

GROUP 1

YOUTH IN ACTION-PROGRAMME: YOUTH EXCHANGE AND EVS

CHAIRMAN: JO HOEMBERG

content of conclusions:

group expectations

action 1: youth for Europe

conclusions about other actions (3-5)

action 2: European Voluntary Service

Hosting Circus organisations in Europe

How to make good project in EVS

Youth exchange in detail

participants experiences with Youth Exchanges

Issues and ideas for Youth Exchange

Tips & important things about EVS and Youth exchange

DAY 2, FRIDAY 19TH OCTOBER.

GROUP EXPECTATIONS

1. Plan projects /create projects with a case study
2. Get time to create other projects like a summer camp with a new name under youth exchange
3. Want to talk more about job shadowing and training courses
4. Had several project ideas and wanted to know which ideas to take on. Group leader suggested that they should talk about feasibility studies as a starting point for these projects. Those with projects were advised to consider the aspects of networking and working with young people as they stand a better chance of getting funding.
5. Talk more about youth exchange
6. Talk about voluntary work specifically on voluntary exchange in regard to experience
7. Training courses
8. Interested in getting new hosting organizations as well as coordinating organizations to help interested young organizations with the paper work to promote EVS (Jo). Some members in the group expressed fear about taking part in EVS that it is a little complicated. It takes about four months to get a decision after an organization applies to be a hosting organization.

YOUTH IN ACTION 2007-2013.

It involves five different actions;

ACTION 1: YOUTH FOR EUROPE.

1.1 Youth exchange and the priorities include;

-Focus on advance planning visits. For example in 2005 Jngo informed the group that they did a circus theatre camp, started by looking for partners and got contacts by email from Malta, Estonia did the feasibility and advance visits and the project was a success.

-Focus on child protection (participants must be between 13-25 years old)

-Priority for tri and multilateral youth exchange, three countries at the minimum and four is the ideal.

-Follow up/ valorization activity possible.

-Youth pass. It's a non formal diploma which explains what experience one has gained from a youth exchange. It can also be defined as curriculum vitae of sorts and it's also recognized document in Europe.

-More chances should be given to youths with fewer opportunities but members expressed concern that it is difficult to define who has fewer opportunities. They attempted to define youths with fewer opportunities as those who don't have access to EVS.

-It is important to note that EVS gives opportunities to learn not to get jobs.

-However, it is not allowed to do youth exchanges for festivals. The youth exchanges must be mobile to different countries and creativity is an advantage to realizing projects.

1.2 Support for young people's initiatives

-Age range: 18 to 30 years instead of 15 to 25.

-It is important to differentiate between "National Youth Initiatives" and "Transnational Youth Initiatives" when organizing projects under this action.

1.3 Participative democracy projects

-It is a new part and there are no concrete projects realized yet. Members were advised to look on the web to get alternative ideas from the ideas which have been realized so far.

-National and transnational networking dimension should always be considered.

-Permanent topic of the program

-LD future of Europe

ACTION2: EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE (EVS)

ACTION 3: YOUTH OF THE WORLD.

3.1 Cooperation with the neighbouring countries of the enlarged Europe

-It is harder to get funding under this sub action unless one defends clearly why a certain group or country outside Europe is relevant to a particular project/has to participate.

-Type of activities allowed in measure 3.1 includes training, youth and network exchanges. Problem here is that there is only one deadline on the 1st of February every year and activities must kick off three months later i.e. from 1st May. Project period runs from 1st May till after two years e.g. the next application deadline is 1st November, 1st February to 30th September the possible project starts. Through planning is required here.

3.2 Cooperation with countries not covered by the neighboring policy.

ACTION 4: YOUTH WORKERS AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS

It has four new components:

-4.1 Support for bodies active at European level in the field of youth. There is one annual call for proposals. Also multi-annual Framework Agreement will be possible.

