

INTERCULTURAL MEAL - MT-1 1-15-2011-R5

Youth in Action Programme, Sub-action 1.1

The meaning of the project was to use the concept of European Union as “International meal” which consists of different “ingredients” which represent various nationalities of Union as well as different cultural and historical backgrounds. The taste of the “meal” depend on mixed ingredients especially spices and emulsifiers which make food as unique as European Union is. The aim of the project was to highlight the importance of strong mutual cooperation among all European nationalities through creation of the “intercultural meal” which would not be tasty without all needed “ingredients”.

The main theme of the project was connected with exploring culture diversity of the European Union in which youth participants have shown interests to contribute in it and to discover various cultural, education and social background of different nations. Through the formulization of exchanged opinions about anti-discrimination and cultural diversity the ideas of youth participants were reflected to the created role plays and workshops where the participants better understood the meaning of those words. Due to the fact that European awareness relates to each European citizen in conjunction with facing anti-discrimination, the proposed project dealt with the recognized needs and interests of all those involved in youth, in order to reflect the present and future role of youth in European citizenship

The venue of the project: Athens, Greece

The date of the project: 02.07 -10.07.2012

The partners: Slovakia, Malta, Greece, Turkey

The participants: 34 young people

The implemented activities and applied methods:

The project was kicked off by introduction of various social and cultural backgrounds of participating countries to explore mind of youth and make their view wider. Through number of role plays where social and cultural habits of participating countries were promoted we made youth aware about diversity of European Union as well as raised up their tolerance and respect to the other youth coming from various societies/communities. In the evening we have organized Intercultural night where International cuisine was presented as well as traditional food which reflects cultural and historical traditions and habits.

The second day of youth exchange the project promoted intercultural diversity and anti-discrimination where number of workshop and role plays were held to make youth understand the consequences of discrimination and cultural differences to make them tolerant to the other nationalities and cultures to live in peaceful cohesion. Through the workshop the pros and cons of living in mixed communities/societies were discussed to share the opinions of those who are living in the mixed societies to promote their point of view and to further discuss with those who have not experienced it. Furthermore role plays have conducted gained information from workshop with the experiences of participants to perform situation in which discrimination and cultural differences have been identified.

To bring more cohesion and tolerance between different countries we have organized sessions and exercises where participants have been split in small groups to identify the tolerance towards the other cultures and communities to describe their features, attitudes and behaviour. To make youth tolerant to the picked communities and cultures the exercise where they have performed the profile created during first session to the other groups who have been approached to guess what type of the community or culture they were presenting. After the performances different groups conducted together to create role plays in which two different cultures have been in conflict to present their points of view how to deal with the situation and how to find out the compromise and solution which both side would make satisfied.

The project presented participating peers to make youth aware about the job opportunities and self-employment within EU to promote the subvention and benefits for European citizens to increase the mobility of youth to expand the job opportunities in European level. Furthermore the rights and duties of European employee and European employers were presented as well as European institutions which deal with employment.

To increase the interest of young people in active participation in their local community we have prepared number of workshops and open space discussions to enhance involvement of youth in the activity of their local community as well as in European activities. To follow up the presentations from previous day we have promoted gathered information with the active involvement of youth to make them understand that once they become active citizen the subventions and benefits will flow towards them.

To graduate EU topics we have further discussed the present and future role of European citizens, EU enlargement and other relevant EU topics. Through the workshop we created the new project ideas for each dimension of EU to make youth clearly understand position and importance of each dimension in whole Union. After the presentation of each dimension the space for open further discussion was provided to share point of view all participants and various dimensions. On the end of the project each participants was awarded with Youthpass certificate.

Methods: Energizer, workshops, social role plays, drama, presentations, discussions, intercultural nights