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Magazine

THE EURO-MED YOUTH PLATFORM MAGAZINE



euromedplatform
EURO-MEDITERRANEAN
YOUTH PLATFORM

Participating Countries!



Editorial



JESSICA ZAMMIT

MARVIC DEBONO

Dear friends,

Welcome to issue Number 5 of the Euro-Med Youth Platform magazine! This means that another year is over... an eventful year for all youth organisations that actively work on regional, national or international levels.

The year 2008 was an important year for the Euro-Med Youth Platform. The Platform has been re-launched in June, giving way to other novelties and the renovation of the website. The database entries are currently being processed and the Euro-Med Youth Platform website is constantly being updated, featuring up coming opportunities. Work on the update of country profiles will start shortly.

Meanwhile, the Euro-Med Youth Platform is working on a needs analysis with the aim of providing information about what facilitates and hinders networking in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Moreover, we are doing a mapping exercise which should give us a clearer picture of the various ways in which to avail from funds that support projects in the region. The data collected and its analysis will be published by the end of the year and used as documentation for subsequent plans of action.

Heartfelt thanks go to former officer Amanda Zammit, who worked hard on these endeavours until last June. Best wishes and good luck for her new job. At the same time, we wish to introduce ourselves as we are filling the same post. We envisage a thrilling experience and look forward to it! We anticipate the Euro-Med Youth Platform to be closer to you readers, especially young people who can benefit from the various opportunities available.

And...talking of opportunities... **Our White Sea - NGO Management** is the next upcoming event; co-organised by the EuroMed Youth Platform, the Maltese National Agency (EUPA) for the Youth in Action programme and Salto-Youth Euro Med RC with the support of the Greek and Turkish National Agencies. You can read more about this conference in the successive pages.

Thanks to relevant contributions from various stakeholders, this particular issue is featuring articles related to initiatives taken up by several entities in the youth field within the Euro-Med region. Some of the articles give an insight through the work that is being done in the field, whilst pieces may be of an inspiration and instigate youth organisations to embark on their own projects.

So now, whilst we invite you to keep in contact through our e-mail – info@euromedp.org and website – www.euromedp.org we also invite you to join us on our **Facebook page** - 'Euro-Med Youth Platform'.

We now leave you to your read!

The Editors

Jessica *Marvic*

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Our White Sea



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It is said that in ancient times the Mediterranean sea was considered to be everything for the people living on its shores, providing unity, transport, a means of exchange and interaction, in other words communication. This is a reflection of the difficulties experienced by past generations, without examining the physical obstacles and social divisions that the people living in this region had to overcome to reach these results. Communication, together with networking but also unity shall be considered key elements that will be discussed in the conference organised in November - "Our White Sea". Similar to the conditions that prevailed in ancient times, today the different regions of the Mediterranean, are not linked by the sea but by the people that live on its shores, and their will or perhaps I would dare to say their need to communicate with each other. It is also undoubtedly important to mention the role that human activity played on the Mediterranean coasts stretching from one end to the other, from the Straits of Gibraltar to the Dardanelles and all over across the Mediterranean shores. With this background in mind, this human activity was particularly highlighted through an elaborated network of coastal navigation or shipping along the coast line 'from promontories to islands and from islands to promontories'. This type of navigation permitted the exchange of goods

or merchandise from one seaport or coastal city to the other linking the people that lived in different regions in the Mediterranean together. The navigational routes followed by these ships stretched like a web all across the shores of the Mediterranean sailing from one seaport to the other. The voyage of a ship was an extended sequence of trade, in which goods were bought and sold having the cargo itself altered in its nature a few times by the end of the voyage. One may have a better insight of this practice by reading Fernand Braudel "The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II".

This intricate navigational practice brings me back to "Our White Sea" conference and with a little bit of imagination I will use this part of our history as a metaphor to represent goods or cargos with ideas; the ports or coastal cities with young people's organisations and the navigational practice itself would assume the role of networking opportunities for youth. On a more tangible level, the conference represents an opportunity for networking at various levels. With this event hosted in Malta one can clearly highlight the joint effort of all participating entities, an experience and an opportunity to share resources between the EuroMed Youth Platform, SALTO EuroMed, and the National Agencies of the Youth in Action Programme from Malta, Turkey and

Greece. Together with the other members of the team responsible to manage this event I am confident that this event serves the purpose to highlight unity and encourage cooperation at different levels especially amongst young people. Ultimately, the main aim of this conference is to bring together NGOs and stakeholders from all sides of the Mediterranean together to:

- Reflect and discuss their experiences at NGO organisational and management level;
- Produce a comparative analysis of good youth work practices.

During the conference participants shall have an opportunity to cover various aspects relating to the field of youth. In this respect the content shall include the following:

- Youth Policy in the regional context;
- Realities of NGOs in the Euro Mediterranean area;
- Good practices;
- Information about the Key Actors in the Euromed area;
- Tools on project management;
- Opportunity for networking.

Young people interested to participate in this activity are invited to visit the Euromed youth website or the website of one of the partners aforementioned through which one can be guided through the application process.

Projects with Neighbours

Sub-Action 3.1 of the Youth in Action Programme



RYAN BUGEJA

Programmes Officer Youth in Action European Union Programmes Agency Malta



Did you ever want to do a youth exchange with other countries but thought you were limited solely to EU countries?

Did you ever want to share best practices, study a situation or go on a job shadowing in Albania, Georgia or Morocco but never thought it was possible?

Well, then you should know that all this is possible.

Sub-Action 3.1 of the Youth in Action Programme provides funding for projects undertaken with the so-called Neighbouring Partner Countries (NPC) of the EU, namely all those countries which form part of the European Neighbourhood Policy established in 2004 "with the objective of avoiding the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and its neighbours and instead, strengthening the prosperity, stability and security of all concerned."

These countries fall under three groups: Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC), South East Europe (SEE), and Eastern Europe & Caucasus (EEC).

**But how does it work?
What is needed?
How many countries?
Where can it happen?**

In the case of Youth Exchanges under Sub Action 3.1, applicants must be from a Programme Country and are to host the activity. Nevertheless, a promoter from SEE can apply if it hosts the Activity but in this case applications are to be submitted to the Executive Agency in Brussels. Unfortunately the activity cannot take place in a MPC, but otherwise it can take place in any country of one of the promoters taking part in the exchange.

For bi-lateral youth exchanges, one promoter must be from an EU country while the other from a NPC. In the case of tri-lateral youth exchanges there must be at least one promoter from an EU country and again, one from a NPC. Multilateral exchanges however must be composed of at least one promoter from the EU and at least two promoters from NBCs.

