Public Report
of the project “Euromed at work for active citizenship”, action 3.1
Cooperation with the Neighbouring Countries of the European Union
of the Youth in Action programme

Edited by CESIE- Centro Studi ed Iniziative Europeo
Via Roma 94, Palermo, Italy.
www.cesie.org

Co-financed by APQ Giovani protagonisti di sé e del territorio.

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.
PUBLIC REPORT

Euromed at work for active citizenship

Action 3.1 – Cooperation with the Neighbouring Countries of the European Union
DE EAC Youth in Action programme

Edited by CESIE - Centro Studi ed Iniziative Europeo
www.cesie.org
INDEX

Introduction ........................................................................................................................................... 3
What is Euromed at Work for Active citizenship? ............................................................................... 4
The programme of the training ............................................................................................................ 5
Methods .................................................................................................................................................. 8
Main learning Outcomes .................................................................................................................... 12
Conclusion ............................................................................................................................................... 14

Project Partners:
* Coordinator: CESIE – European Centre of Studies and Initiatives (Italy)
* Association Union Jeunesse EuroMed (Algeria)
* Mugen Group (Israel)
* Waseela for training and development (Egypt)
* Observatoire Marocain pour la Paix Sociale & Association des Jeunes méditerraneen pour les echanges culturels (Morocco)
* Juzoor for Health and Social Development (Palestine)
* Civic Values Foundation (Bulgaria)
* Česká sekce DCI - sdružení zastánců dětských práv České republiky (Czech Republic)
* Continuous Action (Estonia)
* Kea Vocational Development Center (Greece)
* Rokiskio jaunimo organizaciju sajunga “Apvalus stalas” (Latvia)
* Kryptus Ungdomsklubb, Overhalla Kommune (Denmark)
* Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, EU Youth and Cultural Programs Coordination Office (Turkey)
* Povod, Institution for culture and development of internat (Slovenia)
* Fondazzjoni Xjenza u Poplu (Malta)

This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

The project, and this publication within it, was funded by the European Commission – DG Education and Culture, Youth In Action Programme.
INTRODUCTION

“Euromed at work for active citizenship” (EWAC), a Training Course funded by DG EAC, Youth in Action Programme – 3.1 Cooperation with the Neighbouring Countries of the European Union and co-funded by APQ Giovani protagonista di sé e del territorio of the Sicilian Region, was held in Palermo (Italy) from the 3rd till 11th November. In the TC took part 16 partners & 40 participants (youth trainers/workers, peer educators, volunteers, youth with fewer opportunities) from: Italy, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Greece, Lithuania, Norway, Estonia, Slovenia, Malta, Turkey, Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine, Israel and Morocco.

The participation of young people in the economic, cultural and social development of a society is essential. Recent events in some EUROMED countries highlighted how active citizenship is a crucial question for youth & demands of channels for participation, in order to improve economic & social situation of them. However, there is still a considerable lack of information about the opportunities & ways for young people to get involved in civic engagement and, at another, there are difficulties for organisations to fully engage young people, especially youth with fewer opportunities. Starting from these considerations, the project rises from the idea to contribute to the development of the quality of supporting systems for youth activities within Euromed framework. EWAC promoted knowledge about the concept of active citizenship, opportunities to get involved and tools for working with youth. It allowed reflection about cultural diversity present in Euromed and strengthen mutual understanding offering space for interaction of participants through activities.

Through the use of non formal education methodologies (team building, group discussions, art, Open Space Technology, etc.) and new technological tools the true meaning of active citizenship was conveyed raising awareness of the possible benefits of promoting it to local communities and society in general.

“Being in a multicultural community for the period of time of the project gave us many opportunities to learn from each and everyone as there were a big variety of different cultures that leads for an add value for sure.
Also debating improves communication skills and knowledge using non-formal education tools”.

EWAC TC Participant, 2012
What is “Euromed at work for active citizenship”?

Euromed at work for active citizenship is a training course under the Action 3.1 of the Youth in Action programme, aimed to support the development of active citizenship and democratic participation at EUROMED level.

Participants and countries:
40 participants - youth trainers/workers, peer educators, volunteers, youth with fewer opportunities from 14 countries: Italy, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Greece, Lithuania, Norway, Estonia, Slovenia, Turkey, Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine, Israel and Morocco.

