



Euromed Youth Platform Re-launch & National Youth Federations Initiative Follow-up

Malta, 4-8 June 2008

Report edited by the EuroMed Youth Platform

Contribution by Miriam Teuma, Moderator



INTRODUCTION

Five years after being set-up, the Euro-Med Youth Platform was re-launched in a conference between the 4th and the 8th of June at the Bella Vista Hotel Malta. It also followed-up on a National Youth Federations initiative for the Euro-Med region which was already initiated in Egypt in December the previous year. The conference had young participants coming from various countries in the Euro-Med region as well as prominent contributors such as the President Emeritus Profs. Guido De Marco, Ms Marzia Conte from DG EAC, and representatives coming from SALTO Euro-Med, the Euro-Med and the MEDA Youth Parliament. The National Youth Councils of Malta and Italy and the Euro-Med Human Rights Network also provided their contribution as examples of best practice.

BACKGROUND

The need for the Re-launch came about from the fact that the Platform has undergone a restructuring process and is now embarking on a new path in order to strengthen its identity, structures and credibility in the Euro-Med region. The rest of the conference focused on the way forward of the Platform as well as on the follow-up and any new action plans for the establishment of National Youth Federation in the MENA region.

Re-launch of the Euro Med Youth Platform

**Bella Vista Hotel, Qawra, Malta
4th of June, 2008**

- 1700 – 1730 Registration and *Welcome Coffee*
- 1730 – 1745 Welcome note
Mr. Silvano Cristauro, Youth in Action Programme Manager
- 1745 – 1815 Address by the National Coordinator of the European Union Programmes Agency
Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandolo
- 1815–1835 Address by the Representative of the European Commission – Directorate General for Education and Culture Directorate – Youth, Sport and Citizenship
Ms. Marzia Conte
- 1835 – 1850 Address by the Parliamentary Secretary of Youth and Sports
Hon. Clyde Puli
- 1850– 1915 Discussion opens to the floor.
- 1915 – 2030 *Stand-up Buffet Dinner*

The Re-launch of the Euro-Med Platform was opened by a welcome note from Mr. Silvano Cristauro, Programme Manager of the Youth in Action Programme. He spoke about the important strategic, political and economical role of the Mediterranean basin in international relations. By reason of its location, its diverse and complex national systems and political economy, the Mediterranean is an arena in which many contemporary challenges and transformations are being acted out. He further commented about the Euro-Med Youth Platform's aims at encouraging cooperation, facilitating networking and exchange among youth organisations from both shores of the Mediterranean. He thanked all those present and explained the Programme to the participants and those present for the Re-launch. He explained what was expected to be achieved during the course of the activity and the role that the participants were expected to play.

Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandolo, National Coordinator of the EUPA, later went on to state why there was a need for this Re-launch while explaining the Euro-Med Youth Platform's state of play. The Platform's composition has changed, it now falls under the Ministry of Education and is hosted by the European Union Programmes Agency and is a pillar of the Youth in Action Programme in Malta. The main aims of the Platform were and remain to bring young people from the region together in an environment of tolerance and mutual understanding, facilitating networking, assisting in the capacity building of our organisations, increasing our participation, sharing of relevant information, and exchanging good practice. The main activities are facilitating networking between all those interested in the youth sector in Europe and the Mediterranean, coordinating a database composed of almost 6000 organisations, assisting in the creation of networks, answering queries and more.



Mr. Pace Parascandolo went on to state that for the past two years one of the main priorities of the Platform has been to assist the MEDA countries in setting up National Youth Federations (NYFs). The idea for this emanated from the need to strengthen youth activity at the regional level. A meeting was already held in December 2007 in Alexandria. Participants were asked to present their visions and aims, challenges which may arise and ultimately, come up with concrete action plans in setting up NYFs. He further explained that the rest of the conference will, amongst other things, be a continuation of this. The website is continuously being restructured. New features have been added, such as a link to all the Euro-Med stakeholders in order to give a picture of who does what in the Euro-Med region. New features will continuously be updated throughout the year such as adding a news section in the website in order to enable more dissemination of information of activities being held in the Euro-Med. A new banner and a new face will also be given to the website. This will provide a more efficient service to

the Euro-Med region. Database entry requirements will be changed. New questions will be asked in order to check whether the partner organisations have some kind of legal status, interests, projects, activities done and so on. This will serve for better accreditation of the database. This process will be ongoing throughout the years.



Mr. Parascandolo further stated that while keeping in mind that the situation in the Euro-Med region may have changed since the launch of the Platform in 2003, the Platform shall conduct a research in order to evaluate if new needs in the Euro-Med region can be identified. Following this exercise the Platform shall develop a mapping exercise in order to establish current affairs in the field of youth in the Euro-Med region, identifying the key

activities of each partner as well as funding opportunities for youth organizations in the region. Fulfilling this objective shall provide the Platform with the opportunity to become a point of reference in the Euro-Med region.