Training & Networking Projects with NPCs are also possible of course. Organisations can get funding for Job Shadowing projects, Feasibility Visits, Evaluation Meetings, Study Visits, Partnership-building Activities, Seminars, Training Courses or even Networking projects.

For Job Shadowing projects, there must be at least one promoter from an EU country and one from a NPC while for Feasibility visits the minimum number of promoters from NPC is two. When it comes to Evaluation Meetings, Study Visits, Partnership-Building Activities, Seminars and Training Courses, there must be at least four promoters from different countries, of which at least one is from an EU country and two from NPCs.

Networking projects must be composed of at least six different countries, of which, one must be from an EU country and three from a NPC.

So what's next?

The next step for you is to grab a copy of the Youth in Action Programme Guide to go into further detail of how to make use of Sub-Action 3.1. This should be available in the website of your National Agency and at <http://ec.europa.eu/youth/>.

Contacting your National Agency or your country's Euro-Med Youth Unit (EMYU) will definitely help so you can get further guidance about the matter.



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The expression & communication

focus of a youth exchange from four nationalities

The title of the meeting; Eurosisu09 saw 36 young people from Hungary, Portugal, Finland and Spain meet for 9 days in Coin to promote intercultural dialogue through new technologies.

The expression and communication between young people is very different from the conventional one of older people mainly due to the importance that new technologies have on the lives of youth. With this aspect of social relations as a central theme, 36 young people from 4 different countries (Hungary, Portugal, Finland and Spain) met on July 17th at Film City in a trade that Coin organized by the GDR Guadalhorce Valley. A group of 12 youths of the region will delve into new forms of expression and communication among young people. Eurosisu09 is a multilateral exchange which aims to deepen the knowledge of the forms of communication used by young people, promoting mutual understanding between young people from different countries and helping to improve the quality of support systems (communication) activities of the youth.

The purpose of the exchange, as stated by its own website (www.eurosisu.eu) and by the name Eurosisu 2009 is to promote intercultural dialogue among young people through new information technology and communication.

During the 9 days of the exchange, participants were asked to develop short daily logbook on the web www.eurosisu.eu. This can be shared between groups of different nationalities

and cultural exchanges with food, drink, and music typical of each country, will visit the region and the province ... In addition, on the first day attendees were requested to build a confessional. The aim of this confessional is to serve as a space for individual and group reflections where views on various activities and anecdotes that happened throughout the days are expressed by participants.

Activities were based on a study on the use of new technologies for communication between young people, in order to disseminate it among the organisations working with youth in our environment. Moreover, from the GDR Guadalhorce done with different countries it is interesting to contrast the information on an international sphere, thereby providing added value. The working methodology was through intercultural group work using research techniques and information gathering.

Euromed09 Taste the Mediterranean Youth Exchange



The Mediterranean diet and responsible consumption, bringing together 46 young people from eight different nationalities Coins hosts from the 30th July until the 7th August Euromed09: "Tasting the Mediterranean, framed by the Youth in Action of the European Union and coordinated by the Development Group of the Guadalhorce Valley.

The main aim of this project was "To promote responsible consumption and discuss a more just and healthy food for all citizens." This justifies the guidelines of the Mediterranean Taste Euromed09 rationale for a trade that brings in Coin (Valle del Guadalhorce) to 46 young people from eight countries of the Mediterranean: Algeria, Spain, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Morocco, Portugal and Tunisia.

Within 7 days, young participants managed to work along with different techniques characterized by expressiveness and creativity at all times. Thus, all the young participants involved including the youth group from Spain and neighbours of the Guadalhorce Valley prepared all activities.

The work consisted of a series of cookery workshops for young people. The food utilized had to be purchased from local stores and markets, and finally developed into a recipe in the English language titled Taste the Mediterranean. The dishes prepared during the project turned out to be very peculiar since the recipes allowed space for creativity through images of their feelings they experienced during the exchange. Leisure time for youth activities has been prepared in a way to make it as interesting as possible giving an ample way for creativity through art shows. These art shows reflected the concept of the

project which is the power and importance of food security for people's sustainable development. A daily radio program aired every morning at breakfast time reported stories and achievements that occurred during the previous day together with the program of activities for the current day.

Eliminate bias

When you ask the participants to report their participation in this exchange, they agree that such type of exchange serves to eliminate prejudice. Virginia from Portugal insists that "this exchange is a great opportunity to learn about the culture and unusual facts of other countries." Her special interests are Arab countries because "although she has participated in other exchanges, she never had the opportunity to interact with young people from the Islamic world. This allowed her to erase the bad things told about the people of these countries.

Luca from Napoli an expert in exchanges stated; "all participants come with certain fears, but...after the first day, first hour; they do not want to leave." According to Luca, much is learned and shared, and these exchange "are occasions to reflect not only with friends but also to do a meditation exercise and get to know your own yourself."



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The Euro-Arab Workshop

Some personal reflections

If our dear readers expect now that I will pick up some memories which would show how different, strange and opposed the two hemispheres Europe and Arabia are.

If they look forward to read some aspects of "culture shocks" then, I have to apologize right now in the beginning of this article, that I can speak in the name of all participants and state that we did not experience any of these moments.

Excluding one exception!

EFKAN BARIN

July 2009 Mannheim, Germany

First I shall mention an important aspect that influences this situation. I still have in mind the debates between our Arabian participants regarding the social, religious and democratic developments within Arabic states. This demonstrates that diversity exists even within the Arabic world and underlines that it is a huge mistake to imagine an Arabic-Islamic world as a homogeneous block. This contradicts the western world's imagination of the Arabic world; an illustration of this misunderstanding is outlined in S. Huntington's thesis of "Clash of Civilizations". Our workshop flowed in a harmonic way, of course sometimes through high-tensed emotional dialogues.

In my opinion, the main reason why we don't get shocked by cultural differences is because of two main aspects. Since we are participants we have already attended international meetings like this one so we are used to these

discussions. A person who is not interested in getting in touch with the diversity of the world would decide to stay at home instead of coming to such a workshop. The other aspect is that for the participant countries neither Christianity nor Islam is a "stranger" culture. Both religions exist in both countries; the only difference is that there is a majority-minority-balance within states.

The fact that our workshop took place in the beautiful polish capital opened my eyes as a Turkish participant in the German delegation to focus my interests on Turkish heritage in Poland. I delved deeper into the role of the Turkish Muslims in the liberation of Poland and on their influence in social life of Poland, an evidence of this is the "Pierogi", a polish traditional dish made from a kind of old Turkish "Manti". These are traditional reminders of the forgotten Euro-Islamic relationship.



