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## Report of Activities (summary) -2004-

### *SEMINARS, YOUTH EXCHANGES AND TRAINING EVENTS (classified by dates)*

#### **EVS in YAP International Secretariat**

**Dates:** from 08/12/2003 to 01/10/2004

**Place:** Belgium – Brussels

**N° of participants:** 1 (from Austria)

**Field:** Project Management, Information/Communication

*With the kind support of the Youth programme of the European Commission*

In general, the main task of the International Secretariat of YAP is to support the co-ordination between the different members of the organisation, to look for new partners, and to facilitate the contact of all organisations, groups and individuals who share the ideals of the international movement, with the existing members. Apart from this, the International Secretariat is responsible for carrying out international activities.

#### Tasks of the volunteer

***Involvement in preparatory and management teams (international activities).*** This has included:

- setting up team working methods,
- defining programme elements,
- proceeding with call for participants and with all practical aspects of the activity
- recruiting participants and identifying a group profile
- defining methods and methodologies
- implementing the activity
- evaluating and following up the activity

It has been up to the volunteer, Karin, to decide in which activity she wanted to be involved. From our side she has been involved into the preparation and implementation of a training course on Awareness Raising, PR and lobbying (March

2004), in the preparation of a youth exchange called Arte Diem (August – September 2004), and in

## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2004 (summary)

the participants selection of a seminar on Peaceful independence and self-determination in Moscow (April 2004). But Karin has also been involved in workcamps management and leadership of our Belgian local branch, Javva (summer 2004). Besides project related work, Karin has been dealing with our publication, YAP Info.

### **Pre-departure training for volunteers going to Palestine**

**Activity type:** EVS

**Dates:** from 10 – 15 January 2004

**Place:** Brussels, Belgium

**N° of participants:** 13

**Field:** Voluntary Service

*With the kind support of the Youth programme of the European Commission*

Before a (EVS) volunteer leaves to his/her project in Palestine, he/she has to take part in a joint pre-departure training in Europe, organised by the International Secretariat with the cooperation of trainers from the sending and hosting organisations. During this preparation, the volunteers got more information on their projects, as well as some testimonies from former volunteers and sessions on intercultural learning and conflict management. The training also focused on the responsibilities of the different actors in the project. The preparation was taking place right before the departure of the volunteers to Palestine.

The objectives of the preparation were therefore:

- Introduction of the EVS programme (Objectives, structure and frame of the YOUTH Programme, rules as well as rights and responsibilities of the EVS Volunteer, etc.)
- Introduction about YAP in general + explanation about the co-ordinating host organisation and its role
- Introduction about the project' motivation and its place within YAP policies and long-term planning
- Global overview about the host projects, both sides' expectations
- Explanatory session about practicalities and technicalities (finances, documents, meetings etc)
- Intercultural learning (phases of a volunteering project, how to deal with cultural aspects and cultural shock etc)
- General introduction about hosting country/territory (Palestine/Israel) history, culture, political and economy system, ...

### **Volunteers as a tool for Peace in the Middle-East**

**Activity type:** EVS

**Dates:** from 15/01/2004 to 15/11/2004

**Place:** Palestine - East Jerusalem and Hebron

**N° of participants:** 13

**Field:** Middle East, Local development, Minorities

*With the kind support of the Youth programme of the European Commission*

This project can be seen as a continuation for our past three years long-term projects in Palestine and Israel.

The recent administrative and political difficulties we face with our volunteers in the region push YAP to continue developing long-term volunteering in the Middle-East, as a real tool for further peace building process. Indeed, the on-going conflict in the region, as well as the increasing requests by young Europeans to visit and to volunteer in the region, motivate us to go on with our projects. The feed-back of the local organisations, the local communities and the volunteers

## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2004 (summary)

themselves, even if they have to go through difficult time, is definitively positive and encourage us.

Moreover, In the present world climate *post* September 11 2001, the war in Afghanistan and Iraq, it has been felt that there is an ever urgent need to provide better understanding of Arab cultures and the Muslim religion in particular, in order to prevent facile amalgams of the two.

With this project, we have hosted 13 European volunteers in different local NGOs in the region; West Bank and East Jerusalem, in order to contribute to capacity building process of these community organisations. The volunteers have been involved in different types of projects.

### **Pre-departure training for volunteers going to South-East and Western Europe**

**Activity type:** preparation Seminar

**Dates:** from 17/03/2004 to 20/03/2004

**Place:** Belgium-Mechelen

**N° of participants:** 9 (5 from Western Europe and 4 from SEE)

**Field:** voluntary service

*With the kind support of the Youth programme of the European Commission*

Similarly to the (EVS) volunteers leaving to other centralised long-term volunteering projects, the volunteers taking part in the voluntary exchange between SEE and Western Europe had to take part in a joint pre-departure training before they leave.

