

Future is Up to You(th) !

Youth Exchange

Wiltz, Luxembourg

29 September – 5 October

Final Report





The Youth Exchange was organised by the Institut Européen pour l'Economie Solidaire (INEES) a. s. b. l. in the framework of the Youth in Action programme of the European Commission with the support of the Service National de la Jeunesse, Luxembourg.

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The “Future is up to You(th)” was a multilateral youth exchange which brought together young people and youth leaders from Luxembourg, France, Turkey and Hungary. The initial objective of the youth exchange was to develop solutions and strategies to address environmental challenges in order to empower the participants to take action in the future.

The general learning objectives of the YE were:

- To provide participants with a stimulating introduction to the key environmental issues presently threatening our global and local environment
- To provide the possibility to the participants to think over together the issues of environmental protection and sustainable development
- To acquire intercultural competencies for all participants
- To learn how to work in a team
- To develop language skills, improving English language through communication
- Improvement of communication skills in a multicultural group
- Learning about the youth in action programme
- Personal and social skills like working in team and independent way, learning participatory methodology in youth work, organizing and leading activity

Participants and Target Group

Global environmental issues are challenges that affect our everyday life both on global and local levels. Environmental protection and sustainable development are also deep-seated values of the EU:

- The Lisbon Strategy is a commitment to bring about economic, social and environmental renewal in the EU. In March 2000, the European Council in Lisbon set out a ten-year strategy to make the EU the world's most dynamic and competitive economy.
- In 2001, the European Council adopted the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, which provides a long-term vision that involves combining a dynamic economy with social cohesion and high environmental standards.

In April, 2009 INEES coordinated the organisation of the IV. International Forum – Globalisation of Solidarity. Among the numerous workshops there were two which are in close relation with the current topic: „Youth and Social Solidarity Economy (SSE)” and „SSE and Environment”. The idea directly emerged from the participants who after several years of formal education regarding environmental issues would like to try another way to discuss, to share thoughts about these problems with other young people and to experience different cultural attitudes to sustainability, so they suggested the realisation of a youth exchange as a mean of non-formal education. As the EVS was one of the organizer of for the activity had close contact with the participants and worked with them on the ideas of the youth exchange.

Partners were asked to pay attention not only to gender equality within the group but also the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities. We would have liked to provide the possibility of participation in this youth exchange to youngster who otherwise would have had difficulties in travelling abroad, and we also put emphasis on the participation of young people who had never taken in part in a youth exchange or in any sub-programme of the Youth in Action.

Finally a part of our participants came from the slums of big cities (Istanbul and Budapest) where they have to face mainly economic and geographic difficulties. Also we involved young participants from the countryside (Sierck Les Bains) who have less opportunity to travel abroad.

Organisations that participated in the project:

Institut Européen pour l'Economie Solidaire (INEES) a.s.b.l., Luxembourg

INEES' goal is the emergence and the recognition of the third sector between public sector economy and private sector economy: the social and solidarity economy (SSE). INEES' activities are composed of exchanges of good practices, conceptual research and actions at the national level, Grande-Région (cooperation between regions Sarre - Lorraine - Grand-Duchy of Luxemburg - Rhénanie-Palatinat - Région wallonne - Communauté française de Belgique - Communauté germanophone de Belgique) and European level. The institute intervenes regularly in events, seminars and conferences.

Another important activity is the identification of a networking with the actors and protagonists in SSE at the European level. With as first aim, to better understand and know each other. Then, to speak out with one voice, even if the concepts of SSE are different in each country and culture, to come out with a force of proposition for the recognition and the valorisation of the SSE. INEES' activities are therefore various, but the principle still remains: the organisation process leans on the participation and valorisation of the resources. INEES is a non profit association with a voluntary board of directors. It's composed of 15 members from France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland and Luxemburg, researchers, protagonists and SSE networks or sectors' representatives. Our public target is composed of the civil society for the consciousness of SSE. This civil society implicates all people involved directly or not in SSE projects, but also the users of the SSE services. The authorities are also a target for the recognition and the valorisation of the SSE. The researchers and protagonists (actors) are for the consciousness, the recognition and the valorisation of its work and values.

