



European Intercultural Forum e. V.

Report of Activities - 2011

Mitglieder 2011

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1. PROJECTS AS COORDINATOR

1.1. Volunteering projects

EVS project “Let’s give a chance and a change”

Project Reference: DE-21-169-2010-R3

Project dates: September 1, 2010 – January 31, 2012

Activity dates: November 1, 2010 – September 31, 2011 (– April 31, 2011 for one of the volunteers)

Venue: Vanadzor, Armenia

Funded by: Youth in Action Programme Action 2, German National Agency

Hosting organisation: Federation of Youth Clubs Armenia (FYCA) and Crossing Roads

Volunteers: Valerie Schult and David Schulze

Budget: 16130 EUR

The organisation “Crossing Roads” is an organisation providing social assistance to the community, supporting the implementation of local social projects, setting-up public initiatives to stimulate active participation of different social groups within the civil society.

The two EVS volunteers supported the development of cultural activities and measures to help the families and youngsters in need living in the community. This means they organised daily activities for children, young people and/or adults facing some inclusion difficulties such as courses, exhibitions, meetings, debates and various cultural events. They supported also the administrative work of the organisation.

The activities started in autumn 2010 and end in autumn 2011.

[DE] -

Zeitraum des Projekts: 01.09.2010 – 31.01.2012

Zeitraum der Aktivitäten: 01.11.2010 – 31.09.2011 (- 31.04.2011 für einen der Freiwilligen)

Ort: Vanadzor, Armenia

Partnerorganisation: Federation of Youth Clubs Armenia (FYCA) and Crossing Roads

Finanziert durch: Jugend in Aktion Programm Aktion 2, Deutsche Nationalagentur

Projektbeschreibung:

Im Rahmen dieses Projektes wurden zwei deutsche Freiwillige nach Vandzor, Armenien, in die Organisation „Federation of Youth Clubs of Armenian“ in das Aufnahmeprojekt „Crossing Roads“ entsendet. Beide Freiwillige absolvierten dort einen 12-monatigen Dienst mit dem Ziel, kulturelle Aktivitäten und andere Maßnahmen zu organisieren, um Familien und insbesondere Jugendliche in Not zu unterstützen und bei der Integration in die lokale Gemeinde zu helfen.

Das Aufnahmeprojekt „Crossing Roads“ ist eine Organisation, die soziale Hilfestellung für benachteiligte Familien in der Gemeinde Vanadzor leistet und berufliche Weiterbildungsprogramme, Kinderbetreuung und die Integrationsmaßnahmen für soziale Härtefälle anbietet.

EVS project “Volunteering for the inclusion of young refugees”

Project Reference: DE-21-78-2011-R1

Dates: 12 months (summer 2011 - summer 2012) (one volunteer until 31.10.2011)

Venue: Tbilisi, Georgia

Funded by: Youth in Action Programme Action 2, German National Agency

Hosting organisation: Youth Association DRONI

Volunteers: Kalina Lenes and Sarah Handelsmann

Budget: 14180 EUR

The European Voluntary Service project called “Volunteering for the inclusion of young refugees” consists of a 12-months term of two German volunteers in the Tbilisi based organisation “Youth Association DRONI”. The volunteers, next to actively taking part in the current youth activities of the non-governmental organisation, create and implement activities from the scratch directed at young Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as for example arts and crafts and photography workshops in order to develop their abilities and potentials for their future life.

A special attention is directed at the potential learning outcomes for the two volunteers, as tools, methodologies and resources are provided to them all along their service to ensure that they make the best out of their learning service, especially concerning the following points: learning to learn, social and civic competences, entrepreneurship and initiative-taking, and as well cultural self-awareness. This project fosters European citizenship and active participation of young people, particularly of those with fewer opportunity.

[DE] -

Zeitraum: 12 Monate (Sommer 2011 – Sommer 2012)| *Ort:* Tbilisi, Georgien

Partnerorganisation: Youth Association DRONI

Finanziert durch: Jugend in Aktion Programm Aktion 2, Deutsche Nationalagentur

Projektbeschreibung:

Das EVS Projekt umfasst einen 12-monatigen Aufenthalt von zwei deutschen Freiwilligen bei der Organisation „Youth Association DRONI“ in Tbilisi. Neben der aktiven Teilnahme in der laufenden Jugendarbeit der gemeinnützigen Organisation werden die Freiwilligen kulturelle Aktivitäten für Binnenflüchtlinge (Internally Displaced Persons – IDPs) organisieren. Dies können beispielsweise Fotografie-Workshops oder handwerkliches Arbeiten sein, damit die IDPs ihre Potentiale entdecken und ihre Fähigkeiten für ihre Zukunft weiter entwickeln können.

Ein besonderes Augenmerk wird dabei auf den potentiellen Lernerfolg der beiden Freiwilligen gerichtet. Dazu werden ihnen „Werkzeuge“ und Methoden an die Hand gegeben, um ein bestmögliches Ergebnis zu erzielen, besonders im Hinblick auf die folgenden Punkte: Lernen lernen, Sozialkompetenz, die Leitung eines Unternehmens und das Ergreifen von Initiativen, sowie kulturelle Selbsterfahrung (cultural self-awareness). Dieses Projekt fördert die europäische Bürgerschaft und die aktive Teilnahme von jungen Menschen.

EVS Project “Bring about the Change - Intercultural Youth Camp”

Project Reference: DE-21-66-2011-R1

Dates: July 5 - September 5, 2011 | **Venue:** Likhauri, Georgia

Funded by: Youth in Action Programme Action 2, German National Agency and the Local Authorities of Ozurgeti Region

Hosting Organisation: Academy for Peace and Development

Volunteers: Wenke Henschel, Vera Tröster, Veronika Schiessl, Pavel Georgiev, Johannes Schenk

Budget: 12400 EUR

The initiative “Bring about the Change – Intercultural Youth Camp Georgia” was a short-term 2 months group EVS project gathering five volunteers from Germany in Georgia. The project was part of the Academy for Peace and Development initiative “Volunteering for Peace and Understanding” in the European Year of Volunteering which brought 10 volunteers from Slovakia and Germany together with local Georgian volunteers to work and live together for cultural heritage protection.

The project was implemented in Likhauri, a town situated in the region Guria in western Georgia, in July-August 2011.

The main aim of the project was to give an opportunity to young Europeans to express their civil engagement as European citizens by a contribution to the conservation of the cultural sights located in Likhauri. Moreover, the voluntary service aimed to foster the volunteers’ awareness for cultural diversity and to use creativity and artistic to promote respect and tolerance among people from different cultures.

The project offered the chance to reflect on aspects such as culture, intercultural learning and cultural heritage protection as well as the role and function of heritage protection as a means to local development.

[DE] -

Zeitraum: 05.07. – 05.09.2011 | *Ort:* Likhauri, Georgien

Finanziert durch: Jugend in Aktion Programm Aktion 2, Deutsche Nationalagentur und örtliche Verantwortliche der Ozurgeti Region

Projektbeschreibung:

Die Jugendbegegnung „Bring About the Change“ ist Teil der Initiative der Academy for Peace and Development „Volunteering for Peace and Understanding“ im Europäischen Jahr der Freiwilligentätigkeit 2011. In diesem Rahmen kamen jeweils 5 Freiwillige aus Deutschland und der Slowakei nach Georgien, um mit georgischen Freiwilligen gemeinsam zu leben und für den Schutz des Kulturerbes zu arbeiten. Das Projekt fand im Juli und August 2011 in Likhauri, einer Stadt in der westgeorgischen Region Gurai, statt. Ziel war es, jungen Europäern die Chance zu geben, sich als europäische Bürger zu engagieren, indem sie zur Erhaltung der Kulturstätte in Likhauri beitragen. Darüber hinaus zielte der Freiwilligendienst darauf ab, das Bewusstsein der Freiwilligen für kulturelle Vielfalt zu fördern und sie zu motivieren, auf eine kreative Art und Weise Respekt und Toleranz zwischen Menschen verschiedener Kulturen zu vermitteln. Das Projekt bot die Chance über Aspekte wie Kultur, interkulturelles Lernen und Kulturgüterschutz, sowie die Rolle und Funktion von Kulturgüterschutz als Mittel zu lokaler Entwicklung zu reflektieren.

EVS project “VOLGAnteering - From Lada to Civil Society”

Project Reference: DE-21-&69-2011-R2

Dates: 10 months (autumn 2011 - Summer 2012)

Venue: Togliatti, Russian Federation

Funded by: Youth in Action Programme Action 2, German National Agency

Hosting Organisation: Youth House Chance, Municipal Establishment of Togliatti City (EI reference 2011-PL-106)

Volunteers: Kevin Dürr and Anna Schröder

Budget: 12120 EUR

The European Voluntary Service project “VOLGAnteering - From Lada to Civil Society” allows two German volunteers to learn the meaning of Citizenship and Entrepreneurship by getting involved in community work in the city of Togliatti, Russian Federation. The two German volunteers are European ambassadors for the local youth during a Service of 10 months, bringing an intercultural dimension to common European issues as environmental protection and promotion and civic engagement and participation. Working in close partnership with the members of the Youth House Chance, the two volunteers develop innovative and daring ideas to be implemented to tackle the above mentioned local issues. The project’s overall objective is to contribute to the shaping of a European society where citizens are involved and engaged to address common social concerns.

The Service schedule and tasks are constructed according to the learning outcomes that the volunteers should reach: more than knowledge and specific skills, the volunteers are expected to modify their attitude and awareness towards other cultures and to develop driving force for becoming active European Citizens.

[DE] -

Zeitraum: 10 Monate (Herbst 2011 – Sommer 2012) | *Ort:* Togliatti, Russische Föderation

Finanziert durch: Jugend in Aktion Programm Aktion 2, Deutsche Nationalagentur

Hosting Organisation: Youth House Chance, Municipal Establishment of Togliatti City (EI reference 2011-PL-106)

Projektbeschreibung:

Das Projekt ermöglicht zwei deutschen Freiwilligen die Bedeutung von Bürgerschaft und Unternehmertum kennen zu lernen, indem sie sich an der Gemeinschaft der Arbeitenden in der Stadt Togliatti, Russische Föderation beteiligen. Die beiden deutschen Freiwilligen werden während ihres 10-monatigen Aufenthalts als Botschafter fungieren und Europa repräsentieren, insbesondere bei den Themen Umweltschutz, Engagement und Bürgerbeteiligung.

