



“Cultural Diversity - a Common Wealth”- an Intercultural training for Balkan Young Leaders

The project was held in Tirana, Albania on 17-21 April 2006, and had the nature of an intercultural training for young Balkan Leaders from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro.

The project was implemented under the framework of “All different – All equal” Campaign.

- The activity started with a call for applications in which a short presentation of the campaign was included. The message reached a broad audience, in terms of figures and geography (Europe and Asia).
- The training was held on 17-21 April 2006, and at the beginning a short presentation of the Campaign and its goals was presented to participants.
- A poster was realized and the logos of the Council of Europe and “All different – All equal” were included. The poster is composed of different people with open and parallel arms, symbolizing equality. The written message of the poster is “All different – All equal”.
- The poster is delivered in different Albanian NGOs and public institutions as well as in the respective countries of the participants of the training.
- The logo of “All different – All equal” Campaign and Council of Europe was printed in all documents delivered to participants and all other materials presented.
- Participants had the task that after the training they will use the poster and the message of the campaign to sensitize their peers in the place where they live or work. As many of them wrote, the poster is very much liked especially in the schools, and the message is delivered in their environment.
- Participants were provided with tools, methods and other resources to promote equality and eliminate discrimination (“All different – All equal” Campaign, advocacy and campaigning skills, dealing and using the media, knowing discrimination and racism and fighting it, intercultural learning skills, networking, knowledge and skills to work with multicultural and multiethnic communities or teams) and cooperation links are established among participants. So, we prepared a group of 23 young persons able to raise the campaign in their countries or in regional level.
- In order to spread the message of the Campaign and the “Cultural diversity – a common Wealth” activity, Vision centre, organized a radio emission in Bum Bum radio, a national radio station. The emission was transmitted several times during the week after the training. The interview realized was associated with different songs, such as: “Be my friend” (a song in English, Macedonian, Albanian, Romane, and Turkish) etc. An introduction of the “All different – All equal” campaign and its message for respect of diversity, human rights and participation was transmitted to the Albanian public.
- A summary of the activity, different photos and parts of the report are published in the organization’s website <http://qendravizion.org> as well as a call for tolerance, respect of human rights and participation in solidarity with “All different - All equal” Campaign.
- The team could not work or contact the Albanian Committee of the Campaign, because it wasn’t created. We contacted several times the Office of the Council of Europe, Tirana and after their pressure, the representatives of the Government (Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sport) showed will to raise this committee. In mid June we learned that the committee was going to be raised very soon. We are very much interested to collaborate with this committee in the future and hope to be as helpful as possible to the realization of the mission of the Campaign.

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Follow up:

Through the 5-day training activities, we prepared a group of 23 young persons able to raise the campaign in their countries or in regional level.

1 - In Albania, participants are very glad to participate or cooperate in future activities as a team. Together, we decided to continue to spread our common message of tolerance and respect of diversity in the future, through different activities all over Albania. As a first step, we intend to organize the Albanian National Day of "All different – All equal". We planned to organize this day on the occasion of the first opening school day, September 2006. We would like to bring the message of the campaign to all children, teachers, parents and young people in the schools all over Albania. We will deliver posters and publish a newspaper article on a daily newspaper. A message will be also delivered in internet.

And according to the support we will manage to find we will open the school day in every school of Albania with a presentation of the campaign and the call for respect of diversity and equality as well as a press conference together with the Minister of Education at the national TV stations. Again depending on the support we will have we would prepare before this campaign-day, the Messengers who will deliver the message all over Albania, by a one day training in Campaigning, Public speaking, using media and All different – All equal Campaign. These special messengers will be the Albanian participants in the training, other young NGO activists and teachers from different regions of Albania.

Our allies in this initiative may be: The Albanian Committee of the Campaign, helping us in the cooperation with the ministry of Education and its respective Educational Directories in the regions; The Office of the Council of Europe in Tirana which can offer the meeting room for the training; and the trainers and activists of Vision Centre will train the young Messengers. We will ask for other support for the rest of the activities.

2 – In regional level. Through the 5-day training activities, we prepared young leaders able to organize campaigns and use other tools to promote respect of diversity, human rights and participation. Participants were very much encouraged to future cooperation among them. We will see the possibility to organize the above idea in One Day all over Balkans.

Please find attached 10 copies of the poster, Copies of all documents used to present or symbolize the campaign and a CD with photos from the training and radio emission transmitted.

Form more information or any possible question, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards,

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