



Minorities of Europe

Seminar

Soul for Europe

Hotel 'Izgrev'
Stip, Macedonia
20th– 26th July 2009

Supported By:



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



Why this seminar?

Minorities of Europe (MoE) is a pan-European minority youth platform which seeks to support and assist the co-operation, solidarity and exchange between different minority communities and young people in Europe.

MoE's main international activities are: training courses, study sessions, seminars, youth exchanges and other activities in which young people are involved, especially those ones from minority backgrounds.

At the European level, Minorities of Europe is particularly concerned by the following issues, as identified by the Council of Europe's consultation on minority youth participation and other relevant European consultations specific to minority Rights in Europe:

- Active participation and involvement of minority groups and communities across Europe, in particular of young people and those communities that are at a greater disadvantage or have lesser possibilities of access to their rights.
- Understanding and respect of cultural and religious diversity as the basis for intercultural exchange and cooperation across Europe, including its spiritual dimension and inter-religious dialogue.
- Responsibility and solidarity among minority communities and among minorities and "majorities" as the basis for further social cohesion and addressing multiple forms of discrimination.
- Awareness and empowerment of groups and individuals as a way to promote and safeguard the human rights of everyone.

Since May 2005, Minorities of Europe has been building a structured network of minority youth organisations consisting of members and regional MoE Centres (consulates) across Europe and the priority areas of MoE are the Balkan and Caucasus regions.

"One Europe for All" is MoE's vision statement for over 10 years of its existence. Promoting interfaith dialogue remains at the very core of our mid-term Strategic Development Plan (2006-2009). Interfaith Dialogue is one of our five action areas, where we provide activities for minority young people produce resources and offer expertise in running interfaith events for minority youth.

Taking into account previous experience of MoE, the main idea of the seminar can be described as the following: seminar focuses on the interfaith aspect of intercultural dialogue and the ways interfaith dialogue activities can be fostered in order to promote a dialogue of young people in Europe coming from different backgrounds, with particular reference to minority youth inclusion. The project is set in the context of intercultural learning as an important aspect of the non-formal curriculum of young people of all ages. Interfaith aspects of intercultural interaction grew to become of crucial importance due to the



increased mobility of large numbers of European and non-European nations and cultures moving to Europe. A generation ago Sikhism, Buddhism or even Islam were mysteries belonging to another world for many Europeans. Today, an increasingly multicultural Europe calls for a deeper understanding of world religions and the way they affect the lives of young Europeans.

Aim of the seminar

This seminar aims at:

- ✓ promoting interfaith dialogue as a way of including minority youth;
- ✓ raising awareness of minority issues in their religious aspect;
- ✓ mainstreaming interfaith dialogue within intercultural learning by underlining the cultural and universal value of religion and faith;
- ✓ developing solidarity and promote tolerance among young people, particularly with regards to religious diversity of European societies;
- ✓ fostering mutual understanding between young people from different cultural and religious backgrounds;

Methodology of the seminar

This project's design draws from a range of methodologies used in interfaith education with young people (e.g. URI - United Religions Initiative), as well as other methodologies used in European youth work, such as Compass, Domino and T-Kits. Main working methods will include: -interactive presentations - workshops - working groups - brainstorming - team-building activities - meditation and relaxation techniques - project development. A range of creative methods will also be applied.

Profile of participants

The seminar aims at bringing together youth workers and youth leaders, both volunteers and professionals interested and experienced in the topic of interfaith.

All participants must:

- Have demonstrated interest in the topic of the seminar
- Be highly motivated to participate and contribute to the seminar programme as well as the implementation of follow-up activities
- Be ready and able to work as multipliers and share the outcomes of the seminar with their organisations and/or communities



- Be aged between 20 and 30
- Be able to attend the programme in full
- Be able to work in English (CoE to be informed no interpretation needed)
- Reside in a Council of Europe member state

Practical conditions of participation

Dates:

Arrival day – Monday 20th July 2009

Departure day – Sunday 26th July 2009

Working languages:

English is foreseen as the only working language

Venue:

Hotel Izgrev, Stip, Macedonia

Ul. Veljko Vlahovic No. 1, Stip, Macedonia

Phone: (+389) 32 394 919



Travelling to Macedonia:

From Albania, Serbia and Kosovo take a bus or train to Skopje and than a direct bus to Stip.

For the other countries coming by plane the best and cheapest flight connections to Skopje are via Prague (Czech Airlines), Belgrade (JAT Airways), Istanbul (Turkish Airlines), Vienna (Austrian Airlines), and Cologne (Germanwings). Take a flight to Skopje or Alexander the Great Airport.

Transport to the hotel and from the hotel:

You will be picked up from **Airport** as well as we will arrange you with transportation to the Airport after the seminar.



Please look at the Airport for the **volunteer with a paper with your name.**

For the participants coming by bus, you can ask the B us driver to stop in front of the **Gas Station Niko Petrol**, since the bus is passing there and the hotel is 1 min straight away from there.

Travel costs:

The organisers will reimburse **80% of your travel costs from your home city to Stip, Macedonia .**

Reimbursement of travel costs will **only** be done **upon full attendance in the Seminar programme** and **presentation the ORIGINAL TICKETS with BOARDING PASSES and receipt/invoices .**

Please as soon as know your travel details and prices, contact us. Do not buy tickets before our approval.

