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Network Involving
Citizens of Europe

3rd-7th APRIL 2007

**Tirgu Jiu
Romania**



Introduction

NICE - Network Involving Citizens of Europe is a seminar that aims at promoting volunteerism in the Caucasus and Balkans regions, with an accent on European Voluntary Service, as a means to provide opportunities of self awareness and intercultural learning as well as to provide the space for opportunities to act as multipliers for spurring European awareness and active participation and establish bridges of cooperation amongst participating NGOs.

The project hits at exploring answers for the following structural questions:

- How to link EVS with the local community in search for boosting active citizenship?
- How to ensure the quality of an EVS hosting project?
- How to project long term development of European volunteerism as a way to promote European awareness?

NICE - Network Involving Citizens of Europe" has partner's association from 15 countries: Albania, Denmark, Macedonia, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Italy, Turkey, Croatia, Armenia, Ukraine, Moldova and Greece.

The seminar runs in the framework of European Youth Campaign "**All Different all Equal**" (www.alldifferent-allequal.info) and is co-financed by the Council of Europe through European Youth Foundation and the European Commission through the Youth Programme as part of the Multilateral EVS project "**Networking for European Citizenship**".

context

The current project NICE - Network Involving Citizens of Europe is part of the pilot programme **ENGAGE Citizens** developed by Youngsters without Borders in partnership with Regional Association for Rural Development and European Platform for Youth Development.

ENGAGE Citizens was established in order to boost civic activism, participation in voting, philanthropy, foster new approaches for empowering citizens to develop active citizenship and leadership skills and to encourage citizens to participate in the political process.

ENGAGE Citizens teaches potential leaders, particularly women and youths, to effectively engage other citizens in community programs. Through this program, emerging leaders receive leadership training and explore community issues. The principle of local partnerships as active bodies and engaged in strategic decision-making must be stressed, as well as the emergence of new key players.

ENGAGE Citizens works to bring different generations and cultures together to exchange ideas, knowledge and history and to give one a positive attitude and a healthy outlook on life. This leads to the creation of long-lasting networks, enhancing a "sense of community" and the establishment of common goals, furthering local resources, and creating self-reliance within the community.

Aims and Objectives



Aims:

- promote the exchange of good practice on intercultural communication
- encourage participants to act as promoters and multipliers for active citizenship and participatory democracy
- strengthen the co-operation in between all partners involved and provide the opportunities to develop future common projects.

Objectives:

- to develop 1 multilateral EVS project on European active citizenship
- to share concrete examples of projects/activities on active citizenship and democratic participation
- to compile a CD with the results of a prime research conducted (via questionnaires) by all partners and good practice examples of active citizenship activities developed by volunteers from each participant country

Methodology

The seminar is based on the principles and practices of integrating and complementing non-formal education and formal education having at the core of its methodological structure the Learning Space Dynamic method.

In conjunction with the topics of the course, the learning process is constructed as follows:

- based on the intrinsic motivation of the learner;
- learner centered and based on the experiences of participants;
- based on a personal responsibility for learning, supported by a strong group dimension and a collective approach;
- organized in order to enable participants to apply and transfer what they have learnt to their youth work practice;
- designed as taking into account the needs and motivation of participants and being open to regular feedback and evaluations

The program of activities and contents are organized so as to allow a breeding ground for the maximum participation of the group. The working methods to be used during the seminar are: presentations, group work, round table discussions, projects' fair, LSD and simulations.

Contributions from the EVS current volunteers and the projects' coordinators are also expected to introduce life experience examples to be used as springboards meant to ensure a mutual learning environment and the follow up of the seminar.

Program elements

1. Getting to know each other
2. Expectations & opportunities
3. Concepts of volunteerism and European active citizenship
5. Setting & achieving goals
6. Performance assessment
7. Strategic planning

HOURS	April 2 nd	April 3 rd	April 4 th	April 5 th	April 6 th	April 7 th	
7.30 8.30	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	
9.00 10.45	A R R I V A L O F P A R T I C I P A N T S	Ice breaking exercise Concept of the seminar Expectations	Ice breaking exercise Warm-up exercise: <i>Presentation of research results</i>	Exercise: Communicating and consulting with the community II Skill transfer exercise	Project management: Proposal for a centralized EVS I	D E P A R T U R E O F P A R T I C I P A N T S	
10.45 11.00		Coffee Break					
11.00 12.30		Brainstorming exercise: <i>Volunteerism</i>	Exercise: Strategic Planning of EVS Lead in: Presentation on participatory planning	Lead in: Presentation on Quality in EVS Performance assessment	Project management: <i>Proposal for a centralized EVS II</i>		
12.30 14.00		Lunch					
15.00 16.30		Exercise: <i>EVS and community development</i>	Lead in: Communicating with the local community I Simulation: Youth participation in local communities	European citizenship based on thematic networking I	Project management: Proposal for a centralized EVS III		
16.30 17.00		Coffee Break					
17.00 – 18.30		<i>Work Shop</i> Preparation of the Organization Fair (hosting projects)	Exercise: communicating and consulting with the community I Case study: community development planning-EHN	European citizenship based on thematic networking II	Presentation on "All different – All equal" Campaign		
18.30 – 19.00		Debriefing	Debriefing	Debriefing	Final evaluation		
19.00 20.30		Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner		
20.30		Getting to Know each Other	Organizations' Fair	Volunteers' Evening (video presentations)	Volunteers' Evening (video presentations)		Farewell party

The Team

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with the support of



European Platform for Youth Development – EPYD

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&



ALTER ECO- Communication through Media

www.altereco.ro

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