In enger Zusammenarbeit mit den Mitgliedern des Youth House Chance arbeitend, werden die beiden Freiwilligen innovative Ideen einbringen, um die genannten Themen umzusetzen. Das Ziel ist es dazu beizutragen, eine europäische Gesellschaft zu gestalten, in der sich die Bürger aktiv beteiligen und sich zur Beseitigung der sozialen Probleme engagieren.

Der Zeitplan und die Aufgaben richten sich nach dem Lernergebnis, dass die Freiwilligen erreichen sollten: mehr noch als Wissen und spezielle Fähigkeiten wird von ihnen erwartet, dass sie ihre Einstellungen zu anderen Kulturen ändern und eine treibende Kraft entwickeln, ein aktiver europäischer Bürger zu werden.

1.2. Training, Exchanges, Seminars

Mobility and European Citizenship – Interrelations and Implications

Project Reference: 509722-EFC-1-2010-1-DE-EFC-CSP

Project dates: August 15, 2010 until August 15, 2011 | **Activity dates:** January 12-16, 2011; March 8, 2011; April 21, 2011; May 9, 2011

Partner organisations: The ASHA Foundation (Gloucestershire, United Kingdom), Stowarzyszenie Rozwoju i Integracji Młodzieży STRIM (Krakow, Poland), FORUM 2000 (Prague, Czech Republic)

Funded by: Programme "Europe for Citizens" of the European Commission

Budget: 24803 EUR

The 12-month project "Mobility and European Citizenship - Interrelations and Implications" was an international initiative of four organisations from Germany, United Kingdom, Poland and Czech Republic. Its central aim was to foster a public debate and promote European citizens' dialogue on European citizenship and mobility.

Therefore, the project fostered a dialogue about the reasons, consequences, and challenges of migration within the EU and how this intensified mobility across Europe influences the development and perception of European citizenship among the EU population. Additionally, an exchange of experiences and tools supporting integration across Europe was facilitated in order to create an overview about applied approaches and successful methods in several European countries.

Within the project framework, a five-day European Citizenship Conference took place in Berlin on January 12-16, 2011 and four local one-day events were held in Krakow on March 8th, in Berlin on April 21st, in Prag on April 29th and in London on May 9th, bringing together social and youth workers, youth leaders and representatives of integration/ inclusion activities and European departments in each partner country.

[DE] -

Zeitraum: 15.08.2010 – 30.07.2011 | *Ort:* Deutschland, Tschechische Republik, Polen, Großbritannien

Finanziert durch: „Europe for Citizens“ Programm der Europäischen Kommission

Projektbeschreibung:

Das Projekt war eine internationale Initiative bestehend aus vier Partnern aus den EU-Ländern Deutschland, Tschechische Republik, Polen und Großbritannien mit dem Ziel eine Debatte zum Thema Europäische Staatsbürgerschaft und Mobilität in Europa unter Jugend- und Sozialarbeitern, nichtstaatlichen und staatlichen Organisationen sowie Bürgern anzustoßen.

Das Hauptthemen des Projektes waren dabei Gründe, Folgen und Herausforderungen gesteigerter Mobilität und Migration innerhalb der Europäischen Union und die Auswirkungen dieser Bevölkerungsbewegungen auf die Entwicklung einer Europäischen Staatsbürgerschaft. Ein besonderes Augenmerk wurde dabei in diesem Zusammenhang auf die Wirkung europäischer Mobilitätsprogramme auf die Europäische Integration gelegt.

Dafür wurden vom 12.-16. Januar 2011 eine fünftägige Konferenz in Berlin mit Teilnehmern aus den Partnerländern, sowie vier jeweils eintägige lokale Veranstaltungen (Diskussionsrunden, Workshops, Filmvorführung) durchgeführt. Diese fanden am 8.März in Krakau, am 21.April in Berlin, am 29.April in Prag und am 9.Mai in London statt. Die Teilnehmer dieser Aktivitäten waren Vertreter staatlicher Einrichtungen, nichtstaatlicher Organisationen der Zivilgesellschaft und engagierte Bürger.

Study-Visit "Discover the Caucasus - Volunteering in Georgia"

Project Reference: DE-31-58-2011-R2

Project dates: July 1 – December 15, 2011 | **Activity dates:** October 15-22, 2011

Venue: Georgia, various locations

Partner organisation: Academy for Peace and Development (APD) Georgia

Funded by: Youth in Action programme, European Commission

Budget: 20780 EUR

The European Intercultural Forum e. V. (Berlin) and the Academy for Peace and Development hosted the Study-Visit "Discover the Caucasus - Volunteering in Georgia" in autumn 2011 in Georgia.

The Study-Visit "Discover the Caucasus – Volunteering in Georgia" was organised for 32 youth workers from EU countries and from Eastern Europe and Caucasus (Austria, France, Slovakia, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Estonia, Hungary, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia). The study visit was dedicated to volunteering in a development and conflict context. It introduced several civil society initiatives based on volunteering and illustrated the particularities of volunteering programmes in a developing country. As an output, the study visit aimed to improve the quality of future volunteering projects in the frame of the European Voluntary Service and developed common guidelines for volunteering projects in peace-building and development contexts.

Therefore, the study session combined meetings and visits to civil society initiatives and EVS actors in the cities of Tbilisi, Tserovani, Ozurgeti, Zugdidi and Batumi with elements of project planning workshops and reflections.

A brochure containing recommendations to organisations and volunteers, check-list of most essential steps and tasks as well as practical advices for volunteering projects in Georgia has been published after the Study-Visit.

[DE] -

Zeitraum des Projekts: 01.07.-15.12.2011 | *Zeitraum der Aktivitäten:* 15.-22.10.2011

Ort: Georgien, verschiedene Orte

Partnerorganisation: Academy for Peace and Development (APD) Georgia

Finanziert durch: Programm "Jugend in Aktion" der Europäischen Kommission

Budget: 20780 EUR

Projektbeschreibung:

EIF Berlin und die Academy for Peace and Development veranstalteten im Herbst 2011 die Studienreise "Discover the Caucasus – Volunteering in Georgia" nach Georgien.

Im Rahmen des Studienaufenthalts zum Thema 'Freiwilligendienst im Zusammenhang mit Entwicklung und Konflikt' reisten 32 Jugendarbeiter aus EU-Ländern, Osteuropa und dem Kaukasus (Österreich, Frankreich, Slowakei, Deutschland, Polen, Portugal, Estland, Ungarn, Russische Föderation, Ukraine, Aserbaidschan, Georgien) nach Georgien. Dort wurden verschiedene Initiativen für die Zivilgesellschaft (auf Freiwilligenarbeit basierend) vorgestellt und die Besonderheiten für Freiwilligenprogramme in Entwicklungsländern erläutert. Ziel war es, die Qualität künftiger Freiwilligenprojekte im Rahmen des Europäischen Freiwilligendienstes (EVS - European Voluntary Service) zu verbessern und gemeinsame Richtlinien für Freiwilligendienste im Zusammenhang mit Entwicklung und Friedenskonsolidierung zu entwickeln.

Treffen mit Initiativen für Zivilgesellschaft und Besuche bei Freiwilligen des EVS in Tbilisi, Tserovani, Ozurgeti, Zugdidi und Batumi standen dabei ebenso auf dem Programm wie Workshops zu Projektplanungen und Reflexion.

Im Anschluss wurde eine Broschüre mit Empfehlungen an Organisatoren und Freiwillige, Check-Liste der wichtigsten Schritte und Aufgaben, sowie praktischen Hinweisen für Freiwilligenprojekte in Georgien, veröffentlicht.

Training Course “Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation in International Youth Work”

Project Reference: DE-43-38-2011-R2

Project dates: July 1, 2011 – February 1, 2012 | **Activity dates:** November 15-22, 2011

Venue: Berlin, Germany

Funded by: Youth in Action programme, German National Agency (Action 4.3)

Budget: 19694 EUR

The training course “Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation in International Youth Work” was organised for 24 youth workers from Youth in Action programme countries. The training course was dedicated to improve the professional capacities of project manager and coordinators highly involved in international youth work in order to increase the quality of non-formal education projects and international youth encounters tackling discrimination in any form and appearance.

The training course dealt intensively with standard and commonly used project planning tools such as impact chain and logical framework approach. Moreover, it introduced the participants to means of monitoring and evaluation. The expected learning outcome was to enable the trainees to apply planning, monitoring and evaluation tools in their future projects in order to realise an outcome oriented project design that includes appropriate measures to verify if the objectives have been reached.

The training course combined methods of non-formal education such as workshops and simulations with theoretical input and practical learning.

The training course gathered project coordinators and youth workers from Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Latvia, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain and Turkey.

[DE] -

Zeitraum des Projekts: 01.07.2011 – 01.02.2012 | *Zeitraum der Aktivitäten:* 15.-22.11.2011

Ort: Berlin, Deutschland

Finanziert durch: Jugend in Aktion Programm Aktion 4.3, Deutsche Nationalagentur

Budget: 19694 EUR

Projektbeschreibung:

Der Trainingskurs wurde für 24 junge Menschen aus Ländern des EU-Programms “Jugend in Aktion” mit dem Ziel organisiert, die Kompetenzen der in internationaler Jugendarbeit engagierten Projektleiter und -koordinatoren zu verbessern. Somit soll sich die Qualität außerschulischer Bildungsprojekte und internationaler Jugendbegegnungen zur Bekämpfung von Diskriminierung verbessern.

Im Trainingskurs wurden sowohl die Standardmethoden wie beispielsweise impact chain und logical framework approach intensiv behandelt, als auch neue Methoden wie 'Beobachtung' (monitoring) und 'Auswertung' (evaluation) vorgestellt. Ziel war es, dass die Teilnehmer in der Lage sind, die Methoden 'Planung' (planning), 'Beobachtung' (monitoring) und 'Auswertung' (evaluation) in ihren zukünftigen Projekten anzuwenden, um einen ergebnisorientierten Projektentwurf mit den entsprechenden Methoden zur Auswertung erfolgreich zu verwirklichen.