The floor was then passed to Ms. Marzia Conte who spoke about a common Mediterranean identity. She commented about the importance of the Re-launch of the Euro-Med Youth Platform after five years of its inception. The Launch in 2003 responded to the needs of the Mediterranean region at that time and contributed to networking and projects. Although the situation is revolving, these needs are still present today and highlighted the important role that the Platform still can play in assisting in networking and capacity building in an environment with new needs arising and with many challenging projects ahead.

The importance of the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Platform is reaffirmed in the Decision establishing the Youth in Action Programme which confers to the Platform the status of implementing body of the Programme, thus confirming the role that it can play in assisting youth organisations from both sides of the Mediterranean and helping them discover and benefit from the existing opportunities to enhance their capacity and support their activities. Thanks to its geographical position, the Platform plays an important bridging role between the two sides of the Mediterranean, acting as a sort of "central stage" for exchange, cooperation and dialogue in the region.

She further spoke about the Euro-Med Partnership and the Euro-Med Youth Programme, which is now in its decentralisation and third phase. The Barcelona Declaration laid down the foundations for the Euro-Med Youth Programme and stressed that 'Youth exchanges should be the means to prepare future generations for a closer cooperation between the Euro-Mediterranean partners'. Its main purpose is to promote mobility of young people, non-formal education and understanding between nations. It is a compliment to the Youth in Action Programme, an EU funded programme for young people aimed at inspiring a sense of active citizenship, solidarity and tolerance among young Europeans and to involve them in shaping the Union's future. It also promotes mobility within and beyond

EU borders, non-formal learning and intercultural dialogue, and encourages the inclusion of all young people.

Ms. Conte explained how the aforementioned programmes are managed by different structures in the countries and different structures from the European Commission. For the YiA programme National Agencies (NA's) were set up whereas Euro-Med Youth Units (EMYUs) were established for the Euro-Med Youth Programme.

She further stated that the first regional attempt for a federation failed and then in 2003, the idea to establish the Euro-Med Youth Platform in Malta came about. It responded to the needs of that time and helped in networking and partnership building.

On the occasion of the Re-launch, Ms. Conte also claimed that the year 2008 is the European year of Intercultural Dialogue and it should not be promoted only in 2008, but also in the years to come, while also stating that the Platform can be used for this purpose.

The European Commission acknowledges the importance of this role and will keep following closely the Platform's development and performance. To this end, a Steering Committee gathering relevant stakeholders in the field of Euro-Mediterranean youth cooperation was set up when the Platform was launched. It was recently convened and it is set to meet twice a year in order to monitor the Platform's progress and discuss future developments and tasks whilst taking into account the new needs arising in the region.

She concluded by underlining that beyond the institutional support, the Platform belongs to its members, and that their support and commitment is vital to help the Platform live up to their expectations and face the challenge to provide young people and youth organisations from both sides of the Mediterranean with better, more targeted services. She also encouraged the Euro-Med Youth Platform within the EUPA to keep up their efforts in order to meet up this challenge.

Mr. Clyde Puli was excused from attending the Re-Launch.

Later the floor was open to the participants where a question on how the Platform assists



in the creation of networks was done. The answer was that the Platform identifies organisations having the same needs and contacts them requesting whether they would like to form a network and seeing which organisation would like to take the lead. There were also discussions on how the Platform would compliment a Mediterranean Union. Explanation was also given on how the Steering Committee of the Euro-Med Youth Platform is formed. A question on

whether an evaluation of the Platform's impact over the past five years was also done. It

was answered that a direct evaluation was not foreseen, enquiries on the positive and negative impact of the Platform's past was to indirectly be embedded in the seminar that was to follow as well as on the needs analysis to be carried out by the Platform.

Programme: Euro-med Youth Platform Re-Launch and National Youth Federations Initiative Follow-up.

	Wednesday 4th June 2008	Thursday 5th June 2008	Friday 6th June 2008	Saturday 7th June 2008	Sunday 8th June 2008	Monday 9th June 2008
09:30	Arrival of participants	Welcome By Ms Amanda Zammit (EuroMed Youth Platform)	Icebreakers/ Energisers	Icebreakers/ Energisers	Icebreakers/ Energisers	Departure of Participants
10:00		Name Games and Ice breaking games	Session 4 Shared Values to Good Practices	Session 7 Ways to maximize Motivation	Session 10 Follow up - What's Next	
11:00		<i>Coffee Break</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11:30		Contribution by President Emeritus, Profs Guido DeMarco	Inputs from EuroMed Actors: -European Youth Parliament -MEDA Youth Parliament -Anna Lindth Foundation	Inputs from: -Youth in Action -Euromed Youth Platform -SALTO Euro Med and EuroMed Youth Programme	Session 11 Evaluation and concluding speeches	
13:00		Lunch (optional)	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	
15:30		Session 1 Building a Team Culture	Session 5 Essential Skills for networking – Developing a National Youth Federation - Input from the EuroMed Human Rights Network	Session 8 Take action – Make Concrete Plans	Cultural Tour	
17:30	Euromed Youth Platform Re- Launch	<i>Coffee Break</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
18:00		Session 2 Who are we and what have we been doing... Presentations from the different organizations	Session 6 Leadership Management Synergy Workshops	Session 9 Show time – Presentation of action Plans		
20:30	Reception	Dinner	Dinner followed by an International evening	Dinner	BBQ/ Farewell Party	
				Free Evening		

Day 1 –Thursday 4th June 2008.

