

MEDIA

★ Website www.moe-online.com/future

The internet platform has been online since September 2007 and is regularly updated. It features information about the project, calls for participants, reports about past events and contact details. Users and visitors can exchange ideas and information thanks to a Forum dedicated to conflict management issues.

★ Flyer with Basic Information

A flyer with the main elements of the project has been published in July 2007. It presented briefly the project, its aims and contents, the main events, outcomes and the partner organisations.

★ Manual on Conflict Management

A manual on conflict management was published in November 2007. It is a practical tool for youth workers dealing with this issue. It gives some conceptual information about what a conflict is and how it arises, and provides some practical exercises which can be implemented during seminars, training or exchanges.

UPCOMING EVENTS

★ Contact Making Seminar, Kobuleti, Georgia 19th – 24th November 2007

★ Contact Making Seminar, Potsdam, Germany 14th – 19th December 2007

The two 4-day Contact Making Seminars (CMS) will be held for 36 participants each, eighteen from European countries and eighteen from EECA countries. The main aims of these events are to build new partnerships among European countries from East and West and to create common projects on conflict issues. Additionally the CMSs will provide knowledge about possibilities of cooperation with Eastern Europe and Caucasus within the Youth in Action Programme.

As outcomes of these two CMSs, three Youth Exchanges focusing on conflict issues will be selected for implementation by the project partners. The three events will take place in South Caucasus during summer 2008.

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FOR A FUTURE TO COME International Youth Work on Conflict Management January 2007 - March 2009

“For a Future to Come - International Youth Work on Conflict Management” aims to promote conflict management initiatives and to enhance the visibility of the Youth in Action Programme of the European Commission in Eastern Europe and Caucasus (EECA).

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

Combining the promotion of the Youth in Action Programme of the European Commission and training in conflict management will give an advantage to both. The training courses provide basic applicable knowledge for the implementation of conflict management projects necessary for peaceful developments of existing conflict situations in local communities and on international level, particularly, but not exclusively, among people from different cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds. The Youth in Action Programme provides the participating Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) with a funding option for the implementation of projects promoting mutual understanding, cultural diversity and tolerance among Europeans.

WHY CONFLICT MANAGEMENT?

To train youth workers in conflict management is of great significance for European countries. Looking at the latest history and the present political and social situation all over Europe makes it obvious that conflict management and conflict resolution on interpersonal and intercultural levels are important issues, especially for young people, considering the future developments of our societies.

Particularly, the regional and ethnic conflicts in Eastern Europe and Caucasus require resolution approaches that improve the relationship between the conflict parties. Grass-root initiatives from local youth organisations have a high potential to support conflict resolution processes by offering international and intercultural perspectives. The rise of populism, nationalism and intercultural tensions within the European Union also makes it necessary for youth organisations from these countries to think about new approaches to conflict resolution. That offers possibilities to improve working methods and to increase the impact of projects, particularly for those organisations that deal with integration processes and fight against racism and xenophobia.

ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

In order to reach the aims and objectives of the project an action plan has been set up consisting of the following elements.

★ Past Events

Project partners attended a Training of Trainers (ToT) about conflict management and conflict resolution to improve and enlarge their knowledge of the topic and non-formal education methods. Later on, participants of the ToT conducted two multiplying Training Courses to share their newly gained skills with other European youth organisations. These two Training Courses took place in July 2007 in Poland and Georgia.

★ Upcoming Events

In order to enable the participants to use and improve their new skills in international youth projects, two Contact Making Seminars (CMS) focusing on cooperation between West and East and conflict management will be implemented in November and December 2007. By this, new partnerships can be created and new intercultural youth projects realised. Therefore, the project partners will select three youth exchanges from the project proposals which will be implemented during summer 2008 in South Caucasus. At the end of the entire project a public conference will be held to present the results, in Coventry, United Kingdom.

★ Media

These events are accompanied by the set up of an internet platform, which provides information on youth events related to conflict issues and on the Youth in Action Programme. Furthermore, a training manual on conflict management has been published and is also available on the webpage in a digital version. Another manual about the implementation of Contact Making Seminars will be published in April 2008. A short film will also be produced in order to create illustrative material that will inspire more European organisations to work on similar topics. A final report will be published in 2009.

PAST EVENTS

★ Training of Trainers, Tskhneti, Georgia 18th – 25th March 2007

Youth workers from the partner organisations participated in the Training of Trainers held by experienced trainers on the topic of conflict management. Participants have been trained in conflict management and gained new knowledge of different methods that can be applied for the conduction of training courses on conflict transformation and resolution.

★ Training Course, Poronin, Poland 1st – 8th July 2007

The first multiplying Training Course was held in Poland in the first week of July. Maksymilian Frasz, from Minorities of Europe (MoE), United Kingdom, and Lilit Simonyan from Stepanavan Youth Center (SYC), Armenia, guided the participants to reflect and work on the issues of conflict and conflict resolution.

★ Training Course, Kobuleti, Georgia 24th – 31st July 2007

The second multiplying Training Course was held by Shahin Bayramov from Association of Young Azerbaijani Friends of Europe (AYAFE), Azerbaijan, and Sebastian Schweitzer from Mostar Friedensprojekt (MFP), Germany. Eighteen participants from different countries and backgrounds took actively part in the training. Topics as conflict sources, escalation, effective communication, cooperation or conflict resolution were addressed. During the sessions, interactive methods were used and brought the group into animated and constructive discussions.

The participants of the Training Courses will participate in one of the Contact Making Seminars at the end of 2007, so they will use their newly gained skills to create future youth projects.