Participant in Action 3.1 Project

MASSISNISSA SEBAI

The activities we had with Kata in Poland was a good experience for me and for the group I was leading since it was the first time we participated or built something with eastern European countries, therefore, it was a challenge for us because we didn't know what we were going to find. Moreover, we were really happy and enthusiast that we were there.

From another angle, the programme was very fluid which made the task easier for us. There were several representations from various cultures and countries. The only thing that I can comment on is that there was lack of continuity from the participants of the previous years.

Let's Talk About the Future

In September 2007 I participated in a Euro-Arab workshop in Warsaw-Poland called "Let's Talk About the Future".

LAMA AL MAJALI

21 years old
Student of Nutrition University of Jordan

I am glad I got the chance to represent my country and myself in this project. Participating in this project opened a new dimension for me, since it was my first participation in such projects. I literally fell in love with youth activities since then. I've certainly acquired many skills, learned so many things and made friends of different nationalities whom I'm still in contact with.

It was a great opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences on one hand and to build together a cooperative strategy to help each other on the other hand. I've learnt that we can always communicate with each other no matter where we came from or what religion we follow, as long as we lead a meaningful

dialogue, free from prejudice.

Through the multiple activities that were held during the project, we got the chance to present our countries, traditions and culture in an informal manner, by either dancing, singing, acting or storytelling.

As a result, we acquired more knowledge about the participating countries. Now I strongly believe that inter-cultural dialogue can help minimize the prejudices and stereotypes.

This course has certainly enriched my knowledge and experience and motivated me to be more involved in youth work.



The Union for the Mediterranean

a step forward in the Euro-Mediterranean relations

On July 13 2008 in Paris, the Summit of the Union for the Mediterranean (UPM) marked the beginning of a new stage in Euro-Mediterranean relations. During this Summit, the Heads of State and the Governments of 43 countries and the President of the European Commission signed a declaration defining new parameters in our bilateral relations.

What are the major achievements of the summit?

The major achievements fall into three essential points, which are the following:

1. Place the highest political level for Euro-Mediterranean relations. The Heads of State and Government of the region now meet every two years in order to pilot a vital partnership for prosperity and security of all countries in the region;
2. Establish a new institutional structure for the Euro-Mediterranean partnership to ensure the joint co-ownership with a co-presidency, a secretariat in Barcelona and a joint permanent committee based in Brussels;
3. Launch 6 major regional projects to address the major problem encountered by the Mediterranean countries which is the difference in prosperity between the north and south of the Mediterranean. These projects include: the motorways of the sea and land motorways, the pollution of the Mediterranean civil protection, alternative energy: solar plane Mediterranean Higher Education and Research, University Euro-Mediterranean, and initiative Mediterranean Business Development.

It is probably premature to make an assessment of the Union for the Mediterranean after its first year of operation. It may be unfair on those who have much invested politically and moreover on those, like the Commission, who have invested politically and financially in this initiative.

On the institutional front, it is true that the evolution of UpM since its launch in July 2008 is not very encouraging. Since the Paris Summit on July 13, 2008 we had two major bottlenecks in our business: First, we have to tackle the disagreement about the participation of the Arab League which failed to initiate activities between July and November 2008. In November, at the Ministerial meeting in Marseilles, the situation has been released with an ambitious agreement on the overall institutional architecture of the Union for the Mediterranean.

A few weeks later, the conflict in Gaza which has commenced on the 27th December and the subsequent formation of the current Israeli coalition government have meant a new setback. The suspension of activities and meetings failed to advance as all partners would have liked the main issues of the UPM, including the establishment of the secretariat and the preparation of 9 ministerial meetings scheduled for UpM 2009. Unfortunately, this is

not the first time that a serious conflict affects the region. However, despite the conflicts and fractures, the conscience of a heritage to preserve and share a future persists. A political heritage represented by the achievements of the Barcelona Process, UpM and a future deal to share many common issues. While the institutional record is still mixed, the balance of the project was, in turn, much more positive. Thanks to the continued commitment, inter alia, the European Commission and our working method, EuroMed allows us to continue our efforts despite the political crises that we have suffered.

The Commission has dedicated €70 million for priority projects identified at the Paris Summit. Despite this, we still have some difficulties, such as; initiatives launched and activities funded for priority areas of pollution of the Mediterranean, the Mediterranean Solar Plan, and civil protection. We have provided fundings to the Euro-Mediterranean University in Piran, Slovenia and we continued our work in identifying priorities for the motorways of the sea to facilitate the export competitiveness of our partners to Europe.

In addition, on April 30th, 2009 in Alexandria, Caisse des Depots, the Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (Italy), EFG Hermes (Egypt) and Caisse de Dépôt et de Gestion (Morocco) has launched the Fund



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INFRAMED with the objective to achieve an amount of €1 billion to finance the priorities of the UPM, including urban infrastructure, transportation of energy to the south and east of the Mediterranean. The UPM is a forum of great complexity but not a political creation to arbitrate geographical boundaries. This partnership follows geopolitical requirements: what we can call the geopolitics of the common challenges that national policies and bilateral cooperation in the European Union are not enough, when the best response is a collective collaboration based on common interests and multilateral instruments.

In this context, what is the role of the Euro-Mediterranean Youth?

Although as we read this sentence this may seem a stereotype, the population of the region is extremely young and most of the issues facing the region have a direct impact on youth: education, employment, migration, the population trends, sustainability, etc... It is obvious that youth, and their policies are crucial in our regional relationships.

Since the Barcelona Declaration (1995), the social, cultural and human development has been one of the three priorities in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. In this partnership youth have a vital place. Ministers

of the region see youth as a key element of successful partnership. Youth are considered as transmitters of ideas and actors dialogue. It is obvious they have a priority in our cooperation instruments, whether directly in the EuroMed Youth as a target population or in generic programs of dialogue among cultures (eg. Anna Lindh Foundation for Dialogue between Cultures), training and education, gender equality, etc... These programs help us to overcome misunderstandings, hoping to build a better, fairer and safer environment.

The EuroMed Youth program was launched as a result of commitments under the Barcelona Declaration in 1995. It promotes youth mobility and understanding between citizens. Today, more than ten years after launching the program, emphasis is placed on actions taken "closer to the beneficiaries, promoting active citizenship and encouraging a sense of solidarity among participants. The EuroMed Youth Platform, funded by the European Commission, also has a great role in helping the creation and animation of networks of young people while remaining on our priorities. Helping them to strengthen their capacity for dialogue is a real need. It sees personal contacts, mutual understanding, exchange of knowledge and ideas as the best bridges to reach peace and development in the region.