Der Trainingskurs kombinierte Methoden der non-formalen Bildung, wie Workshops und Simulationen mit theoretischen Beiträgen und praxisbezogenem Lernen.

Am Trainingskurs nahmen Projektkoordinatoren und Jugendarbeiter aus Bulgarien, Estland, Frankreich, Deutschland, Griechenland, Lettland, den Niederlanden, Polen, Rumänien, Slowenien, Spanien und der Türkei teil.

Training Course "Islam and Europe – Misperceptions and Potentials"

Project Reference: DE-31-79-2011-R3

Project dates: January 22-29, 2012

Activity dates: October 1, 2011 – April 1, 2012

Venue: Ganja, Azerbaijan

Partner organisation: Youth Public Union "Bridge to the Future"

Funded by: Youth in Action Programme, German National Agency and Department for Youth and Sport of the Municipality of Ganja

Budget: 27613 EUR (Youth in Action) and 850 EUR (Ganja Municipality)

The training course "Europe and Islam – Misperceptions and Potentials" addresses the place and role of Islam in contemporary Europe. Through a programme based on non-formal education methods, the training course will explore the place of religion, culture and identity in today's Europe, foster reflection on the contemporary and historical factors that influence the portrayal of Islam in European societies and its place in public debate. This training course aims to equip youth workers with relevant tools and methods to address the issue in youth work as well as to influence their attitudes towards Islam and Muslims.

The main venue is Ganja, Azerbaijan. The project will involve 14 partner promoters from programme countries, EECA and SEE partner countries, with two youth workers from each promoter. The project dates are 22-29 January 2012.

The project is organized in partnership between the European Intercultural forum e. V. (Berlin, Germany) and the Youth Public Union "Bridge to the Future" (Ganja, Azerbaijan)

1.3. Youth Empowerment

Projekt "Blicke wechseln – Sinne tauschen"

Projekt-Nr: DE-12-146-2011-R3

Zeitraum des Projekts: September 1, 2011 – Juni 23, 2012

Zeitraum der Aktivitäten: vorraussichtlich März – April 2012

Ort: Berlin

Finanziert durch: Jugendinitiative, Jugend in Aktion, Europäische Kommission

Budget: 7500 EUR

Das Projekt "Blicke wechseln – Sinne tauschen" stellt ein Kunstprojekt dar, bei welchem sich 5 -8 blinde und sehbehinderte Menschen gemeinsam mit 4 jungen BerlinerInnen im März 2012 auf fotografische Spurensuche begeben. Es gilt den Stadtraum Berlin und alltägliche Umgebungen und Erlebnisse festzuhalten und diese anschließend im Rahmen einer Ausstellung einem breiten Publikum zu präsentieren. Die Idee, dass blinde Menschen zu Fotografen werden, scheint sich kategorisch auf den ersten Blick erst einmal auszuschließen. Doch kann nicht gerade die Kunst und als Teil dieser, die Fotografie, trotz ihres Daseins als rein visuelles Medium, Möglichkeiten eröffnen, zwischen unterschiedlichen Sinnzugängen zu verhandeln? Schafft sie es darüber hinaus einen Dialog zu stiften, über die eigene und fremde Wahrnehmung zu reflektieren? Was sieht man, wenn man nicht sieht und was sieht man vielleicht nicht, wenn man sieht?

Um diesen Fragen nachzugehen sollen die Möglichkeiten der Lomografie genutzt werden, einer Fotografiebewegung, die für ihre experimentellen und farbintensiven Schnapsschussaufnahmen bekannt ist. Während der gemeinsamen 4-wöchigen Arbeitsphase wird ein ungewöhnlicher Austausch zwischen den Projektbeteiligten stattfinden - es gilt eine gemeinsame beschreibende Sprache zu finden sich den Arbeitsergebnissen zu nähern und sich mit ihnen zu beschäftigen. Neben gemeinsamen Workshops und Fotoerkundungen werden die Teilnehmenden auch zwischen den einzelnen Projekttreffen selbstständig fotografieren. Die anschließende Ausstellung soll einem breiten Publikum zugänglich gemacht werden, sie wird so konzipiert sein, dass ein Dialog zwischen Künstlern und Rezipienten geradezu herausgefordert wird. Das Projekt wird zudem in einer Publikation (lesbar und hörbar) dokumentiert werden.

2. PROJECTS IN PARTNERSHIP

2.1. *Volunteering projects*

- **EVS project in Amitié Cévenole**

Dates: March 15, 2011 - October 15, 2011 | **Venue:** Les Aresquiers, France

Funded by: Youth in Action Programme Action 2, French National Agency

Hosting Organisation: Centre Amitié Cevenole (2008-FR-16)

Volunteer: Nina Fuhrmann

The German volunteer participated in the activities of the youth centre "Amitié Cévenole" during seven months in a place called Les Aresquiers, situated in south-western France. This place welcomes youth groups regularly, especially during summer. It is situated in a natural area at the sea side about 30 kilometres from the regional main town Montpellier. The volunteer supported the running activities of the centre as well as the youth activities e.g. organised leisure time, sport activities, beach time, arts and theater, presented own culture... The German volunteer received a French language course, support from a mentor on the spot and participated in the various meetings of the European Voluntary Service programme.

- **EVS project "Volunteer for Change"**

Dates: April 1 – September 30, 2011 (- June 1 for one of the volunteers)

Venue: Gloucestershire, UK

Funded by: British National Agency for the Youth in Action programme

Hosting Organisation: ASHA Centre

Volunteers: Quang Hai Dang and Sina Blum

The Asha Centre is an international retreat and training venue working for greater peace and understanding amongst diverse communities, especially young people. The Centre is located in an old country house in one of the loveliest parts of England – the Forest of Dean. Asha Centre features five acres of productive vegetable gardens and grounds. They invite young people from war zones and former conflict areas to come for visits where they take part in theatre projects under the Peace Ambassadors Programme.

This EVS project involved five volunteers from Germany, Italy and Portugal for a period of six months to volunteer at the ASHA Centre, Flaxley, Gloucestershire. The project combined elements of environment protection and organic farming with hospitality in an innovative and fun-packed programme aimed at fostering active youth participation and a sense of European citizenship. Its learning outcomes included an increased understanding of organic gardening and sustainable living, team building, leadership, customer service and hospitality skills and project design skills. This provided the volunteers with enhanced confidence and self esteem, examples of their work which can be used as portfolio examples for either further education applications or for employment interviews and both hard and soft life skills.

During their placement at Asha the volunteers had the experience of intercultural learning, teamwork, project design, management and implementation and working with sustainable biodynamic farming. The volunteers worked with adults and young people with a wide range of abilities and from a wide range of cultures. The volunteers could focus more on the biodynamic gardening, if they wished to, as well by attending study sessions in the nearby Camphill Community and learning from the head gardener Rachael O'Kelly.

- **EVS project "Musikado: Eco-citoyenneté sur Brioude"**

Dates: 01.09.2011 - 01.07.2012 | **Venue:** Brioude, Auvergne, France

Funded by: Youth in Action Programme Action 2, French National Agency

Hosting Organisation: Association Musikado

Volunteer: Luka Quade

Musikado is a french organisation that was founded in 1996 in Brioude, France, a town of about 7000 inhabitants. It is an association based on the philosophy of volunteering. The workers support youth initiatives by providing technical and conceptual help to young people willing to implement their ideas. Main sector of interests and themes of work are music, media and intercultural exchanges.

We feature a European-wide network of partners active in the youth and creativity fields. All activities implemented by Musikado involve volunteers and professionals from the local community. The idea is learning by doing and motivating rural youth in order to make of Brioude and its surroundings a more vibrant place.

The volunteer from Germany stays in Brioude for 10 months, starting in September 2011, and performs various activities to support the civil society activities. She supports the "Café-Lecture" of Brioude, a cultural café that offers a library and literature events, creates a short video promoting local activities or a video on educational themes, promotes Europe and mobility programmes during local festivals and events, presents Europe and Germany in local schools and supports the organisation of local and European cultural events.

- **EVS Project "Volunteer for Change 2"**

Dates: 01.11.2011 – 01.08.2012 | **Venue:** Gloucestershire, UK

Funded by: British National Agency for the Youth in Action programme

Hosting Organisation: ASHA Centre

Volunteers: Gesine Wilbrandt and Charlotte Selker

The German Volunteers participate in the activities of the ASHA-Centre, located in the beautiful Forest of Dean – England's first National Forest Park – situated between the cities of Gloucester and Bristol. The ASHA Centre is based on the aim to encourage the spirit of volunteering.

The Project activities comprise 3 different areas: The Garden, the house as well as the Picturedrome Theatre nearby the city of Gloucester. The Volunteers learn about the biodynamic method of gardening including basic gardening skills and the production and marketing of the garden produce in the local community. In the house the volunteers interact with people from the world by fulfilling hosting tasks. Besides, the volunteers are involved in the administration of the house and assist the cook in the meal preparation. In the Picturedrome Theatre the volunteers contribute to the theater management on all levels such as promoting theater events in the local area, develop city arts projects, interact with the community and work backstage in the production team and alongside professional technicians.

During their placement at ASHA, the volunteers work with people of all age, faith and race. The Project aims to raise the cultural awareness of the volunteers, to foster them being an active European citizen by contributing their skills, energy and enthusiasm and to develop as a reliable team player by adapting, giving and sharing. Furthermore, the learning outcome includes an increased understanding of organic gardening and sustainable living, team building, leadership, customer service and hospitality skills and project design skills.

The Volunteers from Germany stay at the ASHA Centre for 10 months, starting in November 2011.

- **EVS "The World from another Perspective"**

Duration: 01.01.2012 - 31.07.2012 | **Venue:** Santander, Spain

Funded by: Youth in Action Programme Action 2, Spanish National Agency

Hosting Organisation: Asociacion Juvenil ATRIO (2011-ES-53)

Volunteer: Michael Theilig

The EVS project "Bringing about changes" involves one volunteer from Germany and one volunteer from Finland for 7 months. The volunteers' daily activities will take place mainly in the premises of Asociación Juvenil Atrio on Genral Davila Street, with local youth and children. Two times a week, volunteers will help at a fair trade shop run by "Gira por el desarrollo" a partner of the organisation Atrio in educative activities about sustainable development, fair trade and reduction of consumption.

