

WHAT'S NEW IN YFU?

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European Year of Intercultural Dialogue

The European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (EYID) continues with a lot of events related to the topic at both national and European level.

The year has been officially launched in most European countries by now and the first of seven Brussels Debates within the framework of the EYID and hosted by the European Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture has been held in Brussels in the beginning of this month (read more about it on page 2 of this newsletter).

If you want to stay updated on what is happening regarding the EYID and want to get more information about it in general, please visit <http://www.dialogue2008.eu> (available in all official languages of the EU).

EYID Rainbow Paper

EEE-YFU was actively involved in preparations for the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue throughout 2007. As member of the Rainbow Platform, a Civil Society Platform for Intercultural Dialogue, EEE was involved in drafting the Rainbow Paper during several meetings and retreats in 2007. The platform was created upon an idea by the European Cultural Foundation and the European Forum for Arts and Heritage to find ways to advance the practice of intercultural dialogue in urban environments. The platform consists not only of organisations from the fields of education and culture, but also of organisations within other fields, in order to have a cross sectoral approach to this topic which touches a lot of sectors in reality, and also to build and strengthen cooperation between the different sectors.

The Rainbow Paper was presented at the opening conference of the EYID in Ljubljana this January and contains recommendations to help shape a cross-cutting and effective Agenda for Intercultural Dialogue in Europe.

Find the paper for download as well as more information about the Rainbow Platform and the Rainbow Paper on

<http://www.efah.org/index.php?id=153&pagelang=en>.

1st Brussels Debate on "Intercultural Dialogue"

On 5 March 2008 the first Brussels Debate took place in Brussels. EVS Intern Stefanie Muller attended the event on behalf of EEE-YFU. It was themed "Integrating Conversations: The Impact of Migration on Intercultural Dialogue".

Keynote speakers

The debate's high-level keynote and guest speakers were Bashy Quraishy, chair of the advisory council of the European Network Against Racism, Cem Özdemir (German MEP), Joris Rijbroek (strategic advisor for diversity and integration policy for the city of Amsterdam and the vice president of the European Commission, Franco Frattini (Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security). A recent report from the Brussels-based Migration Policy Group and the British Council indicated that Europe is not doing enough to integrate immigrants from outside the Union. The Commissioner said that the Commission was already in the process of creating new measures which should make integration of migrants in the EU easier, he stressed though that even though he values intercultural dialogue, he cannot go as far as to tolerate the violation of European core values and individual rights.

Mobility and cooperation

Bashy Quraishy on the other hand was speaking from the point of view of an immigrant, saying that he prefers the terms "mobility" instead of "immigration" and "cooperation" instead of "dialogue".

He pointed out that the fear of many Europeans, that immigrant minorities wanted to dominate the culture of their new home countries, did not reflect the reality, as immigrants had chosen to become Europeans and had the same priorities in life as any other

European citizen, like living a secure life, good education for themselves and their children, a functioning social life and access to a fair legal system.

We the People of Amsterdam

With a programme called "We, the people(s) of Amsterdam", the city of Amsterdam is trying to stimulate social cohesion. Joris Rijbroek shared his experiences with the programme and told about several projects that are carried out mostly by local authorities in cooperation with local (minority) associations and networks (e.g. A Ramadan Festival or City Olympics where different ethnical groups were competing in disciplines like dancing and cooking, etc.).

Meeting the challenge of Intergaion

The German MEP Cem Özdemir, who is of Turkish origin himself, stated that usually neither the native population of a country, nor people immigrating to that country are prepared for the challenges of integration and that integration also means a great effort for the natives, which shouldn't be forgotten. He said that both sides had to work together in order to make integration successful and that they should not only point out problems, but also actively involve in finding solutions together.

It was an interesting debate, although there was not too much time for discussions with the audience. In fact it was not that much about intercultural dialogue in general, but more about the importance of interreligious dialogue regarding Migration and Integration. There will be another Brussels debate on especially that topic coming up in May 2008. In the course of 2008 there will be another six Brussels Debates. The debates are open to everybody who is interested in the subject. —by *Stefanie Muller*

EEE-YFU Board meeting

The board of EEE-YFU held its board meeting in Gothenburg, Sweden on 22-24 February 2008.

The board discussed recent developments regarding the Individual Pupil Mobility Programme (IPM), Educational strategy, website development as well as the EEE workplan for 2008.

Among other things EEE-YFU is planning to set up interest groups on several topics within the European YFU Volunteer Network. More information about that will follow in the coming newsletters.