This preparation was organised by the International Secretariat with the cooperation of trainers from the sending and hosting organisations. It has happened in two parts:

### **Preparation in the home countries**

Volunteers have been prepared by their Sending Organisations and provided information about the projects, the technicalities and practicalities of the EVS in general and of these projects in particular. On-going support and follow-up processes have also been clarified. This preparation was quite general, since a centralised pre-departure training has been organised in Brussels (see below).

### **Centralised pre-departure training**

The 9 volunteers have participated in a joint pre-departure training, which took place in Brussels. This pre-departure training has been organised by YAP, and conducted by experienced trainers (YAP pool of trainers or external professional trainers).

The training focused on:

- Introduction of the EVS programme (Objectives, structure and frame of the YOUTH Programme, rules as well as rights and responsibilities of the EVS Volunteer, etc.)
- Introduction about YAP in general + explanation about the 2 co-ordinating organisations (YAP and SEEYN, for the projects in SEE) and their role
  
- Introduction about the project' motivation and its place within YAP policies and long-term planning
- Global overview about the host projects, both sides' expectations
- Explanatory session about practicalities and technicalities (finances, documents, meetings etc)
- Intercultural learning (phases of a volunteering project, how to deal with cultural aspects and cultural shock etc)
- General introduction about hosting countries. It will be a big chance for this part to have volunteers from both regions, since they will be able to inform each others.

## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2004 (summary)

### **EVS in South East Europe: intercultural perceptions in today's Europe**

**Activity type:** EVS

**Dates:** from 20/03/2004 to 31/12/2004

**Place:** Portugal, France, Italy, Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia, Macedonia, Bosnia Herzegovina

**N° of participants:** 9 (4 from SEE and 5 from Western Europe)

**Field:** Local development, Minorities

*With the kind support of the Youth programme of the European Commission*

Building a European conscience and joint identity in the current social and political context is a challenge. Those who are most excluded from this process are those who come from regions within the heart of Europe but whose European belonging is being questioned everyday. One of these regions is South Eastern Europe.

The geographical region around the Balkans is emblematic for intercultural perceptions in modern Europe. Its history reflects the utter essence of the concept of nation, concept which is very actual through the process of European Union integration.

Through this project we have exchanged 9 volunteers between the European Union countries and the countries in the above named region (10 were foreseen but one could never get his visa). We wanted to create the conditions for breaking mutual stereotypes established among these cultures, and to create a communication channel between the regions which will lead to an ulterior step in regional co-operation.

The project was really successful and we hope to repeat the experience with more volunteers in 2005.

### **Training on Awareness raising, Public Relations and Lobbying**

**Activity type:** Training course

**Dates:** from 28/03/2004-04/04/2004

**Place:** Strasbourg, France, European Youth Centre

**Field:** Communication and promotion

*With the kind support of the Council of Europe*

Within Youth Action for Peace we believe that Peace is something that can only be reached through the active participation of everybody. For this reason, the branches of YAP, and their activists organize a number of international activities on a wide variety of topics.

For many of the young activists in YAP this is very stimulating work, but it also poses the risk of forgetting the bigger picture and the society which surrounds us. Therefore the associations involved in YAP felt a need to find tools and methodologies to better diffuse their ideas and beliefs.

We do many activities but we have to find a more efficient way of promoting what we believe in.

This training therefore aimed at increasing the visibility and outreach of YAP movement through training its representatives, and increasing the knowledge and skills of the participants in the field of awareness raising, public relations and lobbying.

The training course followed the "non formal education approach". A number of different creative and interactive methods were used by the international training team designed based upon the profile of participants. Learning new skills, as well as exchanging and challenging each other's attitude and experience were some of the bases in this training course.

## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2004 (summary)

### **Pre-departure training for volunteers going to Mexico**

**Activity type:** preparation Seminar

**Dates:** from 18 – 20 April 2004

**Place:** Belgium-Brussels

**N° of participants:** 6

**Field:** voluntary service

*With the kind support of the Youth programme of the European Commission*

Similarly to the (EVS) volunteers leaving to other centralised long-term volunteering projects, the volunteers taking part in the voluntary exchange in Mexico had to take part in a joint pre-departure training before they leave.