The volunteers will be active in following areas: leisure time activities and respect towards nature, drafting, implementing and evaluating activities, non-formal education, arts and crafts activities and intercultural education for a target group made of youth and children.

At the beginning of the project (two first weeks approximately) there will be an adaptation period for volunteers to get to know the staff, the environment and the running activities of the organisation. The volunteers will be invited to participate in activities and staff meeting to understand how the organisation works. After this, the volunteers will be fully integrated into the team of members, even though receiving special support for language and cultural adaptation.

2.2. Training Courses for youth and social workers

- **Training Course “Youth Interfaith Champions for Dialogue Between Religions”**

Dates: January 22-28, 2011 | **Venue:** Almere, The Netherlands

Funded by: Youth in Action Programme Action 4.3, Dutch National Agency

Sent: 1 participant

Learning about and reflecting on religion is very interesting and enriching for young people. Faith has always been a fundamental part of people’s identities. It can shape who we are, how we live, and how we relate to others. This Training Course offers a learning programme for peer leaders and young volunteers willing to engage in interfaith dialogue activities in their communities. The course is based on non-formal methodology and employs a wide range of methods including creative workshops and multimedia materials. Participants will also have an opportunity to discover Almere with its rich multicultural and religious diversity. The course will result in the creation of an informal network of Interfaith Champions and empower young people in their communities thus fostering active European citizenship and youth participation.

The Training Course was hosted by the Dutch organisation Digg'Out. One participant from EIF was present on the Training Course.

- **Training Course "Islam in Europe"**

Dates: March 9-16, 2011 | **Venue:** Gloucestershire, United Kingdom

Funded by: Youth in Action Programme Action 4.3, British National Agency

Sent: 3 participants

This training course addressed the place and role of Islam in contemporary Europe. Through a programme based on non-formal education methods, the training course supported the participants to explore the place of religion, culture and identity in today’s Europe, foster reflection on the contemporary and historical factors that influence the portrayal of Islam in European societies and its place in public debate. This training aimed to equip youth workers with relevant tools and methods to address the issue in youth work as well as to influence their attitudes towards Islam and Muslims.

The Training Course gathered about 20 youth and community workers from Italy, Germany, France, Romania, Portugal, Spain and Poland. The European Intercultural Forum e. V. sent three participants to the event.

- **Training Course "Video as a Tool for Dissemination and Exploitation of Project Results"**

Dates: June 20-29, 2011 | **Venue:** Bant, The Netherlands

Funded by: Youth in Action Programme Action 4.3, Dutch National Agency

Sent: 2 participants

Video is a highly effective communication medium for promotional purposes. It can be very powerful if your organization decides to use video in combination with social networks in order to increase project publicity. All you need is good idea and some basic skills! Therefore we created a training course that was aimed at improving youth workers’ technical knowledge and increase the usage of video as a tool for dissemination and exploitation of youth and social project results.

The training gathered about 24 participants from Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, and Turkey. The Training Course was hosted by the Dutch organisation Code-X international.

- **Training Course “Rights For All - Tackling Multiple Discrimination Through Youth Work”**

Dates: June 25 - July 2, 2011 | **Venue:** Almere, The Netherlands

Funded by: Youth in Action Programme Action 4.3, Dutch National Agency

Sent: 2 participants

The aim of the project "Rights for all - Tackling Multiple Discrimination through Youth Work" was to empower the participants to tackle discrimination on various levels. Following the Treaty of Lisbon, identifying six types

of discrimination, based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, the activities were based on a strong theoretical framework of dimensions and typologies of discrimination, European legislation, highlighting various tools and methods that can be used for working with youth on those topics. The project ultimately aimed at developing participants' competences over dealing with discrimination in local, regional, national and international youth work.

The Training Course was hosted by the Dutch organisation Digg'Out. Two participants from EIF were present on the Training Course.

- **Training Course "Conflicts? Not a chance! Training Course on Conflict Management"**

Dates: July 1-7, 2011 | **Venue:** Strumica, Macedonia FYROM

Funded by: Youth in Action programme, European Commission

Sent: 2 participants

The training course aimed to give community workers tools, methods and theoretical information on how to deal with conflicting situations in youth, citizenship and intercultural work. The training gathered together youth, social and community workers from Eastern European and Caucasian countries, South Eastern European countries and European Union countries. Sessions on the themes of conflict management, conflict escalation, types of conflicts, mediation, etc. were held. Moreover, time was allocated to let the participants share their own experiences and propose creative ways to cope with conflict occurring in their work. The training course was held using non-formal educational methods.

- **Training Course "Enough Pizza for Everyone - Training on conflict management"**

Dates: July 14 - 20, 2011 | **Venue:** Dilijan, Armenia

Funded by: Youth in Action programme, European Commission

Sent: 2 participants

The aim of the training course was to share the culture of peace among young people by means of giving ground for exchanging peace building and cross-border practices. Therefore, the objective of the Training course was to create channels of communication between the countries of different cultures, to break stereotypes, to know more about geopolitical system in order for a better understanding of why conflicts exist, to promote cross-border dialogue and cooperation and partnership and to share best peace building conflict resolution practices.

There were 36 youth leaders attending the training from France, Greece, Serbia, The Netherlands, Germany, Croatia, Turkey, Poland, Italy, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine, Spain, Russia. The EIF sent two participants to this training.

The training course was organised by the Club UNESCO of Metz (France) in partnership with the Armenian Organisation Youth Initiative Center in Giumri.

The European Intercultural Forum e.V. sent two participants to this training.

- **Training Course "Youth Initiatives for Peace"**

Dates: July 16-24, 2011 | **Venue:** Kobuleti, Georgia

Funded by: Youth in Action Programme Action 3.1, Dutch National Agency

Sent: 2 participants

The training course "Youth Initiatives for Peace - Youth Inclusion and Participation in Conflicts" aimed to provide youth workers with competences on youth participation in order to strengthen the role of young people in peace building activities in conflict regions.

Therefore, a basic introduction into peace studies set the starting point to analyze the role of young people in conflicts. Based on this introduction, the participants intensively dealt with youth participation and approaches to youth inclusion to set up youth initiatives addressing community conflict and creating an impact on local level that improves the current state of the given conflict.

A variety of non-formal educational tools such as simulation exercises, group work, debates, theatrical

methods were accompanied with feedback and evaluation sessions, cultural evenings organized by the participants, and excursions in order to reach the set objectives.

The project ran in cooperation between Academy for Peace and Development (Georgia) and Digg' Out (The Netherlands). Two German participants took part in the training.

- **Training Course "World 2.0: on-line vs. off-line"**

Dates: July 18-25, 2011 | **Venue:** Slovakia

Funded by: Youth in Action Programme Action 3.1, Slovak National Agency

Sent: 1 participant

The training reflected the situation of the current world's state in which real and virtual realities are constantly interacting. A week long session inspired by the term Web 2.0 was an interactive users' generated content kind of training where participants were an active part during all of its phases which allowed them to perceive new information as well as share their own experience with others. Through the training participants analysed and learnt about interactions between the real and the virtual world through various sessions on current topics as well as through practical exercises.

Participants from 12 countries from EU, South Europe, Eastern Europe and Caucasus learnt how to effectively live and interact between the two worlds which we are surrounded by and learnt to use all the available tools to make this interaction efficient. They also learnt how to prepare and launch a simple media campaign in order to learn how to use these tools in a valuable way to make a positive impact on the real world.

The European Intercultural Forum sent one participant to this training. To see the video outcomes of the training: <http://www.youtube.com/nolabelproject>

- **Training Course "Let's play and find your way"**

Dates: July 25 - August 2, 2011 | **Venue:** Budapest, Hungary

Funded by: Youth in Action programme, European Commission

Sent: 2 participants

Unemployment is a very crucial issue all over the world whose reduction became in the last years one of the most important priorities for European governments. Because of the repeated economical crises, it became very hard for young people, especially for those who have fewer opportunities, to come onto the job market in their country. Many believe that writing a detailed CV, applying for an open position or taking initiatives are the only ways to reach the status of an employee, whereas social and so-called soft skills can very often make the difference during an interview. The training course aimed to give a methodology to youth workers to help young people to develop self-awareness and social skills: acknowledging own strengths and weaknesses, identifying professional aims, thinking and taking steps forward in a strategically way, etc.. During the training, methods and techniques on how to handle failures with positive attitudes were proposed and detailed.

The training course used methods of theatre as a tool for expression and development (physical theatre, role play, educational exercises etc.). Mainly non-formal educational methods were used for creating interaction and learning outcomes with the group of participants coming from Spain, Portugal, Germany, Romania, Italy, Poland, Turkey, Hungary and Slovakia.

The European Intercultural Forum e. V. sent two participants to this training course.

- **Training Course "Learning as an Adventure"**

Dates: September 3-10, 2011 | **Venue:** Mestia, Svaneti, Georgia

Funded by: Youth in Action Programme Action 3.1, British Council

Sent: 4 participants

Learning as an Adventure – Outdoor Education for Young People is a Training Course aimed at fostering young people's healthy lifestyles, promoting outdoor activities and bringing young people closer to nature. This was achieved through a six-day programme of activities for youth workers and youth leaders from the UK, Romania, Germany, Georgia and Azerbaijan. As a result of the TC, participants were equipped with tools

and methods for outdoor education. They had a chance to reflect on the changing lifestyles of young people and the beneficial effects of using outdoor methods, promoting healthier lifestyles, bringing young people closer to nature and the countryside. This was done to foster young people's physical and mental well-being, promoting environmental protection activities and bringing young people from different backgrounds together. The project aimed at promoting the inclusion of youngsters with fewer opportunities and those from culturally diverse backgrounds.

The project venue – Svaneti region of Georgia – was of particular importance to the project aims and objectives. It is a UNESCO-listed area, the highest permanently inhabited area in Europe and a place where man and nature have always been close.