Commune de Sierck-Les-Bains, France

The city of Sierck-Les-Bains is a little town of less than 2000 inhabitants. Eighty elected members represent the population and the public body manages the city affairs. The town gives priority to development of ecotourism, and they think that this is inevitably bound to the youth education.

Tegyunk Egyutt az Ifjusagert Alapitvany, Hungary

Tegyunk Egyutt az ifjusagert Alapitvany (meaning: “let’s do something together for the youth” association), formally established in 2004, but youth who are working voluntarily have been making projects together since 1993, in Budapest, Hungary. Our activity can be divided into two main parts: local and international activity. Local activity: is take place in the 7th district of Budapest, called Erzsebetvaros. But of course it can expand for example for the time of camps. The main activity is organizing summer camps for children and youth (target group: 6-18 years), also disadvantaged children included. The opportunity to participate in these summer camps is provided for about 100 children for 10 years now. The organisation works with about 30 volunteers for whom animator trainings are provided regularly. The association also organises cultural events, programs, which aim to help the creation of communities. As for international activities, the organisation takes part in EVS projects as a sending organisation (12-14 volunteers yearly), they also organise and take part in international youth project, especially in multilateral exchanges and trainings.

Beylikduzu Municipality Youth Parliament, Turkey

Beylikduzu Municipality Youth Parliament was founded in 2006 to address problems of the district Beylikduzu in Istanbul and to find answers for the question raised by local youth “How Beylikduzu can become a more European city?”. The members of the organisation are aged between 16-25 years who try to get into a closer touch with human rights, develop respect towards other thoughts and thinkings globally.

Methodology

When choosing the work methods our intent was to create a balance between theoretic, practical information and artistic, individual workshops through „learning by experiencing”, so we developed a programme accordingly: in the mornings, when participants were more active and receptive to intellectual activities, we planned the workshops, discussion and playful exercises, that – facilitated by us – were to elaborate the topic of environmental issues. In the afternoons the participants could work with their own expressing methods reflecting to the morning impressions and thoughts.

Among the work methods we aimed to use several elements of learning by experiencing to comply with the age particularities of the participants, consequently we have chosen in and out door elements, simulation games, exercises connected to drama in education and workshops facilitating open communication. Our objective was to build on the knowledge and experience participants already had and by giving them some „input” they could further develop their ideas and share or exchange their thoughts with the others.

29/09/2009

8:00 – 9:00

Breakfast

10:00 – 10:30

Introduction, Practicalities

At the first official session of the YE participants were given an introduction on the weekly and daily programme. The themes and objectives of the YE.

A participative method was chosen to define the “rules of living together” during the week. Youngsters could suggest the different rules that were then agreed on by everybody, such as:

- Problem prevention: Turn to your group leader if you have a problem or to Agnes.
- No mobile phones during the workshops
- Smoking allowed only outside the building
- Speak English
- Listen to others
- Be active
- Be quiet after 11 p.m.
- Be on time

These rules were afterwards put on the wall during the whole week as a reminder for everybody.

10:30 – 11:15

First steps - Who R U?

The objective of the first activity was to learn each other’s names through a game when participants had to draw each other’s portrays, but only one detail at a time, and then they had to change the sheets among them from time to time. They got familiar with faces and names. Portrays then were posted on the wall.

The next activity aimed a “deeper get to know each other”. Paper shamrocks were distributed. The shamrock had 5 parts

- My name (in the middle)
- My most memorable intercultural experience
- My hobbies
- My big dream
- My music



After filling in the shamrocks individually, they were discussing with each other in small groups.¹



11:15 – 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 – 12:30 Next steps – Who R We?

As a group building activity, participants had to cross an imaginary river with moving ice-floats with the help of each other. When somebody made a mistake they had to begin the whole exercise all over again.