4.3 the eligible activities include job shadowing (going to work in another country to compare with the way you work at your home organization), feasibility studies, evaluation meetings, study visits to learn from other countries, partnership-building activities, training courses, networking and seminars.

-Support for the European Youth Forum

-Partnerships

-Adding to the value of the program

ACTION5: SUPPORT FOR POLICY COOPERATION

-Meetings of young people and those responsible for youth policy

-5.1 Youth seminars

EVS

-Circus is one thing of the entire art discipline, there is a lot more to this education and it requires a lot of time to explain what is surrounded there. Creativity is important, as well as learning from each other, having time to know about the people who come and space to get a better understanding of everything. Sven told the group that they do a lot with volunteers and they always give them opportunity to come up with their own ideas.

-EVS participants range from 18 to 30 and at times also those in the age group of 16 to 17 are allowed but for a short period. Learning service i.e. learning from each other is the most important aspect under EVS and the organizations where volunteers can explore new ideas must be recognized by the national agencies.

-EVS is not a language course; participants must be well versed with the language. EVS is neither a job substitution. There are five deadlines per year.

-The duration of an EVS is between two and twelve months (this is the time in which a volunteer can work for a given organization). It is better for the hosting organization to keep volunteers for twelve months because they benefit more.

-EVS project involves a partnership between three actors; a volunteer, the sending organization and the hosting organization.

-Every volunteer must attend the seminar before they go back to the sending organization.

VOLUNTEER

-He/she gives time and effort to the project.

-Is responsible for the tasks assigned to him/her.

-Has a general obligation to contribute to the hosting organization and community

SENDING ORGANIZATION

-Is responsible for preparation (visa, insurance but if there is good cooperation between the sending and hosting organizations these costs can be shared).

-Keep contact during the voluntary service

-Evaluation

-Follow-up (involves presenting one's experiences)

HOSTING ORGANIZATION

-Task-related support

-Personal support

-Mentor

-Language training (It is possible to get extra money if a volunteer cannot speak the language to go for a language course to enable them deliver better)

-Food and accommodation (it is the most expensive part under EVS e.g. Netherlands pay 350e per month per volunteer). Decided to come up with a paper detailing alternative ways in which the issue of accommodation can be solved.

-Local transport

-Pocket money

-Visa (terrorism has affected EVS too, volunteers can only be given tourist visas for three months yet they are to spend one year. Some volunteers end up being denied the opportunity e.g. Netherlands they are not allowed unless they have study visas which are longer than three months because then they turn out to be a burden to the hosting organization).

-Members decided to explore the viability of sending more than one volunteer at a time.

Accreditation of EVS Organizations

-An organization wishing to host and send a volunteer must be accredited – done mainly at the national level.

-As a starting point, the hosting organization must first express interest in receiving volunteers for a particular project.

-Equality for all is a MUST i.e. the volunteers and trainers.

-The volunteer recruitment process must be open and transparent.

-EVS organizations must maintain the overall accessibility for all young people despite of their ethnic or religious backgrounds, sexual orientation and political opinion.

-No specific skills can be required (including more than basic language)

Financing Priorities

-National agencies require that majority of the volunteers come from groups with fewer opportunities

-Grants for EVS are certified reflecting in the best way the general priorities of the programme.

-System of one site funding is applied.

-Specific priorities for EVS are

1. Involving people with fewer opportunities
2. Involving partner organizations participating for the first time
3. Cooperation with "Partner countries of the world"

Circus Hosting Organizations in Europe

Below are the new contacts that were collected from the seminar of the would be hosting organizations under EVS.

