

## WHAT'S NEW IN YFU?

- Migration - Living diversity
- 3<sup>rd</sup> dialogue on non-formal education
- Meeting of the rainbow platform
- Brussels debate
- Internship Possibilities
- Calls
- Deadlines

## Migration—Living diversity

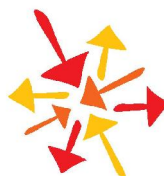
### International Responsibility Seminar

From 11 to 17 April 2008, an International Responsibility Seminar (IRS) was held in the Transylvanian mountains close to Cluj-Napoca, Romania. In accordance with the Young Europeans' Seminar 2008, the IRS was themed "Migration—Living Diversity". YFU volunteers from 15 countries met to explore and discuss the many facets of migration and it's influences on our society for one week.

After getting to know each other and getting an introduction to the topic, the participants defined migration as "the movement of people across state borders for a myriad of reasons, except for vacation". This definition would serve as a basis for the work of the coming days. In the course of the seminar the participants went on to look closer on different topics related to migration, such as the human rights aspect or FRONTEX (the EU agency for external border security). Every participant informed the others about the migration situation in their home countries and guest speaker Bashy Quraishy, president of ENAR (European Network Against Racism), gave them an insight into the situation in Denmark and shared his views on migration, or "mobility"- as he prefers to call it. Finally there was time to develop personal action plans on how to use the knowledge gained on the seminar in the work of YFU national organisations. The seminar and especially the efforts of the organising team were highly appreciated by the participants, of whom many will have the possibility to pass on what they learned to the participants of the YES 2008 as workshop leaders.



Participants presenting the results of a workshop



**migration**  
living diversity  
YES 2008

Resulting from this seminar, a brochure on migration was made. It can be downloaded from <http://www.eee-yfu.org/volunteers/reports.html>.

### Young Europeans' Seminar 2008

As in the years before, The Young Europeans' Seminar (YES) 2008 will take place in Werbellinsee, Germany. The seminar will gather some 450 YFU exchange students returning from an intra-European exchange year will last for 5 days (27 June - 1 July). With the title "Migration—Living Diversity", this year's YES will focus on the issue of migration and the challenges and opportunities of living in more and more diverse societies in Europe.

For more information on the YES 2008, please see <http://www.yfu-yes.org>.

## 3rd Inaugural Dialogue on Non Formal Education

European Youth Forum 28-29 May

From the 28-29 May, Elizabeth Niland represented EEE-YFU at the European Youth Forum's 3rd Inaugural Dialogue on Non Formal Education held in Brussels. The meeting followed up of the previous two meetings held in 2007 and 2006, where EEE-YFU also participated. This meeting focused on both existing and developing recognition tools which can be used for non formal education. In particular the European Qualifications Framework, and its national counterpart, the National Qualifications Framework were discussed. The framework, which is/will be developed in each member state is a tool which will enable competent authorities to validate learning outcomes.

It is hoped at the national level that youth organisations can get involved in shaping their National Qualification Frameworks, so as to help ensure that the NFE received through youth organisations, and through activities such as exchange years abroad are recognised. EEE-YFU was careful to forward the point of view of YFU organisations at the meeting, highlighting in particular the barriers to the recognition of exchange years abroad and the obstacles students often face. EEE-YFU further suggested to the Youth Forum that they prepare an overview document for its members explaining existing recognition tools developed by the EU and Council of Europe.

The meeting not only offered a chance for input, but also was very informative, having representatives from the European Commission (DG EAC), Manfred von Hebel and Council of

Europe, Rui Gomez participating. The speakers gave input on the development and use of the respective and joint tools of the institutions while taking onboard valuable feedback from participants. The meeting was followed by The ROLO conference: a conference on the recognition of Learning Outcomes held in Antwerp on the 30 May and organised by ECYC, a member organisation of the Youth Forum. For more information on the Conference why not check out the website:

<http://www.rola-youthwork.be/>

EEE-YFU will keep you updated with information on the EQF/NQF and how it can be of benefit to you and your YFU organisation. In the meantime, why not check out existing recognition tools at the European Level (see below) or get in touch with your national youth council to see if they are aware of any recognition tools existing in your country.