Welcome by Ms Amanda Zammit

The participants were welcomed to Malta and appreciation of the interest and participation of the youth present was shown. The aims of the seminar were also highlighted. It was noted that although it was a follow-up of the conference in Alexandria in December 2007 whereby a National Youth Federations Initiative was launched, not many participants from Alexandria were present. She further commented that the seminar will also focus on the needs and concrete actions that the Platform should undertake. It was further emphasized that the Platform would like this seminar to be a fruitful collaboration that would lead to more unity between Europe and the Mediterranean and that would leave way to effective networking.



After the welcoming, participants were encouraged to participate in some get to know each other games.

EXPECTATIONS AND FEARS

Participants were asked to share their expectations and fears before beginning the seminar.

The participants expected to:

- get to know more about the different possibilities and actions in the Euro-Med Youth Cooperation
- share experiences
- develop strong ties between the MEDA countries
- build a real network.
- set up new action plans together with others through the Euro-Med Youth Platform
- empower the decision making process for youth
- develop an innovative approach of working
- make a SWOT (strengths, weakness, opportunities, threats) analysis of the real situation
- get more involved in the Euro-Med Youth Platform
- find the process that is the most adequate to follow
- make concrete action plans with sustainability
- give a human rights perspective to youth work

- highlight the problems and suggest solutions of NYF initiative
- exchange experience and practices
- exchange the progress made regarding NYF's
- get to know more NGOs
- increase youth participation
- building more partnerships

They feared that:

- After working hard in the conference everyone would go home and forget about everything.

Contribution by President Emeritus Profs. Guido De Marco

During the seminar, the Euro-Med Youth Platform had the honour to welcome his Excellency, President Emeritus Profs. Guido De Marco. In his speech, Profs. Guido DeMarco welcomed the participants and shared his personal experiences especially with regards to the Euro-Mediterranean relations, while reminding them the important role they should play in strengthening the relations in the region. In his introduction, Profs. DeMarco presented a brief overview of the active role he played in the various positions he held as decision-maker and political figure in shaping Maltese politics from 1966 till 1998 and Malta's foreign policy throughout this period.

Furthermore, Profs. DeMarco provided a unique insight in the UN mechanisms while he held his position as President of the UN General Assembly. He undertook a number of diplomatic initiatives leading to his visit to refugee camps in the Occupied Territories and Jordan (amongst others). While going through a historical overview of the Arab-Israeli conflict, he went on to speak about the great friendship that grew between Arafat and himself. He showed his concern about the Arab-Israeli conflict, and believes that there must be peace in the Mediterranean in order for there to be peace in Europe. He also went on to state that he does not agree with Huntington's theory of a 'clash of civilisations' and stated that both ends of the Mediterranean shores can live in peace without any clashes in cultures.



Building a Team Culture What is needed to form networks?

Participants were encouraged to engage in a team building activity to explore what constitutes a team culture.

Reflection groups were set up and asked the following:

- What did this activity demonstrate about teamwork?
- What can individual members do to stimulate effective teamwork?
- What can you apply from this activity to your own youth set up?



Participants worked in small groups and came up with the following ideas.



- Is fun and playful
- Difficulties can be overcome by collective thinking
- Sharing ideas brings about creative results
- Teams can enable channels to develop towards different topics and fields
- Cooperation has to be linked with compensation
- Teams enable changing leading roles
- The construction of a team process brings about positive results

The group then moved forward to simulate a way on how to establish a network between team cultures. Participants expressed the fact that they became anxious

that in a network their team might change its physiology. However, it was emphasised that flexibility can bring about change. Conclusions brought about a discussion about the fact that networks can only be formed if people are ready to adapt, compromise and accept other team cultures.

Sharing of best practices:

Contribution by the Maltese Youth Council and the Italian Youth Council

National Youth Council - Mr Mario Borg

The National Youth Council (KNZ) is an autonomous entity enjoying a wide national representation of Youth Organisations. It was established by a statute in December 1991, after a period of consultation, national seminars and meetings with youth associations directed at its formulation. It is formally recognised by the Maltese government as the highest youth representative body in Malta.

