

## Report<sup>1</sup> of the Seminar\*

# “Youth Information and Youth Policy: Europe and Montenegro”

Tivat, Montenegro, 08/12/2008-13/12/2008

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*\*Implemented by CIJ (Luxembourg)*

*In co-operation with Forum MNE (Montenegro), MISSS (Slovenia), and ERYICA  
Funded by the EU 'Youth In Action' Programme and the Council of Europe*

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<sup>1</sup> Including a brief overview of the Conference “Youth Information and Youth Policies: Perspectives from Europe and Montenegro”, Kotor, Montenegro, 11/122008



## I. Introduction

The present report aims to highlight the core aims and outcomes of the Seminar “Youth Information and Youth Policy: Europe and Montenegro” that took place in Tivat and Kotor in Montenegro on 08-13/12/2008, and report on particular events of the Seminar.

### 1.1. Project Summary

The Seminar proved to be an opportunity to develop youth information in the Western Balkans and boost the enhancement of the youth policy in the target countries by gathering selected participants and enabling them to discuss and share issues, solutions, projects and good practice with European stakeholders. The origin of this initiative lies in an earlier Study Visit on youth information and participation to St. Petersburg, Russia (April 2006), organised by In Petto, the ERYICA Member, where ERYICA members got connected with some youth information workers active in Eastern European countries and in the Western Balkans.

After that, a Study Visit was organised in Varna, Bulgaria (September 2008) with the aim of creating a first core of regional co-operation in the field of youth information in the Western Balkans. The Study Visit participant from Montenegro, Jelena Miljanic, explained attempts of Forum MNE, a Montenegrin youth information organisation, to start a generalist youth information work in Montenegro, and expressed the wish to get closer contacts with ERYICA and its partners.

Despite the fact that Forum MNE has gained a status of Affiliated Member in ERYICA, youth information services in Montenegro were not well developed at the time of the scheduling of the Seminar, there was no national policy on youth information in the country neither, even if youth information work was being developed by Forum MNE on the national level. With this Seminar, CIJ aimed to reinforce its role in ERYICA by strengthening contacts with the youth information stakeholders in the Western Balkans with the aim of enabling them to become part of the ERYICA.

Moreover, such an exchange of experience pursued the goal to enrich the work of a long established youth information network from partner countries like Luxembourg, whose ERYICA member CIJ coordinated the present project, and Slovenia, where the local ERYICA partner, MISSS, has long been committed to bridging youth information in the Western Balkans.

Furthermore, by different activities involving local authorities and youth information stakeholders, the Seminar fostered the development of youth information in the young Republic of Montenegro.



Finally, Seminar participants had a chance to meet the ERYICA Member Organisations' representatives, who gathered in Montenegro for the General Assembly in Kotor, jointly attended a round of workshops and benefited from discussions, both on formal and informal levels, on core issues of concern for them.

Essentially, the Seminar revolved around the following **themes**: youth information work; youth participation in youth information; social inclusion of youngsters through youth information, especially in the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe; European citizenship and cohesion; youth policy in the European Union, in the Council of Europe, in the Western Balkans and in Montenegro; Intercultural Dialogue.

The Seminar was facilitated by **Bob Forsyth**, a renowned moderator in the field of youth policies and youth information.

### **Bob Forsyth, Seminar Facilitator**



Bob is a highly skilled consultant and facilitator with a strong track record. Facilitation expertise encompasses all sizes of groups and events from small focus group discussions to major national and international conferences.

Bob has previously worked for the UK Government Department; Scottish Government; European Youth Card Association; United Nations Development Programme inter alia. Bob has also worked within public service structures at the Scottish Community Education Council and at NHS Lothian. His skills include a strong focus on designing and delivering events and processes which engage communities and, in particular, young people within communities.

## **1.2. Aims and Objectives**

- ✓ **To learn from each other's work in the field**

### *Specific Objectives*

- To identify good practice and provide mutual feedback;
- To learn about on-going activities and services provided;



- To understand the differences of approaches in youth policy in general and in youth information specifically;
- ✓ **To explore networking opportunities**

*Specific Objectives*

- To strengthen contacts amongst participants and their respective organisations;
- To foster regional co-operation amongst the Western Balkans and youth information organisations;
- To introduce to participants the advantages and opportunities of participating in networking activities, namely by becoming the partner of ERYICA;
- ✓ **To inform about European priorities in the youth field**

*Specific Objectives*

- To explore means and documents in the European Union in the field of youth policy;
- To explore means and Documents of the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy;
- To gain a deeper understanding of national policies in youth information in participants' respective countries.



✓ **To contribute to the development of youth policy in Montenegro**

*Specific Objectives*

- To present to Montenegrin authorities the best cases of implementation of youth policy in Europe;
- To analyse the working situation of selected youth information centres in Montenegro;
- To present the European Youth Information Charter to Montenegrin authorities;
- To promote approach to youth as a resource, rather than as a problem;
- To empower Montenegrin authorities in supporting sustainable youth information mechanisms and procedures.

### 1.3. Methodology

#### ➤ Target Groups and Selection of Participants

The main target group of the project was **youth information workers** from the Western Balkans and from some of the EU's members. The secondary target group consisted of **young people** in promoters' countries, as addressees of services provided by the youth information workers, **policy makers** and **civil servants** in Montenegro (local and national). By direct involvement in the Seminar, Montenegrin policy makers and civil servants were ment to empower youth policy, especially in the youth information and participation field, and to integrate the efforts and resources of both civil society and national and local authorities.

