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# Introduction

MUYA's third committee was elected on the 5th of April 2009.

In its third year, the committee has met thirteen times and organised three local events for its members and/or the public.

The Association has participated in nine international projects with 30 opportunities for youths to travel for these events. The Association has also applied to organise a training course about social inclusion on the 1st of February 2010 deadline of the Youth in Action Programme however this was not approved due to lack of funding.

MUYA has been successful in its work to send its first member on European Voluntary Service since it has been accredited as a sending organisation in 2009.

During this last year, Malta UNESCO Youth Association also became a member of the FLARE Network and has also a member on the Executive Committee of the National Youth Council (KNZ).

# **Participation in International Youth Projects by MUYA Members**

## **EU Carol - IASI Romania, 16 – 24 April 2009**

Organisers: Asociatia de Tineret "FlyNet"

Number of Participants: 36 people

MUYA participants: Clinton Saliba, Jeffrey Saliba, Pauline Saliba, Audrey Spiteri, Antoinette Rapinette and Alison Bonnici

The aim of this exchange was to create a song or carol for Europe, based on the different traditions and religions of the participants. In order to do this, the participants were invited to perform traditional dances, sing songs from their country, and relate some of the main traditions tied to festivities celebrated in winter of their respective country such as Christmas and Easter.

Some of the activities included also walks in woods, a treasure hunt, participation in the international evening, and a campfire. For the final presentation, the participants from the different countries worked together to get one song for Europe for winter traditions. The song consisted of a verse from different Christmas songs in different languages put together. The dance consisted of a traditional dance from the different countries to match the song. During the presentation of the EU Carol and dance, the Romanian Mayor of the village was there. Some villagers were also there, showing Romanian traditional dances and songs to accompany the EU Carol.

## **FoodforThought – Torino, Italy, 24 April – 5 May 2009**

Organisers: Associazione Joint - Torino

Number of Participants: 54 people

MUYA participants: Christianne Caruana, Jurgen Galea, Ryan Bonnici, Adrian Fenech, Giovann Attard

FoodforThought was a youth exchange held in Torino that had the aim to give participants enough information and skills about healthy eating and healthy food. The exchange lasted 11 days and most of the activities were held in a restaurant in Torino. 9 countries participated in the exchange and every evening each country cooked dinner for all the other participants. While cooking dinner, participants from the other countries could go to the kitchen and follow the making of particular recipes and ask question about the dishes being prepared. These sessions were very interesting and it was a very good opportunity to learn how to cook dishes of different countries.

During the day, various activities were held regarding food and taste appreciation. One activity consisted in the participants going to shop for food at the Torino market, and with the limited budget allocated to each group, they had to create a lunch for them to eat and the other participants to taste. The participants had to ensure that they food they got was fresh and healthy for a reasonable price. Tasting competitions were a main part of the activities, were each participant was blindfolded and had to guess names of herbs or spices, or taste a particular dish and guess the ingredients. These activities were intended for the participants to learn to appreciate all the ingredients we use in our daily food.

The youth exchange provided for a lot of educational trips as well such as a visit to the University of Gastronomical Sciences in Bra. Over there the participants had the opportunity to meet with students at the university and also with the rector of the university, Prof. Carlo Petrini, the person who founded the Slow Food Movement. Other visits included a dairy farm and a wine producer. A street festival was organised on the last day of the exchange were the participants could display their food on the streets of Torino, where lot of people from the local community attended and tasted the food.

## **Re-use Your Imagination - Athens, Greece, 8 - 15 May 2009**

Organisers: European Village

Number of Participants: 20 people

MUYA participants: Birgit Oidram, Lisa Baldacchino, Nestor Laiviera, Christian Debono, Matthew Sammut

The whole programme was dedicated to the concepts of recycling and re-using natural resources. The seven-day event funded through the Youth In Action Programme consisted of various workshops, ranging from building a wind-generator to making bags from old clothes, wallets from paper, and jewellery from different things. While building the wind-generator the participants had the opportunity to get acquainted with several tools but the exercise also helped to show how much the renewable energy technology is within our grasp. All workshops were designed to benefit from the highest level of creativity of the participants and took place in a refreshing green patch, just outside the centre of Athens. All workshops took place under a roofed cabin in the middle of a park in Athens, the same park where the residence the participants stayed in was located. The outcome of the project was an increased awareness of how to recycle and re-use different materials.