Conclusion

For Europe, the Mediterranean is a growth opportunity to expand its positive influence, an area where Europe can develop its ambition to power peacefully and promote certain values of tolerance and consolidation of peace through regional integration and democracy. The Mediterranean project of Europe is a vision based on concrete policies: the European Neighbourhood Policy, the policy of establishing a free trade area, the policy of expanding the trans-European transport axes, the energy policy and climate change and the political solidarity of territorial or political exchanges of youth and university students. Policies require expertise, and the Commission is ready to engage them in order to build the Euro-Mediterranean as it has done since 1957 in the European construction.

The revival of the EuroMed partnership in the Union for the Mediterranean focuses on co-ownership and concrete projects aimed to strengthen the relations between the two shores of the sea and multiply the efforts to achieve the objectives laid down in the Barcelona Process which is still in force today. These main priorities are; development, peace and common prosperity in the region.



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Youth and its History

**Do we really understand what is it?
Can we have one definition of
youth work?**

**These questions have been coming
to my mind whenever I am working
with an international group of
people, be it practising youth
workers, academics, researchers or
young people.**

It happens that we all talk about youth work but upon reflecting on the little conversations I realise that ideas vary from one country to another. In the past these feelings made me feel uneasy and anxious and I have spent hours trying to compartmentalise the different ideas in my mind to fit them neatly the way I thought best. Today I appreciate the richness of the diverse work with young people some of which might not exactly be categorised as youth work in my mind; however, I have now become aware of the distinct developments within various countries which shaped out different forms of work with young people.

It was 4pm when I received a phone call asking me to participate in the first workshop of the History of Youth work in Europe. I accepted with no hesitation. Instantly, I knew that this would be an opportunity to look at how the different modes of doing youth work emerged in Europe. The workshop was aimed at getting together youth workers, researchers and policy makers to discuss the historical concepts underpinning youth work.

Eventually the workshop turned out to be such a success that a sequel was organised a year after to explore further views mainly from South-East Europe and Russia. Both workshops were held in Blankenberge, Belgium and both were held in May - 2008/2009. The workshops were co-organised between Belgian Flemish Community's Agency for Socio-Cultural Work for Youth and Adults and the Youth Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

JanVanhee from the Flemish Community's Agency in his introduction to the workshop stated that the first workshop and consequently even the one which followed aimed to:

- reflect upon the history of youth work and youth policy,
- identify close links between youth work and youth policy, and socio-cultural and historical trends,
- build an international comparative perspective and
- put the history of youth work and youth policy on the European youth agenda.

At the same time, Walter Lorenz, a guest from the University of Bolzano tried to encourage us to go through history and use diverse historical events as a starting point for an analytic enquiry on the profession of youth work itself and on the conceptions of childhood and youth. He also stressed the idea that through such workshops we will be making history itself since we will all be asking questions on our present practices of youth work.

This reflexive exercise is essential for the profession of youth workers and volunteers, their education and training opportunities and young people's benefits.

The contributions gathered at the workshops were embedded in diverse national contexts: Flanders (Louis Vos, Johan Van Gaens and Filip Coussée), French speaking part (Simon Gautheir) German speaking part (Xavier

Hurlet) of Belgium, United Kingdom – England (Bernard Davies), South Africa (Lwazi Mboyi), Germany (Christian Spatscheck), Poland (Marcin Sinczuch), Finland (Helena Helve), France (Patricia Loncle), Ireland (Maurice Develin), Netherlands (Hans Van Ewijk), Russia (Galina Kuprianova), Hungary (Peter Wootsch) Greece (Dora Giannaki) and Malta (myself).

At the end of both workshops the reporters reported that the speakers tracked dimensions in the history of youth work and challenged the current and future youth work practices and policies in Europe. To prepare the workshop the book 'A century of youth work policy' (Coussée, 2008) was provided to all the participants.

Why am I writing this in the Euromed Platform Magazine? I am, because European and Arab young people have become the focus of growing concern both in the Arab and Europe world and at the moment the present generation of Arab youth is proportionately the largest in Arab history. In the two workshops I have mentioned about above we had not much representation from the Mediterranean region and we all felt that there was a missing link.

It is interesting to note that particularly in the Arab world the family has been the central focus of social life for Arab young people.

It fulfilled the essential tasks of socialisation and has transmitted the basic values and norms, while providing shelter and security together with economic practice. It is only in the past years that the tradition of the family declined and the state absorbed many of the family's responsibilities in the field of politics, culture and economy. Furthermore, only during the beginning of the 90's has 'the street' as Meijer (2000) calls it for which he meant 'alternative lifestyles and modes of thought and actions' marched against the established traditional pillars that is the family and the state and has brought about a new dimension in Arab youth. And so I ask: Did youth work play a major role in the 'street'? Can we look back in history to reflect further on this and trace developments? What kind of role has youth work in the Arab world?

I encourage readers who are interested in this area or who want to give some contribution to contact the Euro-Med Youth Platform, the Youth Partnership or myself. Your input in this forum would be of great interest as it may widen further our perspectives on work with young people and enable us understand how to improve youth work.



Youth Policy Developments in Turkey

SEFA YAHSI

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Turkish National Agency



General statistics about youth

Turkey has a population of about 72 million, of which over 25,5 million are between the age brackets of 13-30 of the Youth in Action Programme according to the 2008 census statistics. This is relatively much bigger than that of most Programme Countries of the EU Youth in Action Programme. The total population of young people is 12,4 million when we consider the age brackets of 15-24. The 16,7% of the total employed in Turkey are young people and youth unemployment is 18,7%. The participation of young women in the labour force is very low. Rate of poverty among young people is 26% (UNDP (2008).

Looking at these figures, it is apparent that youth obviously constitute a very strong potential for Turkey. On the other hand, the development of this potential remains unfortunately, insufficient. This poses a big challenge for institutions and NGOs that are involved in youth sector as within youth there are several categories with very different requirements in terms of policy.

Legislation and actors in the implementation of youth policy

Looking at the Turkish legislation on youth, there is only one single provision related to youth in the Constitution of the Turkish Republic, which is Article 58 where youth is referred to as people to be protected. There is neither a specific law nor a sole governmental body in youth field. Youth rights and services are included in general laws.

The services included in these laws are carried out by various departments in different public institutions, such as General Directorate of Youth and Sports, Ministry of National Education, National Agency (The Centre for EU Education and Youth Programmes), General Directorate of Social Services and Child Protection (SHÇEK), Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, General Directorate of Family and Social Researches, General Directorate of Security, local authorities including municipalities, etc.

This fragmented structure leads to several difficulties for the implementation of the different aspects shaping the youth policy such as the absence of one single governmental unit as well as one single policy document resulting in the multiplicity of state actors regarding youth related decision-making and provision and implementation of services. This situation often creates either repetitive provision of the same services or non-provision, leading to inconsistencies in approaches to youth.