The themes of the Project were:
- Active citizenship
- Youth policies
- Civic Participation
- Youth Unemployment

The objectives were to:
- to support the development of active citizenship and democratic participation at EUROMED level;
- to show the different opportunities offered by the European and International framework of promoting active citizenship & participation at EUROMED level, including unemployed youth;
- to reflect about EUROMED labour market situation and to stimulate cooperation between these countries in the field;
- to reflect about non formal education and new technological tools in order to promote active citizenship;
- to raise awareness of the possible benefits of promoting active citizenship to local communities and society in general;
- to share experiences and to develop common strategies for civic participation.
THE PROGRAMME OF THE TRAINING

Activities

The implemented activities were developed in such a way as to most effectively tackle the theme of the training applying predominantly non-formal working methods. All activities planned allow participants to recognize and valorize their skills and competences in order to increase their empowerment, confidence and independence and meanly permit them to transfer the acquired skills in their personal and professional life.

“The trainers did a great job communicating to us different thoughts and ideas about active citizenship through different methods and activities. I believe that we learned a lot from one another through their own experiences. We connected with each other and learned that we have a lot in common in the euro-med region”.

Participant EWAC TC, 2012

Programme flows

Getting to know each other
  |
  Introductions
  (course framework, logistic, Group-building activities)
  |
  Opportunities and ways to get involved (YiA - EuroMed programme)
  |
  Mapping the situation youth unemployment in Euromed
  |
  Mapping active participation & citizenship in Euromed
  |
  Art workshop & Final exhibition ‘Our image of active citizenship’
  |
  Generation and development of project ideas
  |
  Evaluation & follow-up