## **Launch of iloveculture.eu Project - Estonia, May 2009**

Organisers: Pink Sweater

Number of Participants: 20 people

MUYA participants: Birgit Oidram

I love culture.eu has to aim to create portal for international youth activities. It aims to make international youth activities more visible and provide tools for organisations to spread their results. This will be done by inviting ngo's to post videos and information about past events and can post upcoming events, such as seminars, exchanges, call for participants etc. The project is between 9 countries: Malta, Slovenia, Holland, Poland, Turkey, Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia, Spain, and each country is promoting this project on a national level.

MUYA is the national contact point of iloveculture.eu, and as such had the duty to find partner youth organisations to participate in the training courses and seminars organised by Pink Sweater to finally be able to launch the portal in June 2010. The partner youth organisations of MUYA are TDM 2000, Moving Theatre and San Lawrenz Youth from Gozo.

The information session attended on behalf of MUYA by Birgit Oidram, who is also the coordinator of this project from Malta served to set out a programme of activities that needed to be carried out during the year to provide the participants of the different countries with enough skills to create the portal. Eventually, a seminar and a training course were organised later on with this regard in Slovenia and the Netherlands.

## **I & the Ecology – Subotica, Serbia, 9 – 17 July 2009**

Organisers: Youth & Eco Life

Number of Participants: 20 people

MUYA participants: Philip Caruana, CJ Saliba, Ingrid Darmanin, Andrew Grech and Christopher Galea

This youth exchange had the topic of ecological awareness building in connection with healthy lifestyles promoted by recreational and/or sport activities. The participants had the opportunity to spend 9 days next living amongst nature. They slept in tents next to Lake Palic. During the 9 days various activities were organised to explain the topic of ecology and the concept of reducing and recycling waste.

Apart from that, the participants were offered the chance to hike, swim, participate in photography workshops, create art outdoor, perform, which were all based on the principles of sharing similarities and differences of ways of life, and learning how to live and work together in harmony with nature.

## **Creative Inclusion – Include Creativity – Breitenbrunn, Austria, 30 September – 7 October 2009**

Organisers: AudioAktiv

Number of Participants: 25 people

MUYA participants: Christianne Caruana

The objective of this training course was to develop a process of reflection and action about the use of arts and so-called young medias as tools to promote participation of young people in their communities and the possibility to fulfill their needs, interests, dreams and expectations through creativity.

Various workshops were held in order to achieve the above objectives on the meaning of art, and the definition of young medias. A loesje workshop was also held on the theme of creative and social inclusion of which posters were distributed among the shops of the local community. An important activity on communication was held where the participants were divided in groups and had to ask the local inhabitants questions regarding the meaning of youth work and youth participation in their village and beyond.

## **Think Outside The Box - Frassilongo, Italy, 15 – 22 November 2009**

Organisers: Joint - Milano

Number of Participants: 21 people

MUYA participants: Caroline Grech, Jeanella Ebejer and Clara Attard

The title of the project was “Think outside the box”. It was held in Frassilongo, Italy, and it was about how the media affects people and influences society’s opinions. The main aims of the project were to provide skills for media understanding and help the participants develop tools for critical thinking. The Maltese participants were. The participants were from Estonia, Romania, UK, Portugal, Italy and Turkey.

## **Active Citizen 2.0 - Paris, France, 16 – 20 January 2010**

Organisers: French Federation of UNESCO Clubs

Number of Participants: 8 people

MUYA participants: Sarah Suda, Joanna Bonnici

This feasibility visit had two main objectives. The first one was topic orientated and consisted in reflecting about the use of Information Technology (IT) in the youth work. The second one was more structural and consisted in setting up an efficient and sustainable cooperation among the European UNESCO clubs network. This cooperation is based on the involvement of a small group of partners (reinforced by external associations) and on the development of new projects involving the all network.