The following method used was based on the physical contact with others. Of course those who felt uncomfortable could stop the game. Basically it was about dancing in a circle while singing a song and making the circle smaller and smaller by always trying to reach the shoulder of the 1st – 2nd – 3rd person before you.

Also during the day so called “steaming groups” were set up the composition of which stayed the same for the rest of the week. The 3 groups had to meet at the end of everyday and discuss among each other how they felt during the day, what they liked and what they didn’t like. Based on the feedback from participants group leaders held their daily meetings as well after dinner.



¹ When working in small group most of the time multicultural groups were set up, with the exception of more complex tasks where the not sufficient knowledge in English could have meant a barrier.

12:30

Lunch

14:00 – 15:00

Input

After lunch participants had the possibility to listen to some presentations dealing with the general characteristics and objectives of social solidarity based economy.

Following that, they could have a closer look to some SSE projects in Luxembourg through the presentations of several initiatives of Objectif Plein Emploi a.s.b.l.

Participants showed interest towards the topic and raised several questions. They also shared some of their experiences in their home countries as a comparison to the Luxembourgish initiatives.

To conclude we can say that this short introduction into social and solidarity based economy proved to be useful regarding further activities and gave a glimpse of social economy initiatives in Luxembourg making youngsters to think about similarities or differences concerning the countries of origin.

15:00 – 15:15

Coffee Break

15:15 – 18:00

Take a photo – Wiltz

The aim of the activity was to discover the town of Wiltz, to make contacts with some local inhabitants and also to try to have look to the town with “an ecological eye”. By the first activity the project was also introduced to the locals of Wiltz as participants were communicating with them and asking for some help or information, while wearing an orange band with the logo of the YiA Programme.

The tasks were the following:

1. Take photos of positive and negative examples of environmental consciousness (3 – 3 photos)
2. Find the internet café and ask about opening hours (the café is in the pedestrian street, look for OPE logo and pig ☺)
3. Make a picture of the group with at least 3 local people
4. How much is the entrance fee to the beer museum?



5. Exchange your INEES PEN! ☺

Participants were completing the tasks in 3 mixed groups (chickens, fish, monkeys). Attention was paid that every group has a member who speaks at least one of the 3 languages of Luxembourg.

The youngsters liked very much this activity, particularly “exchange your INEES pen” task, where they had to offer the pen to somebody and ask for another object in return, then do it again and again with the new objects received from people.

To conclude they spent a successful afternoon discovering the town and meeting Luxembourgish people.

When presenting their results they all agreed that inhabitants were helpful and open, and that it was rather difficult to find bad examples for environmental consciousness in Wiltz, however they took a lot pictures depicting good ecological practices.

19:00

Dinner

20:30 – 22:00

ICE² - Luxembourg

The first evening was dedicated to the presentation of Luxembourg where Luxembourgish participants prepared a short presentation of the country using their personal photos that created a friendly atmosphere and gave an informal view of Luxembourg different from those shown in travel brochures.

Of course Turkish, Hungarian and French youngsters had the possibility to try some of the specialities of Luxembourgish food and beverages such as honey, mustard, cheese or a cake...



² ICE – Intercultural Evening

30/09/09

8:00 – 9:00 Breakfast

9:00 – 10:30 Watching the movie “HOME”

To give the participants a background idea of ecological issues watching this movie in the cinema of the youth hostel had been made part of the programme.

The movie, Home is a 2009 documentary by [Yann Arthus-Bertrand](#). The film is almost entirely composed of aerial shots of various places on [Earth](#). It shows the diversity of life on Earth and how humanity is threatening the ecological balance of the planet.

10:30 – 11:15 Coffee break

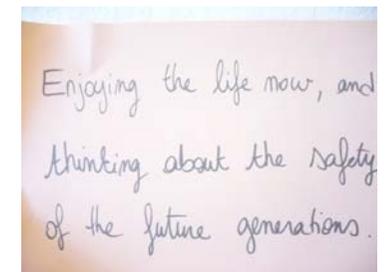
11:15 – 12:30 What is “sustainable development”?