Project further development & new partnership

AWARENESS

PARTICIPATION

Youth in Action
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3rd November</th>
<th>4th November</th>
<th>5th November</th>
<th>6th November</th>
<th>7th November</th>
<th>8th November</th>
<th>9th November</th>
<th>10th November</th>
<th>11th November</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DAY 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>DAY 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>DAY 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>DAY 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>DAY 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>DAY 6</strong></td>
<td><strong>DAY 7</strong></td>
<td><strong>DAY 8</strong></td>
<td><strong>DAY 9</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrivals: Welcome and accommodation of participants</strong></td>
<td><strong>Accommodation in Baida</strong></td>
<td><strong>Info session</strong>: Presentation project &amp; project cycle, logistics, hosting team. Presentation of participants. Group building activities. Expectations, motivations, contributions &amp; concerns.</td>
<td><strong>1) LET’S KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER - group building, 2) Framework of the concept of active citizenship (theory + workshop)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Energiser. MAPPING ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND CITIZENSHIP IN EUROMED AREA</strong> (contributions by participants)</td>
<td><strong>Energiser. ART FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP: Artistic workshops. PART I</strong></td>
<td><strong>Energiser. ART FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP: Artistic workshops. PART II</strong></td>
<td><strong>Energiser. ART FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP: Artistic workshops. PART III</strong></td>
<td><strong>Energiser. LET’S WRITE A REAL YIA PROJECT! 1) OPEN SPACE TECHNOLOGY. Get new project ideas. 2) PROJECT WRITING SESSION.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>morning (h) 10 - 13</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
<td><strong>Energiser, Activities: 1) Key concepts, 2) OPPORTUNITIES AND WAYS TO GET INVOLVED: Presentation of YIA and Euromed programmes and actions.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Energiser, Mapping the situation YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN EUROMED - countries, causes &amp; consequences (contributions by participants)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(h) 15 - 17.30 Euro-Mediterranean Quiz, (h) 17.30 - 18.00 Preparation for Organizations bazaar</strong></td>
<td><strong>Energiser. ART FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP: Artistic workshops. PART II</strong></td>
<td><strong>COMPLETING THE WORK &amp; FINAL PREPARATION: the Art works and performances for the final exhibition.</strong></td>
<td><strong>(h) 14 - 16 FOLLOW-UP session: 1) Youth Pass, 2) Final evaluation, 3) Delivery Certificates.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>break (h) 13 - 15</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
<td><strong>Part I</strong></td>
<td><strong>(h) 15 - 17.30 Euro-Mediterranean Quiz, (h) 17.30 - 18.00 Preparation for Organizations bazaar</strong></td>
<td><strong>Energiser. ART FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP: Artistic workshops. PART II</strong></td>
<td><strong>Energiser. ART FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP: Artistic workshops. PART III</strong></td>
<td><strong>Departures</strong></td>
<td><strong>Part I</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dinner and pub crawling</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(h) 16-20 Ice-breaking and group building activities</strong></td>
<td><strong>Part I</strong></td>
<td><strong>Energiser, Activities: 1) Key concepts, 2) OPPORTUNITIES AND WAYS TO GET INVOLVED: Presentation of YIA and Euromed programmes and actions.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Energiser, Mapping the situation YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN EUROMED - countries, causes &amp; consequences (contributions by participants)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(h) 15 - 17.30 Euro-Mediterranean Quiz, (h) 17.30 - 18.00 Preparation for Organizations bazaar</strong></td>
<td><strong>Energiser. ART FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP: Artistic workshops. PART II</strong></td>
<td><strong>COMPLETING THE WORK &amp; FINAL PREPARATION: the Art works and performances for the final exhibition.</strong></td>
<td><strong>(h) 14 - 16 FOLLOW-UP session: 1) Youth Pass, 2) Final evaluation, 3) Delivery Certificates.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>evening (h) 20</strong></td>
<td><strong>Typical Sicilian dinner</strong></td>
<td><strong>Intercultural evening &amp; dinner I (8 countries)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Intercultural evening &amp; dinner II (8 countries)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dinner and free night</strong></td>
<td><strong>Typical Sicilian dinner</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dinner and pub crawling</strong></td>
<td><strong>Part I</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dinner and pub crawling</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Welcome buffet and ice-breaking activities</strong></td>
<td><strong>Part I</strong></td>
<td><strong>Energiser, Activities: 1) Key concepts, 2) OPPORTUNITIES AND WAYS TO GET INVOLVED: Presentation of YIA and Euromed programmes and actions.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Energiser, Mapping the situation YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN EUROMED - countries, causes &amp; consequences (contributions by participants)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(h) 15 - 17.30 Euro-Mediterranean Quiz, (h) 17.30 - 18.00 Preparation for Organizations bazaar</strong></td>
<td><strong>Energiser. ART FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP: Artistic workshops. PART II</strong></td>
<td><strong>COMPLETING THE WORK &amp; FINAL PREPARATION: the Art works and performances for the final exhibition.</strong></td>
<td><strong>(h) 14 - 16 FOLLOW-UP session: 1) Youth Pass, 2) Final evaluation, 3) Delivery Certificates.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part I</strong></td>
<td><strong>Part I</strong></td>
<td><strong>Energiser, Activities: 1) Key concepts, 2) OPPORTUNITIES AND WAYS TO GET INVOLVED: Presentation of YIA and Euromed programmes and actions.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Energiser, Mapping the situation YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN EUROMED - countries, causes &amp; consequences (contributions by participants)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(h) 15 - 17.30 Euro-Mediterranean Quiz, (h) 17.30 - 18.00 Preparation for Organizations bazaar</strong></td>
<td><strong>Energiser. ART FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP: Artistic workshops. PART II</strong></td>
<td><strong>COMPLETING THE WORK &amp; FINAL PREPARATION: the Art works and performances for the final exhibition.</strong></td>
<td><strong>(h) 14 - 16 FOLLOW-UP session: 1) Youth Pass, 2) Final evaluation, 3) Delivery Certificates.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Main programme elements

During the first part of the TC, the activities implemented were divided among theoretical presentations by the trainers on the concept of active citizenship, of youth unemployment in Euromed region and information about European & Euromed youth policies related to participation and to volunteering. Active discussion, presentations of local context by participants and exchange of good practices and active participant by participants, non-formal educations games were included.

At the end of the theoretical part of the TC, participants had the chance to visit the organization “Addiopizzo” fighting against Mafia practices in Sicily and get to know an example of local active involvement and youth participation. A presentation of the current situation, challenges and actions taken by the organization has been presented to the participants. They have visited as well CESIE office, the hosting organization where its departments, activities were introduced to the participants.

The second part of the TC consisted of two days art workshops (movement, art, forum theatre, video and social media) closed by a final exhibition “our image of active citizenship” performed in front of the local community. The aim was to demonstrate the link between active citizenship and youth unemployment perceived and revealed through the mastery of art.

During the last part of the TC, a project writing session was organized based on the learning outcomes previously gained by the participants during the training. The final result from the whole TC was the promotion of new projects ideas and formations of new partnerships among the present 16 organizations.

“I had to summarize and analyze statistical data. Which improved my understanding. I had to draw charts or flow charts to convey ideas, which changed and improved the way of thinking about concepts. We kept thinking through the week about different ways we could get new ideas into practice. We had creative, thoughts and ideas, for example using a mapping tool to connect a problem through pictures together or using what I tried to bring to the group "stop-motion animation" as a tool for youth or children to talk about issues and draw/create an animation with solutions to problems”.