We encouraged the appointment of participants ready to discuss the work on the level of different realities, where a less developed youth information is offered by local authorities and national governments, e.g. (but not exclusively) from rural and peripheric metropolitan areas. Hence the broadening of youth information services of quality to young people with fewer opportunities.



### ➤ Promoters' selection and involvement

The organisers have invited member and partner organisations that are active in three specific areas, with defined characteristics, to become promoters of the Seminar. The regional areas that were targeted in particular are:

- **Western Europe** (Luxembourg, Germany, Belgium, Finland, the Netherlands) under the assumption and the evidence that youth information as a strategic part of youth policy was created in these countries by enlightened governments, and in time maintained and fostered. Promoters from these countries had the responsibility of bringing in the Seminar long-lasting expertise and an array of successful actions put in place in the past and currently developed, as well as the experience of a strong political support;
- **Western Balkans** (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, FYROM, Serbia, **Turkey** with the link of ERYICA's Member Organisation from Slovenia): although boosted in the last few years, youth information, and youth policy in the broader meaning is yet to be developed in these countries.

Nonetheless, successful activities have been undertaken through the years by these organisations, the Seminar aiming to bring to the attention of other participants the endorseable practices.

- **Russian Federation and Belarus:** as democracy and the rule of law are to be strongly fostered amongst young people, youth information networks, run in these countries by independent NGOs, are to be supported by all means.

By inviting representatives from youth information centres in St. Petersburg and Minsk, ERYICA pursued the goal of broadening the values of the European Youth Information Charter to those areas, where they are yet to be applied.

Finally, linguistic and cultural proximity to the reality of Montenegro and Serbia was a major element of success, also taken into account that the next steps of ERYICA's strategic development are the countries of Caucasus and Eastern Europe.<sup>2</sup> Promoters were involved during the preparatory phase of the Seminar via discussions of the preliminary programme and a feedback on it. Also, promoters presented to the Seminar participants some of their most successful activities, and shared their good practice on the field. All the materials were shared beforehand, during and after the event.

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<sup>2</sup> The participation of two youth information opinion makers from Belarus and Russia was supported by the Council of Europe.



## II. Final Partner Promoters

Country	Name of the promoter, location	Contact person
Luxembourg	ERYICA	Davide Capecchi
FYR of Macedonia	Youth 4 Youth	Miki Trajkoski
Germany	IJAB	Ann Kathrin Fischer
Bosnia and Herzegovina	NGO Stella	Sanja Kavac
Belgium	In Petto	Johan Bertels
Slovenia	MISSS	Matjaz Medvezek
Luxembourg	CIJ	Andree Debra
Bulgaria	Youth Information Network	Ivelina Peeva
FYR of Macedonia	Coalition of Youth Organisations SEGA	Gajtanoski Tomislav
Serbia	ONO - Omladinska Nevladina Organizacija	Jelena Popovic
Montenegro	Forum MNE	Jelena Miljanic
Montenegro	Office for Substance Abuse and Risky Behavior Prevention	Sladjana Petkovic
Bosnia and Herzegovina	OiA	Majda Mujanovic
Croatia	Croatia Youth Network	Anamarija Soco
Finland	National Coordination and Development Centre of Youth and Counselling Services in Finland	Mika Pietila
Croatia	Udruga za mlade Korak ispred	Sasa Dupor
Croatia	Studio Razvojnih inicijativa	Goran Jelenic
The Netherlands	JONG Rotterdam	Marc Boes



### III. Activities

Time	Activity
<b>08/12 Monday</b>	<b>Arrival &amp; Welcome</b>
	Arrival of participants
Afternoon session	
	Welcome session
	Dinner
	Welcome evening
<b>09/12 Tuesday</b>	<b>National Levels of Youth Information Policies and Projects</b>
	Breakfast
Morning session	
	Presentation of participants and respective organisations, icebreaking
	Coffee break
	Country presentations + presenting ideas for projects
	Lunch
Afternoon session	
	Developing ideas for projects presented during the morning session
	Coffee break
	ERYICA
	Dinner
<b>10/12 Wednesday</b>	<b>European Level of Youth Information Policies and Projects</b>
	Breakfast
Morning session	
	European dimension of youth information. Presentation, work in plenary, Part I
	Coffee break
	European dimension of youth information. Presentation, work in plenary, Part II
	Lunch
Afternoon session	
	Youth information policies in Europe





### III. Activities (continued)

Time	Activity
	Good practices – youth information projects
	Coffee break
	Good practices – projects on youth information in international level
	Dinner
	International teams tasks
<b>11/12 Thursday</b>	<b>Conference</b>
	Breakfast
10:00-15:00	<b>Conference: Youth Information and Youth Policies: Perspectives from Europe and Montenegro</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 10:00-10:30: Opening speech</li> <li>➤ 10:30-10:45: Youth as an important stakeholder in democratic Europe</li> <li>➤ 10:45-11:00: Youth information and participation – what does it mean in this context?</li> <li>➤ 11:00-11:30: Place of youth information and participation in youth policies on European and national levels</li> <li>➤ 11:30-11:45: Coffee break</li> <li>➤ 11:45-12:00: Situation in Montenegro, importance of building democratic citizenship practices and capacities in line with the EU perspectives of the Balkans</li> <li>➤ 12:00 -14:00: Opportunities and challenges in creating sustainable mechanisms for youth information and participation; best practices; presentations and discussions (Slovenia, Germany, Montenegro)</li> <li>➤ 14:00-15:00: Follow up</li> <li>➤ Signing Memorandum of co-operation between the Ministry of Culture, Media and Sport of Montenegro and Forum MNE</li> <li>➤ Signing the European Youth Information Charter: Forum MNE, Ministry, relevant municipalities</li> </ul>
15:00-16:00	Lunch
17:00-18:00	Coffee break/transfer to hotel
	Dinner
<b>12/12 Friday</b>	
Morning	Breakfast
	National Presentations