The training was hosted by the Youth Association DRONI (Georgia). The European Intercultural Forum e. V. sent four participants to this training course.

- **Training Course "A Europe of Citizens – A Vision for a near Future?"**

Dates: September 8-15, 2011 | **Venue:** Kobuleti, Georgia

Funded by: Youth in Action Programme Action 3.1, Slovak National Agency.

Sent: 2 participants

The project "A Europe of Citizens – A Vision for a near Future?" was organized for 24 European youth workers. The training aimed to foster European Citizenship and to contribute to a working civil society across the national borders in Europe. It places the vision of a common European Citizenship into the context of European challenges. The training course elaborated on the potentials of the concept of European Citizenship to tackle existing issues of migration and inclusion, discrimination and intolerance.

The training course provided a platform for youth workers from EU and non-EU countries to learn how young people can take an active role on local and international level and to have their voice heard regarding current European challenges. Therefore, an exchange of tools and approaches for active participation of young people and means of influencing and creating youth policy on local and national level were core elements of the training.

The training gathered 24 participants from the European Union, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. The Training Course was organised by the Slovak-Georgian Society (Slovakia) and the Academy for Peace and Development (Georgia). The European Intercultural Forum e. V. sent two participants to this training.

- **Training Course "Sustainable Project Management "**

Dates: September 17-24, 2011 | **Venue:** Struga, FYRO Macedonia

Funded by: Youth in Action Programme, EACEA

Sent: 4 participants

Sustainable project management can be defined as adopting organizational strategies and activities that meet the needs of organizations and its stakeholders today, while protecting, sustaining and enhancing the humans and natural resources that will be needed in future. One of the main aims of the training course was to increase awareness of economical, social and environmental impacts of the Youth in Action projects, their results and effect for now and future generations. Participants learnt how to ensure sustainability in project management process and methodologies, gained understanding about what sustainable project is and what tools and approaches can be used in order to plan, organize and implement projects that contribute to sustainable development of European communities. We explored how to change and enhance project management processes in order to minimize ecological footprint and increase positive contribution of each project in promoting sustainable consumption and production, public health, social inclusion, sustainable transport, conservation and management of natural resources.

The training course brought together 28 participants from Macedonia, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Germany, Romania and Latvia. The European Intercultural Forum e. V. sent four participants to this training course that was hosted by QUANTUM Macedonia.

- **Training Course "Mainstreaming Sustainable Development"**

Dates: October 11-18, 2011 | **Venue:** Gloucestershire, UK

Funded by: Youth in Action programme, British Council

Sent: 4 participants

The training course "Mainstreaming Sustainable Development in Youth Work" aimed to empower participants with necessary competences and non-formal methods in addressing sustainable development, environmental protection and climate change. The project, taking place in a residential Centre at the edge of the forest, based on bio-gardening and Steiner School, promoted young people's active participation in ensuring environmental sustainability, as well as mainstreaming sustainable development, key aspects of Millennium Development Goals.

The training gathered 24 participants from the United Kingdom, Romania, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Bulgaria and Italy. The Training Course was organised and hosted by the ASHA Centre (UK). The EIF sent four participants to this training course.

- **Training Course "Media as Partners in Promotion of Volunteering"**

Dates: October 22-30, 2011 | **Venue:** Struga, Macedonia

Funded by: Youth in Action programme, European Commission

Sent: 4 participants

The training course "Media as Partners in Promotion of Volunteering" provided a non-formal learning platform to participants from Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria and Germany for gaining knowledge about communication tools and creating powerful messages for spreading the word about importance of volunteering. The main aim of the project was to learn how to use public relations and social media tools for promotion of volunteering on local, national and international level and to exchange best practices in promotion of volunteering and cooperation with mass media among the participating countries. Through theoretic inputs and practical exercises, the learners gained understanding about media production, building media relations and fundamental public relations concepts and tools such as press releases, pitch letters, organizing media events, press conferences, planning social campaigns.

The participants explored also specific challenges such as how to "sell" media stories about volunteering and related social issues, how to make the media consider regular covering of work of volunteers and how to present specific professional information in a form that corresponds with news values and is understandable and attractive for a broad public.

The Training Course gathered 26 social and youth workers from Croatia, Romania, Serbia, Bulgaria, Germany and Macedonia. The training was hosted by the Creative Center Kadavarci. The European Intercultural Forum e. V. sent four participants to this training.

- **Training Course "Leaders on-line"**

Dates: October 31 - November 8, 2011 | **Venue:** near Prague, Czech Republic

Funded by: Youth in Action programme, European Commission

Sent: 1 participant

The training course "Leaders on-line" took place from October 31 until November 8, 2011 near Prague (Czech Republic) with 25 participants coming from 22 different countries.

The training had the aim to improve the learning outcomes of projects in the frame of Youth in Action by increasing facilitation and training skills of youth workers and youth leaders. Furthermore, the aim was to improve the level of technical skills of youth leaders and provide them with basic methodology needed for designing and running e-learning platforms.

The training project had three integrated learning phases: preparation for the course through distance e-learning, 8 day long residential training course taking place in Czech Republic and follow-up to the course through distance e-learning.

The project was prepared in cooperation with 25 non-profit organizations from all over Europe. The European Intercultural Forum e. V. sent one participant to this event.

- **Training Course "Mission 2011 – Minorities in Action"**

Dates: November 3-9, 2011 | **Venue:** Strumica, Macedonia

Sent: 1 participant

Funded by: Youth in Action programme, European Commission

The training course "Mission 2011 – Minorities in Action" aimed at the empowerment of members of various NGOs from the European Union and Western Balkans countries in knowing the existing legal frameworks of minority protection. The activities of the training raised specific skills of human rights education in general and minority rights in particular, which can be used in local settings to support the minority groups the participants work with. The training aimed as well to provide a catalyst for international cooperation and campaigning for recognition of minority rights in all our countries.

There were 25 participants from Europe attending the training, which was hosted by the Macedonian organisation Association for progress, education and lobbying (PEL). The European Intercultural Forum e.V. sent one participant to this training.

- **Training Course "Gender Equality and Diversity in European Youth Initiatives"**

Dates: November 20-27, 2011 | **Venue:** Schoorl, The Netherlands

Funded by: Youth in Action programme, European Commission

Sent: 2 participants

The training course which aimed at dealing with gender discrimination and inequality, provided the participants with a "gender lens" and encouraged them to develop a gender-sensitive approach in youth work. The main focus of the training course was on the role of young people and of grassroots youth work initiatives in raising local communities' awareness of gender issues. In addition, attention was paid to other social inclusion issues such as ethnicity (specifically regarding Roma minorities) as these issues are often closely interlinked with gender inequalities and discrimination.

The training took place in the week of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November). As a final product of the training course, the participants wrote articles for publication in a local or national newspaper or magazine. The articles serve to increase the visibility and outreach of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, as well as of the training course and the Youth in Action Programme. Non-formal educational tools, such as peer-to-peer learning, workshops, participants' presentations, simulations and exercises were integral parts of the project.

The Training Course gathered 25 social and youth workers from Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Spain, The Netherlands and Turkey. The European Intercultural Forum e. V. sent two members to this training.

- **Training Course "Protection of Minorities - bridging theory and practice in youth work"**

Dates: December 6-13, 2011 | **Venue:** Gloucester, United Kingdom

Funded by: Youth in Action programme, British National Agency

Sent: 2 participants

The main theme of this project is protection of minorities – the existing international standards as well as local realities. The training seeks to inform youth workers about basic frameworks of legal protection of minorities in Europe as well as knowledge of local realities of minority communities, particularly young people in different European states. The project will focus on methods of combating discrimination, racism and xenophobia through non-formal education, in addition to expanding participants' knowledge of the existing national and international legal frameworks.

Projects' objectives are therefore:

- To develop participants' knowledge and competences in key concepts and European legislation related to protection of minorities
- To develop the key competences, skills and attitudes of youth workers addressing minority issues, particularly through non-formal education
- To enable participants to develop activities addressing minority protection and human rights education at local, national and international levels
- To develop solidarity and promote tolerance among young people, in particular in order to foster social

cohesion in the EU

- **Training Course "Peace Action Cooperation in Europe - PACE"**

Dates: December 14-21,2011 | **Venue:** Tbilisi, Georgia

Funded by: Youth in Action programme, Italian National Agency

Sent: 2 participants

The training course "PACE" aims to improve the working skills, knowledge and competences on conflict management of youth workers and youth leaders from all across Europe. The participants will get to know methods and tools to work on peace-building and conflict management to be implemented in daily NGO work with youth. Time and space will be allocated to reflect about the use of such tools in youth work. As well discussions and reflections about the geo-political situation in the Caucasus and Eastern Europe will take place among the participants.

The training course is organised in partnership between Kaleidoskopio (Italy) and the Academy for Peace and Development (Georgia).

2.3. International Youth Exchanges

- **Youth Exchange "A Home Called Europe"**

Dates: March 21-30, 2011 | **Venue:** The Hague, The Netherlands

Funded by: Youth in Action Programme Action 3.1, Dutch National Agency

Participants: 36 young people aged 18-25 from Portugal, The Netherlands, Germany, Macedonia FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia

Sent: one group of 5 youth and one team leader

The ten day youth exchange programme took place in The Netherlands and its aim was to learn more about the latest phenomena of migrations in Europe, relationships between majority and minority, modernity and tradition: issues that are all widely discussed in media and in society. Nowadays more and more people immigrate to EU countries from Africa, Eastern Europe, the Balkans, Middle East and other territories in search for a better life. How the locals react to such phenomena and what the main reasons for immigration are, is the main question addressed by this project. Their reaction is different from country to country and this has an enormous impact on the immigrants' inclusion into the major society. This youth exchange helped participants to better understand both points of view: the locals and the immigrants.

The countries chosen for the project represented both sides: Western European countries as final destination countries and Balkan countries as non-EU countries from which people emigrate. The youth exchange was mainly based on intercultural learning techniques with the main goal of providing young people with an opportunity to exchange opinions and share experiences, identify differences and each other prejudices in their societies and find the way of common understanding which is important for inclusion of every human. Moreover, during the exchange, young people developed creative ideas for future collaboration. EIF sent six participants to this Youth Exchange.