This preparation was organised by the International Secretariat with the cooperation of trainers from the sending organisations. During the preparation, the volunteers have got more information on their projects, as well as some testimonies from former volunteers and sessions on intercultural learning and conflict management. The training also focused on the responsibilities of the different actors in the project. The preparation took place right before the departure of the volunteers to the Mexico.

During the pre-departure training, several points have been tackled:

- Introduction of the EVS programme (Objectives, structure and frame of the YOUTH Programme, rules as well as rights and responsibilities of the EVS Volunteer, etc.)
- Introduction about YAP in general + explanation about the co-ordinating host organisation and its role
- Introduction about the project' motivation and its place within YAP policies and long-term planning
- Global overview about the host projects, both sides' expectations
- Explanatory session about practicalities and technicalities (finances, documents, meetings etc)
- Intercultural learning (phases of a volunteering project, how to deal with cultural aspects and cultural shock etc)
- General introduction about hosting country/territory (Mexico) history, culture, politic and economy system, ...

### **SEMINAR ON PEACEFUL INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION**

**Activity type:** Seminar

**Dates:** 24-30 April 2004

**Place:** Moscow, Russia

**N° of participants:** 20

**Field:** Peace Education

*With the kind support of the Council of Europe*

As an International Peace organisation, and recognising the right of self-determination YAP supports those women and me, who want to take their destiny into their own hands so as to build collectively a responsible and just society. Within this frame we needed to discuss and try to develop criteria that defines our policies regarding the claims for independence, and to develop common strategies to act and get involved into this planetary interaction.

## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2004 (summary)

This seminar is one of the outcomes of a youth congress on globalisation organised in Hungary in 2002, which was supported by the EYF. During this congress, the participants decided that the issue of (peaceful) independence and self-determination should be further explored in order to strengthen our efforts in the field of Peace education in YAP's international activities.

The programme has included workshops, plenary sessions, lectures, and debates. Some outside experts and guests will be invited, but mostly the seminar depends on the inputs of the participants themselves.

Programme elements included:

- introduction to key terms and concepts (expert on Human rights and international law)
- analysis of case studies drawn from experiences in Russia and the former USSR, and from the participants' personal experiences (e.g. Palestine, ex-Yugoslavia, ...)
- exploration of the influence of religion, ethnicity, cultural identity and geopolitics
- definition of common criteria
- planning of future activities and strategies to facilitate a multiplier effect to the grassroots level

The seminar was organised in Russia, a country that lived through a sensational process of self-determination after 1991 and the break-up of the USSR, which was representing the country with the vastest national/ethnic variety in the world at the time. In the course of past 12 years the history has shown that this process of self-determination is a very complex and sometimes painful procedure creating huge cultural, geopolitical and economical consequences. The historical examples of self-determination are various and range from violent resistance (Chechnya) to cultural synthesis (e.g. Republic Buriatia and many other autonomous republics). We therefore thought that Russia gives a perfect example of various kinds and ways of self-determination. It is also a great example of various ways of merging of nations and cultures for the last centuries.

### **Volunteers in action in local Communities**

**Activity type:** EVS

**Dates:** from 21/04/2004 to 21/01/2005

**Place:** Puerto Vallarta and Guadalajara

**N° of participants:** 6

**Field:** Environment

*With the kind support of the Youth programme of the European Commission*

Nuestra Tierra in a national organisation, with several local associations. In order to raise young people's involvement in the social actions with the local community,

Nuestra Tierra has implemented projects regarding important issues at national and local level such as: education, environment, youth participation, communication and technology.

Is important to say that this project is the follow up of several activities organised by Youth Action for Peace and Nuestra Tierra in the past few years. For us, it is important to give the chance to young Europeans to discover the reality of local communities in Mexico, to give them a chance to understand or explore historical links the two continents have, but also to raise some social consciousness about North-South cooperation, and therefore to build up a youth consciousness

## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2004 (summary)

thus contributing to the strengthening of civil society and promotion of peace, justice and solidarity.

Nuestra Tierra had experience in hosting EVS volunteers and in running voluntary service projects in general. Nuestra Tierra involves the volunteers in the local community, put in contacts EVS volunteers with local volunteers, follows up and guides the volunteers in their projects, evaluate them... Since 1999, Nuestra Tierra Guadalajara has started to receive EVS volunteers as well.

This project has sent 6 volunteers in Mexico, 4 in Nuestra Tierra Puerto Vallarta and 2 in Nuestra Tierra Guadalajara. All volunteers have a different set of tasks and nationalities have been mixed when several volunteers in "one" project.

