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Draft activity report -2005-

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

EVS in YAP International Secretariat

Dates: from 1/4/2005 to 1/4/2005

Place: Belgium – Brussels

N° of volunteers: 1 (from Russia)

Field: Project Management, Information/Communication

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

Still on-going.

From YAP's perspective, hosting an EVS volunteer is an opportunity to stay close to the reality of our daily work of organising voluntary exchanges on a long-term and short-term basis, and to get a chance to constantly question our point of views.

For the first time we have decided to open this type of project to a volunteer coming from a so called "third-country", namely Russia, as to give an extra dimension to our international work.

Using her experiences and her knowledge, the volunteer has had the possibility to integrate teams of international activities such as youth exchanges and seminars. This has given her the opportunity to learn about international project development and all it includes, increasing step by step her responsibilities, depending on his/her needs, wishes and abilities. The volunteer has also been involved in the development and redaction of the brand new "YAP Magazine" (first edition was in August 2005).

In order to ensure local community involvement, the volunteer has had the possibility to be involved in local youth work through the Belgium branch of YAP, JAVVA (Jeunes Actifs dans le Volontariat et les Voyages Alternatifs).

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Euro-Med cooperation as a tool for peace: experiencing volunteering in the Middle-East

Activity type: EVS

Dates: from 1/02/2005 to 1/8/2005

Place: Palestine - East Jerusalem, Jericho and Hebron

N° of volunteers: 11

Field: Middle East, Local development, Minorities

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

Realised.

This project was a continuation for our past four years long-term projects in Palestine and Israel. YAP has indeed started to develop long-term volunteering about four years ago, with one volunteer! Step by step and thanks to a growing experience, we were able to plan projects for 12 volunteers (one dropped out).

YAP's involvement in youth exchanges, voluntary work initiatives and raising awareness on the situation in the Arab world and mainly in the Middle East goes back to 1989. Since 1997, YAP assisted the creation of a local branch in Palestine called "International Palestinian Youth League"- IPYL. IPYL has been our main partner in the region and currently the most active youth organisation in the area. Since 1997, IPYL has been hosting and sending Short, Mid and Long Term volunteers through the different European youth programs. Mainly, Youth for Europe, Action 1, action 2 and action 5.

For YAP and its role in EuroMed cooperation, such type of projects is crucial to enhance or increase this cooperation at local level, which is very important for both local communities in Palestine, but also in Europe, while the volunteers are back.

The project was successful and the final evaluation just took place end of October. A more detailed report will be available in the final overview of activities 2005.

Training for educators in the Culture of Peace

Activity type: Training course

Dates: from 19 to 23 February 2005

Place: Alcobendas (Madrid), Spain

N° of participants: 25

Field: Peace education

With the kind support of the Council of Europe, Youth and Sport Directorate

Realised.

Background and Objectives

One of the most important aims of YAP since its creation has been to contribute to the expansion of the Culture of Peace around the world. Nevertheless, the world's environment that we face in our days continues to lack a real Culture of Peace and the situation does not proved to be improved as much as the expectations of the people working for peace all around the world. Two years ago we

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thought that it was a priority to implement an activity aiming to train young people in the Culture of Peace.

The aims of organizing a Training Course in the Culture of Peace were:

- Raise awareness about the armed conflicts around the world and the aggressive trend in the name of fight against “terrorism” that some countries have initiated in the last years;
- To sensitize people with the fact that we cannot be strange to these trends and the young people that they have role in this society to act with these conflicts and trends;
- To make youth workers aware that exist many possibilities to change the violent trend of our society;
- To train youth leaders in the Culture of Peace, which includes non-violent ways to deal with conflicts and how to change destructive conflicts into a constructive process;
- To provide youth worker with practical skills (training methods and material) to transmit these ideas and values to the coming generations;
- To offer a space for participants to networking and creation of future projects.

The participants

For this activity the participants selected were young people, youth leaders/workers and volunteers active in the area of peace education at local and national level in the YAP branches, associated groups and partner organizations. The activity was promoted through the International INFO which reaches around 1 000 young people/organizations in the world, as well as through the international YAP website.

Preparation of the activity (methodologies, working methods and educational models)

The Training Course was based on different educational methodologies on the basis of intercultural learning. The team of facilitators was composed by four young trainers from different countries and cultural context, which was indeed an input to strengthen the intercultural basis of the working methods and contents. The activities were designed following the experimental and inductive learning in order to allow the participants to learn from their own experiences and knowledge an through a process of connecting new contents with their previous knowledges. The training course followed a “non-formal” approach and was learner centered.

A combination of different creative and interactive methods were used by the international training team and designed based upon the profile of participants.

The different kind of activities implemented in the Training Course included:

- Group discussions,
- Brainstorming,
- Workshops,
- Role plays,
- Experimental games,
- Individual/group reflection,
- Film and documenting screening,

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- Lecture,
- Open space technology,
- Speak in plenary,
- Presentations.