Youth work

The Euromed Youth, Youth and Youth in Action Programmes have played an important role in the development of youth work by contributing to the capacity building of organisations working in the youth field by providing training courses and funding opportunities. However, youth work is still an area that needs to be further developed in Turkey. There is one single governmental body, General Directorate of Youth and Sports, supporting youth work in Turkey. The development of youth work in Turkey also owes a great deal to NGOs working on youth issues and youth organisations.

International cooperation on youth policy

The international organisations as well as General Directorate of Youth and Sports in Turkey also get involved in issues of youth policies within the framework of cooperation schemes offered by the governments or embassies of other countries. Cooperation schemes might include elements such as funding campaigns, projects and programmes. Support is sometimes given to the relevant public authority or sometimes directly to the youth organisations. Depending on the themes, different public institutions, private sector actors and NGOs are included as partners. The most active international actors in the field of youth in Turkey are the World Bank, United Nations Agencies, Council of Europe, British Council and the European Union.

How a new youth policy for Turkey should look like?

As there is an obvious need for a new youth policy, the following elements should be included: First of all, it should foresee and

comprise a strong human rights dimension for all young people. First of all it should be forward-looking and comprise a strong human rights dimension for all young people. The new policy should also focus on participation, social inclusion, self-confidence, citizenship, rights on education and health of young people. Such a youth policy needs to be designed in a participatory manner by getting input from all stakeholders such as youth NGOs, universities, media and trade unions etc.

Recent developments

Youth issues are dealt with by one department under the General Directorate of Youth and Sports and focus is on sports rather than youth, and the need for more articulate youth policy and youth supportive institutions is very obvious. The Turkish Government has recently started a new initiative for developing a new structural approach for youth policy. This new structural approach envisages one single governmental body for youth. In order to get input and feedback for the new structure, several consultative meetings and workshops have been conducted so far with broad participation and consultation from almost all the actors involved in the youth sector in Turkey, both governmental and non-governmental, including the National Agency for the Youth in Action Programme. As a result of these consultative meetings and workshops, a focus group has been established to further work on what the new structure should look like for a better implementation of the youth policy. It is obvious that that this new body would be a coordination body for the youth policy implementation as well as implementing other activities directly for the benefit of young people and youth NGOs.

As an organisation running Euromed Youth, Youth and Youth in Action Programmes since 2003, The National Agency has also been very active in this consultative process. In fact, this has been an excellent opportunity for the National Agency to share the huge experience gained out of these programmes for the sake of the structured dialogue with all the stakeholders involved in the youth policy implementation in Turkey.



A Decade of Partnership

between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth with a specific view on the co-operation in the Euro-Mediterranean region

In general terms, both, the European Commission and the Council of Europe have specific policies and programmes in place to take action in various policy fields, focusing as well on the Euro-Mediterranean region. In a growing number of relevant fields of action the two institutions have set up a close co-operation which is a perfect example of how the joint engagement of the two partners in the field of democracy, cultural diversity and the respect for human rights can achieve positive results.

Since 2001, the co-operation between the two institutions has been formalised by the Joint Declaration on Co-operation and Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission. A further step was taken in May 2007 by signing a Memorandum of Understanding. For the youth sector this memorandum underlines that the two partners "will strengthen their co-operation in the youth field by developing and taking part in programmes and campaigns to empower young people to participate actively in the democratic process and by facilitating youth exchange". However, the co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union in the youth field has been going for more than ten years. Since the 1st November 1998, the Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the youth field has taken the form of consecutive agreements or "Covenants"

between the two institutions focusing in a first stage on "European Youth Worker and Youth Leader Training" ("Training Covenants"). In 2003, the "Training Covenant" was complemented by two further Covenants, one on "Euro-Mediterranean co-operation" and another one on "Youth Research". All three Covenants expired during spring 2005. As from then, both partners agreed to strengthen co-operation, to replace the existing Partnerships by one single umbrella agreement and to sign a Framework Partnership Agreement for the first period 2005 – 2006, followed by second one for 2007-2009.

Today the work programme covers a wide range of activities in youth work practice and training, youth policy development and youth research. Furthermore, it has a specific regional focus in South East Europe, Eastern Europe, Caucasus and the Euro-Mediterranean. The aim of today's Partnership is to provide a framework for the joint development of co-operation and a coherent strategy in the field of youth, particularly in the area of:

- European citizenship, human rights education, intercultural dialogue;
- Social cohesion and equal opportunities;
- Quality in youth work & training, recognition & visibility of youth work;
- Better understanding & knowledge of youth and youth policy development.

The Youth Partnership has produced a number of flagship projects which have set standards throughout Europe. Some projects can be mentioned (not saying that other activities are of less importance):

- in the field of training the "Advanced training course for Trainers in Europe" (ATTE) in 2003 and – since 2009 – the long-term Training Course "Trainers for active learning in Europe" (TALE); furthermore the training courses on European Citizenship for youth workers / youth leaders;
- in the field of knowledge production, the "European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy" (EKCY), in which today 40 countries participate and thematic expert seminars and workshops on youth relevant topics such as employment, inclusion, participation, history of youth work etc;
- in the field of Youth Policy co-operation regional seminars in Eastern Europe and Caucasus, South East Europe, and the Russian Federation, leading to the development of youth policy standards and a closer co-operation in the region;
- in the field of intercultural dialogue and human rights education, the co-operation with the Euro-Mediterranean region; since 2009 a new pillar, the Africa-Europe youth



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co-operation, which is coordinated by the North South Centre of the Council of Europe, enriches the scope of activities.

The purpose of the Euro-Mediterranean co-operation was from the outset to ensure complementarities and coherence between the work of the two institutions in the region. The main aim of this partnership was to provide further quality training and learning opportunities for youth workers and youth leaders active in Euro-Mediterranean youth projects, based on intercultural learning, citizenship and participation of young people, human rights, democracy, women's and minority rights etc. The objectives of the programme were, amongst others, to increase the quality and quantity of Euro-Med intercultural youth projects, to provide educational tools to develop existing networks of trainers and youth workers active in Euro-Med youth projects and to provide possibilities for dialogue between the main stakeholders in practice, policy and research.

Main types of activities in the last 6 years were:

- a series of training courses, particularly on items such as Intercultural Dialogue, Human Rights, Participation, Citizenship, Women and Minorities' Rights', and an advanced training course for Trainers active in Euro-Med Youth Work (TATEM);

- thematic seminars with participants from the EuroMed region within the University on Youth and Development which takes place yearly in Mollina, organized in cooperation with the European Youth Forum and the North-South Centre;
- seminars focusing on the various roles of youth policy, youth research and youth work / youth organisations in youth policy definition in the EuroMed region and round-tables on youth policy development and youth policy co-operation.