Following the theoretical input and a global overview provided by the movie small discussion groups were set up to share their opinions and impressions on the movie and they were also asked to try to find a definition for “sustainable development”, to try to define it from their personal point of view.

Then each group presented their common ideas to the rest of the participants who could ask questions or give their opinions.

Finally different definitions were compared to the official definition of sustainable development, and works were posted on the wall of the workshop room.

12:30 Lunch



14:00 – 18:00 Research/Poster design/Local investigation time in Wiltz

3 different kind of workshop were offered in the afternoon for the participants, and they were free to choose one of them according to their interests.

Research workshop: workshop participants had to choose one more specific topic of the YE and make an internet research on it, and share their results with others that they considered interesting for some reason.

Poster design workshop: the task was to design and create poster that is able to raise the awareness of people towards global challenges.

Local investigation in Wiltz: a group of “reporters” was sent into the centre of Wiltz to interview local inhabitants regarding their everyday habits to contribute to sustainable development or to protect the environment.



19:00 Dinner

20:30 – 22:00 ICE Hungary

Hungarian participants offered an interactive and interesting cultural evening to the others.

They included in their programme a quiz where participants had to choose an object from a basket and guess how this object is related to Hungary. They could also learn a Hungarian folk song and Hungarian folk dances.

Of course traditional food was presented as well that completed this enjoyable evening.



01/10/2009

8:00 – 9:00

Breakfast

9:00 – 12:30

After the breakfast a reserved bus took the group of the YE to the “Jardins Solidaires” called Kalendula of the OPE Network.

This garden is a joint project of environmental education and sustainable development providing facilities to raise awareness of different audiences through practical examples and activities developed on the site related to both human and ecological environment, and propose alternatives of thought. The garden is an integral part of raising awareness to the importance of maintaining biodiversity.

Following the presentation of the garden participants were asked to collect different vegetables and spices to prepare their own lunch together with the help of a cook.

12:30

Lunch

The young participants liked the cooking together and were very glad when finally they could enjoy the results of their efforts.



14:00 – 18:00

In the afternoon participants had the possibility to visit Luxembourg city and also to do a city rally in groups of mixed nationalities. The tasks and stations of the rally were the following:

Station 1: Monument du Souvenir “Gëlle Fra »

Task : draw a picture of the monument and write a poem to the « Golden Lady »

Station 2: Place d’Armes

Task: Take 10 photos of people who are wearing something green in the square

Station 3: Abbaye Neumünster

Task: What’s the history of the Abbaye? What is its role today?

Station 4: Arcelor Mittal Building

Task: take a group photo with the sculpture in front of the building

Station 5: Central Railway Station – Tourism Office

Task: find out how many castles Luxembourg has? Which are the most known ones?

19:00

Dinner out

A buffet dinner was organised for the participants in the restaurant of Hotel Parc Belle Vue to give them some nice memories of Luxembourg and to promote the group cohesion among them.

20:30 – 23:00

Free time

After the dinner they had some free time when they could try some traditional Luxembourgish games or have a little walk in the city until the bus took them back to Wiltz.



02/10/2009

8:00 – 9:00

Breakfast

9:00 – 10:30

Personal Action Plan

Following several days of work participants already had some knowledge and ideas on sustainable development and environmental consciousness so in the morning they were asked to think individually what they could personally do in their private lives, what simple changes are possible in their everyday routine to contribute to sustainable development and to pay more attention to the environment. They had to write a letter to themselves in which they undertake some personal actions. The letters were sent to them in December accompanied by a postcard to remind them to their engagements taken during this week in Luxembourg.

The letters were personal and everybody could share only those parts that he/she felt like. Most of the engagements included e.g.: switching off lights, paying attention to water use, collecting household rubbish separately, buying fair trade products etc.

10:30 – 11:15

Coffee break

11:15 – 12:30

The Banana Game

This activity was an adapted game initially published by Christian Aid. The aim is to introduce the banana chain: what happens to a banana before it reaches the consumer and to introduce the reality of “who gets what” in the chain.

