be provided as an essential tool for guaranteeing high quality in nonformal learning. Training programmes targeted at professionals should include a European dimension.

At European level

The validation and certification of participation in all YOUTH Programme schemes should be pursued. This can be seen as a first step to be followed up in other nonformal educational settings.

Mobility – the main asset of European integration

Two points have emerged:

The first, which is positive and encouraging, is that mobility is becoming increasingly widespread. The second point is less positive. Mobility remains restricted to a minority of young people. It has to make this transition from the exception to the general rule: mobility must become an integral part of learning form a very early age. Programmes must therefore be accessible to all young people regardless of their socio-economic or geographical origin.

The YOUTH programme has to be seen, then, as a resource for the new form of cooperation advocated in this White Paper. In full respect of the Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing this programme, the European Commission will propose, each year in the plan of work for the programme, priorities which accord with the guidelines established under the open method of coordination.

The mid-term evaluation and the preparation of the new programme from 2007 will likewise help to ensure that the programme provides optimum support for work under the open method of coordination in the youth field.

Voluntary service – a response to young people's needs

Young people regarding voluntary service, i.e. any kind of unpaid work, as a means of acquiring skills and experience which they will be able to develop in their professional life. However, in their view, voluntary service is not a substitute for paid employment.

It also reflects changes in society; voluntary service provides young people with an area in which to socialize, but society too benefits form these non-market activities for which demand has increased in recent years.

Finally, voluntary service is both a form of social participation and an educational experience. It is a factor in social integration and a very tangible way of countering prejudice. It is potentially universal and must remain open to all. It is therefore an exemplary response to the wishes expressed during the White Paper consultation exercise.

Voluntary service can be at local, national and European levels. At European level, it plays an essential part in creating a European identity and should be effective tool in bring people together when new member states join.

Proposals coming out from the consultations

- The following proposals emerged from the consultations, particularly with young people:
- To ensure that people everywhere are given the same opportunities for welfare and development:
- Support youth policies in developing countries and incorporate a 'youth' dimension in the cooperation programmes.
- Set up an institute to prevent conflict in Europe and in the immediate vicinity.
- Introduce programmes to prevent conflict in Europe and the rest of the world, taking account of the importance of contact and exchanges between young people in contributing to peace. Youth policy in general and exchange programmes in [particular have a real impact in the international field.

In the next ten years, significantly increase voluntary work among young people at all levels (local, national, regional and European). In each member State, create a voluntary service of one form or another, set up the appropriate structures, increase the number of host sites and provide funding.

- Draw up a national set of conditions for young volunteers, possibly incorporated into a wider framework.
- Implement without delay the Recommendation and the Action Plan on mobility.
- Raise awareness among employers of the qualities acquired form voluntary work (initiative, self-assurance, teamwork skills, etc.)
- Involve young people in promoting and developing voluntary work.

Monitor local, regional, national and European voluntary service schemes in qualitative and quantitative terms. A number of indicators should be set out for purposes of comparison, exchange of experience and identification of future trends.

Throughout the world there are a great many voluntary service organisations, both public and private. These activities are generally not easily accessible for young people. The European Commission could be given the task of negotiating with these organisations to make them more open to young people.

- Make the European Voluntary Service even more accessible to young people in difficult circumstances and young people with disabilities.
- Recognise voluntary service and enhance its status as a nonformal educational experience.

ANNEX 5 / WHAT IS „PROJECT P“ ?

http://www.projekt-p.de

Berlin 05 – Festival für junge Politik

The Festival

"Berlin 05 - Festival für junge Politik" (Berlin 05 – Festival for young politics) takes place from 10th to 12th of June 2005 in Berlin. Thousands of young people are expected from all over Germany. Exciting participation projects and possibilities are made visible and many initiatives and communities come together. Beside workshops or discussion forums there is an extensive programme with games, sports and of course music concerts.

In Berlin Wuhlheide a large summercamp will be built. The leisure centre FEZ Berlin is located on the area. With its numerous halls, seminar and media rooms, exhibition areas, cinema, bath lake and sports sites it offers superb conditions for the versatile programme. Activities in co-operation with the event "InterAktiv 4" on 11th of June on the Alexanderplatz present the festival in the centre of the capital.

The Frame

Berlin 05 is the highlight of the nationwide initiative "Project P – Misch dich ein" (Project P – take part). The initiative wants to interest young people for political topics and supports them in their commitment to politics. In addition, it demands politicians to open up for juvenile participation. Project P was founded by three partners: The Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ), the federal centre for political education (bpb) and the German Federal Youth Ring (DBJR).