A specific information and publication strategy aims at making the results of the Youth Partnership more visible, including those in the EuroMed framework. Twelve T(raining)-Kits have been published since 1998 focusing on relevant topics of youth work practice. They have also been translated into various languages and are used in training activities across Europe and beyond. The issue on Euro-Mediterranean youth work "Mosaic" will be available at least in English, French and Arabic. The joint Magazine COYOTE deals with issues around "Youth – Training – Europe", 14 issues have been published until today. The results of the expert seminars and workshops are published in series of research books. Youth Partnership Newsletters and the Partnership web portal (<http://www.youth-partnership.net>) provide relevant information on ongoing

Partnership activities and their results.

The main stakeholders of the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth are the European Youth Forum, International Youth NGO's, the National Agencies for the Youth in Action Programme and the SALTO Resource Centres, amongst the one on Euro-Med, the communities of trainers and of youth researchers across Europe and policy makers in the public administrations and youth ministries in the member states, the various partners in the Euro-Mediterranean region, e.g. the League of Arab States, the Anna-Lind-Foundation and the EuroMed Platform.

All activities are coordinated by a secretariat, which is responsible for the implementation, the monitoring and the visibility of its actions. This secretariat is located within the Youth Directorate of the Council of Europe.

The European Commission and the Council of Europe consider their Partnership in the field of youth as a very useful tool to build on the strengths of each institution and to facilitate co-operation between the two institutions in the youth field in the given areas and beyond. Consequently, the two partners are currently preparing a new partnership agreement for the period 2010-2013.

Building Bridges, (re)composing Puzzles

More than 10 years of Mediterranean Dialogues
at the European Youth Forum



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European Youth Forum

CHRISTOFFER GRØNSTAD
Vice-President
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Young people in the overlapping Mediterranean and Arab Regions are particularly affected by the North/South divide. In the Southern Mediterranean Region more than 50% of the population are less than 30 years old.

This Region faces an unprecedented challenge: its labour force is expected to increase to 146 million in 2010, and 185 million in 2020.

A growing number of these new and increasingly educated (young) entrants to the labour market are women, who additionally still face obstacles to enjoying their full and equal participation in society. To simply maintain the same (high) level of unemployment as today, 34 millions new jobs should be created over the next ten years.

Representing the Youth Sector of Civil Society in Europe, the European Youth Forum (YFJ) is particularly committed to working for young people's rights in strong cooperation with civil society actors from all regions of the world. This article aims to describe the different phases to YFJ's approach in past years, analyse the impact on the wider cooperation policies in the Region, and project the YFJ as a major Civil Society contributor for the future challenges in the Region.

Three Historical Phases in Mediterranean and Arab Cooperation

a) The "Pro-active" Policy (1998-2000) saw the YFJ in the forefront of developing innovative mechanisms to set up political dialogue and youth co-operation, with strong support from the European Commission. This phase was fuelled by the broader political context, which was followed with the signing of the Barcelona agreement and the Peace Process in the Middle East. YFJ Member Organisations were actively involved in policy formulation and in developing pilot projects in the area. Already in 1997, the complementarities between Euro-Arab Dialogue and Euro-Med Cooperation were stated and the Mediterranean Youth Forum¹ was launched².

The issue of a single partnership with a political organisation in Arab countries, such as the Arab Youth Union, was critically raised by European Organisations and reflected in the 1998 Mediterranean Youth Forum paper Euro-Arab Dialogue – re-assert our partnership and take action³.

b) The "Follow-up" Policy (2001-2003) saw YFJ trying to follow-up the mechanisms set up in previous mandates but in a much

more problematic context owing to the crisis of the EU Mediterranean Policy. The failure of the Peace Process in Palestine, 9/11 and the war in Iraq constituted major challenges for political dialogue. The Mediterranean Youth Forum failed due to lack of credible coordination, funds and political dialogue. An evaluation of the first phase of the Euro-Med Youth programme was carried out. The establishment by the European Commission of the Euro-Med Youth Platform, as a place for technical cooperation in the frame of the Euro-Med Youth programme, was welcomed by the European Youth Forum, but soon faced challenges in terms of management. Similarly to the Euro-Med Covenant of the EU/CoE partnership, youth organisations were consulted but the youth participation element should have been strengthened to go beyond monitoring and consultation. This phase therefore saw the YFJ and partners face many challenges which slowed down, or froze, various processes set-up in previous years.

c) The "Exploratory" Policy (2004-2006) saw YFJ engaged both in the follow-up of the existing cooperation tools⁴ and in exploring new possible paths for cooperation. Our Member Organisations were proactive

again in policy drafting, and the **Steering Group of the Middle East Youth Initiative** conducted two study visits in the Region: the first one in Israel/Palestine with the double objective to meet with local youth organisations and key political actors, the second in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, more focused on grass-root organisations. The Steering Group's work resulted in the **Policy Paper Towards a Culture of Peace in the Middle-East, the role of Youth Organisations**. This approach highlighted the need for renewed political Dialogue in the Region but crystallised a separation of the technical co-operation related to the Euro-Mediterranean programme from the political dialogue, pursued on a different geographical scale.

Prospects

After a long period of reflection, follow-up and exploration, the European Youth Forum now sees a unique chance to develop an integrated strategic approach to youth cooperation in the Mediterranean/Middle East/Arab Region. The new approach should reconnect the "political" dialogue and "technical" cooperation, which have developed separately in past years. YFJ emphasises the strong need to move from policies to actions for the benefit of young people.

Three strategic principles: Relevance – Complementarity - Credibility

A) Relevance for young people and impact of youth organisations:

It is extremely important to be clear in the overall aim of youth cooperation between the Regions: **Development needs Youth!** Particularly, the relevance of YFJ action in the Region will have to be measured on the capability to address two levels:

a) Specific needs/challenges of young people:

The relevance and credibility of any cooperation and political dialogue stands on the capacity of strengthening endogenous projects and initiatives tackling common challenges such as sustainable development, migration-related issues, and the full respect of human rights, including access to education, decent employment and gender equality.

b) Shared issues have to be tackled together for an effective advocacy and lobby action towards the relevant regional, inter-regional and global institutions. Therefore the "technical" cooperation must be coupled with a "political" dialogue to promote coherent, cross-sectorial and **transversal youth policies**.

B) Complementarity of European, Mediterranean and Arab cooperation

The scale for YFJ cooperation in the region has been debated in several occasions during the past ten years but the first ever YFJ resolution on Euro-Med co-operation in 1997 set a principle which is still valid today: the complementarity of various processes.