The group was divided into 5 groups each of them representing a link in the chain: workers, plantation owner, shipper, importer/wholesaler/riper and retailer. With the help of role cards they had a few minutes to imagine what work their role involved.

Then they were asked to spend a couple of minutes discussing how much they should get from the price of a banana that e.g. cost 30 units and prepare some arguments why. The groups had to think about all the jobs/work that they do and resources they use in the banana chain. The total amount was more than 30 monetary units. So they had to renegotiate.

In the next round bananas were distributed among the groups and each group had to cut the amount of banana that they thought they could have in proportion to their work done. The total from all the groups was of course again more than one banana.

Finally the solution of real world was given to the participants and then they also got an explanation how Fairtrade breakdown work in the case of bananas. The activity was finished with discussions around the topic.



12:30

Lunch

14:00 – 18:00

Our futures workshop, realisation of artworks

During the afternoon participants were preparing artworks with various techniques for the final exhibition. Luxembourgish participants were working with glass painting, Hungarians with recycling techniques, Turkish were preparing mosaic pictures while French papier maché. They were so enthusiastic that also engaged in painting some other pictures expressing their personal impressions.



19:00

Dinner

20:30 – 22:00

ICE Turkey

Turkish participants created a convivial ambiance during the evening by showing a video of their country and of their city, Istanbul. They also taught traditional Turkish dances and brought some specialities of Turkish cuisine to Luxembourg.

Other participants enjoyed very much the Turkish fortune telling from Turkish coffee.



03/10/2009

8:00 – 9:00 **Breakfast**

9:00 – 10:30 Free time

10:30 – 11:15 **Coffee break**

11:15 – 12:30 **Living in a perfect world**

This activity was taken from Compass: A Manual on Human Right Education with Young People.

The activity started with a quiz on proverbs and wise sayings that reflected different aspects of being at peace, and went on to let participants reflect on:

- The meaning of peace
- Inner peace, peace with others and peace with the environment
- Developing peaceful behaviours.

The objectives of the activity were :

- To sense the interdependency between the different dimensions of peace
- To discuss the different meanings of peace and how it applies to our daily lives
- And to promote respect, solidarity and responsibility

12:30 **Lunch**

14:00 – 18:00 Living in a perfect world - finishing

Preparations of participants' workshop

Participants were divided into 3 groups and were asked to try to develop an own workshop for the others around the theme that they were the most interested in during the YE.



19:00 **Dinner**

20:30 – 22:00 **ICE France**

Unfortunately French participants didn't prepare with a cultural evening for the YE, so this evening was a free evening.



04/10/2009

8:00 – 9:00

Breakfast

9:00 – 10:30

Workshops from participants

The first workshop from participants started with collecting rubbish in the nearby garden. After this short exercise they created a kind of obstacle race using the rubbish collected previously. The whole group was divided into two teams. One participant with eyes closed had to stand in the line while his group mates had to answer different questions connected to the theme. Each question had a point value and according to the correctness of the answer the person in the middle could take steps forward in the line with the help of the group. The winner team was the one who could reach the finish line in the shortest time.

10:30 – 11:15

Coffee break

11:15 – 12:30

Preparations of flashmob

Leaders explained the objectives and the general idea of a flashmob to the participant who had entire freedom to define the special features of their own flashmob to be carried out in the afternoon of the same day.

The final elements of the flashmob were:

- Preparing invitations for local inhabitants for the final exhibition of the YE
- Preparing a huge tree of recycled paper
- Asking local inhabitants to draw their hands on leaves (cut from paper) and write a short message or idea concerning sustainable development or environmental protection.
- The leaves are to be put afterwards on the tree.
- Participants wearing the “uniform” T-shirt specifically designed for the YE
- Participants wearing “badges” thus playing different roles like: wind energy, solar energy, recycling ect. to represent some examples of possible solutions to global challenges



12:30

Lunch

14:00 – 18:00

Flashmob

The traditional autumn market of Wiltz provided an excellent place for the Flashmob as most of the inhabitants were present there so the young participants could really do a great job by contacting a lot of people and explaining them the idea of the YE while at the same time inviting them to the final exhibition.