KNZ aims to help young people to develop attitudes which will enable them to be fully integrated in the National community. It enables young people to play a constructive and disciplined role to build the nation.

KNZ motivates young people and youth organizations to participate actively in civic life. It provides young people with equal opportunities in education, including cultural training to enhance personal growth.

Moreover, it provides a democratic platform uniting Maltese Youth, thereby encouraging discussion. It promotes the exchange of ideas and experiences and gives equal rights and opportunities amongst young people. KNZ has an influence on youth policies at regional and national level.

For more information visit: www.knz.org.mt

Italian Youth Council – Stefano Varlese

The Italian Youth Forum is the only platform for national youth organisations in Italy which guarantees a representation of more than 3.5 million young people. The main aims are that of creating space for discussion and sharing of experiences and best practices between youth. With a view to promoting active participation of youth, it supports the creation of voluntary organisations and promotes the involvement of young people in the social, civil and political spheres of the country. It also encourages organisations to work together and promote projects for the less privileged.

It was further noted that the Italian Youth Forum participates in events both at the national and international level, promotes intercultural dialogue as well as participates in the national and international democratic structures.

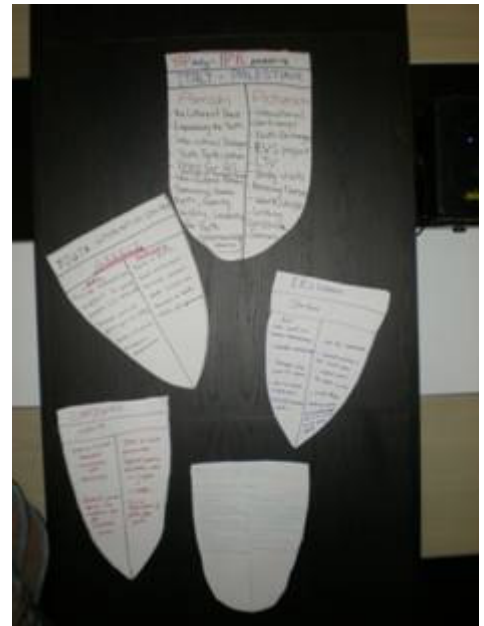
Participants were asked to set a Poster Exhibition to share information about their organisations.

Organisations and NGO's present were the following:

- Italian Youth Form
- College of Europe
- YOFI
- Euro-Med Human Rights Network
- CESIE – Centro Studi ed Iniziative Europea
- PANOIPC
- Youth Info Centre
- European Association of the International Cultural



- Syrian Arab Red Crescent
- CAM Youths
- MAY – Malta Association of Youth Workers



- Youth Exchange Federation
- Azrou Centre for Women Development
- Anatolian Development and Education
- Anna Lindh Foundation
- ALEF
- IRIS Women
- All Art Now
- Regional Human Security Centre
- Euro-Med Youth Parliament
- Associa Med
- Junior Chamber International
- IPYL – International Palestinian Youth League

Essential Skills for Networking

The group was asked to list the essential skills needed to create youth networks. After, the participants were asked to reflect personally on how these aforementioned skills could be improved.

Participants were divided into groups to come up with a needs analysis of leadership and network characteristics. The groups made a presentation to share their experience.

The main highlights evidently showed that the more experience a person acquires, the better the network works. The points which mainly surfaced during the presentations focused on the *self and on the group*. Table 1 gathers the points in general. (See also appendix 1)

Table 1

Improvement of Self	Improvement of Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Communicate with others to get the experience and the expertise * Be open to see and realise that there may be other options to what you are doing * Trust yourself * Be conscious and well informed of the risks you need to take * Inspire yourself to inspire others * Keep commitment * Give deadlines to yourself * Organise yourself * Be open to feedback * Be less judgemental * Share good practices through trainings and seminars * Keep record of experiences * Set a common goal * Remind yourself why you are doing this * Be positive * Have a pluralistic view * Be an active listener * Show appreciation * Motivate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Multiply the discussion circles * Collective ideas ensure a better solution * Set up objectives * Make a common goal * Take concrete actions * Identify the strengths and weaknesses

CONTRIBUTIONS BY EURO-MED STAKEHOLDERS

European Youth Parliament, Euro-med Youth Parliament and MEDA Youth Parliament—Wadia Ait Hamza

The European Youth Parliament (EYP), which was founded in 1987 as the project of a school in Fontainebleau (France), is a unique forum designed to actively engage young people in the moulding of their future society. The EYP represents a non-partisan and independent educational project which is tailored entirely to the needs of the young European citizens.

The EYP encourages independent thinking and socio-political initiative in young people and facilitates the learning of crucial social and professional skills. Since its inauguration, many tens of thousands of young people have taken part in regional, national and international sessions, formed friendships and made international contacts across and beyond frontiers. It has thus made a vital contribution towards the uniting of Europe.