### Recognition tools

#### EU Europass

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Europass> (about)

or check out the Europass Centre in your country  
<http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/europass/home/vernava/Information+and++Support/National+Europass+Centres/navigate.action>

#### EU YouthPass

for certain activities carried out under the Youth in Action programme:

<http://www.youthpass.eu/en/youthpass/>

#### CoE Portfolio for Youth Workers and Youth Leaders

[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/Resources/Portfolio/Portfolio\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/Resources/Portfolio/Portfolio_en.asp)

## Meeting of the Rainbow Platform on Intercultural Dialogue

Elizabeth Niland attended the Rainbow platform on Intercultural Dialogue on June 4th in Brussels, Belgium. The platform was addressed by representatives of the European Commission and discussed how to further its work and streamline its agenda over the coming months. The platform will continue to work closely with DG Education and Culture of the European Commission over the coming year, and beyond. The platform is composed of a large variety of organisations from both the cultural and arts sectors, who all have a common interest in the work of the EU on intercultural dialogue. EEE-YFU highlights the importance of recognition of intercultural skills and competencies, such as those gained in an exchange year and through voluntary activity. The Platform is in the midst of gathering input for its Consultation on intercultural dialogue which feeds into its 2nd paper on the topic to be presented to the European Commission and setting out recommendations on how to work on the issue.

To find out more about the rainbow platform, please follow this link <http://www.efah.org/index.php?id=153&pagelang>

## 3rd Brussels Debate on Interreligious Dialogue



On 14 May the third of seven Brussels Debates on the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue took place in Brussels.

The debate was themed „New Horizons: Active Citizenship to bridge inter-religious divides“ and brought together a top-class panel consisting of the European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, Ján Figel', Dr. Abduljalil Sajid, chairman of the Muslim Council for Religious and Racial Harmony in the UK, Nadine larchy, the European Vice-chair of the International Council of Jewish Women and Mario Mauri, Vice-President of the European Parliament.

After Shada Islam, journalist and Senior Programme Executive at the European Policy Centre (EPC), who moderated the

debate opened it by pointing out that religion could be a unifying as well as a dividing factor in today's diverse (European) society, Commissioner Figel' underlined the importance of inter-religious dialogue in many policy fields. He also referred to the European Commissions current efforts in the topic and highlighted that promoting active citizenship, especially among young people was essential in building a truly multi-cultural society in Europe.

In the opinion of Dr. Abduljalil Sajid, every European citizen has the possibility to increase dialogue and understanding in their personal environment. At the same time he pointed out the responsibility of the religious communities to cooperate with each other and

to engage in a peaceful and lasting dialogue.

Nadine larchy, who has been involved in educational projects about Judaism herself, stressed that it was very important to start providing knowledge about other cultures and religions for children at an early age to foster trust and respect, the basic prerequisites for starting inter-religious and intercultural dialogue between the different communities.

Finally Mario Mauro closed the debate by reminding of the fact, that intercultural and inter-religious dialogue was not the final aim but the tool to reach tolerance and peace.

They all agreed on that education plays a big role in inter-religious dialogue, but that knowledge and understanding also has to be followed by action.

## Internship possibilities

### EVS in EEE-YFU

EEE-YFU is looking to host an EVS volunteer in its Brussels based office from the beginning of September 2008 onwards for a period of one year. The intern will work along side the office director, developing the organisations newsletters, updating its website and keeping in touch with our volunteer base. The volunteer will also be involved in the ongoing activities of the organization, such as the YES, Trainings, IRS and study sessions. The volunteer will develop a keen insight into the workings of the European Union. The volunteer will also undertake language classes and will carry out activities with YFU Flanders on a regular basis. A good level of written and spoken English is essential. All travel costs of the volunteer are covered to and from Belgium, together with board and lodging costs. The volunteer will also receive a monthly stipend. A YFU background would be desirable, but is not a must.

Find a detailed description of the project on [http://ec.europa.eu/youth/evs/aod/hei\\_form\\_en.cfm?EID=18000152601](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/evs/aod/hei_form_en.cfm?EID=18000152601). Interested volunteers, who feel they correspond to the description set out, should send a letter of motivation and a CV to [intern@eee-yfu.org](mailto:intern@eee-yfu.org) by 20 June 2008.