Translated and updated to the current situation in 2009, YFJ cooperation in the region is inevitably a variable geometry:

- The Euro-Mediterranean Youth Programme is still an important tool in terms of fund-raising;
- The Neighbourhood Policy of the EU could bring additional space for political dialogue between the two Regions and technical cooperation at bilateral level;
- The Euro-Arab cooperation could provide the right institutional frame for supporting the establishment of a youth partner in the South, upon verification of the intentions of the League of Arab States to eventually support a youth-led initiative in the Region;
- Specific dialogue with Israel could, for example, be more effective than trying to bring all the actors together, when the material and the political conditions⁵ are not yet there.

C) Credibility and sustainable partnerships

Our approach to YFJ cooperation in the region should first of all be integrated as a part of the mechanisms for Global Cooperation. In this regard the principles agreed at the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO) should be regarded as a first step to develop a coherent partnership in the area.

Through ICMYO we work with Youth NGOs that are:

- democratic,
- accountable and transparent,

- legitimate and credible,
- making an impact,
- aiming for sustainability in global cooperation,
- respecting cultural and ideological diversity and Human Rights⁶.

At the moment YFJ does not have a partner in the region which reflects those principles. Although these criteria will always guide our cooperation with regional partners, they are neither static nor excluding. Space for both partners to learn and develop should exist.

Conclusion

There is currently a lack of coordination between youth organisations from Europe and the Arab Region, and within the Arab Region itself. Reducing the existing gaps between decision-makers and youth organisations is crucial.

In 2008 the European Youth Forum initiated the 1st Euro-Arab Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (EACMYO). EACMYO seeks to promote peace and social justice through stronger cooperation at the bi-regional level by fostering intercultural dialogue and enhancing the exchange of experience between European and Arab young people. In the spirit of our renewed commitment to working in the region and our continued support to the Euro-Med process, YFJ is organising in cooperation with the League of Arab States a second edition of EACMYO, taking place in Assilah, Morocco in November 2009.

The purpose of the EACMYO is to lay the foundations for long term exchange, networking and partnership between democratic and representative youth organisations from the two respective regions, a necessary and vital dimension to ensure better legitimacy of these processes that will enable the voice of young people to be articulated in both intra-regional and inter-regional policy development processes.

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1) The MYF was founded in Malta in May 1998. The YFJ acted as tutor and co-organiser of the initiative. MYF gathered youth representatives from 10 Southern Mediterranean partners of the Barcelona partnership. For more information, see YFJ (1998), Mediterranean Youth Forum Convention, adopted by the General Assembly in Salzburg.
2) [1997] Resolution on the Euro-Mediterranean Dialogue, the Executive Committee in Rotterdam; [1997], Strategy Paper on Future Steps of

Mediterranean Cooperation, Executive Committee in Budapest; [1998], Resolution on the Mediterranean Youth Forum, General Assembly in Salzburg.
3) [1998] Euro-Arab Dialogue – re-assert our partnership and take action, the Executive Committee in Vilnius.
4) Mainly the Euro-Med Youth Programme – EU; the Partnership agreement CoE-EU; the Steering Group of the Mediterranean Youth Platform.

5) Concerning Israel, special attention has been paid by the YFJ to the Israeli Council of Youth Movements (ICYM) – both mentioned in the 2006 Policy Paper and the object of a specific YFJ visit in 1998 – as one of the most organised and representative structures, though still gathering only a specific type of youth organisations (Youth Movements).
6) ICMYO (2005), Principles for Global Youth Cooperation.



Youth Policy Cooperation in the Broader Euro-Mediterranean Context II International Round-table

European Youth Centre Budapest, 22-23 April 2009

Amongst its priorities, the Youth Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission seeks to provide a better understanding and knowledge of youth issues and youth policy development and a framework for co-operation in doing so. In addition, it contributes to the further development of youth work and youth policy by promoting exchanges, dialogue and networks in order to strengthen youth policy development at European level, with the aim of fostering evidence-based youth policies, as well as to strengthen cooperation within the Euro-Mediterranean region and other regions.

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In 2005 the Youth Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission, together with several national and regional partners, initiated a process of youth policy cooperation in the broader Euro-Mediterranean region¹ aimed at fostering a greater cooperation between stakeholders of youth policy. The process started in Alexandria in 2005, with the seminar "Youth Policy Here and Now", co-organised with the Swedish Institute of Alexandria and the Swedish Board of Youth Affairs. It was developed in Cairo in 2006, with an international round-table "Youth policy and research development in the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation framework", organised at the invitation of the League of Arab States, the Swedish Institute in Alexandria and the Youth Partnership between the Council of Europe and European Commission on youth policy.

That first international round-table was attended by a series of national and international organisations active in the Mediterranean region to share experiences and challenges met in the process of developing and implementing youth policy plans and projects. At the end of the round-table, the participants acknowledged the value of this event and expressed their satisfaction for a fruitful and useful exchange of experiences, from which a series of positive

signals emerged, namely:

- A shared interest in developing and implementing efficient and effective youth policies for and with young people;
- The willingness and openness to cooperate and promote youth involvement and participation;
- The need to associate researchers in the policy-making process and to promote their role to gather reliable information about the youth world;
- The need to develop a structured, intercultural dialogue between both sides of the Mediterranean to overcome differences in cultural backgrounds, traditions and perceptions and to promote mutual understanding and cooperation on an equal footing;
- The need to take stock of previous successful experiences to overcome old resistances and develop innovative approaches.

In view of the above and taking into account the results of an external evaluation carried out by independent experts, the League of Arab States and the Youth Partnership have agreed to organise a second round-table on youth policy cooperation, open to international and national, governmental and non-governmental partners active in youth policy development

and implementation and interested in sharing experiences and in view of mutual learning and future cooperation. This second round-table on youth policy cooperation took place on 22-23 April 2009 at the European Youth Centre in Budapest. The round-table pursued the following objectives:

- To exchange information regarding the ongoing and planned youth policy projects and programmes of the participating organisations and countries;
- To analyse commonalities, specificities and complementarities between the actions and approaches of the participants and their institutions;
- To discuss the priority youth issues in the broader Euro-Mediterranean region and the youth policy responses to them;
- To explore the possibilities of coordination between the partners and to identify the priorities for Euro-Arab and Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in the youth policy field;
- To support intercultural dialogue among youth policy actors from the European, Mediterranean and Arab regions.

The round-table was also seen as an opportunity to share progress and projects among different stakeholders in the region since the first one was organised three years earlier.