### III. Activities (continued)

Time	Activity
<b>13/12 Saturday</b>	<b>Evaluation &amp; Wrap-up</b>
	Breakfast
Morning session	
	Evaluation
	Lunch
Afternoon	Visit to youth information centre in Kotor
	Cultural programme & dinner in co-operation with local authorities
<b>14/12 Sunday</b>	<b>GA Closing &amp; Departure</b>
Morning + Afternoon	Workshops & Departure of participants

#### 3.1. Tuesday, 9/12/2008

On the first day of the Seminar, the participants have learnt each other and briefly introduced the organisations they were representing at the event.

The participants then discussed national levels of youth information policies and projects.

To discuss **country realities**, the participants focused on the following questions:

- Is there a national (regional & local) strategy on youth policy?
- Is youth work supported (nationally, regionally, and locally)?
- Do you / your organisation/ have experience in international co-operation?
- What is the structure of youth policy in your country?

Then, **Davide Capecchi**, the ERYICA Director, presented **the European Youth Information Charter (EYIC)** via the following tools:

- EYIC in puzzles of words
- Recomposing the EYIC with puzzled words
- Distribution of the Charter
- Discussion of the Charter: does each of the participants agree with the 16 points of the Charter. Why, what is the reality in each of the participant's country?

#### Summary of the day:

To provide the qualitative summary of the day, the participants have discussed different surprising things they have learnt during the first day of the event.



### One **surprise** learnt about an **individual**

- Stories with names: Tamara and her parents
- Nicknames given to persons

### One **interesting** thing heard about an **organisation** present

- Online tools are getting more popular
- Interesting facts about Turkey, the way of work there
- "Visa No Way" campaign
- How "Youth 4 Youth" managed to organise the whole project in 7 days
- Organisation "Youth 4 Youth"
- Finding out about Forum MNE publications
- The youth information centres<sup>3</sup> from different parts of a country and of Europe can be connected and work together in an easier way
- New ways of online work
- New tools of working with youth

### One **useful** thing heard about a **national situation**

- Many organisations operate with limited funding and a big heart
- Visa situation in Macedonia
- All countries have similar problems while implementing a youth policy
- The Finnish state model of supporting youth information and youth work in general
- How people in Turkey and Belarus deal with specific situations
- The Netherlands: YIC face financial problems as well
- No national youth policy in Turkey, in parallel to local youth policies, a presence of youth policy over 50 years
- Government co-operates with information youth centres
- Useful conversations about youth strategy
- Lack of cross-sector approach in creating and implementing youth policies in some of the countries
- Finnish organisations also have problems
- Existing and not functioning strategy on youth is peculiar not only for Russia

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<sup>3</sup> YIC subsequently in the text



## One **surprising** thing heard about **ERYICA**



- National lobbying and help for writing proposals
  - ERYICA is working on the Youth Information Starter Kit
  - The Main aim of ERYICA is networking
  - ERYICA is becoming more than a youth information network
  - Possibilities for funding by ERYICA
  - Minimum Basic Training Course
  - Possible financial support to new Member Organisations
- 
- ERYICA shows willingness to co-operate with non-Member Organisations to develop models for youth participation
  - New possibilities regarding fundraising procedures and assistance

## Things you **still want to know** more about

- Common projects, new ideas
- Sustainability of NGOs
- Organisation's status in ERYICA
- Youth Information Starter Kit
- Which country is a good practice model in youth information work?
- Joint projects
- Funding opportunities
- Next events and activities
- When will the Balkans Strategy function?
- Youth Policy Strategy 2009 in the Balkans
- Challenges in the youth policy in the Balkans
- Youth Policy Strategy 2009 at national and international levels
- When will Montenegro become an ERYICA member?
- Methodology of developing youth information services
- Standards and quality assurance in youth information work
- What have you done without me?
- More information on national policies
- Other ERYICA documents



- What do we understand under the youth information?
- Funding for youth information work
- How to improve youth policy implementation in Montenegro?
- How to improve programmes related to peer to peer counselling?
- What does ERYICA want to do with the EECA?
- Who is interested in co-operation with Russia?
- Where to find more information on youth policies in other countries?
- Exchanges between youth workers

### 3.2. Wednesday, 10/12/2008

After the ice-breaking Bingo game, the participants of the Seminar briefly discussed the **goals of the day**:

- Understanding youth information in Europe
- Looking at online tools for youth information
- Contributing to the development of the Youth Information Starters' Kit
- Understanding European structures for youth policy



Then **Alexandra Cangelosi**, the ERYICA Vice-President, had a presentation on **“Youth Information in the Context of European Policies”**.

Her presentation revolved around the following core themes:

#### The right to information



- **The right to information has been recognised e.g.:**
  - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
  - The Convention on the Rights of the Child
  - The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms



## “Youth Information in the Context of European Policies”, Alexandra Cangelosi

### Recommendation 90(7)



- **Concerning information and counselling for young people in Europe**
- promote co-ordination at European level of a policy of information and counselling
- support the creation of appropriate information services
- promote research on the subject
- support the development of a European network of respective services

### European Youth Information Charter



**First version was adopted in 1993**

- It became very quickly the underlying set of work principles for Youth Information Centers and Services

**The current version was reviewed and updated in 2004.**

- It has been referred to as a reference document by European stake holders since then.