Participant EWAC TC, 2012
**METHODS**

**Overview:** The Training course was based on the principle of non-formal education and learning by doing, which means participants learned about non-formal education by experiencing it by themselves and not through receiving information. However, information sessions were also integrated, but always in an interactive way.

The TC was designed to highlight the experience of the participants as a learning resource for the group.

The main methodological approaches used were: experiential learning, cooperative learning, participation and peer learning, brainstorming, buzz groups, teambuilding and energisers, presentations, simulations, Open Space Technology, etc.
“I learned from active learning skills, group interaction and communication. We did a Euro-Mediterranean quiz which was a nice tool to get everyone involved. Teams were formed and points were taken to those who were able to get correct answers. Nice energizers were used to get people into the mood of training and I hope to be able to use some in future with youth. Life is an ongoing skill, the more you meet people interact and learn the more we are able to expand on our own skill set”.

Participant EWAC TC, 2012
ART FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP METHODOLOGY

Specific methodology were used for the realisation of the session Art for Active Citizenship in order to foster group-reflection, interpretation skills and creativity.

Below is a summary of the main methodologies used for the art workshop session:

**FORUM THEATRE – THEATRE OF THE OPPRESSED**

**Themes:** Forum theatre is a type of theatre created by the innovative and influential practitioner Augusto Boal as part of what he calls his "Theatre of the Oppressed." Boal created Forum theatre as a forum for teaching people how to change their world. Forum theatre is a way of studying peoples' needs and identifying possible decisions through acting a concrete situation people face, the way they feel it. Forum theatre gives people opportunity to act in situations where there is at least one oppressed and one oppressor, and so to raise the awareness about difficulties of the oppressed to change his/her situation.

**Duration:** 4 hours minimum.

**Materials:** No materials / materials needed for the theatre performance (if desired).

**Instructions:** Firstly, the group of participants is divided among actors / spect-actors. The group of actors is going to prepare a performance to be realised in front of the group of spect-actors.

The group of actors discuss a situation in which there is at least one person oppressed and one oppressor – for example, a racist conflict - and decides how to represent it to the group of spect-actors. Depending on the time at disposition, the group creates a small performance and prepares all the things needed for the scene.

Afterwards, the group of actors presents the performance once in front of the spect-actors. After the first acting of the play, known as a “model”, it is acted again following exactly the same line of development, but slightly quicker until someone from the audience shouts “stop”, takes the place of the oppressed and tries to change the situation. The point is the spect-actors to try to lead the play to an end different from the initial one, even if the situation cannot be solved.

At the end, all the group can do a debriefing on their feelings and the analyses of the situation represented.

**Outcomes:** the participants will have a different point of view about the situation and raise their awareness about the difficulties lived by the oppressed.

To know more about it, visit the website [www.theatreoftheoppressed.org](http://www.theatreoftheoppressed.org)
Movement

Themes: Movement is a type of art that generally involves movement of the body, often rhythmic and to music. It is performed in many cultures as a form of emotional expression, social interaction, or exercise, in a spiritual or performance setting, and is sometimes used to express ideas or tell a story. It may also be regarded as a form of nonverbal communication between humans and a non-formal method through which participants can freely express their feelings, emotions, social positions through the mastery of movement.

Duration: 2 days minimum.

Materials: Dixit cards, materials needed for the theatre performance (if desired).

Instructions: The initial stages involved warming up, getting awareness of one’s own body, experiencing new ways of feeling your body smoothly focusing on active citizenship and body movement using the Dixit cards. The second stage was the creation of a list of actions, body movements related to Active citizenship. The last stage was the creation of a unique choreography as an epitome of active citizenship actions.

Outcomes: the participants present their unique performance in front of a wide range of people.

“Good way to learn for me was also through movement which is very efficient. These knowledge can be used in everyday life”.
Participant, EWAC TC 2012

Social Media and video

Nowadays youth as grown up on technology environment and social media. Social media is new and versatile way to gather produce and exchange information. Through the Facebook page and other social media accounts, citizens have the opportunity to participate in online debates, to make suggestions and raise complaints, to check job opportunities and to find practical information about local services. This new feature suppose to adopt digital tools and apply pedagogical strategies to add values to existing practices and enhance the lifelong learning process.