! Note: Participants will be reimbursed only on the basis of submitted tickets/invoices. Please buy return tickets prior your arrival.

Reimbursement will be done in EURO, regardless of the currency indicated on your ticket and receipt/invoice.

!! Note: Please note if you bought your ticket in your local currency which might be different than EUR, we will calculate your travel costs according to the exchange rates from official European Commission web -site for the month of ticket purchase <http://ec.europa.eu/budget/infocurrency/index.cfm?Language=en>

!!! Note: Please note that the transport from Skopje Airport to Stip and back will be arranged by the organizers. Skopje – Stip – Skopje travel will cost a maximum of 20 EUR per person. And you'll get a ticket which will be afterwards reimbursed 80% as noted below. In case if the organisers will need to arrange transportation for the participants to Stip by Taxi (Due to late arrival), participants will also be reimbursed 80% of the taxi costs as well.

!!!! Note: Please see the Annex 1 for the travel budget limits at the end of this document. If your travel costs exceed the amount budgeted in the project, please contact us .

!!!!!! Note: Please make the copies of your tickets and invoices before you will come to the training.

!!!!!! Note: Please see the Annex 2 for the bus time table Skopje - Stip

Visa arrangements:

Participants from EU Member States, as well as from Albania, Serbia, Kosovo, Turkey and Russia do not need visa for Macedonia.

! Note: Visa expenses will be reimbursed in 100%



Health insurance:

Health insurance is not provided by the organizers. All participants are required to purchase health insurance individually.

Accommodation:

You will be sharing a double or triple room with another person(s) of the same sex, each room has one bathroom. There are towels and bed linen.

! Note: Please note that organizers will not provide any additional accommodation for your stay in Macedonia outside the Seminar dates. Those of you willing to arrive before July 20 or depart after July 26 later should inform the organisers as soon as possible. We can assist you in booking a hotel in Stip or Skopje or arranging local travel.

Weather:

Macedonia in July is hot :) Average temperatures circle around **+ 35 Degrees Celsius**, but sometimes **it can be colder or warmer**, so please be prepared.

About Macedonia:

If you want to know more about our country here are some web pages:

www.exploringmacedonia.com

www.visitmacedonia.com.mk

www.stip.gov.mk

Prices in Macedonia:

1 EUR = 61.3 denars (Macedonian money). You could bring euro, dollars or pounds with you and change them in denars in the city. There are exchange offices and banks in the city that are working till 20:00 in the evening.

- One beer costs 90 denars, coffee 60 denars, and coca cola 60 denars

Annex 1: Travel budget limits:



Country	From	To	Means of transport	Costs
Albania	Albania	Stip	Bus	50
Serbia	Serbia	Stip	Bus	100
Kosovo	Kosovo	Stip	Bus	30
Estonia	Estonia	Stip	Plane/bus	500
UK	UK	Stip	Plane/bus	400
Latvia	Latvia	Stip	Plane/bus	500
Slovenia	Slovenia	Stip	Plane/bus	250
Poland	Poland	Stip	Plane/bus	400
Turkey	Turkey	Stip	Plane/bus	300
Russia	Russia	Stip	Plane/bus	500
Georgia	Georgia	Stip	Plane/bus	600

Annex 2: Bus time table:

Departure time from Skopje	Transport company
6:00	Berovo Trans
7:30	Berovo Trans
08:05	Rule Turs
08:15	Avtoatom Kocani
08:50	Biser prom
09:30	Berovo Trans
10:00	Strumica Ekspres
11:30	Jug turist
12:05	Rule turs
12:15	Cresovotopce trans
12:30	Berovo Trans
12:30	Avtoatom Kocani
13:00	Balkan promet
13:20	Berovo Trans
14:00	Strumica Ekspres
14:30	Avtoatom Kocani
15:00	Balkan promet
15:15	Berovo Trans
15:30	Strumica Ekspres
15:45	Avtoatom Kocani
16:00	Strumica ekspres
16:30	Avtoatom Kocani
17:00	Strumica Ekspres
18:00	Strumica Ekspres
18:30	Strumica Ekspres
19:00	Strumica Ekspres



19:30	Avtoatom Kocani
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Approximate travel time to Stip: 2h

Application procedure and selection of participants

All those interested in attending must submit application by e-mail by **21st June 2009**

The preparatory team will select 24 participants on the basis of the profile outlined above and ensuring a balanced group (gender, geographical regions, different types of experiences, cultural backgrounds and organisations).

Preparatory team

The study session is being prepared by a team composed of:

Ana Dervishi, Executive Director, Beyond Barriers, Albania

Maksymilian Fras, Director of European Development, Minorities of Europe, United Kingdom

Mark Gifford, Director of Interfaith, Minorities of Europe, United Kingdom

Aleksanders Milovs, Chairman, Youth Information and Mobility Centre, Latvia

Andrijana Steriova, Chairman of the Board, Association for Education, Progress and Lobbying, Macedonia

Jaroslav Wisniewski, Project Manager, Minorities of Europe, United Kingdom

Please send all your questions and comments to soulforeurope@gmail.com