### A New Impetus for European Youth



- **The European Union launched the White Paper on Youth in 2001 – 4 key areas**
- Participation
- Youth Information
- Better knowledge of young people
- Volunteering

### Youth Information



- improving access for young people to information services;
- increasing the provision of quality information;
- increasing participation by young people in youth information, for example in the preparation and dissemination of information.



## “Youth Information in the Context of European Policies”, Alexandra Cangelosi

### European Youth Pact



- Employability
- Social inclusion
- Knowledge-based society
- Possibility to combine work and family-life

→ Youth as a transversal issue

### Structured dialogue



...from Monologue to Dialogue

...from European to National to Local to National to European...

### Current issues



The Council of Europe and the European Union are currently revising their Youth Policies and defining new priorities and strategies for the upcoming decade(s).

- Agenda 2020
- New cycle of the structured dialogue

### We are not alone



- **EURODESK**  
European opportunities for young people
- **EYCA**  
European Youth Card Association
- **European Youth Forum**  
representing youth-organisations and youth NGOs

### Useful links:

- European Knowledge Center for Youth Policies
- [www.youth-partnership.net](http://www.youth-partnership.net)
- European Youth Portal
- <http://europa.eu/youth>

### Quotes from the audience:

- “Youth information workers should know what the European directives are about”
- “State organisations can use the tools mentioned as advocacy tools”
- “For us it's not so good that the priorities change in 2010: we're still trying to adapt the priorities of “before” and make them work”



- *“The EU has no direct control of what is happening in youth policies. In Austria the youth depends on regions, for instance”*

### Key things learnt:

- Recommendation 90: still valid
- What the Structured Dialogue is about
- Common projects
- Lack of legislation in the field of youth in certain countries

After that, **Marc Boes**, the ERYICA President, did a presentation on **“Online Tools and New Technologies for Supporting Youth Information Practice”**.

Before going into the substance of the presentation, he asked the audience several questions:

- In what year did you use the Internet for the first time?
  - 1995?
  - 2002?
- Do you use Internet tools for your work? If yes, which ones?
  - Sites from the European Commission?
  - Google?
  - Knowledge databases?
  - e-learning?



- What is your personal favourite web application?
  - Facebook?
  - Google talk?

Mr. Boes' presentation revolved around the following core themes.



## “Online Tools and New Technologies for Supporting Youth Information Practice”, Marc Boes

### Some milestones



- 1994 World Wide Web /  
Information on the web was still mainly on computer related stuff.
- 1997 Youth Information start to publish on the Internet
- 2000 introduction of broadband connections which made MSN and other chat systems possible
- 2005 Wikipedia / Facebook From information source to social environment.

### Before we start



- Young people are always one step ahead of us with technology, so don't try to out smart them ☺
- E.g. Mosquito ring tone

### Facebook, Myspace, hyves,....(F)



- Social environments, where you have friends, tell what you do and share things like photo's.

### Second live



- Virtual world where in you can move around with your avatar
- Was a big thing 1 year ago
- Now not a hype any more



## “Online Tools and New Technologies for Supporting Youth Information Practice”, Marc Boes

### geotagging



- Google maps
- Trackr.nl

### Wikipedia (F)



- Free internet based encyclopaedia, worked on by “everybody”.

### Video edit applications (F)



- On line video editing applications like jaycut.com
- Popular because the use of mobile telephones as video cameras
- The eysspot, jumpcut, jaycut story

### Youtube /vimeo (F)



- Place to share your video's
- Home movies
- Funny things you “taped”

### What is needed..... (F)



- To use your internet tools successfully
- . Be original
  - . Don't try to do what others already do and do better

### How to Market (new ways),



- **Crowdsourcing**
- **Viral marketing**

Then the **Eurodesk President, Reinhard Schwalbach**, took the floor and presented the Eurodesk's work.



## Introduction to Eurodesk, Reinhard Schwalbach

### Eurodesk today

Whatever the question ...  
... start with us!

30 countries  
+900 Eurodesk Relays  
European Office in Brussels



### Eurodesk Development

1990: Launched in Scotland  
1991 -1994: The UK network  
1994 -1995: European pilot project  
1995: European network



2004: Part of the YOUTH Programme  
2007: Part of the YOUTH IN ACTION Programme



### Eurodesk Services

Answering enquiries  
Access to European opportunities  
Raising European awareness  
Training, support and networking



### Eurodesk Services

Answering enquiries  
Access to European opportunities  
Raising European awareness  
Training, support and networking

Free enquiry answering:  
*via*  
Face to face, telephone,  
email, fax, discussion  
forums  
*by*  
• analysing the issues  
• giving the basic answer  
• referring on to the best  
source for more information  
or future action



### Eurodesk Services



- Answering enquiries
- Access to European opportunities
- Raising European awareness
- Training, support and networking

**Free enquiry answering:**  
*via*  
Face to face, telephone, email, fax, discussion forums  
*by*

- analysing the issues
- giving the basic answer
- referring on to the best source for more information or future action



### Eurodesk Services



- Answering enquiries
- Access to European opportunities
- Raising European awareness
- Training, support and networking

- European Youth Portal
- [www.EURODESK.eu](http://www.EURODESK.eu)
- Discussion Forum
- 900 Eurodesk Relays
- Research & Info management



### Eurodesk Services



- Answering enquiries
- Access to European opportunities
- Raising European awareness
- Training, support and networking

- Eurodesk promotion
- European awareness initiative (SYTYKIA)
- Fairs, exhibitions, visits to schools, youth organisations, publications etc
- Information sessions