Training on Organisational Management – Focusing on Voluntary Service and Youth NGOs

Activity type: Training course

Dates: from 20-27 March 2005

Place: Budapest, Hungary

N° of participants: 30

Field: Organisational management

With the kind support of the Council of Europe, Youth and Sport Directorate

Realised

The activity was a training course on **Organisational management for youth leaders and youth workers or managers of NGOs**. It has addressed particularly those working in youth and voluntary service oriented organisations.

Having staff, board and active volunteers trained on Organisational Management is highly needed in all NGOs. There is a high turnover of people due to the nature of these organisations, programmes and activities as well as funding sources may change on regular basis, increasing the need to implement regular training on issues underlined in organisational management general principles.

Youth Action for Peace wishes to train its most active volunteers as well as the staff and board members of its members organisations or partners on Organisational Management, to increase the overall management of those organisations, and therefore to ensure a bigger process of capacity building, or professionalism and of sustainability, as to reach their vision and mission.

Within Youth Action for Peace we are convinced that peace can only be reached through active participation. And this implies to have the necessary, appropriated and accurate tools as to not only encourage young people to take an active role in the organisation and contribute to its aims and objectives but also to have the space and the opportunity to do so.

Taking into account the general lack of human resources, the constant pressure staff and boards have while performing their tasks in a -most of the time- difficult environment, the lack of knowledge about their own structure and working cultures as well as the consequences of these daily difficulties, the members of YAP have decided to organise a training course on Organisational Management.

This training course addressed youth leaders and youth workers, and in particular those coming from youth and organisations working with voluntary service, as those may have some specific aspects to deepen at organisational level due to their specific programmes and target groups.

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The **main aim** of the training course was to train and empower participants to develop competencies to manage youth organisations (with a focus on voluntary service oriented ones) as to contribute to sustainable and developed participation of young people.

The **objectives** of this training course were:

- To raise participants' awareness about organisational management principles and mechanisms
- To raise participants' awareness and understanding of their working environment and conditions
- § To work on strategic development of the organisations and other managerial tools
- To work on and address participants competencies (attitudes, skills and knowledge) in managing their organisation the people and themselves.
- § To share about organisational experiences and models in the different organisations represented (explore the issue of organisational cultures)

YAP website: disseminating and sharing youth work related issues

Activity type: communication tools

Dates: April – December 2005

Place: N/A

N° of participants: N/A

Field: Communication

With the kind support of the Council of Europe, Youth and Sport Directorate

In process – Extended up to February 2006.

The "YAP website: disseminating and sharing youth work related issues" aims at providing information on YAP's main activities as well as ad hoc events (developed by YAP, by other organisations, by networks and by institutions or platforms), to promote international youth work, to inform the target group about youth policies developments, programmes, opportunities and activities. The project itself will focus on *renewing and extending our current website* and integrating a new *YAP Magazine (on-line publication)*.

The project will consist in **renewing our current website** (www.yap.org), **focusing on information sharing** through new website sections. The general pages of the website (with general information about YAP) will remain as now. This project will

therefore consist mainly in extending our website possibilities by creating more sections and pages accessible to all visitors, with general information related to Youth issues such as: calls for projects (short and long-term volunteering, training courses,

seminars), information and updates about other existing programmes at international and national level, information and updates about Youth policies, a forum section, information from other organisations and international networks, access to project reports and picture gallery, among the main items. Databases will also be developed and integrated such as one on long-term volunteering projects, one on workcamps and one with details of member organisations, partners and other networks data.

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Part of this new website will also integrate a section on publication where the new **YAP Magazine** will be accessible (in PDF format). The YAP Magazine will have a specific theme for each issue. These issues will be decided by the General Assembly and will follow-up a Strategic Planning we just finalized, designing out political priorities for the next three years. The basis of all articles will be international youth work, young people (with a special interest on, disadvantaged, marginalised and minorities groups), active participation, equality, peace and solidarity. The magazine will also be seen as an awareness raising tool on specific topics such as “Peace and Human Solidarity” and “Education on Global issues”.

Developing new partnerships for Euro-Med cooperation

Activity type: study visit

Dates: 24-29 April 2005

Place: Jordan (Amman, Aqaba) and Lebanon (Beirut)

N° of participants: 20

Field: Euro-Med cooperation

To be confirmed

Rejected. Re-applied for 2006

Training course: for a better implementation of Support Measures activities

Activity type: training course

Dates: 28-30 April 2005

Place: Brussels, Belgium

N° of participants: 30

Field: YOUTH programme - INGYOs

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

Accepted but postponed to 2006. Dates are to be defined.

The activity “**Training course: for a better implementation of Support Measures activities**” aims in gathering youth workers active in international youth organisations developing support measures activities on regular basis and interested to increase the quality of their projects (applications and process).