Today the EYP is one of the largest European platforms for political debate, intercultural encounters, political educational work and the exchange of ideas among young people in Europe. The EYP consists of a network of 32 European associations and organisations in which thousands of young people are active in an honorary capacity.

The Euro-Med Youth Parliament

The first Euro-Med Youth Parliament was organised by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the German presidency of the European Union. It involved about 100 participants from 38 countries who exchanged ideas on a wide range of topical issues for the Euro-Mediterranean region. As a follow-up to this initiative, participants developed various youth projects, including the creation of a MEDA Youth Parliament.

The MEDA Youth Parliament

The MEDA Youth Parliament is a counterpart to the European Parliament. Both entities will be grouped in the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Parliament. The MEDA Youth Parliament is the best means to ensure continuity of the event. This will be managed by youth from the Mediterranean area. Through this initiative young people from the Mediterranean region have the opportunity to foster and strengthen South-South dialogue and relations. It also makes it possible for youth across the region to become familiar with international relations, political debate, democratic parliamentary procedure, and policy-making.

See Power Point Presentation on CD

For more information visit: www.eypej.org; www.medayouthparliament.org

The Euromed Human Rights Network - Nour Hemic

The Euro-Med Human Rights network (EMHRN) is composed of more than 80 human rights organisations, institutions and individuals based in 30 countries in the Euro-Mediterranean region. It was established in 1997 as a response to the Barcelona Declaration.

The mission of the EMHRN is to promote and strengthen human rights and democratic reform within the framework of the Barcelona process and EU- Arab cooperation frameworks. This network seeks to develop and strengthen partnerships between NGOs in the Euro-Med region and facilitate development of human rights mechanisms, disseminate the values of human rights and generate capacity in this regard.

Key values that guide and shape the Network include the following:

- the fundamental indivisibility and universality of human rights
- respect for the rule of law and democratic institutions as outlined in various international conventions
- the fundamental value of freedom of expression, assembly and association
- the importance of civil society in the promotion and protection of human rights and the right for civil society to be an active partner in this agenda
- gender equality and the importance of promoting the rights of women
- intercultural approaches to human rights as well as dialogue and the promotion of intercultural understanding
- the right to popular participation and ownership in shaping human rights agendas throughout the region

The objectives of the Network are to:

- actively support and publicise the universal principles and standards of human rights in the Partner States and the whole of the Middle Eastern region, as well as actively highlighting the abuse of rights from whatever source
- critically engage with all dimensions of the Barcelona Process and to maintain a critical stance on the EU's own performance in this regard
- to strengthen, assist and co-ordinate the efforts of its members, especially in contexts where rights are systematically abused or denied
- to support the development of democratic institutions alongside the promotion of the rule of law, the equality of men and women, public education and awareness as well as human rights education
- set up and support all necessary structures and procedures to achieve the above

See Powerpoint Presentation on CD

For more information visit: www.euromedrights.net

SALTO Euromed - Caroline Mayaudon

SALTO Euro-Med aims to bringing both sides of the Mediterranean sea closer. It supports cooperation between European and Mediterranean countries in four ways:

1. Training Opportunities & Events

The SALTO Euro-Med Resource Centre works with National Agencies to propose innovative thematic training courses on Euro-Med Youth priorities. These include the fight against racism, the place of women in society and minority rights among others, and allow participants to integrate these priorities into their own projects.

2. Dissemination of Good Practices

The SALTO Euro-Med Resource Centre compiles and disseminates educational good practices in training and youth work to create a common memory. It:

- Coordinates an on-line "Toolbox" offering users access to different training tools and documents www.salto-youth.net/toolbox.
- Collects "Bringing both sides together" educational training courses reports.
- Publishes the "Meet In Euro-Med" magazine biannually
- Organises a "Tool Fair" every year to give youth actors the chance to share their good practices and to increase their knowledge of newly developed educational tools.

3. Support to Networks

The SALTO Euro-Med Resource Centre supports the network of National Agencies, Euro-Med Youth Units and Multipliers of the YiA Programme with:

- The dissemination of information about relevant issues through the website
- The dissemination of educational good practices in youth work through newsletters on "Euro-Med Cooperation". Newsletters and magazines are also distributed to all partners, both institutional and non-governmental. Moreover, the SALTO Euro-Med Resource Centre responds to particular requests from Euro-Med Youth Units and National Agencies and offers opportunities for job shadowing.

4. Partnerships

The SALTO Euro-Med Resource Centre works in close partnership with several European and Mediterranean institutions.

See Powerpoint Presentation on CD

For more information visit: <http://www.salto-youth.net/euromed/>

Youth in action - Marvic Debono

The Youth in Action (YiA) programme aims at promoting young people's active citizenship especially their European citizenship; develop solidarity and promote tolerance among young people; foster mutual understanding between young people in different countries; contribute to developing the quality of support systems for youth activities and the capabilities of civil society organization in the youth field and to promote European cooperation in the Youth Field.