### Eurodesk Services


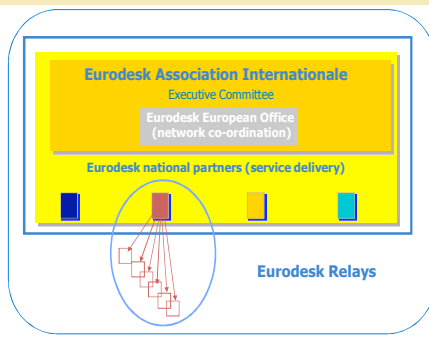


- Answering enquiries
- Access to European opportunities
- Raising European awareness
- Training, support and networking

- Training for Eurodesk National Partners, Eurodesk Relays and other multipliers.
- Support services for all network partners (European Office, Eurodesk Intranet)
- Networking



### Eurodesk Network





**Eurodesk Association Internationale**  
Executive Committee

Eurodesk European Office  
(network co-ordination)

Eurodesk national partners (service delivery)

Eurodesk Relays



### Eurodesk Relays




- Answer enquiries
- Promote the:
  - European Youth Portal
  - European information for young people
- Participate in network activities
- Use the Eurodesk Intranet on a daily basis
- Co-operate:
  - link with other local organisations working with young people and information




### Eurodesk Network

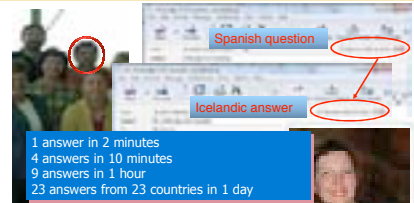
**Eurodesk Association Internationale**

**Eurodesk Network Activities**

- Network meetings
- Work groups
- Eurodesk Quality Process
- Eurodesk Relays seminars
- Joint Seminars: eryica-eurodesk-eyca-eyf
- Projects e.g. **"...so you think you know it all?" - SVTYKIA**



### Eurodesk Intranet




Spanish question

Icelandic answer


1 answer in 2 minutes  
4 answers in 10 minutes  
9 answers in 1 hour  
23 answers from 23 countries in 1 day

**Real time professional support for research and enquiry answering throughout the Eurodesk Network**



### Eurodesk & EU Youth Policy

2001	White paper launched (consultation period of 18 months)
2002	Open Method of Co-ordination adopted
2003	Common objectives for youth information adopted
2004	European Youth Portal launched
2005	European Youth Pact
2005	European Youth week
2006	Communication white paper
2007	Youth in Action Programme starts
2007	Eurodesk part of YIA Programme
2007	Structured Dialogue with young people
2007	European Youth week
2008	Future challenges for young people
2008	European Youth week
2008	Eurodesk mission revised



### SVTYKIA 2008-2009

**European Awareness for young people**



**... sessions delivered by Eurodesk relays**

**Eurodesk support for the Structured Dialogue**






### Opportunities and challenges

- New President
- New mission – core tasks of Eurodesk
- 4 networks co-operation possibilities
- Youth Info policy in Europe
- "white territories" and enlargement of Eurodesk?



### Useful Links

- <http://europa.eu.int/youth>
- [www.eryica.org](http://www.eryica.org)
- [www.eurodesk.eu](http://www.eurodesk.eu)
- [www.eyca.org](http://www.eyca.org)
- [www.eryica-eurodesk-eyca.net](http://www.eryica-eurodesk-eyca.net)
- [www.youth.info](http://www.youth.info)
- [www.eurodesk.de](http://www.eurodesk.de)



Then **Michèle Bergdoll**, the Council of Europe representative (Directorate of Youth and Sport) took the floor and presented the work of the Council in the area of youth.



## Council of Europe: Introduction, Michele Bergdoll

### Key bodies of the Council of Europe



- Committee of Ministers
- Parliamentary Assembly
- CLRAE: the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe
- European Court of Human Rights
- Secretariat General

### Cultural Convention

- to develop **mutual understanding** among the peoples of Europe and reciprocal appreciation of their **cultural diversity**,
- to safeguard European culture,
- to promote national contributions to Europe's common cultural heritage respecting the same **fundamental values**

### Directorate of Youth and Sport – Youth in the CoE

- Intergovernmental Co-operation / Co-management
- Partnership Agreement with EU
- European Youth Foundation
- European Youth Centers:  
EYC Strasbourg (1972) and EYC Budapest (1995)

### Co-Management

- Decisions are taken by co-managed bodies (**governments** and Youth **NGOs**)
- Equal numbers of governmental and non-governmental youth representatives make the decisions concerning the political orientations, work priorities and programmes of the Directorate

### The future of the Council of Europe youth policy – Agenda 2020



- Human rights and democracy
- Living together in diverse societies
- Social inclusion of young people

### Buzzwords

- **Learning** (Formal, non-formal and informal, education/learning, training, new technologies (ICT), information and counselling)
- **Inclusion** (employment/unemployment, social exclusion/marginalisation, racism/intolerance, minorities, gender equality)
- **Participation** (citizenship education, access to decision-making, democracy, equal opportunities)



## Council of Europe: Introduction, Michèle Bergdoll



### European Youth Foundation

Set up in 1972 to **provide financial support** for international youth activities carried out by youth organisations.