The first day of the feasibility visit started with defining needs and expectations of every partner. The main points identified were:

- The need to have stable partners
- The need for tools and competences related to the promotion of the activities
- The wish to support international projects in order to strengthen local projects
- The wish to support the creativity of young people
- The need for new financial sources
- The need for a permanent structure to centralise activities
- The need to exchange examples of good practice
- The need and the wish to reinforce the links with UNESCO
- The wish to support the understanding and visibility of the ideas of UNESCO
- The wish to develop a practical approach for all the big international priorities
- The wish to create links between the world of culture and the world of youth

Among all these points, there was also a general understanding for a crucial need to strengthen our links with UNESCO. This has to do in principle with the fact that we are part of a movement which is indirectly linked to the international organisation. We are part of this movement because we wish to defend the values of UNESCO. On the other hand, it is not always evident to work with the thematic priorities and the work done by the organisation as most of the time they are linked to institutions or to concrete projects carried through outside of Europe.

Considering this situation, we have spent a certain time to identify the priorities of UNESCO and to identify our potential and resources to translate them into concrete actions in Europe.

As a conclusion of this phase the participants identified a topic that concerns and is relevant to the entire group:

### **The promotion and the protection of cultural heritage in modern society**

Why are we interested in this subject:

The cultural heritage is a historical priority of UNESCO. In spite of this, the image connected to this priority is not dynamic at all. For most of the people it consists just in the protection of buildings and monuments and its protection in case of local conflicts.

For us, the cultural heritage represents a fundamental element of the general concept of cultural diversity. (and even more since the international recognition of the importance of intangible heritage)

For us, the identification and understanding of cultural heritage doesn't concern only monuments and ancient pieces of art. It is also connected with actual social practices (Interaction, communication), artistic practices and entertainment (music, cinema, video games...), linguistic practices...

The recognition of all these practices by young people seems to us one of the fundamental steps towards a world of peace and sustainable development.

Starting from the identification of the theme that connected us, we also consciously decided to change the provisional programme of the feasibility visit, in order to allow us to efficiently explore this new dynamic.

It is therefore natural that the participants dedicated the afternoon of this first day to identify the stakes and the good practices related to this new topic. We especially focused on:

- The link between the topic and environmental questions
- The possibilities of linking this topic with the world of culture and especially with artistic practices
- The possible link between cultural heritage and the digital world
- Innovative methods to promote cultural heritage
- The possibilities to treat this topic in the frame of non formal education

In the end, to satisfy the initial objective which was linked to the use of IT in the projects of young people, we dedicated a morning of the second day to reflect about the potential of IT in the promotion and protection of cultural heritage in modern society.

This permitted us to exchange and share our understanding and knowledge of good practices, especially in the frame of:

- the realisation of sensibilisation campaigns via internet
- the adaptation of audiovisual tools to support the participation of young people
- the impact of IT in the visibility of local and international projects

The afternoon of this second day was dedicated to the definition of the multi-measure project (MMP) connected to this topic.

In the beginning we had to contact the National Agency of Youth in Action, because there were a certain number of points the participants didn't understand. In particular about the fact that it is not possible to make projects under action 4.3 and action 1.2 under the same MMP (which was our first intention).

Therefore the group defined the general frame of MMP and identified the specific themes of each step of the project. We decided for the development of a MMP which consist of:

- One seminar to identify the good practices related to the promotion and protection of cultural heritage according to young people
- One training to get new competences which enable to realise local projects together with young people
- One seminar aiming to gain new competences related to the promotion and projection of cultural heritage in the virtual world (IT)
- One evaluation seminar to draw conclusions of the steps taken and to plan a new series of international activities directly involving young people (local projects, international youth exchanges...)

In the original programme of this feasibility visit, the morning of the 3rd day had been dedicated to the meeting with the representatives of the UNESCO in order to get information about the different support possibilities and measures (financial, material, intellectual) of the organisation. Unfortunately, the people we identified to be of value weren't available on that day. Therefore we dedicated one part of the morning to research via the webpage of UNESCO content that was connected to our topic. At the same time we worked in small groups to deepen the subtopics chosen for the MMP

The afternoon of the 3rd day was dedicated to:

- identification of potential partners for the MMP
- The sharing of responsibilities between the participants of the feasibility visit.
- Defining a concrete action plan with dates.