IPM Update

In February EEE-YFU office director attended a meeting on the IPM held by EFIL and attended by the pilot coordinators of the meeting. From YFU Germany, Holger Dudzus and Mareike Von Raepke were present, and representing YFU Estonia was Kadi Saar. Pii Heinamaki from the European Commission was also present to hear comments from the coordinators on the pilot as well as providing their advice/suggestions for the eventual programme. The input was received gratefully from the Commission's side. They are currently in the process of designing the eventual programme, which should be launched in 2009 or 2010.

To help prepare for the eventual programme EEE-YFU will hold a meeting on IPM for national organisations in Brussels on the 17 May.

Read a more detailed report about the IPM in the next newsletter.

Calls for participation

CoE- Intercultural Language Programme

As in previous years the Council of Europe is offering Intercultural Language Courses in six languages in the summer of 2008. These languages are French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish and Arabic. Each of the courses will be held in a country where the language is spoken for a duration of between three and four weeks. Apart from intensive language courses the participants will also get knowledge about human rights education, intercultural learning and intercultural dialogue and on youth work in general. The courses are a unique opportunity to spend a longer time period together with other youth workers from different backgrounds and countries.

The following courses will be organized:

-Intercultural French Language Course

Strasbourg, France; 6 August to 3 September

-Intercultural German Language Course

Kassel, Germany; 28 July to 22 August

-Intercultural Spanish Language Course

Mollina, Spain 7 to 25 July (participants preferably from non-EU countries)

-Intercultural Russian Language Course

Moscow, Russian Federation; 23 June to 19 July

-Intercultural Italian Language Course

Provincia Autonoma di Trento, Italy; 30 June to 19 July

-Intercultural Arabic Language Course

Morocco; 30 June to 25 July or 7 July to 1 August (to be confirmed)

If you are interested in taking one of the language courses above, please contact intern@eee-yfu.org before **30 March 2008** for more information on how to apply.

Participant Profile: The intercultural language courses are for people who are actively involved in youth work and want to use the language knowledge gained within their youth organization. They should be between **18-30 years** old and well informed about their local organization/structure as well as the international/national supporting structures. An interest in the intercultural dimension of the course and a clearly identified need for developing intercultural language competences are crucial. Applicants agree to be involved in a follow-up activity of value to their organization.

The intercultural language courses are not for complete beginners or for people with an advanced level of the language.

Potential value for YFU: The intercultural language courses are an opportunity for capacity building for youth organizations. The skills gained can be used on the national as well as on the international work context of YFU and e.g. for the establishment of new organisations.

Calls for participation

Call for facilitators: French Presidency Youth Event: “Intercultural dialogue in the EuroMed area” in Marseille, France; 5-9 July 2008

The French Presidency of the European Union is organising a Youth Event focusing on intercultural dialogue in the Euromed context. Several aspects relevant for intercultural dialogue will be discussed in working groups. They will include the role played by Intercultural dialogue in our society and in particular its contribution to strengthen solidarity, mutual understanding and non-discrimination, conditions and factors ensuring that the dialogue can take place such as education, mobility, communication etc. The European Youth Forum (YFJ) is looking for 10 facilitators to support the team for this event. It will take place in Marseille, France, from July 4-9. Two preparatory meetings will also take place; dates still have to be confirmed. However, the first one will probably happen in mid-April. All activity-related costs will be covered and facilitators will receive an allowance of 250€ per working day. For more information please contact intern@eee-yfu.org. The Deadline for application is the 25 March.

Trainers Profile: The YFJ is looking for people who can facilitate working groups (good listeners, being able to summarize and rephrase arguments, being able to stimulate active participation; being able to take into account both the process and the outcome), who are creative and have a good knowledge of both French and English. Knowledge and/or experience in working on intercultural dialogue is an asset.

Potential Value for YFU: The facilitators will gain experiences and knowledge that can be useful for YFU in order to engage more in the area. Apart from that they will be able to get into contact with volunteers from other organisations in both Europe and the EuroMed area.

Upcoming events for EEE-YFU

Activity	Eligible	Apply to/ with	Deadline/Date
YFU Seminar “Migration -Living diversity”; 11-16 April 2008; Bucharest, Romania	YFU volunteers	National Organisation	closed
YES 2008 “Migration—Living Diversity”; 27 June—1 July 2008, Werbellinsee, Germany	YFU volunteers	NO/ Workshop Coordinator	closed

Contact us!

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European
Educational
Exchanges



About us!

In 1985 EEE-YFU was founded as an umbrella organisation for national YFU organisations based in Europe. Our aims are to:

- promote intercultural exchange programmes in Europe
- heighten EEE-YFU's visibility and activity on the European level
- organise trainings for YFU staff and volunteers
- provide financial and administrative services to our members
- facilitate intra-European activities such as seminars, meetings and conferences on various topics, ranging from "Europe and Islam" to "Conflict management" and "Intercultural learning".