A brief overview of all the 5 actions of the YiA was given with specific focus on Action 3: Youth in the World, since this is an action whereby Euro-Mediterranean countries (amongst others) can benefit from. Action 3.1. 'Cooperation with the neighbouring countries of the European Union' supports two types of activities 'Youth Exchanges' and 'Training and Networking Projects'. Exchanges can be bilateral, trilateral or multilateral. In all cases at least one Programme Country (EU member-states, EFTA countries and Turkey) must be partner in the project. The organization/NGO coming from the Programme Country must also be the hosting country which will submit the application to their relevant National Agency. Training and networking projects involve cooperation and partnerships, training measures and exchange of good practice for the development of youth organization, civil society and those involved in youth work.

For more information visit: <http://youthmalta.org/>

Setting up Goals

Participants showed the need that the goals of the Euro-Med Youth Platform should be clear and perhaps reorganised since a Re-launch was announced. Many felt that before National Youth Federations are tackled, further focus to strengthen the Euro-Med Youth Platform was essential.

In workshops a number of initiatives based on three pillars a) management, b) information and dissemination and c) training, were put forward. The following is what the participants listed as important for the Euro-Med Youth Platform.

- Advocacy lobbying for specific thematic priorities in the Euro-Med
- Be an open space /place for diverse youth initiatives
- Regular meetings/evaluation and follow up
- Create creative and active networks and share best practice and experiences
- Produce capacity building and training



- Liaise between research/resources, training centres and member organisation on the platform
- Channel of information
- Make the dissemination of projects and activities more visible
- Use the bottom up approach to involve members in discussions
- Organise thematic seminars
- Improve accuracy of data available
- Create an effective and accurate method for collecting data regarding various youth contexts
- Provide information on project funding possibilities
- Have national representation of the platform in each country
- Create an open forum for members with thematic experts
- Train for youth leaders
- Training on project management and building conflict resolutions and moderating

Open Space

After discussing ways on how to build strategies and participating in a hands-on activity (see appendix 2 and 3), participants were then asked to create the spaces to work in. Four spaces were created and each space ended up with one of the following questions.

- Can the Platform be managed better?
- How should we build a country profile? What should we put in it?
- How can we identify the needs of the organisations? What questions should we ask?
- National Youth federations—Who took up actions?

The results of the workshops are the following:

Space 1

Can the Platform be managed better?

The working group proposed that a steering committee be set up to work along side the Euro-Med Youth Platform Secretariat.

The proposed committee, made of a number of national representatives, should aim to propose recommendations on specific needs and focus on the drafting of an action plan to be suggested to the secretariat within the EUPA who will eventually finalise the action plan



It should also aim to make an assessment of Youth NGO's and Map the youth organisations.

The platform should select the members of this committee by applications.

It should consist of 1-2 representatives from each country and another 5 persons representing umbrella organisations. Invitation for experts from regional organisations should also be made. The committee should be balanced geographically and on gender

The working group proposed one meeting a year.

An Added value of this is: Building capacity for youth NGO's, Project management trainings, Human resources trainings, Networking and lobbying trainings

Space 2

How should we build a country profile? What should we put in it?

The Platform should put an on-line database to build the country profiles. It was suggested that this would be validated by a group of experts.

The country profiles should enclose general data related to key issues regarding youth (freedom of association, youth policies and programs, unemployment, and youth population, national level of education...)

There should also be information on special events and news related to youth

Suggestions of thematic profiles:

- Youth and civil society
- National Institutions and youth
- Youth and education/ education rates/
- Youth and economy- youth entrepreneurs

- Youth and politics/ Youth and decision making
- Youth policies

The Data on youth needs is to be organised in a certain way: A methodology is to be set to identify indicators and benchmarks related to youth issues and be able to compare and measure by country the situation in regards to youth.

The indicators (qualitative and quantitative) on youth by country should be related to the socio -political context, to legislation, registered youth NGOs, youth workers in CSOs, population, education, voting age, existence of youth parliament, policies and so on.

Comparative tables and thematic reports, are to be drafted with indicators set to measure the progress and setbacks of youth participation in public life.

Mechanisms

A Steering group will reflect and suggest indicators.

There is a need to organise a workshop on youth indicators with relevant experts and individuals from the field.

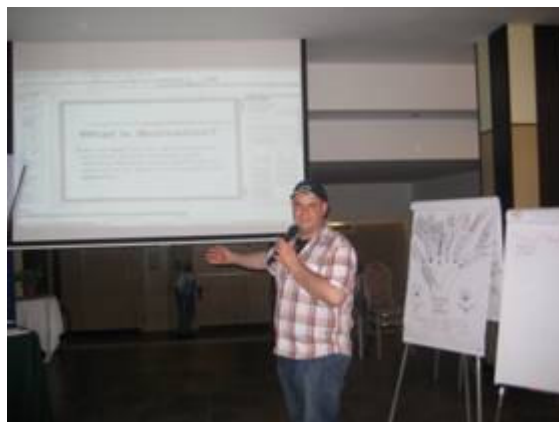
Space 3

How can we identify the needs of the organisations? What questions should we ask?