## Calls for participation

### University on Youth and Development 2008

**Call for participants - "Training for Youth Leaders on Cultural Diversity"; Molina, Spain; 14-21 September 2008**

EEE-YFU together with Youth Action for Peace (YAP), Minorities of Europe (MoE) and the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) is organising a training course on cultural diversity in the framework of the 9<sup>th</sup> University on Youth and Development in Molina, Spain. The course will help young volunteers of these organisations to improve their group leading skills as well as skills in intercultural learning and dialogue. The training course will be based on experiential and mutual learning. The participants will have the chance to exchange experiences and learn from each other as well as to acquire new competences which they can try out.

**Profile of participants:** Participants should be aged between 18 and 30 and able to work in English. They should be interested in intercultural learning and cultural diversity and committed to attend the full duration of the course. In addition they should be active in their organisation and able to multiply the experiences and knowledge gained at the training course.

For further information and a detailed call please or contact [intern@eee-yfu.org](mailto:intern@eee-yfu.org). The deadline for sending in your application to your national organisation is 6 July 2008.

## Calls for participation

### **FIT - Advanced training for Leaders, Trainers and Facilitators; Sweden; 28 August - 6 September 2008**

PeaceQuest, an NGO promoting intercultural understanding and peace and AskNaomi, a youth organisations specialised in training young multipliers, are organising an advanced training course in the framework of the Youth in Action programme. The training course is open for participants from all kinds of youth organisations and will be held in Sweden from 28 August to 6 September 2008. Participants will be trained in organising, leading and evaluating youth activities. There will be a participation fee of 75€ and 30% of the travel costs will have to be covered by the participants or their organisations.

**Participant profile:** Participants for this training course should be between 18 and 28 years old and committed to attend the full duration of the course as well as to use the knowledge gained after the course and act as multipliers. It is necessary that participants are able to work in English.

**Potential value for YFU:** Volunteers will achieve leadership and training skills. As the training will be facilitated by other organisations, they will probably get to know different methods and bring back new impulses to their national organisation.

If you want to get more information on the training course, please contact [intern@eee-yfu.org](mailto:intern@eee-yfu.org). **The deadline for sending in your application is 4 July.**

### European Citizenship training courses 2008/09

From September 2008 to May 2009, another series of six training courses on European Citizenship will constitute a great opportunity for youth workers and youth leaders. Five of the training courses will be held in English and one of them in French, while the curriculum will be the same for all six.

ECTC-FR in France, !!!WORKING LANGUAGE FOR THIS COURSE IS FRENCH!!!	1-7 September 2008	( <b>deadline: 25 June 2008</b> )
ECTC-IS in Iceland,	29 September - 5 October 2008	(deadline: 15 August 2008)
ECTC-ES in Spain,	26 January - 1 February 2009	(deadline: 15 December 2008)
ECTC-BE/FL in Belgium (Flanders),	9-15 March 2009	(deadline: 26 January 2009)
ECTC-RO in Romania,	30 March - 5 April 2009	(deadline: 16 February 2009)
ECTC-UK in the United Kingdom,	4-10 May 2009	(deadline: 6 April 2009)

Participation will be free of charge for the selected participants (travel, visa and accommodation costs will be covered by the Partnership of the Council of Europe and the European Commission and/or the National Agencies, depending on your country of origin).

The deadlines mentioned above are for applicants from Youth in Action Programme Countries (EU + Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway & Turkey). **The deadline for applicants from South East Europe, Eastern Europe and Caucasus for ALL the training courses in English is 30 June 2008!**

More information on the courses and the application process is available at:

<http://www.training-youth.net/europeancitizenship>

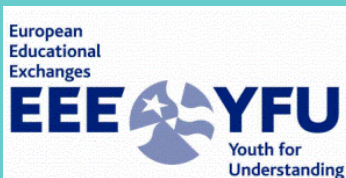
## Upcoming events and deadlines for EEE-YFU

Activity	Eligible	Apply to/ with	Deadline
YES 2008 "Migration—Living Diversity"; 27 June—1 July 2008; Werbelinsee, Germany	YFU volunteers		closed
Training Course for Youth Leaders on Cultural Diversity; 14-21 September 2008; Mollina, Spain	Volunteers from YFU and other youth NGOs	National Organisations	6 July 2008

### Contact us!

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### 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".