### **Pre-departure training for volunteers taking part in a Europe-Wide project**

--> *Title became "Unity in Variety - No Discrimination"*

**Activity type:** preparation Seminar

**Dates:** from 31/5/2004 to 3/06/2004

**Place:** Belgium-Brussels

**N° of participants:** 12

**Field:** voluntary service

*With the kind support of the Youth programme of the European Commission*

Similarly to the (EVS) volunteers leaving to other centralised long-term volunteering projects, the volunteers taking part in this Europe-Wide project had to take part in a joint pre-departure training before they leave.

This preparation was organised by the International Secretariat with the cooperation of trainers from the sending organisations. During the preparation, the volunteers got more information on their projects, as well as some testimonies from former volunteers and sessions on intercultural learning and conflict management. The training also focused on the responsibilities of the different actors in the project. The preparation took place right before the departure of the participants of the project.

Several points have been tackled:

- Introduction of the EVS programme (Objectives, structure and frame of the YOUTH Programme, rules as well as rights and responsibilities of the EVS Volunteer, etc.)
- Introduction about YAP in general + explanation about the team's role and the co-ordinator role (YAP)
- Introduction about the project' motivation, topic and its place within YAP policies and long-term planning
- Global overview about the host projects, both sides' expectations
- Explanatory session about practicalities and technicalities (finances, documents, meetings etc)
- Intercultural learning (phases of a volunteering project, how to deal with cultural aspects and cultural shock etc)
- General introduction about hosting countries. It will be a big chance for this part to have volunteers from both regions, since they will be able to inform each others.
- Workshops on anti racism and anti discrimination.
- Introduction about the final event of the project : proposal to the volunteers and the project co-ordinators.

### **Unity in Variety: No discrimination**

**Activity type:** EVS

**Dates:** from 4/6/2004 to 4/6/2005

**Place:** Italy, Germany, Spain, Belgium, Romania, Hungary

## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2004 (summary)

**N° of participants:** 12

**Field:** Anti-racism and Xenophobia

*With the kind support of the Youth programme of the European Commission*

The principle of freedom and openness for all, regardless their social background, skin colour, religion, convictions or sexuality is and should remain a fundamental one.

In order to keep on combating discrimination, xenophobia and to highlight the need to accept the difference and acknowledge the benefit we can get out of it, the added

value and richness of it, YAP decided to develop a Europe-wide project, "Unity in variety. No discrimination".

The general aim of this project (still running) is to gather and involve 12 volunteers for 12 months, to integrate local host project in about 6 countries. The first 6 months of their project have consisted in taking part in the organisation's activities. The last 6 months, still working with the association, are dedicated to the development of a personal project, linked with anti-discrimination but getting along the host organisation's principles, objectives and philosophy.

The project will end with a **final event** (submitted on 1/11/2004 under the Action 5 of the YOUTH Programme), which has been designed by the volunteers themselves, with the help of the co-ordinating team. It will provide them with an opportunity to gain or increase experience in communicating their thoughts, feelings and experiences on this subject to other people who may not have been through the same types of experiences and who did not take part in the overall project.

Through this as putting on the first place non-formal education, intercultural learning and volunteering as basic tools, we hope to develop people's understanding, skills and confidence in working with diversity and difference.

### **EVS SHORT TERM WORKCAMPS (extension of 2003 project)**

**Activity type:** short term EVS

**Dates:** from 01/05/2004 to 31/12/2004

**Place:** various places in the EU and the pre-accession countries

**N° of participants:** 18 (over a total of 50)

**Field:** social inclusion

*With the kind support of the Youth programme of the European Commission*

The EVS workcamps project was first conceived in 1999, aiming to involve young disadvantaged people into the work camps that have been organised for many years now by YAP and other organisations. Due to its great success in the past years, also in 2003 it is foreseen to continue with the project. As before, this short term EVS project will be organised in close co-operation between YAP, the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations (the Alliance) and Service Civil International (SCI).

While the EVS programme was originally set up for all young people, it has been noticed that in practice young disadvantaged people are very little involved in it. YAP wished to address this issue by including them into our work camps. The main goal of the project was therefore to give young disadvantaged people a first experience in doing a voluntary service away from their homes, with the final aim to involve them in long term EVS projects, as organised by YAP and other organisations.

## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2004 (summary)

The project has included 18 young disadvantaged people from all over Europe. They have participated in the short-term voluntary service activities organised by YAP in different countries in Europe between April and October 2004.

