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Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth

DJS/EYCB/ICD/2011/24

Budapest, 27 June 2011

Euro-Mediterranean seminar
**Indicators for Intercultural Dialogue in Non-
formal Education Activities**

Mollina, Spain, 22-24 September 2011

In the framework of the 12th University on Youth and Development

PRESENTATION
CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Background of the project

Intercultural dialogue is, implicitly or explicitly, a common objective and purpose for all the partners concerned by international youth cooperation and, particularly, those involved in Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

Intercultural dialogue, whether referring to policies, educational approaches or programmes, for the purpose of the experts meeting herein referred, embraces realities and concepts that are also found in intercultural learning, intercultural education and, obviously, intercultural dialogue. It also concerns social and educational policies other than those strictly related to education (formal and non-formal), such as youth policy, social policies, migration, etc. The educational approaches and programmes where intercultural dialogue purposes can be found may or may not have "intercultural" as an explicit dimension, such as peace education, human rights education, global education, etc.

Intercultural dialogue can be understood, to a large extent, as the socio-political expression and framework of educational programmes which have intercultural learning in their objectives or approach. Intercultural dialogue and intercultural learning are not competing and much less incompatible concepts and approaches; they are interdependent and inter-connected.

Narrow and restrictive views of intercultural dialogue can seriously distort or limit its potential, notably the risk of culturalising matters or of "reifying" culture. Intercultural relations and intercultural dialogue have to be, obviously, contextualized in a given social reality where tensions and conflicts of various nature interplay and where the role of "culture" may be less important or less evident than the adjective "intercultural" would suggest.

Intercultural dialogue and intercultural learning concepts have been recently addressed and reviewed by the two main partnership actors. In the Council of Europe, by the White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue and more recently, by the Report of the Group of Eminent Persons of the Council of Europe "Living together: Combining diversity and freedom in 21st-century Europe".

The European Union's Youth in Action Programme is perhaps the most practical expression of promoting intercultural learning values in youth work.

In the partnership between the two institutions in the youth field, the T-kit on Intercultural Learning (currently under-going revision) and Mosaic (the T-Kit on Euro-Mediterranean youth work) represent the possibly best combination of experiences in the youth sector in as far as intercultural learning is concerned.

The partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth undertook the project of researching indicators for intercultural dialogue in 2009, in the framework of Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation, which included also Human Rights Education and Intercultural Dialogue¹.

At the origin, the project was meant to provide answers to the questions:

- What makes international youth activities and projects "intercultural" or supportive of intercultural dialogue?

¹ The Euro-Mediterranean context is not the only relevant geographical scope of cooperation of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth for this project, but it is possibly the most obvious and one of the most difficult as a result of the ambivalence of the relations between all side of the Mediterranean and the crystallisation of stereotyping and prejudice. But the work on indicators applies equally to cooperation with and between other regions such as the Arab, African and American regions and within sub-regions.

- Are there indicators that organizers and participants in such activities can use to evaluate the extent of intercultural learning in their activities?
- Do the two questions above make sense in the same way to (all) the partners involved in Euro-Mediterranean youth activities?

From the outset, the Salto network (Salto Diversity and Salto Euro-Med) have cooperated in the project; involvement of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, of the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures and other international organisations was also envisaged.

Feasibility study

The project was initiated in 2010 with a **feasibility study** carried out by a consultant of the EU-CoE youth partnership; the study addressed the relevance and feasibility of the project. The study was discussed by a **group of experts** in Budapest in June 2010, who examined the proposals of the feasibility study and proposed ways to continue the research on indicators.

The experts meeting proposed two main areas for the research to be continued:

1. Personal learning competences.
What suggests or indicates the development of intercultural (learning) competencies in the learners/participants?
2. Context and framework for intercultural dialogue activities
Which conditions and approaches should be present in intercultural (youth) activities so that they could be considered as supporting the development of intercultural learning competencies?

According to the group, the two areas are closely related and are intertwined, even though a process of causality is not always necessary: it is possible to have successful individual intercultural learning experiences in activities which are not necessarily respectful of "intercultural dialogue principle". Or is it?

The expert meeting proposed also conditions and a process for continuing the work on indicators for intercultural dialogue. These included, among others:

- Defining a common framework of purpose in intercultural dialogue youth activities
- Identifying criteria in intercultural dialogue activities, for example, related to:
 - process
 - content
 - people
- Research on practices in intercultural dialogue from which indicators can be identified (through focus groups, questionnaires and interviews of trainers, direct observation of training activities)
- Drafting indicators
- Testing and revising the indicators.

Next steps: defining the scope of the seminar

The Partnership Management Board decided to pursue the work on the project in 2011, notably by continuing the research on criteria for intercultural dialogue activities and, on the basis of those criteria, to propose indicators that could be tested in various activities in 2011 and 2012 and beyond.