- **Youth Exchange "Improve intercultural dialogue by religious objects"**

Dates: April 18-24, 2011 | **Venue:** Manisa, Turkey

Funded by: Youth in Action Programme Action 3.1, Turkish National Agency

Participants: 30 young people aged 18-25 from Turkey, Azerbaijan, Germany, Albania, Russian Federation and Romania

Sent: one group of 4 youth and one team leader

The Youth Exchange "Improve intercultural dialogue by religious objects" brought together young people from different cultural and religious backgrounds to share their views on the role of religious artifacts in their life. By exchanging and informing each other on their beliefs and the various ways to represent faith in history and contemporary time in their countries, the participants raised their understanding and sense of tolerance towards other religions. Time was allocated so that the national groups present their religious rituals, places of worship and other ceremonies. Excursions were held to Manisa Museum, to places of worships in Manisa, to the municipal cultural directorate and to the nearby city of Izmir. On April 23, the group took part to the public activities organised in the frame of the National Sovereignty and Children's Day, a commemorative day dedicated to the first opening of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey in 1920.

The European Intercultural Forum e.V. sent a group of five young people to this exchange.

- **Youth Exchange "Re(act) now!"**

Dates: May 2-9, 2011 | **Venue:** Abrantes, Portugal

Funded by: Youth in Action Programme Action 1.1, Portuguese National Agency

Participants: young people 18-25 from Greece, Romania, Germany, Portugal, Estonia, France and Bulgaria

Sent: one group of 4 youth and one team leader

Domestic violence is a universal social problem, that is also faced within the various European communities. The Youth Exchange "Re(act) now! Show your red card to domestic violence!" in Portugal addressed the issue of domestic violence by raising awareness on different themes as Human Rights, Conflict Management and Gender discrimination. The participants came from seven different countries and discussed the phenomena of domestic violence in their own countries and communities. At the end of the project, a street theatre performance was held to raise awareness of a wider public concerning domestic violence.

During the Youth Exchange, time and working sessions were allocated to discover each other cultural and

social background. Intercultural learning has been a full dimension of the whole project.

EIF sent five young people to this Youth Exchange.

- **Youth Exchange "90km for Planet Earth"**

Dates: May 5-16, 2011 | **Venue:** Struga, Macedonia FYRO

Funded by: Youth in Action Programme Action 3.1, European Commission

Participants: 25 young people aged 18-25 from Poland, FYRO Macedonia, Germany, Romania and Serbia

Sent: one group of 5 youth and one team leader

The Youth Exchange "90 km for Planet Earth" was created with the aim to promote public awareness on sustainable development and educate young people about their impact on the environment and the various possibilities to become more sustainable. During 11 days, 25 participants from Macedonia, Serbia, Poland, Romania and Germany hiked 90km distance in the surroundings of Struga.

The idea that lay in the heart of this project is that economic progress must not compromise the key assets of humanity - the quality of the environment and landscapes, human rights and social equity, cultural diversity and democracy. With the guidance of experts, young people learnt about unique species in area, about processes that are endangering the nature, as well as discussed, how we can change our own habits and mindsets in order to reduce and minimize damage that we do to our planet. Outdoor activities were combined with interactive workshops about sustainable development, creative thinking and animation workshops - final product of the project are series of short animations in languages of all participants and in English that aim to increase public awareness about the importance and principles of sustainable development and to promote environment care. Created material and results of the workshops have been presented to local inhabitants living in towns and used in further work of all involved organisations.

The youth exchange gathered 25 youngsters aged between 18 and 25 from Serbia, FYRO Macedonia, Romania, Germany, Poland. The five German participants were sent by the European Intercultural Forum e. V.

- **Youth Exchange "Pictures' Point of View"**

Dates: July 8-15, 2011 | **Venue:** Yerevan, Armenia

Funded by: Youth in Action Programme Action 3.1, Latvian National Agency

Participants: 20 young people aged 18-25 from Armenia, Latvia, Georgia, Germany

Sent: one group of 4 youth and one team leader

The Youth Exchange "Pictures´ point of view" aimed to develop social responsibility and respect for the value of diversity among young people. People from different countries and different backgrounds met and shared experiences on their life in their communities. The participants reflected about similarities and differences between their countries in regards to discrimination of minorities, gender equality and social roles. Besides, the youth exchange aimed at the participants' reflection on inclusion and integration as common European challenges and fostered the creation of an informal network of young people willing to engage in future activities tackling the consequences of migration.

The main methodology of the project was photography as an art to express own ideas and views. Therefore, the participants worked intensively with basic techniques of photography in order to share their ideas and impressions on contemporary Europe. The young people discovered city of Yerevan with photo cameras and engaged in a debate about social responsibility and community life.

The European Intercultural Forum e. V. sent one group of four participant and one team leader to this project.

2.4. IPA Project “Equal Opportunities for all young people!”

Project for increased social inclusion of marginalised young people through institutional cooperation between public authorities and CSOs

Dates: two years (from January 1, 2011) | **Coordination:** Association KULT, Sarajevo, BiH

Funded by: EuropeAid IPA Socio-Economic Partnership

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia have the goal of accession to the European Union and therefore adapt their policies with EU standards which leads to deep socio-economic changes that greatly impact upon the society. As a result, the polarisation of different groups of young people increase since some youths are excluded from decent education and training and therefore are much less competitive on the job market. The disadvantaged and socially excluded people feel unable to influence mainstream political processes and withdraw from conventional political participation.

In this respect, the common role of the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the region is crucial for a better understanding of the reforms and EU accession in the public. A reason for the current situation is the lack of cooperation between CSOs inter se as well as a lack of involvement of the CSOs on the level of the local authorities.

To counteract this development, the project aims at building a strong network and partnerships between CSOs to share and exchange knowledge and expertise and thereby to improve the quality of CSO services by developing a curriculum and an interactive training package for Youth Leaders in order to foster an increased engagement of socially excluded youth.

Furthermore, the project aims to strengthen the cooperation among the CSOs from the region and public authorities by bringing together civil society and public authorities. Therefore, the project organizes workshops and trainings for public authorities and civil society representatives on how to strengthen cooperation for the improved policy dialogue.

In order to make the social policies more effective, the project fosters the gathering of local level data as well as research analysing the situation of socially excluded youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia as a basis for regulating social policies and formulating recommendations for policy improvements.

The project benefits both the CSOs and public authorities in that it builds their capacities to work together towards designing effective social inclusion policies in line with EU standards.

In the frame of the project, the European Intercultural Forum e. V. Berlin hosted a study-visit for 24 SEE Civil Society Organisation representatives from May 31-June 4, 2011:

Study-Visit in Berlin, May 31 - June 4, 2011

The preparation started as soon as February 10, 2011 when the partners got the chance to meet in Istanbul for the kick-off meeting of this project which was merged with the Congress "Civil Society Organisations challenge public authorities" organized by the European Movement. A representative of EIF was present on this meeting. The study-visit that took place in the frame of the project "Equal Opportunities for all young people!" was organized in close cooperation between the European Intercultural Forum e. V. (partner in Germany) and Association KULT (Bosnia Herzegovina). The study-visit gathered 24 participants from Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia, two coordinators from Bosnia Herzegovina, one coordinator from Germany and three experts from Germany, so in total 30 persons. The study-visit comprised training, examples of projects addressing social inclusion, the exchange of best practices, meetings as well as discussion rounds. Besides, visits to local organisations were organised.

2.5 Euro-Bus tour "We are Europeans"

Dates: 17 days bus tours across Europe (Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands and Poland) - **Stop-over in Berlin:** April 21, 2011

Coordination: Polska Fundacja im. Roberta Schumana

Funded by: Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, European Union

><http://schuman.pl/programy-fundacji-schumana/we-are-europeans>

The European Intercultural Forum e.V. hosted the Eurotour "We are Europeans" in Berlin on April 21st. The bus tour started and ended in Warsaw, Poland. Youth representatives of South-Eastern European countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia) accompanied by a tour guide and a photographer passed through various European countries to stimulate the European debate on the benefits and challenges of a future enlargement.

The participants took actively part in intercultural activities in formal and non-formal ways to promote their countries and cultures and dialogue directly with local citizens. Activities along the route included debates, conferences, local community meetings, sport activities and performances.

The programme in Berlin included a meeting with local NGO representatives, presentation of the SEE countries and various citizen's initiatives, as well as a screening of short-movies on mobility in Europe and a meeting with youth from migration backgrounds in Wedding.

2.6. Internet Platform “Urban Tracks”

Dates of the Youth Initiative: February 2010 until March 2011

Dates of the Project: running

Venue: Berlin (Germany), Paris (France), Budapest (Hungary)

Funded by: Youth in Action Programme Action 1.2 and municipality of Paris "Label Paris Europe"

A European multimedia platform highlighting bright cultural spots and youth initiatives in Paris and Berlin. In a word: diversity!

Initially undertaken by eight attentive inhabitants of Paris and Berlin, this platform is the fruit of the cooperation between two non-governmental organisations: De Deux Choses Lune and European Intercultural Forum e.V. based respectively in Paris and Berlin. Providing information on alternative and/or unknown places and ventures in capital cities, the platform proposes to discover with new eyes our urban environment and some particularly relevant cultural initiatives. Website's visitors embark on an interactive trip where all senses are stimulated... Urban Tracks brings light to places and people considered as active participants of the European cultural diversity - resisting to current cultural standardisation processes. By raising up curiosity on alternative trends, this platform intends to foster a different type of mobility among young people and artists, promoting mutual understanding and (inter)cultural ties. In 2011 this project started also in Budapest.

This project featured a preparation meeting in February 2010 in Paris and an mid-term evaluation meeting in June 2010 in Berlin. The idea is to develop this project as a small festival occurring every 9th of May in diverse cities across Europe!