### **Mid-term evaluation for volunteers in Palestine**

**Activity type:** evaluation Seminar

**Dates:** 14-17 May 2004

**Place:** Jericho

**N° of participants:** 13

**Field:** voluntary service

*With the kind support of the Youth programme of the European Commission*

As for the (EVS) volunteers in other centralised long-term volunteering projects, a midterm evaluation was conducted with the (EVS) volunteers in the middle of the voluntary service period, in order to evaluate their past experiences, and to help them to put them into perspective by taking some distance. Also, it was a moment to take some time to start thinking about returning home. Finally, it was an opportunity for YAP and the hosting branch to make changes in the projects if necessary, and to make sure that each individual volunteer is doing well. The meeting has been managed by the same trainers who did the pre-departure training.

The mid-term evaluation has focused on several aspects:

- The volunteers in their working context (tasks, needs, wishes etc)
- The volunteers in a more personal context (themselves, their friends, etc)
- The volunteers in their local communities (contact with local inhabitants or with local associations etc)
- The overall co-ordination at local (the HO), national (IPYL) and international (YAP International) level
- Technicalities (board and lodging, finances etc)

The volunteers had the opportunity to compare, at this stage, their starting expectations with the reality of their projects. This has also allowed identification of what needed to be developed/considered in order to improve the situation (if necessary), or to better re-direct the tasks of the volunteer, to ensure a good match-making of both sides.

### **Midterm evaluation for volunteers in South-East Europe**

**Activity type:** evaluation Seminar

**Dates:** 3-5 July 2004

**Place:** Novi Sad, Serbia and Montenegro

**N° of participants:** 9

**Field:** voluntary service

*With the kind support of the Youth programme of the European Commission*

As for the (EVS) volunteers in other centralised long-term volunteering projects, a midterm evaluation was conducted with the (EVS) volunteers in the middle of the voluntary service period, in order to evaluate their past experiences, and to help them to put them into perspective by taking some distance. Also, it was a moment to take some time to start thinking about returning home. Finally, it was an opportunity for YAP and the hosting branch to make changes in the projects if necessary, and to make sure that each individual volunteer is doing well. The meeting has been managed by the same trainers who did the pre-departure training.

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- the volunteers in their working context (tasks, needs, wishes etc)
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## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2004 (summary)

- the volunteers in their local communities (contact with local inhabitants or with local associations etc)
- the overall co-ordination at local (the HO), national and international (YAP International/SEEYN) level
- technicalities (board and lodging, finances etc)

The volunteers had the opportunity to compare, at this stage, their starting expectations with the reality of their projects. This has also allowed identification of what needed to be developed/considered in order to improve the situation (if necessary), or to better re-direct the tasks of the volunteer, to ensure a good match-making of both sides.

### **Pre-departure training for volunteers going to Israel**

**Activity type:** preparation Seminar

**Dates:** from 2- 6 August 2004

**Place:** Belgium-Brussels

**N° of participants:** 9

**Field:** voluntary service

*With the kind support of the Youth programme of the European Commission*

Similarly to the (EVS) volunteers leaving to other centralised long-term volunteering projects, the volunteers taking part in the voluntary exchange in Israel had to take part in a joint pre-departure training before they leave.

This preparation was organised by the International Secretariat with the cooperation of trainers from the sending organisations. During the preparation, the volunteers got more information on their projects, as well as some testimonies from former volunteers and sessions on intercultural learning and conflict management. The training also focused on the responsibilities of the different actors in the project. The preparation took place right before the departure of the participants to Israel.

During the pre-departure training, several points have been tackled:

- Introduction of the EVS programme (Objectives, structure and frame of the YOUTH Programme, rules as well as rights and responsibilities of the EVS Volunteer, etc.)
- Introduction about YAP in general + explanation about the co-ordinating host organisation and its role
- Introduction about the project' motivation and its place within YAP policies and long-term planning
- Global overview about the host projects, both sides' expectations
- Explanatory session about practicalities and technicalities (finances, documents, meetings etc)
- Intercultural learning (phases of a volunteering project, how to deal with cultural aspects and cultural shock etc)
- General introduction about hosting country (Israel) history, culture, politic and economy system, ...

### **Volunteering for peace**

**Activity type:** EVS

**Dates:** from 6/8/2004 – 6/2/2005

**Place:** Israel (Haifa, Nazareth)

**N° of participants:** 9

**Field:** Voluntary service

*With the kind support of the Youth programme of the European Commission*

## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2004 (summary)

This project can be seen as a continuation for our past three years long-term projects in the region.