Country	Organization	EVS-Number	Contact Person	e-mail	Website	Phone
Germany	Theaterpädagogisches Zentrum - Lingen	2005-DE-25	Ingo Michael	Ingomichael@tpz-lingen.de	www.tpz-lingen.de	+49-591-9
Germany	Harlekids - Senftenberg					
Germany	Cabuwazi - Berlin	2007-DE-36	Jo Hoemberg	jo.hoemberg@cabuwazi.de	www.cabuwazi.de	+49-175-5
Germany	Tasifan - Weimar	2006-DE-41				
Germany	Circus Pimparello – Gschwend near Stuttgart	2007-DE-16	Sven Alb	sven@pimparello.de	www.pimparello.de	0049-(0)-7
Netherlands	Elleboog - Amsterdam	2006-NL-42	Rosa Boon	rboon@elleboog.nl	www.elleboog.nl	+31 (0) 20
France	Le Plus Petit Cirque Du Monde - Paris	2006-FR-76	KECHAGIOGLOU Eleferios	eleferiosppcm@free.fr	www.petitcirque.org	003314664
Portugal	Chapito - Lisabon	2006-PT-26				
Finland	Sorin Sirkus – Tampere	2007-FI-2	Taina Kopra	taina.kopra@sorinsirkus.fi	www.sorinsirkus.fi	+358 44 34
Belgium	Cirkus in Beweging – Leuven	2007-BEFL-25	Laura Van Bouchout Rika Taeymans	laura@cirkusinbeweging.be info@cirkusinbeweging.be	www.cirkusinbeweging.be	0032 16 60
Belgium	Woesh	Future	Anne Loeckx Gab Bondewel	anne@woesh.be gab@woesh.be	www.woesh.be	+32 486 67
United Kingdom	Maniacs – Bristol	Future	Jackie Welbourne	info@circusmaniacs.com	www.circusmaniacs.com	0044 117 9
United Kingdom	Belfast Community Circus School	2007-GB-87	Will Chamberlain	will@belfastcircus.org	www.belfastcircus.org	0044 2890
Germany	CircO Hannover	Future	Wolfgang Pruisken	info@circo-hannover.de	www.circo-hannover.de	0049511 2
Italy	Animativa – circusverein associazione – Lana (BZ)	Future	Claudia Bellasi	info@animativa.org claudiaformica@hotmail.com	www.animativa.org	0039 0473
Danmark	Tryllehaven	Future	Felix Becker Nina Willumsen	Felix.bec@gmail.com ninananna@gmail.com		+45 38794 +45 22470
France	Centre regional des arts du cirque de Lomme	Future	Christophe Crampette	christophe-atcirq@nordnet.fr	asso.nordnet.fr/lesateliersducirque	+33 320 08 +33 689 87
Estonia	Circus studio Fox	Future	Tiia Kollom	foxtsirkus@tsirkusfox.ee	www.tsirkusfox.ee	+372 55 65

Extra information on Elleboog: We only take EVS people for a whole school season, so from 1st of September to the end of July. We start with the application period from January to April. So the deadline for applying for next semester is the 1st of May!!!!!!

How to make a good project

- Active involvement of the young person in all stages of the project
- Proper support and involvement of the volunteer
- Crisis prevention and management mechanisms
- Advance planning visit (Is it possible to stop the project after the planning visit just in case the hosting organization will not be able or is not well equipped to take it on?)
- Linguistic support/training
- EVS training sessions for the volunteer
- On-going evaluation with all actors using the Youth Pass.

DAY THREE, SATURDAY 20TH OCTOBER, 2007

YOUTH EX-CHANGE IN DETAIL.

-Members wanted to know who has done youth exchanges before (success stories). Jo advised them to download the application from the website of the national agency to acquaint themselves with the process already. He also gave them some hands on information to start with like 70% of the costs are covered, travel costs are covered 100%, and there is a fixed amount for every organization.

-One member had a problem with the rules of submitting the proposals of the advance visits and the real projects together. He would want the EU to change the procedure of doing things; first receive the proposal of the advance visit as a guide of the final project proposal. The feasibility visit in regard to funding is the business of the particular organizations while the advance planning visit is fully funded.

-Language programmes re also essential for successful youth exchange.

-It is easier to make exchanges with more than one country. They give more money for multi-lateral exchanges as they promote networking.

-Participants are given between 15 to 24 Euros per day.