During EWAC training, social media and network has been many times raised as a tool to support active citizenship taking into account their impact during the recent Arab spring. Through the exchange of good practices among participants, the conclusion has been made that social media increase young people engagement with their local communities, give more opportunities to express
views and provide new challenges between youth and state officers. Therefore during the Art for Active citizenship session one group was dedicated to the use of media, video and social networking to express their own view about active citizenship and record the work accomplished by participants.

This methodology has demonstrated the benefit of digital technology as pedagogical tools.

“We start with the Facebook page, that we communicate with each other, and we will put the draft in the page so we could make new project with each other, and we used technology all the time through laptops camera, speakers, and we make a video, and use the tool box and salto online. We learned from another country and mapping tool was used as a way of active citizenship and seems a great way to do so.”
Participant EWAC TC, 2012

**MAIN LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The TC supported social, cultural and professional development, and new contacts for future projects to the participants

“When we express the new idea we found partner that we could work with, and we got new skills to write projects, and we put our idea under construction and we will communicate and try to write a full proposal and make a real projects and partner from different countries. We make a good new network that we could work with in the near future.”
Participant EWAC TC, 2012

Participants gained awareness raising on active citizenship for their own development and the development of the communities in which they live. They gained awareness about the importance of becoming leading actors in developing their societies

“First of all, we had such a diverse group and we were able to connect with each well. We all had a common interest to learn from one another as leaders or as entrepreneurs to bring our training topic "Active Citizenship" to the next level”.
Participant EWAC TC, 2012
Participants learned non formal education, new practices and creative methods applied to the youth work from other participants & local organisations promoting active participation.

“I was able to reach my own personal goals after the training. I was able to learn from different tools, different perspectives. Though there were many different people from different backgrounds, I was able to improve my knowledge level directly via presentations”.
Participant, EWAC TC 2012

Participants acquired a wide knowledge of existing youth programmes and be able to apply for new projects with project partners.

“People in general have a sense or fear of change; through active citizenship we learned that we can overcome this common fear in order to reach our goals and stand up to what we believe in. We created a good network because we got to know many people from different countries and organizations. We learned a lot from one another and we all hope to work with each other’s projects in the future”.
Participant, EWAC TC 2012
CONCLUSION

The participants took active role in all activities from the first theoretical part and were eager to share experiences and good practices as a means towards developing common strategies for civic participation.

The training course was ceremoniously closed with a final exhibition “Our image of active citizenship” which demonstrated the link between active citizenship and youth unemployment perceived and revealed through the mastery of art and movement. The visibility of the project was ensured through the active involvement of all participants who took the initiative to invite local people to their event. The exhibition was well-welcomed and warmly appreciated from the public.

The four groups from the second part of the Training Course were entirely dedicated on their aims being through the mastery of art and movement to convey the morals and the message of the TC.

The exhibition was opened by the art group which conveyed their conception of active citizenship through the mastery of art painting and collage.

The second group presented active citizenship through the prism of movement with artistic choreography. Another group was dedicated on the use of video and social media as a means towards expressing their message and presenting active citizenship through the camera lens. Their final result, being a video, was welcomed by all the audience during the night of the exhibition.

The forum theater group closed the exhibition with a magnificent story which was a true example of today’s reality and the scourges of our society- domestic violence, power, authority, connections and the desperate need of active citizenship as the panacea of all those ills plaguing our society. Their message was successfully conveyed and the public, which had the opportunity to interrupt the action and to intervene substituting one of the secondary actors, was truly touched.

The final result from the whole TC was the promotion of new projects and the formation of new partnerships among the present 16 organizations. The writing session organised the last day of the training course results in the creation of 5 new projects idea:
Everyone is able
People’s Urban Movement
Minorities—raising awareness among different social ethnic groups
Youth & Human rights
Healthy people—Healthy world
Stop polluting, start recycling

CESIE has been working continuously with the Youth in Action Programme and would like to share the acquired experience through the development of this training course related with the main priorities of the Programme and its main educational approach, i.e., non-formal education.

So, “Euromed at work for active citizenship” aimed to foster the cooperation between all partners, and also inside the CESIE Federation. During the TC and through the new follow up of the project it has been possible to increase the cooperation between the new partners. The project has given therefore a great opportunity to the partners involved to increase their networks and to cooperate with new youth organisations in Europe, contributing to the construction of a stronger Europe.

We were very glad to be able to correspond to their needs as, in one sense, we feel responsible to support them as coordinators of the CESIE Federation.

The project, and this publication within it, is funded by the European Commission – DG Education and Culture, Youth In Action Programme.

This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.