The recent administrative and political difficulties we face with our volunteers in the region push YAP to continue developing long-term volunteering in the Middle-East, as a real tool for further peace building process. Indeed, the on-going conflict in the region, as well as the increasing requests by young Europeans to visit and to volunteer in the region, motivate us to go on with our projects. The feed-back of the local organisations, the local communities and the volunteers themselves, even if they have to go through difficult time, is definitively positive and encourage us.

Moreover, In the present world climate *post* September 11 2001, the war in Afghanistan and Iraq, it is felt that there is an ever urgent need to provide better understanding of Arab cultures and the Muslim religion in particular, in order to prevent facile amalgams of the two.

With this project, we hosted 9 European volunteers in different local NGOs in Israel in order to contribute to capacity building process of these community organisations. The volunteers are involved in different types of projects.

### **Pre-departure training for volunteers going to Russia**

**Activity type:** preparation Seminar

**Dates:** from 1 to 3 of September 2004

**Place:** Belgium-Brussels

**N° of participants:** 5

**Field:** voluntary service

*With the kind support of the Youth programme of the European Commission*

Similarly to the (EVS) volunteers leaving to other centralised long-term volunteering projects, the volunteers taking part in the voluntary exchange in Russia had to take part in a joint pre-departure training before they leave.

This preparation was organised by the International Secretariat with the cooperation of trainers from the sending organisations. During the preparation, the volunteers got more information on their projects, as well as some testimonies from former volunteers and sessions on intercultural learning and conflict management. The training also focused on the responsibilities of the different actors in the project. The preparation took place right before the departure of the participants to the Russia.

During the pre-departure training, several points have been tackled:

- Introduction of the EVS programme (Objectives, structure and frame of the YOUTH Programme, rules as well as rights and responsibilities of the EVS Volunteer, etc.)
- Introduction about YAP in general + explanation about the co-ordinating host organisation and its role
- Introduction about the project' motivation and its place within YAP policies and long-term planning
- Global overview about the host projects, both sides' expectations
- Explanatory session about practicalities and technicalities (finances, documents, meetings etc)
- Intercultural learning (phases of a volunteering project, how to deal with cultural aspects and cultural shock etc)

## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2004 (summary)

- General introduction about hosting country (Russia) history, culture, politic and economy system, ... A person knowing Russia very well will be invited.

### **Volunteering in a global European context**

**Activity type:** EVS

**Dates:** from 30/08/2004 to 15/09/2005

**Place:** Nizhni Novgorod, Moscow and Voronezh, Russia

**N° of participants:** 5

**Field:** Peace Education

*With the kind support of the Youth programme of the European Commission*

This project is still going on. It is to be seen as part of a national educational campaign on youth social sensibilisation starting in autumn 2003 with a Photo Exhibition on International Volunteering and Peace Culture Seminar in Nizhni Novgorod. These two activities will be prepared in Nizhni Novgorod with the participation of World4U's initiative Groups in Nizhni Novgorod, Moscow and Voronezh.

The campaign is multidimensional:

- Seminars and roundtables,
- Open-air events,
  
- Photo exhibitions,
- Local movie festivals on the issues of peace and war, violent and non-violent communication, discrimination and social exclusion.

The regular educational programme at Russian schools and universities (except for professional social education) is devoting little attention to promoting social activity and social awareness of youth - not to mention education about peace and non-violent communication.

The international volunteers taking part in this project are involved in the development of a set of pilot seminars and activities for the target group on the topics mentioned above. The 5 volunteers are involved in this common campaign together with groups of local volunteers, but with different sets of tasks and through different organisations, and therefore through different perspectives. The campaign lasts for one year, and is followed up by related local and national activities.

This project also aims at creating a space for developing co-operation schemes between associations in EU countries and associations in Russia.

### ***Arte Diem or another way to understand diversity***

**Activity type:** Youth exchange

**Dates:** from 21/08/2004 to 10/09/2004

**Place:** Straden, Austria

**N° of participants:** 46

**Field:** Anti-racism & xenophobia/Arts

*To be confirmed*

The 5<sup>th</sup> Arte Diem organised by Youth Action for Peace in collaboration with its Austrian associated group Perpetuum Mobile International was held from 20<sup>th</sup> August 2004 to 11<sup>th</sup> September 2004 in the communities of Gnas and Straden, Styria. The immense commitment of the local hosting organisation made it possible to open the project to 6 people from out of Europe and 4 asylum seekers from Burundi living in Austria. Altogether the Youth Hostel of Gnas gathered 46 young people between 18 and 28 years from 18 different countries. This diversity within the group of

## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2004 (summary)

participants illustrated from the very beginning the potential for intercultural learning through Arte Diem.