> www.urbantracks.eu

[DE] –

Zeitraum: 02/2010 – 03/2011

Ort: Berlin (Deutschland), Paris (Frankreich), Budapest (Ungarn)

Finanziert durch: Jugend in Aktion Programm Aktion 1.1, Französische Nationalagentur und die Stadt Paris „Label Paris Europe“

Projektbeschreibung:

Das Projekt ist ursprünglich eine Initiative der Organisationen „De Deux Choses Lune“ und „European Intercultural Forum“ e. V., welches durch die Erstellung einer Webseite über alternative, artistische und kulturelle Orte der Städte Paris und Berlin informiert. Acht Freiwillige aus Deutschland und Frankreich besuchen und berichten über Theater, Galerien, Läden und andere besondere Lokalitäten ihre Städte. Zudem organisieren die Teilnehmer kleine Veranstaltungen auf lokaler Ebene und produzieren Materialien für Öffentlichkeitsarbeit. Seit 2011 ist die Initiative zusätzlich auf Budapest ausgeweitet worden.

Webseite: www.urbantracks.eu

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3. MEDIA PRESENCE

The following publications and promotional materials were published in 2011:

- Brochure “Mobility and European Citizenship” - Outcomes of the Conference 2011, 750 exemplars (150 given to the partners)
- Banner for the conference “Mobility and European Citizenship”
- Sticker EIF Logo, 400 exemplars
- Flyer “Mobility and European Citizenship” with the main key elements of the project, 500 exemplars
- Bags for the project “Urban Tracks”, 400 exemplars
- Badges of the Youth in Action programme to clip on the Urban Tracks Bags, 200 exemplars for both designs
- Calendars 2012 gathering the photography’s taken during the Youth Exchange “Pictures' Points of View” in Armenia, 200 exemplars
- Brochure “Discover the Caucasus - Volunteering in Georgia” gathering the outcomes of the study visit and presenting recommendations and guidelines for volunteering projects in Georgia, 1000 exemplars (shared with the partner)
- Banner for the Training Course “Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation in International Youth Work”

The European Intercultural Forum e. V. is registred on the following social media and online platforms:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/European-Intercultural-Forum-eV/189726027725544>
- Registration on www.better-place.org
- Registration on <http://www.buergergesellschaft.de/>
- Project Descriptions on http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/eve/
- Registration on <http://www.berlin.de/buergeraktiv/ehrenamtsnetz/vereine>

Blogs and Websites for specific projects were set up by the EIF team or by participants:

- **Study Visit “Discover the Caucasus - Volunteering in Georgia”:**
Website: <http://www.wix.com/apdeif/volunteering-georgia>
Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/216507545076358/>
- **Training Course “Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation in International Youth Work”**
Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/219880464737658/>
- **Project “Mobility and European Citizenship”**
Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/186266291402375/>
- **Training Course “Europe and Islam”:**
Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/261280503925231/>
- **EVS Project “VOLGAnteering - From Lada to Civil Society”**
Website and Blog: <http://www.wix.com/168694/volganteering>
- **Youth Exchange “Pictures' Points of View” in Armenia**
Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/253519011332203/>

4. VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS

- **Lisa Müller**

Dates of the volunteering activities: since January 2011

Lisa was a participant in a outgoing training course about project management in 2010 in Georgia. In 2011 she started getting more involved within the organisation, even though she performed already few tasks in 2010. Lisa managed and manages the following:

- writing articles for the "Urban Tracks" project (Route 65 and Art in the Pool)
- narrative reporting of the conference "Mobility and European citizenship - Interrelations and Implications" and translation English - German during one guided tour with the participants
- development and writing of the application "Blicke Wechseln - Sinne Wandeln" and, since approval, leader of the project
- article about the Youth Exchange "Creativity in Conflicts" for the award competition "Peace Story", unfortunately not selected

- **Elisabeth Pfeiffer**

Dates of the internship: from 01.04.2011 until 31.05.2011 (two months)

Elisabeth made a two months internship with EIF in the frame of a one-year scholarship of the Bundestag. Elisabeth is half American, half German and spent one year in Germany to get to know the culture and language. Elisabeth supported the EIF as following:

- performing the team Leadership during the international Youth Exchange on Interreligious Dialogue in Manisa, Turkey from April 18-24, 2011
- writing articles for the "Urban Tracks" project (paths through graffiti's places in Berlin and Teufelberg)

- **Olena Kukharets**

Dates of the volunteering activities: since September 2011

Lena is active with the EIF since September 2011. She got involved following her participation in the Training Course "Rights for All" in the Netherlands. Lena performed the following:

- selecting and posting the article of the Week: posting one article at the beginning of the week on the facebook account, that relates to the working fields of the EIF
- gathering the outcomes of the working sessions and finalising the narrative report for the Training Course "Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation in International Youth Work" in Berlin (nov. 2011) (Werkvertrag)
- analysing the evaluation forms of the participants of outgoing Training Courses and drawing conclusions for the up-coming year

- **Saskia Boiselle**

Date of the internship: from 05.09.2011 until 28.10.2011 (two months)

Saskia Boiselle got to hear about the EIF thanks to an open call for participants in a mailing list. She contacted us in July 2011 to inquire about possibilities to do an internship for 6 to 8 weeks. Saskia performed the following:

- gathering the report of activities 2011 for the period January-September 2011
- gathering the outcomes of the working sessions and finalising the narrative report for the Study Visit "Discover the Caucasus - Volunteering in Georgia"
- analysing the evaluation forms of the participants of outgoing Youth Exchanges and drawing conclusions for the up-coming year
- writing one article for the "Urban Tracks" project (Hairdresser Herr Hasel)

ANNEX 1: OUTCOMES OF OUT-GOING TRAINING COURSES WITH YOUTH IN ACTION

Evaluation for the Year 2011

In 2011, the European Intercultural Forum e. V. sent 45 participants to Training Courses under the Youth in Action Programme (Action 4.3. or Action 3.1.), geographically as follow: 22 to European Union countries (mainly the United Kingdom and The Netherlands), 12 participants to Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (only Armenia and Georgia) and 11 participants in South East Europe (only Macedonia). The most occurring themes of these training courses were: Peace-Building (10), Media (8), Sustainable development (8), Human Rights (5), Interfaith dialogue (4), Outdoor activities (4), Active Citizenship (2), Gender Equality (2) and Theater (2). Most of the participants were sent on the period between July and October (29 participants on 4 months). The participants were aged from 18 to 35 years old, with an average on 26 years old.

Evaluation Forms dully completed: 27 exemplars

Overview of ratings on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 10 (highest)

- ✓ **Overall Satisfaction: average – 9; ranging from 6** (Sustainable Project Management, Macedonia, September 2011) and 10.
- ✓ **Programme and content: average – 8,6;** ranging from 5 (Mainstreaming Sustainable Development, England, October 2011) and 10.
- ✓ **Preparation Beforehand: average – 8,7;** ranging from 6 (Peace Education and Non-Violent Action, England, August 2011 and Youth Interfaith Champions for Dialogue Between Religions, The Netherlands, January 2011) and 10.
- ✓ **Accommodation: average – 7,9;** ranging from 2 (Sustainable Project Management, Macedonia, September 2010) and 10.
- ✓ **Food: average – 7,8;** ranging from 2 (Sustainable Project Management, Macedonia, September 2011) and 10.
- ✓ **Reimbursements: average – 9,04;** the lowest grade: 4 (Enough Pizza for Everyone, Armenia, July 2011) and 10.

Analysis

- ✓ **What are the main acquired skills and competences during such projects?**

During international training courses, the participants usually learn a lot about the topic, get new skills and competences in youth work – e.g. new tools and methods in non-formal education, management competences, practical skills, intercultural experience. They also learn more about the activities held under Youth in Action.

- ✓ **What are the strong and weak elements mentioned by the participants about those training courses?**

A lot of participants wish to have different day planning – e.g. more free time in afternoon or longer breaks. Some mention some disappointment about the content of the training course itself, as they had another idea how the topic would be approached, with which kind of methods, but also wished to have more information on some aspects, which were not addressed during the training despite their closed link to the topic of project. Some participants mentioned logistics or preparation before the training as a weak point. Last but not least, some participants mentioned the performance of the trainers e.g. lacking responsibility or engagement towards the topic or challenging group dynamics.

Food and accommodation were mentioned only once as the things which should be improved, but still the average marks for both (7,9 and 7,8 accordingly) are the lowest in the evaluation forms.

One should also mention that twice the reimbursements were not completed at the time the participants expected to get the money transferred (on 27 evaluation forms)

The overall satisfaction grade is very high – 9. That grade and the fact, that majority of participant's comments in the evaluation forms are positive, mean that despite some things which could be improved the

participants are satisfied with the learning experience. This confirms the engagement of EIF to provide learning experience abroad for youth and social workers.

✓ **Does the geographical destination matter for the learning experience? Are the outcomes different in South-East Europe, European Union and/or the Caucasus?**

As there are some strong and weak points in all the projects, there is no influence of the destination country on the learning experience of the participants. The quality of food and accommodation is also not related to the geographical destination.

In that sense, EIF should focus on working with known partners and venue, wherever located, as this seems to be the most important criteria for successful outcomes.

✓ **In which sense the training course support personal and professional development of the participants?**

As the participants get a lot of new experience, new skills and competences, raise their awareness not only about the topic of project, but also related topics and European awareness, participating in such educational projects obviously contributes to personal and professional development of the participants. In addition many mentioned they also got new ideas for future projects, new partnerships and raised their awareness about how they could be engaged and active in this working field.

✓ **Does this activity of outgoing projects reach its goals and should EIF continue sending participants on similar types of activities?**

The activity of sending youth workers to outgoing projects makes sense for EIF as the learning outcomes described by the participants upon return are relevant and pertinent. As there are no obvious differences in projects held in the EU, SEE or EECA one cannot say that geographical focus really plays an important role in the quality of the training course proposed. As the content, methods or trainer's engagement are mentioned as weak points in some evaluation forms, EIF should pay as much attention as possible to the content of the training programme and the trainers' competences in order to insure quality outcomes.

The EIF will go on sending trainees to non-formal education training courses abroad in 2012 as the learning outcomes are pertinent and this activity allows EIF to build up a network of youth and social workers who are interested to link their activities to EIF, eventually to volunteer and/or cooperation on specific initiatives.