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The participants in the meeting included the League of Arab States, the Anna Lindh Foundation, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, the Salto-Youth EuroMed Resource Centre; the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Platform; the European Youth Forum; the Council of Europe (the North-South Centre and the Directorate of Youth and Sport), the International Planned Parenthood Federation - Arab World Region and the Youth Partnership. Representatives of the European Steering Committee for Youth and Advisory Council on Youth within the Council of Europe were also present at the round-table.

The round-table focused on four aspects of youth policy cooperation:

- participation of young people;
- knowledge of and research on youth
- mainstreaming and intersectoriality of youth issues
- role for international cooperation.

The programme was structured around presentations by the participating organisations on their cooperation projects and initiatives, as well as on the findings of their work in the four above-mentioned aspects. Concerning participation, knowledge and mainstreaming of youth policies, the realities are full of contrasts in both European

and “Mediterranean” regions. This is natural, because societies are very different and so are the demographic, social and cultural realities of youth. Even within the member states of the European Union and of the Council of Europe it is difficult to collect reliable and comparable information and youth policies are naturally very diverse. The work of and towards the European Knowledge Centre on Youth, run in the framework of the Youth Partnership, provides plenty of examples of this. The Youth Policy Studies in the Mediterranean Partner Countries, undertaken by the Regional Capacity Building and Support Unit (RCBS) within the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Programme confirmed much of the findings provided by the participants. The studies confirm that the majority of the young people in the Mediterranean region face the same difficulties and challenges, which could also be compared to those faced by their European counterparts, such as:

- Youth unemployment and lack of appropriate housing (which limits young people’s independence);
- Youth immigration;
- Conflict of living within patriarchal societies and young women’s position within society;
- Deviant reactions of youth – drug abuse, violence and riots;

- A return of youth to religion;
- Lack of interest, as well as of trust, in politics and governments;
- Lack of youth consultation;
- Lack of, or limited provision for, non-formal education and resources for youth centres;
- Few trainers and trained youth leaders and limited recognition of youth work and of volunteering;
- Keen wish of youth to be consulted, recognised and respected as active citizen.

Other regional initiatives, such as the Arab Youth Observatory of the League of Arab States or the Arab Youth Forum of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, do take up some of the challenges but they also identify as a key challenge the diversity of roles for youth policy among several public actors and often ‘the lack of a service or body to coordinate youth policy and secure effective mainstreaming. At the level of youth participation, many obstacles remain in order to support, promote and understand its multiple forms. The lack of a coordinating structure in the Mediterranean countries, which could be comparable to the regional role of the European Youth Forum, was also referred to as a challenge when it comes to bottom-up forms of youth participation and representation. The cooperation undertaken by the European Youth Forum, the League of Arab States and the



Council of Europe in the framework of the Youth Forum of the League of Arab States, including the Euro-Arab Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations, was given as a good example with potential for substantial results. From the presentations and discussions, it emerged that there are several processes of cooperation going on among youth policy partners. Most of the processes overlap somehow, in relation to target groups, issues, partners or geographical scope, but the overlapping is not a synonym for cooperation partnership. This suggests, on the one hand, that each of these processes has its own purpose, meaning, target groups and covers specific youth policy areas; they can hardly be replaced by cooperation. On the other hand, it was felt that a more consistent exchange of information about the activities, their results and the findings about the situation of young people could significantly enhance the potential for success of those projects. Furthermore, it was sometimes felt that, in relation to youth policy, parallel processes seem to take place, without necessarily any coordination or information exchange. The round-table partners do not see it as their role to undertake these functions but they see it as their responsibility to take steps in order to improve it.

Institutionalised forms of cooperation, such as the Anna Lindh Foundation and the Union for the Mediterranean, may significantly contribute to improve communication and coordination, but it was felt that their role in relation to youth policy is not always clear, especially in articulating public institutions, youth research and youth organisations. Platforms such as the Euro-Med Youth Platform and the Salto Euro-Med Resource Centre have also a clear and irreplaceable role in this respect. All the partners/participants in the round-table expressed their wish to extend and deepen the cooperation and exchange of information. It was also agreed that some concrete activities could strengthen the cooperation and give a more concrete meaning to the exchange of practices and information,

especially in areas of common interest to the partners. This could include:

- A training course on the use of information and communication technology for youth participation.
- One training course on youth policy cooperation, based on the "50%-50%" model, bringing together civil servants and youth leaders;
- A mapping study about the international youth policy actors in the Euro-Mediterranean region, with a special focus on the Mediterranean countries, which would be based on the common fields of action and specificities for reflection in the future. SALTO-Youth EuroMed has undertaken the responsibility of conducting the study within its 2010 work plan and the League of Arab States could of translate it into Arabic.

The Youth Partnership will continue with the model of cooperation in which it assumes the role of coordination and of being open and flexible to participation of the other partners of the cooperation where the ownership is shared. In this regard, the Partnership has undertaken the responsibility of making the relevant information available by involving youth policy makers, youth workers and representatives in the cooperation process.

The third round-table has been decided to be organised towards the end of 2010 in a non-European country, probably Morocco or Tunisia. An experts meeting could take place before the round-table.

Throughout the round-table, a number of issues have been raised and discussed in order for achieving better success of the youth policy cooperation in the future. An important issue was to reassure that in spite of the prolonged break in between of two round-tables, the intention for youth

policy cooperation has not weakened. All the participating institutions believe in the need to cooperate in this field and are ready to pool their resources and competences for further cooperation. It is seen natural that the main partners (the Youth Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission and the League of Arab States) take the responsibility to ensure the sustainability of the cooperation as well as to provide communication channels for all actual and potential partners of the cooperation.

Another issue identified for a better success of the youth policy cooperation for the broader Euro-Mediterranean context has been the sustainability and continuity of partners and partnerships. Besides the main partners of the cooperation scheme, other partners have inevitably been changing from activity to activity and this process depends on the ownership of the results. It is also important to note for the future of this cooperation that there is an increasing intention to enlarge the group of stakeholders in a way to include the decision-makers of youth policy from the national level. Such an enlargement would not only extend the areas of work, widen the target group of the cooperation and enrich the type of activities through increased possibilities for financing, but also would help avoiding repetitions and inefficient use of human and material resources in the future.

Last but not the least, difficulties in practicalities at different stages of the youth policy has been voiced as a factor negatively affecting the implementation of the cooperation scheme. Aside from uncertainties such as change of venue or dates of the meetings, a visible request of the participating institutions has been a more efficient in-advance planning. This particularly refers to the quest of receiving relevant information and invitations some reasonable time before the activities in order to ensure participation in the meeting and prior budget allocations.

1) The "broader Euro-Mediterranean region" in this context encompasses the member states of the Council of Europe, the countries who are parties in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and other countries from the Middle East and Arab region interested in this cooperation.