This year's Arte Diem differed from the previous ones slightly in the aim. The efforts of the youth leaders were focused on creating work of arts in the diverse workshops in order to expose or perform them at the "Stradener Strassenspektakel", a one-day music festival welcoming around 8.000 visitors. The idea was to spread the message against racism and xenophobia to the public using art as communication tool. 11 flags, 6 metal sculptures, an interactive theatre play and a medley containing 5 traditional and 2 modern dances were the results. The success was the reward for putting all energy into hard training sessions as well as spending most of the time in the workspaces with machines that were producing incredibly loud noises or the smell of turpentine.

Needless to mention the numerous occasions where the participants met with locals or learned in debates from each others culture. During the whole activity there were planned events to go deeply into the matter of racism and xenophobia, but spontaneously discussions arose within very different contexts. As the organisers we appreciate this kind of evolution in the group a lot, because by exchanging their opinions and experiences the youth could find out how other people are victims of prejudice in their daily life. With the belief of a better tomorrow all of the participants put loads of their creativity and energy to convey the message for a peace- and respectful living-together.

## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2004 (summary)

### **Mid-term evaluation for volunteers in Mexico**

**Activity type:** evaluation Seminar

**Dates:** August 2004

**Place:** Puerto Vallarta

**N° of participants:** 6

**Field:** voluntary service

*With the kind support of the Youth programme of the European Commission*

As for the (EVS) volunteers in other centralised long-term volunteering projects, a midterm evaluation was conducted with the (EVS) volunteers in the middle of the voluntary service period, in order to evaluate their past experiences, and to help them to put them into perspective by taking some distance. Also, it was a moment to take some time to start thinking about returning home. Finally, it was an opportunity for YAP and the hosting branch to make changes in the projects if necessary, and to make sure that each individual volunteer is doing well. The meeting has been managed by the same trainers who did the pre-departure training.

The mid-term evaluation has focused on several aspects:

- The volunteers in their working context (tasks, needs, wishes etc)
- The volunteers in a more personal context (themselves, their friends, etc)
- The volunteers in their local communities (contact with local inhabitants or with local associations etc)
- The overall co-ordination at local (the HO), national (Nuestra Tierra) and international (YAP International) level
- Technicalities (board and lodging, finances etc)

The volunteers had the opportunity to compare, at this stage, their starting expectations with the reality of their projects. This has also allowed identification of what needed to be developed/considered in order to improve the situation (if

necessary), or to better re-direct the tasks of the volunteer, to ensure a good match-making of both sides.

### **Intercultural Youth Dialogue: Post 11 September (III)**

**Activity type:** Seminar

**Dates:** 6-11 September 2004

**Place:** Nazareth, Israel

**N° of participants:** 30

**Field:** Intercultural Learning

*With the kind support of the Youth programme of the European Commission*

The importance of establishing an intercultural youth dialogue cannot be over-emphasized. Young people shape the future of societies and cultures. They have an effect on the future. Allowing interaction among youth and opening channels of communication greatly contributes to establishing a network of tolerant youth who learn to accept each other and strive to find peaceful measures in resolving conflicts between people.

In partnership with The Arab Youth Association – Baladna, YAP decided to hold this seminar. The activity was based on the successes of past seminars whilst exploring

new ways to strengthen intercultural cooperation and create constructive dialogue on the subject of religion in religious and secular circles.

## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2004 (summary)

### Aims

- To increase awareness of the role of religion in shaping society, amongst youth from the international community.
- To encourage critical thought amongst youth to help them to independently confront religious and cultural misconceptions.
- To promote intercultural dialogue as a tool for addressing common issues with a focus on inter-religious dialogue.
- To promote understanding of different religions and different theoretical and practical approaches regarding religion.
- To build cooperation between countries and organizations. This will be important in developing shared projects and youth exchange programs in the future.
- To improve the professional development of organizations and youth leaders

### Objectives

- To implement a 5-day international seminar for Young people active or involved in youth organizations.
- To exchange working models, effective strategies and skills used by various organizations in working with religious issues especially in the arena of Youth work.
- To create a strong alliance between European organizations with shared aims of greater tolerance of religious beliefs and inter cultural respect and understanding.

#### **Final evaluation for volunteers in South-East Europe**

**Activity type:** evaluation Seminar

**Dates:** 13-17 September 2004

**Place:** Belgium, Brussels

**N° of participants:** 9

**Field:** voluntary service

*With the kind support of the Youth programme of the European Commission*

After their return to their own countries, the (EVS) volunteers gathered for a last time with the team of trainers of the project for a final evaluation. At this stage, they had already lived through their first 'reverse culture shock', and they also had the time to take some distance from their projects. The evaluation discussed such reverse culture shock and also aimed at making recommendations for the future.