## **Multimedia Training – Izola, Koper, Slovenia, within iloveculture Project, 22 – 31 January 2010**

Organisers: Pink Sweater

Number of Participants: 40 people

MUYA participants: Daniel Mifsud, Dustin Zammit, Josef Micallef, Michael Schembri, Dorianne Formosa

The Multimedia Training was the second part of the iloveculture.eu project. It was intended to show the participants through a series of workshops how to make videos, photos and articles about youth activities for online media.

Unfortunately the third part of the project, which had to consist of a seminar in Nijmegen in the Netherlands with the aim of teaching the participants how to develop their own international youth projects, had to be cancelled due to the ash produced by the volcano in Iceland. The project was meant to be held between 19 – 26 April 2010.

# **International Projects carried out by MUYA in Malta**

## **Rightly Yours Rightly Mine – St Julians, Malta, 26 – 30 June 2009**

The project was a Training Course aimed to provide non-formal learning methods to young people and people who work with youngsters regarding human rights and their application of such projects within the YiA programme. Knowledge of human rights is essential in today's multicultural, and people working in youth NGOs should be able to see that human rights are being observed and respected. During the Training Course youth leaders were given the knowledge and tools to pass on to young people within their organisations. The Training Course included workshops, discussions and information sessions which were aimed to: raise awareness on human rights and duties, intercultural conflict management; promote cultural understanding, and build strategic partnerships for follow-up projects on human rights and provide tools and material to disseminate to local community. The four-day seminar, which took place in St. Julians – Malta, included the involvement of eighteen participants from ten EU countries.

The activities implemented during the project were informative presentations, small group discussions, workshops, evaluation sessions, visits and intercultural informal activities:

### Informative presentations

Universal declaration of human rights – an outline

Freedom of Speech

Discrimination and human rights

### Small Group Discussions

Universal Declaration of human rights – how it helps us to respect other humans?

### Workshops

Human rights collage – what are human rights?

Creating a country – putting human rights into practice

Writing a children's book about human rights – dissemination of information

Loesje workshop – promoting human rights through creative writing and posters

### Visit

Balzan Open Centre – Dealing with human rights in difficult situations

### Evaluation

Walking Reflection – individual evaluation of the training course

Evaluation forms

## **Local Activities**

### **Tolerance – A Mutli-Religious Perspective – 21st May 2009, Islamic Centre**

Following Celebration of Tolerance which was held in November 2008, MUYA in collaboration with the Malta Branch of the World Islamic Call Society, organised an event entitled: Tolerance, A Multi Religious Perspective. Speakers from the Hindu, Catholic, and Muslim communities shared with the audience the meaning of tolerance according to their faith. Anthropologist Dr Ray Xerri continued by giving a speech on Convincing the Populace to choose Tolerance, which was followed by comments from the representatives of the political parties. Christianne Caruana and Sarah Suda presented a powerpoint presentation on the principles of UNESCO with regards to tolerance. This was followed by a closing message from the World Islamic Call Society.

### **Crocus Project – September 2009 – March 2010**

The Crocus Project is a perennial international project with schools participating from Ireland, UK, USA, Poland, Spain, Israel and Croatia and now Malta. The aim of the project is to introduce the subject of the Holocaust and its effects to school children so as to raise awareness on the issues of racism, discrimination and prejudice towards those different from us.

The Holocaust Education Trust Ireland – HETI, which is the administrator of this project, provides guidelines and information for teachers to help them during the activities. These resources complement other material regarding integration and acceptance of others that is already present in the school curriculum. The involvement of children in planting the Crocus bulbs is meant to instil in them the values of tolerance and respect. The planting of the bulbs occurs in Autumn and this is done to commemorate the half million Jewish children and thousands of other children that perished during the Holocaust. Since in Malta Crocus does not flower, it was decided with HETI that Maltese children were to be provided with narcissus. What is important that yellow flowers are used in recalling the yellow Stars of David that the Jews had to wear under the Nazist regime. The plants started flowering in Malta in March however the schools commemorated the International Day of Tolerance on 27<sup>th</sup> January by organising various events. Such as inviting persons who lived during this period to recount the Holocaust from their experience, other schools read books that commemorated World War II and other books such as the Boy in the Striped Pyjamas and the Diary of Anne Frank. All the schools observed one minute of silence as a sign of respect towards the children that perished in this unfortunate event.