The EYF may contribute to the financing of the following activities:

- International **youth meetings**;
- **Youth activities** other than meetings;
- Administration of international non-governmental youth organisations and networks;
- **Pilot projects**

### Instruments

- European Youth Centres in Strasbourg and in Budapest in-house training centres
- Study sessions
- Training courses
- Seminars, Symposia
- Research, publications
- Youth policy development

### Partnership in the youth field Council of Europe & European Commission

#### Initial Objectives:

Training European youth workers on European Citizenship issues

#### Training Activities:

- Training modules
- Training manuals: T-Kits
- Magazine - Coyote
- web site: [www.training-youth.net](http://www.training-youth.net)



#### Other activities:

Research (Seminars, Knowledge centre)  
Euro-med

### Useful links:

- <http://www.coe.int>
- <http://www.coe.int/youth>
- <http://www.coe.int/publishing>
- <http://www.training-youth.net>





After that, Tine Radinja, the YFJ President, spoke about the core tasks and challenges of the **European Youth Forum**.

## EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM

It is made up of 99 National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations, which are federations of youth organisations in themselves.

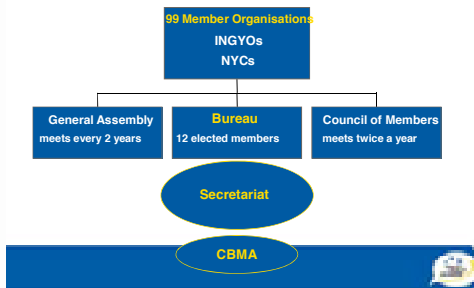
It brings together tens of millions of young people from all over Europe, and represents their common interests.

## OUR MISSION

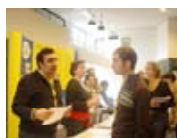
To EMPOWER young people to PARTICIPATE actively in the shaping of Europe and the societies in which they live.

To IMPROVE the LIVING CONDITIONS of young people as European citizens in today's world.

## OUR STRUCTURE



## OUR WORK



Provides a space for organisations to be sustainable and offers strategic support for capacity building, networking and the dissemination of good practice

## OUR WORK

Voice the concerns of our membership into the political agenda of governmental institutions.

## OUR WORK



Elaboration of policies and positions, which are based on the opinions, experiences and expertise of young people from all over Europe.

## European Youth Forum, Tine Radinja

### Policy Areas

#### EDUCATION

Promote the concept of *Life Long and Life Wide Learning*, and the recognition and complementarity of all the dimensions of Education: Formal and Non-Formal Education and informal learning.

### Policy Area

- Education
- Youth Policy in Europe
- Employment and Social Inclusion
- Human Rights and Equality
- Sustainable Development
- Health
- Training
- Mobility
- Global and Regional Youth Cooperation

### Press & Communications



#### CAMPAIGNS

[www.getvisable.org](http://www.getvisable.org)  
[www.youthforum.org/declaration](http://www.youthforum.org/declaration)



### Policy Areas

#### YOUTH POLICY IN EUROPE

Increase the participation of young people in the shaping of the European policies concerning them and improve the qualities of youth policies and programmes.

### Press & Communication

[www.youthforum.org](http://www.youthforum.org)



### Policy Areas

#### MOBILITY

Investigate and advocate for the removal of legal obstacles to mobility in youth work.

Some of the participants seized the chance to question guests:

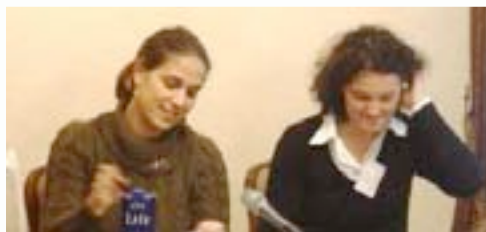
- **Q. (to Mr. Radinja):** The European Youth Forum becomes more and more of a high level platform and loses the contact with young people themselves. Some NGOs in Russia don't have access to the Youth Forum and don't know about it. Maybe the aim of the Forum should be revised?



- **Answer:** Indeed, we will work on membership issue extensively within the next year to develop the network.

### 3.3. Thursday, 11/12/2009

On the fourth day of the event, the Seminar participants had a chance to participate in the Conference “**Youth Information and Youth Policy: Perspectives from Europe and Montenegro**” in the Kotor City Council.



**Ajsa Hadzibegovic**, the Forum MNE Director, **Marc Boes**, the ERYICA President, and **Liliana Jovovic**, the Municipality of Kotor representative, have welcomed guests at the Municipality, introducing the goals of the Conference and its honourable guests.

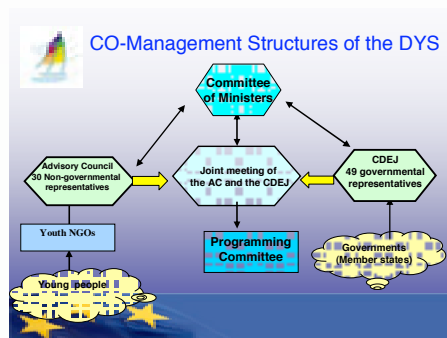
Then **Zehra Kacapor**, the Forum Syd representative, talked about the role of youth in democratic Europe.

- Quote: *“Young people should be seen as a resource rather than as a problem”.*

**Tine Radinja**, the YFJ President, then took the floor.

- Quote: *“It is important to invest in youth, believe in its potential, in the skills of young people, and in their mobility”.*

After that, **Michele Bergdoll** from the Council of Europe presented the co-management scheme in the Council and its importance for the youth policy stakeholders.



**Jelena Miljanic**, Info Resources Centre Coordinator at Forum MNE, then shortly introduced the work of the organisation in Montenegro, its aspirations and challenges



to tackle. She stressed the importance of creating sustainable mechanisms for youth information and participation in particular.

After that, **Alexandra Cangelosi**, the ERYICA Vice-President, did a presentation on “Youth Information and Participation in Youth Policy at European Level”, highlighting the milestones in the youth information for the last 40 years.