The final evaluation meeting has focused on:

- The overall project (objectives, tasks of the volunteer etc)
- The overall support (mentor, external people + procedures)
- Recommendations (for the HOs, the mentor, the region co-ordinator SEEYN, the EVS in general)
- The overall support provided by YAP International, SEEYN and the Sending Organisations
- The overall evaluation/meetings process (pre-departure and upon-arrival meetings, on-going evaluation, mid-term evaluation)
- Information about Future Capital (not applicable for volunteers from third countries)

As for the other meetings, experienced trainers (YAP pool of trainers or external professional trainers) have prepared and conducted this final evaluation.

## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2004 (summary)

### **Training course on volunteers management**

**Activity type:** training course

**Dates:** 7-12 October 2004

**Place:** Budapest, Hungary

**N° of participants:** 25

**Field:** Organisational and Human Resource management

*With the kind support of the Youth programme of the European Commission*

This course has focused on organisations working with volunteers, on short-term and long-term level.

The main aim of this training course was to provide youth workers with managerial skills needed while working mainly with volunteers. This is important while developing international activities, taking into consideration all the different cultural aspects.

The training as included theoretical and practical aspects such as:

- Concepts of volunteering: needs and roles of involved people
- Reaching and motivating the target group
- Assessing needs and capacities of organisations and young people/volunteers
- Decision making – Consultation – Involvement processes
- Active participation
- Managing Human Resources behaviours
- On going evaluation and adjustment processes
- Follow-up and information processes

### **Mid-term evaluation for volunteers of the Europe-Wide project**

**Activity type:** evaluation Seminar

**Dates:** 20-22 October 2004

**Place:** Hungary, Budapest

**N° of participants:** 12

**Field:** voluntary service

*With the kind support of the Youth programme of the European Commission*

As for the (EVS) volunteers in other centralised long-term volunteering projects, a midterm evaluation was conducted with the (EVS) volunteers in the middle of the voluntary service period, in order to evaluate their past experiences, and to help them to put them into perspective by taking some distance. Also, it was a moment to take some time to start thinking about returning home. Finally, it was an opportunity for YAP and the hosting branch to make changes in the projects if necessary, and to make sure that each individual volunteer is doing well. The meeting has been managed by the same trainers who did the pre-departure training.

The mid-term evaluation has focused on several aspects:

- the volunteers in their working context (tasks, needs, wishes etc)
- the volunteers in a more personal context (themselves, their friends, etc)
- the volunteers in their local communities (contact with local inhabitants or with local associations etc)
  
- the overall co-ordination at local (the HO), national and international (YAP International/the team) level
- technicalities (board and lodging, finances etc)

## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2004 (summary)

The volunteers had the opportunity to compare, at this stage, their starting expectations with the reality of their projects. This has also allowed identification of what needed to be developed/considered in order to improve the situation.

The volunteers also worked on the content of their common project, called "Festivadea" (it has been submitted under the action 5 of the YOUTH programme on the 1/11/2004 deadline).

### **Mid-term evaluation for volunteers in Israel**

**Activity type:** evaluation Seminar

**Dates:** 28-30 November 2004

**Place:** Nazareth, Israel

**N° of participants:** 9

**Field:** voluntary service

*With the kind support of the Youth programme of the European Commission*

As for the (EVS) volunteers in other centralised long-term volunteering projects, a midterm evaluation was conducted with the (EVS) volunteers in the middle of the voluntary service period, in order to evaluate their past experiences, and to help them to put them into perspective by taking some distance. Also, it was a moment to take some time to start thinking about returning home. Finally, it was an opportunity for YAP and the hosting branch to make changes in the projects if necessary, and to

make sure that each individual volunteer is doing well. The meeting has been managed by the same trainers who did the pre-departure training.

The mid-term evaluation has focused on several aspects:

- The volunteers in their working context (tasks, needs, wishes etc)
- The volunteers in a more personal context (themselves, their friends, etc)
- The volunteers in their local communities (contact with local inhabitants or with local associations etc)
- The overall co-ordination at local (the HO), national (Baladna) and international (YAP International) level
- Technicalities (board and lodging, finances etc)

The volunteers had the opportunity to compare, at this stage, their starting expectations with the reality of their projects. This has also allowed identification of what needed to be developed/considered in order to improve the situation.