The group reported that a research is needed to find out what the needs of the organisations are. It proposed to launch a survey to the organisations in the field which would identify problems and challenges of youth organisations and youth CSO workers. The Survey would map, assess and review the needs, challenges, strengths and weakness, problems, practices of youth organisations/youth workers in CSOs/NGOs targeting youth.

It proposed that a questionnaire should be drawn up on the following themes:

- Right to movement
- Financial problems
- Management problems
- Government recognition as a legal body
- Status of youth policy/
Consultation and policy
development
- Participation in the
decision process
- Technical skills
- Networking
- Organizational
development
- Organisation of



- Training and capacity building
- The culture of Democracy

Mechanisms

The working group suggested to form a group of volunteers who participated in this conference to draft the survey questionnaire. The questionnaire will be then sent to all participants for feedback and inputs. Once feedback is given, the group should finalise the survey.

The survey will then be published on the internet and disseminated to at least 10 organisations by country. The working group should encourage the participants of this conference to lobby their network so as to fill out the questionnaire.

A group meeting should then be organised in order to discuss the results of the questionnaires, the outline of the analysis and also the review. Experts should be invited to the meeting. A workshop should then be organised to discuss the conclusions and recommendations from the survey and set action plans for the future.



Space 4

National Youth federations - Who took up actions?

This space was supposed to be a follow-up of the National Youth Federations Initiative already held in Alexandria. Not many participants from the first meeting were present. Thus, not much could be achieved. However, Morocco has made some advances with regards to establishing NYF's.

To date, the Moroccan Youth Forum has around 10 member associations, and created regional coordination as following:

Coordinations already set-up		
Coordination Salé	Coordination Salé Jadida	Coordination Marrakech/Agadir
Coordination Casablanca	Coordination Temara	Coordination Mohamedia
Coordination Khenifra/Mrirt	Coordination Meknes	Coordination Fes
Coordination El Jadida		
In progress of being set up		
Laayoune	Tata	

There are also various activities and others that are in progress, for instance:

- Consultation meetings for the launch of a Moroccan Youth Parliament with 3 leaders of political parties, 3 ministers and some NGOs and stakeholders.
- Creation of a club under the Moroccan Youth Forum for youth urban culture which will take the cultural part in charge.
- Plans are also envisaged to launch an observatory for youth studies.
- Plans are also envisaged to launch a youth *caravane* in six regions on development and later organise a conference at the national level with all the work gathered and which will then be published in a book.
- In partnership with the Royal Institute for Youth and Democracy, the Moroccan Youth Forum will be launching an initiative of training 30 youth trainers on political culture
- Together with the Arabic newspaper "Al Jarida al ouwla", the Moroccan Youth Forum will be launching a competition for the Youth Journalism Award.
- In a partnership with the National Center for Youth Media Archives, Moroccan youth shall be launching activities about human rights as well as organising a conference on democracy and youth participation.
- In partnership with the National Center for Youth media they shall launch activities related to human rights. This included a Conference on Democracy and Youth Participation.
- On an international level, they have already received positive feedbacks and requests for opening coordination with Canada, France and Spain.

Jordanian participants have reported that since the seminar in Alexandria, they have been working on establishing the Federation and have sent the proper requests in line with their ministries.

Evaluation

The group evaluation was very positive and encouraging. The participants were asked whether the conference was relevant to them, what was the level of interactivity, how was the support from the trainer and their peers and whether the environment the conference was held in suited their needs. The following table provides a synthesis of the results:

Relevance to participant	Level of Interactivity	Support from Trainer	Support from Peers	Conference Environment
Very Good	Very Good	Excellent	Good	Suitable

Other remarks provided by the participants were the following:

- ◆ More respect from participants during presentations
- ◆ More European Union Countries present
- ◆ Another trainer would have put less burden on the only trainer
- ◆ The suggestions made should be followed up some way or other or else we

- ♦ would achieve nothing
- ♦ More time for the organisations to talk about the work they do
- ♦ A desire to achieve the goals they have set up
- ♦ Participants should come well prepared

Concluding Remarks & Follow-up



On the whole there was the general feeling that the seminar was successful and that the objectives had been reached. With regards to some of the proposals brought forward, training falls under the remit of SALTO, thus the Platform would end up duplicating SALTO's sphere of work. However, plans to cooperate with SALTO Euro-Med are in the pipeline. Links to information on project funding have already been provided on our website. Moreover, the Platform is set to work on a mapping exercise of the main stakeholders in the Euro-Med region. Thus, information on funding shall also be provided in this way. The participants made their voices heard and showed their desire to be closer to the Platform by being an advisory body with regards to decision-making. All the suggestions were taken on board, and after internal discussions within the Platform's Secretariat it was decided that a Working group would be created. This working group is to meet in Malta by the end of the year to discuss the needs analysis questionnaire and to help in its distribution. Consequently, the working group could meet on a yearly basis in order to discuss issues pertaining to the Euro-Med Youth Platform. This would ensure a bottom-up approach, involving members in discussions as requested.