ANNEX 2: OUTCOMES OF OUT-GOING YOUTH EXCHANGES WITH YOUTH IN ACTION

Evaluation for the year 2011

A Youth Exchange is an Action of the Youth in Action Programme which allows youth without any requirements but their age (18-25) to meet other Europeans and discuss community-related topics. Youth Exchanges are generally characterised by a high intercultural learning experience and a raise of the understanding of European citizenship.

In 2011, the European Intercultural Forum e. V. sent German youth groups to five Youth Exchanges, in total 26 participants, out of which 7 can be considered as fewer opportunities. The following exchanges occurred:

	Youth Exchange	Destination	Topic
March 2011	A Home Called Europe	The Hague, The Netherlands	Migrations
April 2011	Improve intercultural dialogue by religious objects	Manisa, Turkey	Inter-faith Dialogue
May 2011	90km for Planet Earth	Struga, Macedonia	Sustainable development
May 2011	Re(act) now! - Show your Red Card to Domestic Violence	Abrantes, Portugal	Domestic violence
July 2011	Pictures' Point of View	Yerevan, Armenia	Social responsibility

This analysis is based on 22 Evaluation Forms that were sent back from the participants upon return in Germany.

✓ **Overview of ratings on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 10 (highest)**

The overall satisfaction is quite good (7,9). It can be said that only the Youth Exchange in Turkey about inter-faith dialogue (6,8) and on the other side the Youth Exchange in the Portugal about domestic violence (9,3) are sharply differing from the average. This picture is similar about the programme and content (average 7,3; Turkey 4,8; Netherlands 9,3). This means that the overall satisfaction is in clear correlation with the quality of the content.

Besides the reimbursement, the highest average rate could be reached for the preparation beforehand (8,2). In general, the rates concerning the food are relatively low and the participants often wished more varied or more typical food.

✓ **Contribution to future plans of youth**

The participation in youth exchanges clearly influences the participants' perspectives and opinions.

Most of all, the participants stated that they got motivated to be more active and engaged in the future, showing that participating in the Youth Exchange has a clear impact on their social engagement (or at least their wish to be engaged). This was mentioned, ranging from taking part into similar international exchanges, planning to use other Youth in Action actions such as doing a European Voluntary Service, or willing to develop and initiate own projects.

The theme of the Youth Exchange is relevant to influence the participants in their future plans. Some youth mentioned, that they would like to gain a deeper knowledge about the topic discussed and others that they would like to spread their learning outcomes in their own community. Besides, a few participants even stated that the Youth Exchange helped them to decide on their career aspirations or their job plans have been reinforced by it.

✓ **Geographical location of the Youth Exchange and learning experience**

It seems that exchanges taking place in countries where the participants had never been or never imagine to go bring stronger satisfaction. The participants mentioned often the wish to have more time to explore and discover the country where the exchange takes place, especially in the non-western destinations e.g. Armenia, Macedonia, Turkey. There are no clear relation between successful outcomes and location of the project - it seems professional team and quality of the content are the main elements to reach a bright learning experience.

✓ **Conclusion for work**

The analysis shows that the satisfaction of the participants are in clear relation with the quality of the programme, its content and working methodologies and the professionalism and engagement of the team leaders. As a Youth Exchange is an exchange for and by youth, it is difficult to foresee the skills and competences of the team leaders involved in the project, even though it is easy to get a clear overview of the professionalism of the hosting organisation. Therefore, the Advance Planning Visit seems to be one of the most important leverage for good preparation and implementation (the Youth Exchange in Turkey was the only one without such an APV)

As linguistically barriers were mentioned in some evaluations, it would be important to tackle this topic during the preparation so that the participants understand the fact that English is not always the main communication language, especially in regions such as the Balkans or the post-soviet countries.

Furthermore, it seems that Youth Exchanges are a great tool to raise the curiosity and interest of youth towards regions of Europe that they would maybe not have visited by themselves. Focusing on these "less known" destinations seems to be a factor of attraction and satisfaction for the participants.

Last but not least, as the youth comes back from the exchange full of energy and motivation to be engaged, it seems pertinent to keep a close contact with the participants and to propose space within EIF for the youth to develop their own initiative and small-scale projects. This is unfortunately mainly possible for youth living in Berlin/ Brandenburg and that is why, EIF should focus on involving youth from the capital and its region to create a broader network of motivated European citizens.

ANNEX 3: UP-COMING ACTIVITIES 2012

Projects as Coordinator				
Running Activities				
Type	Funding Programme	Title and Short description	Schedule	Venue
Youth initiative	Youth in Action	Blicke Wechseln - Sinne wandeln Workshop in tandems blind-non blind with the LOMO photography techniques and creation of an exhibition and visual-audio book	until June 2012	Berlin
Training Course	Youth in Action	Europe and Islam - Misperceptions and Potentials Training course for youth workers on inter-faith dialogue and the role of Islam in Europe. 28 Participants from EU, the Balkans, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.	January 22-29, 2012	Ganja, Azerbaijan
European Voluntary Service	Youth in Action	VOLGAnteering - From Lada to Civil Society Kevin Dürr and Anne Schröder are volunteers in the Youth House Chance in Togliatti, supporting youth related activities and promoting volunteering	until 31.08.2012	Togliatti, Russia
European Voluntary Service	Youth in Action	Volunteering for the Inclusion of young refugees Kalina Lenes is in Tbilisi for a 12-months EVS placement, proposing non-formal educational activities in IDP centres.	until 31.07.2012	Tbilisi, Georgia

Pending				
Type	Funding Programme	Title and Short description	Schedule	Venue
Arbeit beim Partner	DFJW	Arbeit beim Partner One year position for a french youth worker to support German-French projects in EIF	2012	Berlin
Training Course	Youth in Action	Build peace on your own – Civil society for a United Caucasus Training course for youth leaders from Spain, The Netherlands, Germany, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. This would be the first step of a large-scale project on youth empowerment and peace-building within the Caucasus.	Spring 2012	Berlin
European Voluntary Service	Youth in Action	Promotion of Volunteering and Inclusion in Albania - Edition 2012 Ten volunteers from Germany, from which 4 are with migration background, will spend one month in Tirana, Albania, proposing non-formal education workshops and activities to young disabled in a special school.	May 2012	Tirana, Albania

Projects in Partnership			
European Voluntary Service			
Partner organisation	Title, short overview	Hosting country	Dates
Ser Joven (2010-ES-5)	The world from a difference perspective Michael Theilig will spend seven months in Santander, Spain and support the activities a youth centre and a fair-trade shop. The project takes place together with another volunteer from Finland.	Santander, Spain	01.01.2012 - 31.07.2012
K.S.D.E.O. "EDRA" (2010-GR-15)	EDRA Centre Working in a centre for disabled in the heart of Greek capital.	Athens, Greece	01.03.2012-31.12.2012
Asociatia Tinerilor Formatori (2011-RO-40)	'Learning through rural experience One EVS placement for 12 months for a youth with fewer opportunity to work with Roma communities and youth in Baile Oanesti. The project gathers 4 volunteers at the same time.	Baile Oanesti, Romania	01.05.2012-31.04.2013
RELEARN Suderbyn (2010-SE-44)	Green Skills II Linda Pfister will support the work in the garden and with international groups in the eco-village on the Gotland Island in Sweden, during 6 months. The project gathers 7 volunteers at the same time.	Gotland Island, Sweden	01.04.2012-30.09.2012
A.C.T.O.R. Asociatia Culturala pentru Teatru si Origami din Romania (2010-RO-6)	Here There Everywhere The large-scale EVS project allows 20 EVS volunteers from EU, Africa, South America to present their country and culture in schools and kindergarten for 12 months. Two volunteers are from Germany.	Bucharest, Romania	01.08.2012-31.07.2013

International Youth Exchanges for young people 18-25					
Type	Partner organisation	Title	Hosting country	Dates	Participants
Youth Exchange	Letters Students Association	"IN and OUT of EU: Breaking down stereotypes II"	Craiova, Romania	February 4-11, 2012	5
Youth Exchange	Asociatia Tinerilor Formatori	Sport and Tolerance	tbd, Romania	Summer 2012	12
Youth Exchange	Non-Governmental Organisation "The World of Words"	Give me 5 min of your time	tbd, Serbia	Spring 2012	5
Youth Exchange	Young Europeans of Serbia YES	Europeans against discrimination!	tbd, Serbia	Spring 2012	5

International Training Courses for Youth and Social Workers					
Type	Partner organisation	Title	Hosting country	Dates	Participants
Training Course	ASHA Centre	All colours of Peace	Gloucester, United Kingdom	January 17, 24, 2012	4
Training Course	BLINK - Better Life in Kosovo	Youth for a Common Future – Creativity in Conflict Transformation	Pristina, Kosovo	February 3-10, 2012	3
Training Course	Volunteer Centre Skopje	Improve social and life skills of young people facing social exclusion	tbd, Macedonia	Spring 2012	2
Training Course	Citizen Forum Denica	Focus On Conflict: Mediation and Conflict Management for NGOs	Struga, Macedonia	Spring 2012	2
Training Course	Association PEL	AVE! AVE! – A (ctive) V (olunteers) in E (urope)	tbd, Macedonia	Spring 2012	2
Training Course	Academy for Peace and Development	Take the Challenge – Train on intercultural learning and anti-discrimination	Kobuleti, Georgia	Spring 2012	2
Training Course	Citizens Forum Denica	Activating the Inactive Young Volunteer	Struga, Macedonia	April 9-16, 2012	?
Training Course	EPER Centre	Environmental Watchdog	tbd, Albania	April 10-17, 2012	3 or 4
Training Course	Association for education and information Mladiinfo-FEJS MK	Portraying My Europe	tbd, Macedonia	Spring 2012	?
Training Course	First Children's Embassy in the World Megjashi	Protect Your Rights – Youth Rights and Active Participation	Ohrid, Macedonia	May 20-27, 2012	3
Training Course	Femijet Jane e Ardhmja - Children Are the Future	Promoting Volunteering among Youth	tbd, Albania	April 29 - May 5, 2012	3
Training Course	Association for Progress Lobbying and Education PEL	Youth dimensions of Migration in Europe	tbd, Macedonia	Spring 2012	3