The Idea

The Festival offers a compact programme in intensive atmosphere at a central location. The event wants to address young people who are already politically active as well as less politically interested persons. Therefore political and entertaining parts of the programme are combined. A big summercamp integrates political content, sports and experiencing commitment which again complement each other. A substantial component of the preparations of the festival is the involvement of young people in the organisation and realisation of the entire event. Thus young people plan the programme with its different formats together with the festival - bureau in teams all over Germany. Young people who want to contribute their time and ideas can register at the website as active participants.

ANNEX 6 / Youth Programme Presentation http://europa.eu.int/comm/youth/program

WHAT IS THE YOUTH PROGRAMME?

- Youth Programme 2000-2006 - the EU non formal learning programme
- targeting young people in 31 programme countries
- Limited access to "third countries"- in priority regions

MAIN AIMS:

- Provide opportunities for mobility and active participation in the construction of Europe.
- Contribute to building a "Europe of knowledge"
- to create a European arena for co-operation in the development of youth policy, based on non-formal education.
- Encourage concept of lifelong learning and development of skills and competencies, which promote active citizenship.

EUROPEAN UNION: Structure of Youth Field

SOCRATES Education	LEONARDO vocational training	YOUTH non formal education

YOUTH:

Action 1 YOUTH EXCHANGES

Action 2 EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Action 3 YOUTH INITIATIVES

Action 4 JOINT ACTIONS

Action 5 SUPPORT MEASURES

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/youth.html

What types of projects does the YOUTH Programme support?

Action 1 - Youth for Europe:
Youth Exchange(15-25)for 2-3 weeks

groups of young people can meet to explore common themes and learn about each other`s cultures.

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

Balance between personal development and collective activity to:

- Facilitate integration into society and expression of spirit of initiative
- help young people to acquire knowledge, skills and competencies and recognising value of such experience
- allow y.p. to express their sense of solidarity as well as support the fight against racism and xenophobia
- promote a better understanding of the diversity of our common European culture, shared heritage and common basic values
- help to eliminate discrimination and promote equality at all levels
- introduce a European element into projects which will have a positive impact on local level.

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 SEE

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?

15 Member States of the European Union (EU)	3 countries in the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) which are members of the European Economic Area (EEA)	10 new EU member states AND candidates for accession to the European Union (Pre-accession countries)
Austria Belgium Denmark Finland France Germany Greece Ireland Italy Luxembourg Netherlands Portugal Spain Sweden United Kingdon	Iceland Liechtenstein Norway	Bulgaria Cyprus Czech Republic Estonia Hungary Latvia Lithuania Malta Poland Romania Slovak Republic Slovenia

Objectives for co-operation with South East Europe

- Contribute to peace and stability at the borders of the enlarged EU in South East Europe, 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

Which countries in South East Europe can participate?

"Third countries" in South East Europe		
-Albania -Bosnia and Herzegovina -Croatia	-Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	-Serbia & Montenegro (incl.Kosovo)

What are the general rules for activities with South East Europe?

- *Only* Action 1 (Youth for Europe), Action 2 (European Voluntary Service) and Action 5 (Support Measures) are open to third-country co-operation
- Projects should involve third countries from the same region, i.e. projects with third countries in South East Europe cannot involve third 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.

Youth Programme Cooperation with SEE

- Cooperation started in '95 with some SEE countries, enlarged to all five Western Balkan countries in 2000.
- The YOUTH programme budget increased from 520 to 605 million after enlargement (for the period 2000-06). Around 7-10% for cooperation with 'third countries"
- Statistics YOUTH programme with Western Balkans: from 2000-03: around 300 projects with more than 7.000 participants. Around 40% of participants from Western Balkan countries. 60% projects took place in the Balkans.

Structures / Projects in support of developing youth cooperation with SEE

- 31 National Agencies in Programme countries
- SALTO-YOUTH Resource Centre for SEE based at the NA Slovenia
- Large-scale projects: youthNET (Interkulturelles Zentrum), Balkan Youth Project (CARE Austria/Care BiH/Youth Forum), Between the lines of SEE (Community Arts) : 18-36 months activity programmes, aiming at developing youth cooperation and networks, running till 2005 (see respective websites for more information – via links at site of SALTO SEE)

Developments - Perspectives for full participation

- Thessaloniki summit June 2003 - opens perspective of cooperation in Community programmes
- framework agreements presently in preparation with all Western Balkan countries
- May 2004 historic enlargement - new borders in South and East
- Croatia achieved candidate status on 18 June 2004
- Macedonia applied for membership
- phase of preparation 18-24 months - building up admin. capacities
- signing of agreement of understandig
- full cooperation on one or all programmes

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,
- new Action Youth of the World (focus on neighbours and increase of geographic scope), opening for participation of Balkan countries