**Vanja Grgurovic**, the Deputy Head of EU Secretariat in Montenegro, talked about building democratic citizenship practice and capacity in line with the EU perspective in the Balkans.

The Conference became a place and opportunity for **the Kotor Cultural Centre and Forum MNE** to sign a **Memorandum of Co-operation** between them. Also, **Forum MNE signed the European Youth Information Charter** at the Conference.

Ajsa Hadzibegovic, Director, Forum MNE and Marc Boes, ERYICA President have closed the Conference to proceed with the General Assembly of ERYICA.

Therefore, Seminar participants had some free time to explore the city and its surrounding.

### 3.4. Friday, 12/12/2008

On Friday, all Seminar participants could contribute to the general overview of the European dimension in the field of youth information and youth policies by providing a three-minute speech on their national situations.

A brief summary of the national situations is provided below:

#### **Czech Republic - NIDM - Narodni Institut deti a mládeze**

*“We have changed our name; we are now the National Youth Information Centre. Our plans for the next year are standardisation and harmonisation”.*

#### **United Kingdom - Wales - Canllaw Online**

*“We have delivered some training to Kenya, in November we have one day youth information training, we take part in the Study Visit to Finland”.*



### **France - CIDJ - Centre d'information et de documentation jeunesse**

*"As we are funded by the Ministry from top to bottom, we might be changing our priorities".*

### **Belgium - French speaking Community - CIDJ - Centre d'information et de documentation pour jeunes**

*"We have a new law on youth information centres. Next year we will do the training on new technologies. We are elaborating out a guide for teenagers".*

### **Spain - INJUVE - Instituto de la Juventud**

*"After 25 years of work, we finally have the recognition of youth information profession. We have training courses for youth information workers, through the University of Salamanta as well, one of the oldest universities in Spain. All those courses are online; we have a special course for youth information workers".*

### **The Netherlands - Vereniging van JIP's**

*"The youth information is under the Ministry of Youth and Family Affairs, the priority is the family for the moment.*

*A new law was adopted recently, where the right on information is explicitly expressed. The number of youth centres is dropping down. How do we respond to that? We provide counselling to NGOs that are facing problems".*

### **Austria - jugendinfo.cc - Österreichische Jugendinfos**

*"Austria is a federal state, consisting of 9 independent states. Therefore, I am dealing with 9 very different systems of youth information centres. We try to harmonise these systems".*

### **Lichtenstein - aha - Tipps und Infos für Junge Leute**

*"The aims are changing; more and more young people are looking for a job, and we are doing our best to provide guidance and counselling to those young people".*



### **Montenegro - FORUM MLADI I NEFORMALNA EDUKACIJA (Forum MNE)**

*"We received support from the Italian Embassy for youth policy. We have two information points in Kotor and Olin, where forums on school violence take place".*

### **Luxembourg - CIJ - Centre Information pour Jeunes**

*"We have youth and jobs fairs. We organise a fair around June and invite young people. On the local level, there are several youth centres functioning".*

### **Estonia - ENTK - Eesti Noorsootoo Keskus**

*"Youth work centres are under the Ministry of Education, we provide counselling. We have 19 information centres for 1,3 million people. Most of the information youngsters get is from the website, we have two main info sites about education and career".*

### **Italy - Coordinamento Nazionale Informagiovani**

*"We are responsible for the tasks of Eurodesk in Italy; we also work to promote peer to peer information network. To do so, we organised a network of young people about the benefits of Europe for young people. We will organise a common session for stakeholders in Italy to present the Italian position".*

### **Slovenia - MISSS - Mladinsko Informativno Svetovalno Sredisce Slovenije**

*"We are still waiting for a law on youth. We operate on the national level, and I can't speak about the coordination of twelve centres, but there is coordination".*

### **Germany - IJAB - Fachstelle für Internationale Jugendarbeit der Bundesrepublik Deutschland e.V.**

*"We have done a quality catalogue. We will have the first certificate on informal education soon".*



### **Finland – National Development and Coordination Center of Youth Information and Counselling Services**

*“The youth information work is very important. The network has been growing strongly. For the last year, we have therefore decided to slow down a bit and work on quality”.*

### **Portugal - IPJ - Instituto Português da Juventude**

*“In November, we had a weekly training dealing exclusively with youth information: it was the first time that the people from Portugal had an opportunity to attend this kind of meeting (we have received an invitation to go to Spain; there was a great interest to go there to participate in this meeting). We co-operate with the European Knowledge Centre”.*

### **Greece - General Secretariat for Youth**

*“We deal with non-formal education, and are in close co-operation with the ‘Youth in Action’ Programme. We address governmental and nongovernmental structures”.*

### **Norway - Forum för Ungdomsinformasjonskontor**

*“We are in the process of creating 5 infopoint groups to outreach particular audience. In February, we will discuss our new priorities”.*

### **Macedonia – SEGA**

*“Coalition SEGA was created in 2004 in order to prepare a national youth strategy. We are considering 8 priorities including youth work and youth information. We are also in the process of enhancing work of NGOs”.*

### **Russian Federation - Youth Information Centre**

*“We have a “Strategy on Youth”, but the Ministry responsible for implementing the Strategy was changed two times, who is responsible for the implementation is not clear any more. Youth information is not explicitly mentioned in the legislation”.*

### **Turkey - GSM Youth Services Centre**

*“Turkey is a big country: 65 % are young people. We have no explicit youth councils,*