The training course will focus on the following aspects:

- § Brief overview of the YOUTH programme and the context of the Action 5, support measures
- § Assessing needs of the International Non-governmental youth organisations (INGYOs) regarding support measures activities
- § Exploring aims, objective sand criteria of the Action 5
 - Exchange of know-how and good practices as to better support capacity building regarding training and youth co-operation at International level
- § Roles and profiles of partners and participants involved in support measures 5 projects
- § Future perspectives for support measures activities

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- If possible, general information about *Youth in Action* and its Action 4

We would like to gather experienced international youth organisations' representatives in this topic as well as representatives willing to develop more quality support measures activities in the frame of the YOUTH programme.

Towards a strategy to improve Euro-Mediterranean cooperation: let's celebrate cultural diversity!

Activity type: large scale project

Dates: June 2005 – June 2008

Place: Europe and Mediterranean area (to be defined)

N° of participants: 48

Field: Intercultural learning – Euro-Med cooperation

To be confirmed

Rejected. Planned to be realised later on, depending on funding possibilities.

EVS in South East Europe: strengthening long-term volunteering initiatives

Activity type: EVS

Dates: 1/7/2005 – 31/12/2005

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

N° of volunteers: 9

Field: Intercultural learning

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

Still in process but with 9 volunteers instead of 14. The project will end in December 2005. More detailed information in the final overview of activities 2005.

Following the very positive experiences we had in our first reciprocal exchanges on a long-term basis with YAP members and partners and SEEYN, we have decided to continue the adventure and to strengthen our relations and common projects, still adding new partners in the overall activity.

Building a European conscience and joint identity in the current social and political context remains 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.

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Through this project we planned to exchange 14 volunteers between the European Union countries and the countries in the above named region. We plan to reinforce the conditions for breaking mutual stereotypes established among these cultures. We hope to create a communication channel between the regions which will lead to an ulterior step in regional co-operation.

EVS in Mexico or how to increase and sustain interactions with local communities

Activity type: EVS

Dates: from 1/7/2005 to 31/3/2006

Place: Puerto Vallarta and Guadalajara, Mexico

N° of volunteers: 5

Field: Local development, environment

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

Rejected.

EVS in Israel

Activity type: EVS

Dates: from 1/10/2005 to 1/4/2006

Place: Nazareth, Haifa, Israel

N° of volunteers: 10

Field: Minorities, women issues

To be confirmed

Rejected. Re-applied for 2006, for 16 volunteers (more partners joined the project in the meantime)

EVS in Europe, hosting volunteers from Mediterranean countries (title to be defined later on)

Activity type: EVS

Dates: from 1/10/2005 to 1/4/2006

Place: Europe (to be defined)

N° of volunteers: 10

Field: Minorities, inclusion, intercultural learning

To be confirmed

Application postponed to end of 2006.

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EVS Inclusion (title to be defined later on)

Activity type: EVS

Dates: from 1/10/2005 to 1/10/2006

Place: Europe (to be defined)

N° of volunteers: 12

Field: Social inclusion

To be confirmed

Could not be applied for, not enough host project to develop a Europe-Wide project. It has been decided at our General Assembly that the project will be managed by the Member Organisations directly, following also the creation of a working group on inclusion that has been voted upon.

Peace perspectives in the Middle-East

Activity type: seminar

Dates: to be defined (October 2005)

Place: East Jerusalem, Palestine

N° of participants: 30

Field: Peace

To be confirmed

Accepted but on the second round of application, and will therefore take place in 2006 (see plan of activities 2006).

Euro-Med contact-making seminar (focus on newcomers EU countries)

Activity type: seminar

Dates: to be defined (November 2005)

Place: Budapest, Hungary

N° of participants: 30

Field: Euro-Med cooperation

To be confirmed

Rejected.

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Intercultural Youth Dialogue – Media and their impact on young people's cultural understanding

Activity type: seminar

Dates: to be defined (September 2005)

Place: Nazareth, Israel

N° of participants: 30

Field: Intercultural learning

To be confirmed

Application postponed to summer 2006 (partly due to the suspension of the Euro-Med YOUTH programme, and because of the number of EuroMed applications YAP has in total).

Training course on fundraising or how to diversify the sources of funding and better ensure the sustainable development of youth organisations

Activity type: training course

Dates: to be defined (December 2005)

Place: Brussels, Belgium

N° of participants: 30

Field: Fundraising – capacity building of NGOs

To be confirmed

Accepted, but too late to organise it in 2005. See activity plan 2006.

Mumken (Possibilities) – Expression and Education for Equality

Activity type: Long-term project (EuropeAid)

Dates: end 2005 – end 2008

Place: Israel

N° of participants: 25.000 (directly and indirectly)

Field: Human rights education – focus on minority rights

To be confirmed

Rejected.