Participants' List

Name	Surname	Country	Organisation
Salina	Abaza	Syria	MEDA Youth Parliament
Wadia	AitHamza	Morocco	EMY Parliament
Lina	Alhafez	Syria	Syrian Arab Red Crescent
Enass	Alrafei	Jordan	Regional Human Security Centre
Bunyamin	Atici	Turkey	Anatolian Development and Education
Majd	Beltaji	Palestine	IPYL – International Palestinian Youth League
Abir	Boukhari	Syria	All Art Now
Sarah	Cherrabi	Morocco	Azrou Center for Women Development
Youssef	Chihi	Morocco	College of Europe
Avi	Elisha	Israel	YOFI
Omneya	Farouk	Egypt	Anna Lindh
Florian	Fischer	Germany	European Association of the International Cultural Youth Exchange Federation
Anastasia	Kyriakidou	Greece	Youth Info Centre
Emna	Jaomoussi	Tunisia	Associa Med
Varlese	Stefano	Italy	Italian Youth Forum
Nour	Hemici	Denmark	EMHR – Euro-med Human Rights Network
Sameh	Jabari	Palestine	IPYL – International Palestinian Youth League
Vito	Lafata	Italy	CE.S.I.E Centro Studi ed Iniziative Europeo
Caroline	Mayaudon	France	SALTO
Yamina	Mechri	Tunisia	EMY Parliament
Carine	Rizk	Lebanon	ALEF
Marie C.	Testa	Malta	CAM Youths
Rasa	Visockiene	Lithuania	PANOIPC
Dima	Zannuneh	Jordan	IRIS Women
Jouini	Zied	Tunisia	Junior Chamber International
Franklin	Calleja	Malta	MAY - Malta Association of Youth Workers

Handouts given:

Appendix 1

Leadership Characteristics

Use it to learn about yourself and what characteristics you would like to improve.

Rate yourself from 1 - 5

(1 = applies to me; 5 = I need to improve or develop this characteristic)

<i>Characteristic</i>	Rating	Who, where, what will help me improve in this area
Influence others while knowing when and how to follow		
Consider how to do things creatively and different		
Willing to take risks to propose new ideas and support those of others		
Inspire others towards a hopeful vision of the future		
Follow through with and keep commitments		
Recognised for being very fair		
Develop and nurture effective working relationships		
Share expertise and knowledge to		

<i>Characteristic</i>	Rating	Who, where, what will help me improve in this area
help others develop		
Remain positive and productive during times of uncertainty and change		
Foster respect and appreciation of people's differences		
Listen and attempt to understand others		
Clearly and respectfully express own needs, concerns, and views		
Respond in a timely way to the concerns of others		
Share communication in a clear way, via e-mail, reports, and conversations		
Show appreciation for a job well done		
Involve others in problem-solving and decision-making		
Encourage team to regularly assess its effectiveness		
Manage time and resources efficiently		
Make appropriate decisions, even under pressure		

<i>Characteristic</i>	Rating	Who, where, what will help me improve in this area

Developed in part from material in *Organizational Leadership Development: Personal Resources Handbook*, Environmental Health, Seattle-King County Department of Public Health, January, 1999, pp. 21-26.

Appendix 2

Planning Strategically

As a group, you have 4 tasks to achieve within Maximum 30 minutes. These tasks might bring you in different places of the Area. For achieving the mentioned tasks, a group has to create a strategic plan. The rules of the game are to follow exactly the strategic plan.

Tasks for Group A

- Ask a 50 yr old Maltese man about his definition of Strategy
- Find out the Story of ‘Gahan u il- bieb’
- Take a group picture of the nicest place in the area
- Bring back an object representing *network*

Tasks For Group B

- Ask a foreign 30 yr old woman about her definition of strategy
- Find out the story of L-assedju il-kbir
- Take a group picture in the ugliest place in the area
- Bring back an object representing *network*

Tasks For Group C

- Ask a child about the definition of strategy
- Find out about the traditional Maltese Song ‘Lanċa Ġejja u ohra sejra’
- Take a group picture in the ugliest place in the area
- Bring back an object representing *network*

Group: STRATEGIC PLAN TO FOLLOW

Who's Doing What?

Time Allocation / Time Management

How can you prove the achievements of the tasks? What outcomes should be brought?

Recommendations

Alternative Solutions if...