MUYA, with the help of the Education Division identified 23 schools that were interested in participating in this project and distributed hundreds of bulbs to all the children. On

29<sup>th</sup> March 2010, MUYA organised a press conference where it presented the outcomes of the project. The event included short speeches by the children regarding their experience of the Crocus project.

## **Application for SMILE – SMALL ME IN LARGER EUROPE**

MUYA applied for a youth exchange on 1st February 2010 entitled SMILE regarding small communities in Europe. This project was intended to bring together young people from geographically isolated areas in Europe so as to share their experiences and learn through non-formal education about the various realities that they face in their daily lives.

The idea of this project came about from the realisation that there is a need for the larger European Community to reach out, recognise and show greater appreciation towards people that live in the remote areas of the European continent. Through this project MUYA wanted to show that although these communities are small in size they have a rich cultural heritage which enhances the European identity.

The project was aimed to help the participants realise that although they are coming from small communities, they still have much to contribute to the larger European identity through their folklore, traditions, language, and culture. On the other hand, during this project the participants would have been able to share the disadvantages that they face because of their geographical isolation, such as the issue of having no other choice but to emigrate to the big cities to seek opportunities that their small community is unable to provide. Furthermore, they could have also shared the difficulties that are brought about when moving to a different reality such as that of studying, working and surviving in circumstances which are completely different to those that they were brought up in and know so well. Nonetheless, an important objective which we had aimed to achieve was that of finding a way how to change the latter issues into positive opportunities.

Unfortunately, the project was shelved due to lack of funds, however the Committee agreed that it will resubmit the application on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010.

## **Social outing at Ta' L-Ingliz in Valletta for MUYA Members**

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2010, MUYA members met for drinks at Ta' L-Ingliz in Valletta. This was a good opportunity to meet up in a relaxed environment with the old members and also greet new ones. During this event the Committee announced the date of the AGM and invited all to attend.

## **Election of a MUYA Member on KNZ Executive**

On 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010, MUYA attended to the Annual General Assembly of the National Youth Council. During this AGM, MUYA Member, Anson Aquilina was elected on the Executive as EU Officer.

## **1st MUYA Member to go on EVS**

MUYA will be sending its first member on EVS. Cathleen Tanti will be starting her EVS in Greece in August 2010 with the United Society of the Balkans.

# Memberships

## FLARE Network

Contacts were made in summer 2010 on the possibility of MUYA to join the FLARE Network. FLARE is a network of civil society organisations committed to social struggle against transnational organised crime. Founded in 2008, it is composed of more than 40 NGOs from 30 countries across Europe, Mediterranean basin, Russian Federation, Caucasus and the Balkans.

FLARE's work is focused on informing civil society about topics such as human trafficking, drug trafficking, corruption and information, eco-crimes, money laundering, illegal weapons trade and energy policies. It also intends to support those people who have fallen victims of international organised crime by getting in touch with their families. Youngsters too are a very important target group and tool for our activities as we believe the fight against organised crime begins with raising awareness among our young generations. Additionally, it intends to make pressure onto European Union institutions for implementing a model for countering transnational organised crime that entails the confiscation and the re-use for social purposes of criminal assets.

The FLARE Network is able to set in motion people from over thirty countries through the efforts of our network, which represents an outstanding tool to give to the civil society a leading role in the fight against transnational organised crime.

On 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010, Philip Caruana attended the FLARE Network's annual assembly during which MUYA was anonymously elected to join

Josef Micallef attended the launch of the FLARE Youth Platform held last 20th March 2010. This Platform is a branch of FLARE, where it focuses on training the trainers

# Upcoming Projects and Activities

Publication of Universal Declaration on Human Rights for Children

Launching iloveculture.eu website

Setting Up of Conference of Democratic Elections in collaboration with FLARE Network

Re-applying for SMILE Project

Crocus 2010/11

Approved

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