-All exceptional costs must be included in the application

-Follow-ups are very important and they are funded up to 10% to promote the multiplier effect. It is possible to create new projects from the follow-ups.

-A maximum of 60 participants and a minimum of 16 is allowed to take part in the exchanges including a maximum of two adults. Gender balance is strongly recommended.

Experiences of Members with Youth Exchanges

UK Story

Have one to one contact with organizations involved in the exchanges to get better results. Involved the young people in fundraising in one of their projects, it was carried out by the participants themselves who were supposed to foot the 30% of their costs. The focus was on the young people as entrepreneurs to bring benefits to the exchanges. In the application they just mentioned that the young people will be involved in fundraising activities to get the 30%. This 30% was to cater for the air fares. In Europe where air fares are not so high, the fundraising can be done by themselves with the help of the organizations as an alternative.

Also organizations must have a clear understanding of child protection issues i.e. what each organization does in this respect and share with each other to avoid friction. The idea of the

exchange was to give an opportunity to young people to explore ideas in circus, appreciate cultures, differences in the way of doing things, enhance awareness of each other's cultural differences. At the organizational level, it was to learn about how each organization works and the whole idea was refreshing. He is here to say that they are still interested in exchanges, benefit from engagements with Europe, teaching techniques among others.

Germany, Ingo

It's a good way to come and work together, learn from each other. He has done six summer camps so far and the youngsters have good contacts.

New idea; wants to take these camps to another level but does not know how. The six camps reflected a step back. Wants to have some live music, about 100 participants as a starting point.

Wants the next summer camp to be in Italy for a change and it is scheduled to take place in 2009.

Sorin Sirkus Case

Have camps and festivals every second year. Problem is with funding participants to come here.

Want to do more youth work like an international summer camp because it is new idea for them, never done it before. 50 youths are to take part and they will all perform in Hamelina. The summer camp will be just a small part in the entire festival. There will also be exchange performances and a total of 20 circus groups are expected. They are now looking for partners to work with to realize this dream.

Contribution: The exchanges improve the relationship between the organizations and the young people i.e. it deepens it and increases the motivation of the young people. They understand more about what the organization and what their contribution should be.

ESTONIA

Do camps every year. Summer camps are important because they get new experiences, friends and motivation to follow what is going on. The camps have more girls and boys and the boys feel bad, they feel they are weaker than the girls. It is important to give chance to all to be there because they are motivated by what others can do. Boys think the girls are much better than them

Germany

The youth of Europe look forward to them. Finland has a different kind of art as reflected in the timetable of the school; students train every day. Many parents don't understand that art is a type of education too. The participant uploaded the importance and quality of the art education in Finland and urged others to take on this example.

This is a good opportunity for the youth to learn from one another as well the teachers from each other.

Want to start summer camps with existing groups mixed with teachers to learn from each other on the best agreed learning methods. They have 90 volunteers every year who create the circus, he only helps them to improve their ideas

Issues which came up

-There is need to strike a balance between the number of boys and girls e.g. Estonia and UK have more boys.

-In Finland there is need for more male teachers.

-Berlin wants to make an exchange with Amsterdam because they have more Muslims. Jo informed the group that a big number of the participants are male Muslims yet they can't have female teachers. They want to learn from Amsterdam how they can go about this problem because they lack male teachers too.

-Youth exchange is very important and organizations must come up with alternative ways of co-funding.

-Only a maximum of 10 people can be taken on for exchange at a time to create room for better learning then when they return they teach other peers. That way the impact of one exchange can last for several years later. In short engage the young people to pass on ideas learnt to extend the life span of exchanges.

Italy

Searching for partners for both youngsters and teachers to do exchange with and learn more because their circus school is not too big to accommodate various activities. Kids have a lot of experience for street performing. Want to do a summer camp for street performing.

70 % travelling costs, flat rate or each day.