19:00 **Dinner**

20:30 – 22:00 **Quiz**

One of the workshop teams choose to organise an evening program for their peers i.e. a quiz with different questions concerning the themes and their common experience and adventures during the week.



05/10/2009

8:00 – 9:00

Breakfast

9:00 – 10:30

Windmill workshop

Participants were working in two teams. The objective of the workshop was to develop a mini-windmill that was able to lift a small load when the wind (a hairdryer) was blowing.

The youngster enjoyed very much this workshop and learned some technical knowledge on the functioning of wind energy.



10:30 – 11:15

Coffee break

11:15 – 12:30

Workshop from participants

The third workshop organised by the participants was concentrating on the creation of a debate between different ideas and opinions.

A line was drawn in the middle of the room. Statements were shown by the organisers and people had to change places according to their opinions: if they agreed or not with the statement in question. Then they had to convince with arguments the people sitting on the other side to join them.

The activity helped to develop a sense of reasoning and logical thinking in the participants while at the same time they had the opportunity to express their personal point of view concerning different ecological and environmental issues, thus creating a space for learning and sharing knowledge with each other.



12:30

Lunch

14:00 – 18:00

Preparations for exhibition

At the end of the week leaders were of the opinion that the group cohesion is strong enough that participants can be “left alone” with the preparations of the final exhibition so that they could really feel that

it was their work and express their creativity. Also it was a good occasion for them to practice how to work in a group, how to be active and useful member of a group and how to share and delegate different tasks.

The exhibition was opened by Romain Biever, the President of INEES, who welcomed the participants and appreciated their week-long work in Wiltz. Some local inhabitants were present as well as some journalists who – besides watching the artworks – could have a glimpse into the activities carried out by these young people of several nationalities with the help of the picture slideshow projected on the wall of the room of exhibition.



Exhibition



19:00

Final Evaluation

Final Evaluation had two parts.

The first part was a visual evaluation with the help of “Feedback Flower” where participants could indicate their level of satisfaction with each aspect of the project such as:

- Programme of the exchange in general
- Artwork phase
- Group dynamics
- Visit of the garden and Luxembourg-city
- ICE
- Food
- Hotel, Seminar room
- Workshops

Based on the visual evaluation participants were less satisfied with the food and the hotel and most satisfied with the workshops and the programme in general

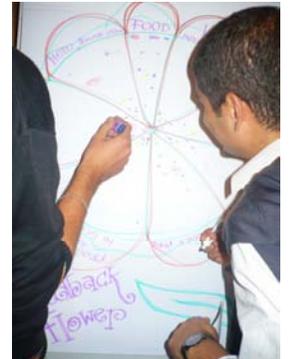
The second turn of evaluation was a by filling in a written questionnaire anonymously. It was possible to answer the questions in their mother tongues (leaders were asked later on to do the translation). Samples of the questionnaire are attached to the final report.

20:30 – 22:00

Dinner of Exhibition

Following the exhibition and the final evaluation participants and guests were welcomed to a dinner.

As a closure act everybody was asked to write some “nice messages” to anybody they felt like and put them into the envelope on which the person’s name was written on. Envelopes were then distributed to each participant and they were allowed to open them only once they were at home.



Intercultural learning on own initiative

During the YE participants created a huge dictionary with useful expressions in every language they spoke on their own initiative.



Steaming Groups:

On the first day of the programme so called “Steaming Groups” were set up ensuring the possibility of daily evaluation of the activities in small mixed groups.

Warming up activities

Each of the workshops and different activities began with a game to “wake up” participants and to create good atmosphere.

Summary

To conclude we can say that the first Youth in Action project organised by the Luxembourg-base Institut Européen pour l’Economie Solidaire can be considered as a successful one, completing its primary objectives: raising awareness towards global environmental challenges and sustainable development among the young participants arriving from the 4 participating countries and providing them with an intercultural experience – for some of them a first of such kind. We are already looking ahead for other projects with our partner promoters.