*youth policies. Youth work is still developing and is still in process. We have different tools to empower young people and to inform them. In 2001, we did a survey on what kind of sources do young people use. We have created some online tools to get information; during the years we have participated in trainings to raise our capacity. Once we met with Eurodesk Italy and created a partnership with Italy to improve youth information in Turkey”.*

### **Croatia - Zajednica ICM**

*“We are proud to become the Affiliated Member of ERYICA as of January 2009; it is a very positive development. We have many things to do”.*

### **Bosnia and Herzegovina – OiA**

*“We are recognised as a leading Bosnia and Herzegovina youth information organisation. We have the largest portal for youth scholarships, jobs&news. We are involved in production and introduction of radio-, TV shows that are broadcasted on the national TV. We co-operate with municipalities. The added value that we have is the experience in peer to peer information”.*

### **Serbia - ONO Omladinska Nevladina Organizacija**

*“We are creating and publishing information. We have established a co-operation with Sweden. Since 2009, we may have a national youth policy, and youth information work is strategic. This is a part of campaign to empower the youth”.*

### **Bulgaria - Youth Information Network**

*“We are still on Strategic Plan 2001, although it has to be renewed and revised. Hopefully they will do it in the next year. We started as a local structure in 1993, now we are national, we work with sports department; we deal with health issues as well. We are now working in major projects; since 2007 we have 6 regions in Bulgaria and we are establishing national council bodies. We are doing a major project for our poor region; against drugs, AIDS. In my opinion; we lack websites, i.e., they are not very informational”.*

After presenting national instances, Seminar participants engaged themselves in preparing project proposals for the **Project Fair**, which took place at 19.30 (See Annex III, Summary of the Project Fair proposals and initiatives).





After the Project Fair, a farewell dinner and an International Evening took place!



### 3.5. Saturday, 13/12/2008

On Saturday, a Seminar evaluation took place, after which the participants went back to their countries.



## ➤ Evaluation

**During the event.** At the end of each day, a summary of the day was provided by a volunteering rapporteur. Participants were given the opportunity to evaluate the day's blocks on an equal footing and in a free manner.

An evaluation poster was available for the whole duration of the Seminar, having enabled participants to post, at the end of the day, their thoughts on different blocks of the programme.

A "message box" enabled each participant to express his/her say on topics of interest in either a personal or anonymous way, leading to a transparent evaluation of all aspects of the Seminar.

**At the end of the event** participants have posted on the wall their impressions of different aspects of the Seminar.

### I. Practical issues – living conditions

- *"Splendid"*
- *"Very good, a little bit cold in the room, but survivable"*
- *"Best chairs for a Seminar ever had"*
- *"Thanx"*
- *"Just perfect"*
- *"The weather could be better"*
- *"Too much free time at the end. I would have preferred to have more discussions"*

### II. What we learnt this week

- *"Charters"*
- *"I got a feeling of belonging to a big group and the network. I also discovered the Balkans and started to put "puzzles" of the youth information work in my head"*
- *"The Balkans"*
- *"Clear boundaries and responsibility shared is important in youth information and youth policy"*
- *"Different approaches with the same goals"*

### III. What we didn't learn but wish we had...

- *"Methodology of the youth information work"*
- *"Shortage of printed materials providing overview of the youth policies"*



## Impact

Through the Seminar and its activities, participants have learnt

- To compare youth information work realities and methodology in different countries via presentations, round tables and other non-formal learning tools;
- To bring participation of young people in the reality of youth information activities by presenting good practices in the field and fostering group discussions as well as follow-up sharing of activities;
- That youth information work must be inclusive;
- About some good practices of inclusion (e.g. youth information work in rural areas, reaching minorities, migrants, specific social and cultural groups) via presentations of actions on the field and exchange of contacts and best practices;
- About existing possibilities for international co-operation via personal contacts enabled throughout the Seminar, through the organisation of the Project Fair;
- How and for what purposes to develop a network that can facilitate international exchanges by creating personal contacts, getting to know different national realities and the specific Montenegrin one;
- To become more and better aware of the link between youth policy and youth information work development on different levels (local, national, European,...Eg: introducing ERYICA's indicators on national youth information) via presentations on the topic, comparison between different realities and exchange of information and views on national policies;
- Of European Union's "common objectives on youth information and participation" and see how to support and to use them in influencing policy makers in their home countries: again, this objective was achieved through presentations and group discussions;
- Of European Union's New Cycle of Structured Dialogue and possible projects in the field;
- About training and support possibilities offered by the participation and the membership in the ERYICA network;
- Of development of youth information services as a long, demanding process, like it was in those Western European countries that have first started a systematic policy development in youth information. This was pursued through exchange of experiences and sharing specific history, presenting good practices, such as earlier ERYICA's initiatives (international conferences and related compendia available).



Also, thanks to the Seminar and involvement of the participants in the Conference and informal networking, concrete actions and initiatives have already taken place:



- ERYICA has grown: Zajednica ICM from Croatia has applied for membership in ERYICA and has become the ERYICA Affiliated Member, GSM Youth Services Centre from Turkey, ONO from Serbia and the Centre for Youth Information and Documentation from Belarus have become Agency's new Co-operating Organisations;
- A Training for Trainers was provided in Croatia in February 2009; the second round of peer-to-peer training was also provided in April 2009, and the pool of ERYICA certified youth information workers has grown;
- The MBTC training in Serbia was applied for, and hopefully, will be approved for September 2009;
- A Study Visit to Finland took place in May 2009;
- A Study Visit to Flanders, Belgium has been scheduled for October 19 – 24, 2009 if approved by the 'Youth in Action' Programme of the European Union;
- Representatives of FORUM MNE have become involved in the ERYICA Training Task Force.