What to be realized/ Dreams within the "Youth in Action" program

Will: Belfast Community Circus: - Activate EVS (host and send; now they have the opportunity)

- Hosting (May 2008)
- Participate in job shadowing (both ways)
- Participate training course with Pimparello (Sven)
- Embrace youth exchanges
- Joining the Caravan

Tiia: Tsirkus Fox

- send trainers/ students to the training course
- Try to give courses to young adults who would like to be a teacher
- To become an umbrella organization
- Becoming hosting organization

Ingo: TPZ/LAG ZIRKUS

- LAG project youth exchange Hannover 2008 → to join talk to Ingo
- Youth exchange 2009 host or sending
- Looking for volunteer within NICE with mix circus and other discipline
- Job shadowing with Elleboog (handicap children)

Claudia: Animativa

- Sending in EVS
- Make all the paperwork for hosting in the future end 2009
- Being a partner in Youth Exchange summer 2008 -> go to Claudia

- Training course with Sven
- Job shadowing

Billy- PPCM

- within 5 years exchange with Cina
- for the rest ask Elefterius

Mette – Finnish youth circus association

- Organize multilateral youth exchange summer 2008 → summer camp
- Job shadowing (social circus: immigrants or handicap)
- See Sven's place!

Sven – Pimparello

- Job shadowing
- Organize Training course (tomorrow we set a date!)
- Organize new summer camp with the multilateral youth exchange program (kids and trainers)
- Give support for future hosting organizations (sven@pimparello.de)
- Update and sustain NICE website with your help
- May be feasibility meeting to organize training course

Jo- Cabuwazi

- Youth exchange with Ellboog
- Youth exchange with others (no organizing → invite then!)

- Job shadowing → more at the same time → he is looking for partners!
- Going to Sven's training course
- They need volunteers from the NICE network → send them!
- Propose : Topic training course: 1) skills

2) working with children that have fewer opportunities

Rosa – Ellboog

- Youth exchange Cabuwazi
- Go to Sven's training course
- Job shadowing
- Youth exchange with (immigrant) children and teachers at Pimparello
- Hope that the seminar get 2008 in Amsterdam will please everybody
- Sending and hosting more EVS! Definition of children with fewer opportunities:
www.salto-youth.net/inclusiondefinition/

We need a market place for all the news, information and needs of the schools

We look the NICE page

Claudia animativa :

Sending in EVS

DAY FOUR, SUNDAY 21ST OCTOBER, 2007

MAIN TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. EVS –**SVEN**

-Need more hosting organizations; want to start on the paper work to get new hosting organizations preferably two (Animativa and Circo Hannover GR, Italy)

-List of current EVS information (members are supposed to go to Sven today for an update and put it on the website)

-Support for beginners from experienced hosting organizations

2. Youth exchange –**JNGO**

-Involve youngsters in the whole process i.e. from the application to the implementation of the projects.

-Sharing experiences during the youth exchanges

-Had a number of future projects like summer camps in Finland

-Not to be afraid to keep in touch with the National agencies for the whole circus issue

3. Job shadowing –**CLAUDIO**

-Takes place between two countries at the minimum.

-Runs at the maximum 20 working days

-Only a maximum of two people can participate

-It targets trainers, mentors, facilitators (all inclusive)

-Interested organization; Mette to Amsterdam, Sven to Estonia, Claudia to Berlin/ Bruxelles, Tiia and Rosa to Circus Pimparello.

4. Training courses –**JO**

-Minimum four countries participate

-Lasts a maximum of 10 days

-A maximum of 50 persons participate'

-350 Euros per day for the trainers

-Sven plans to organization the next training course at Pimparello 2008. The month and date are yet to be fixed.

5. Feasibility and Advance planning visits -**ROSA**

6. Youth in Action 2007-2013

-Sharing information on the overview funding rules

-Sharing experiences

-Beginners support

-Taking into consideration helpful instruments

(i) Advance planning visits

(ii) Feasibility meeting

(iii) Evaluation meeting

-Youth initiatives