In 2011, the project continued by the mapping exercise initiated with the feasibility study, its continuation was commissioned in order to explore, in particular,

- Objectives for intercultural dialogue in programmes of the Council of Europe and the European Commission;
- Possible criteria to which indicators could be associated.

The study will serve as a basis for a **seminar on indicators** that will discuss, propose and probably validate a set of possible indicators as well as the process for trying the indicators in activities in 2012 and the follow-up of results.

Aims and objectives

The seminar aims to discuss the relevance, feasibility and practical implementation of the project on indicators for intercultural dialogue for non-formal education activities.

Objectives:

- To discuss and enlarge the consultation on the project (relevance, feasibility, interest, etc);
- To review a set of draft criteria and respective indicators;
- Elaborate guidelines for testing phase and consultation.

Participants

The seminar will bring together twenty youth workers, trainers in non-formal education, educational experts and researchers, stakeholders, and youth policy experts from the Euro-Mediterranean region. All participants should:

- Be interested and experienced in the topics of intercultural dialogue;
- Be familiar with the intercultural dialogue aspects in non-formal education activities;
- Be ready to contribute to the programme and reflections of the seminar;
- Be able to work in English;
- Be interested in the University on Youth and Development;
- Be available for the full duration of the seminar.

Priority will be given to the participants/practitioners interested in contributing to the testing and evaluation phase of the project.

Draft programme

Wednesday, 21 September

Arrival of participants

Thursday, 22 September

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| 09:30 | Opening of the seminar |
| | Introduction of participants |
| | Presentation of the background, expected results and programme of the seminar |
| 10:30 | Presentation of the work undertaken so far |
| 11:00 | Break |

- 11:30 Discussion about the relevance, aims and approach of the project on indicators for intercultural dialogue (working groups)
- 12:45 Lunch
- 15:00 Indicators of dialogue or indicators of learning? – input and discussion on the potential, limits and possibilities of the work on indicators (speaker to be confirmed)
- 16:30 Break
- 17:00 Working groups on questions raised by the speaker
- 18:30 Evaluation and closing of the day

Friday, 23 September

- 09:30 Purpose and criteria for intercultural dialogue
Presentation and discussion of approaches and practice of intercultural dialogue by participants and partners in the project
- 11:00 Break
- 11:30 Introduction to the draft criteria and indicators for intercultural dialogue, by Areg Tadevosian, consultant
Discussion about the scope, usefulness and applicability of the criteria and of the study
- 12:45 Lunch
- 15:00 Revising and completing the draft criteria and indicators (in working groups)
- 18:00 Preliminary results from the groups
- 18:15 Evaluation and closing of the day

Saturday, 24 September

- 09:30 Presentation and discussion of the results of the groups
- 10:30 Consolidation of the draft criteria and indicators
- 11:00 Break
- 11:30 Preparation of an action plan for testing and evaluating the indicators and criteria
- 12:45 Lunch
- 15:00 Action plan and calendar for testing and evaluation (conclusion)
- 16:00 Role of participants and partners in the following stages of the project
- 16:30 Break
- 17:00 Conclusions, evaluation and closing of the seminar

Evening: Farewell party with the other participants in the University on Youth and Development

Sunday, 25 September

Departure of participants

Practical and financial conditions

Timetable

The seminar will start at 09:30 on Thursday 22 September and finish at 18:00 on Saturday 24 September.

Venue and accommodation

The seminar will be held at the Euro-Latin-American Youth Centre (Centro Eurolatinoamericano de la Juventud), Mollina, Spain, during the annual University on Youth and Development.

Accommodation and meals will be provided at Euro-Latin-American Youth Centre and covered by the University on Youth and Development.

Travel and subsistence expenses

Travel expenses to and from Mollina will be covered by the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth, and reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe. The reimbursements will be made by bank transfer after the seminar.

Working language

The seminar will be held **in English**.

Application procedure

All those interested in applying to take part in the seminar are kindly requested to fill in their application on-line at: <http://youthapplications.coe.int>. If you face any difficulty with the online application form, please contact the person below.

The deadline for submitting applications: **18 July 2011**, 18.00hrs (GMT+1).

Further information:

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The **University on Youth and Development** is an activity jointly organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the Spanish Government (INJUVE), the European Youth Forum (YFJ), the Spanish Youth Council (CJE) and other international youth organisations.

Since its first edition in 2000, the University takes place once a year bringing together representatives of youth organisations and youth movement from all over the world who gather in the CEULAJ (Euro-Latin-American Youth Centre) to discuss, train and be trained as well as to take political action around the main issues in the global agenda.

In 2011 the University on Youth and Development will be gathering for the 12th time and therefore renewed hopes and aspirations, objectives and challenges are launched to the partners to reinforce this as the space and home of Global Youth Work and of the Global Youth Movement.

Main Goals

- To create a political space where youth can act upon and acknowledge the role they play in Global Development.
- To initiate and encourage debate aimed at defining the role youth play in elaborating development policies and in co-operation for development initiatives.
- To facilitate a process aimed at defining and implementing projects within the field of youth.