



DJS/Euro-Arab TC/2010/55

Strasbourg, 27 September 2010

## **Euro-Arab training course for cooperation youth projects through non formal learning**

A long-term training course of the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States aiming to develop the capacity of youth organisations active in Euro-Arab cooperation, in the areas of non-formal learning, training and intercultural dialogue.

### **LONG-TERM TRAINING COURSE**

**2010 - 2011**

**Course description**

## **Background for the course**

Euro-Arab youth cooperation was initiated more than 15 years ago by the Council of Europe with a series of activities in the area of Euro-Arab Dialogue. Nonetheless, the most important area of cooperation in the recent years has been in the Euro-Mediterranean region, in particular through the human rights education and intercultural dialogue of the partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the field of youth.

Such cooperation is particularly articulated around the issues of intercultural dialogue and youth policy cooperation. It started within the Youth Partnership activities on Euro-Mediterranean cooperation (round-tables and seminars) of which the last one was held in June 2010 in Sharm El Sheikh. In 2008 this association went a step further with the participation of the Council of Europe in the Youth Forum of the League of Arab States (Amman, November 2008 and Assilah, Morocco, November 2009). In April 2009, both institutions co-organised a training course for youth leaders (European Youth Centre, Budapest), followed by a new cooperation in the framework of the Euro-Arab Youth Conference (Tunis and Ragusa (Italy), 2010).

The cooperation is developed within a framework of purpose and values which includes:

- A commitment to a culture of universal human rights, to equality in dignity, equality of opportunities and to the principles of non-discrimination;
- The recognition of the role of youth policies in promoting the autonomy, participation and social inclusion of all young people;
- Intercultural dialogue as the basis for respecting and integrating diversity as well as intercultural learning as a basic educational approach of international youth activities;
- The participation of young people and youth organisations as fundamental partners and stakeholders in youth policies and programmes;
- A shared responsibility to develop Arab-European youth cooperation as a way to overcome prejudice and mutual suspicion, to increase youth projects and cooperation as well as to address common challenges.

The first joint training activity between the Council of Europe's Directorate of Youth and Sport and the League of Arab States was a training course for youth leaders on democratic youth leadership and participation organised in 2009. Such training reflected the shared approach that Euro-Arab youth cooperation needs to involve in first place the non-governmental youth organisations (the ones working closer with young people) and, secondly, that the cooperation can only develop if new opportunities for training and preparation of youth workers and leaders are created. Indeed, the experience in the past years provide ample evidence that the need for communication and dialogue between European and Arab youth can not be responded only by the existing programmes and means.

One of the conclusions from the 2009 course was the necessity to secure the sustainability of the learning process of participants and to enhance participants' abilities in and implementing concrete Euro-Arab youth cooperation projects. Along the same line of thought, the participants of the Euro-Arab conference held in Tunis and Ragusa (Italy) in July 2010 (on Migration, Human Rights and Development) recommended both institutions to *'continue their support in the Euro-Arab Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations and to continue their cooperation in youth policy, youth participation and intercultural dialogue'*. Euro-Arab youth cooperation requires time to develop and for experiences to be acquired and evaluated as learning processes.

Therefore and within the framework of its project on Intercultural Dialogue - Living Together in Diverse Societies - the Council of Europe's Directorate of Youth and Sport decided to co-organise, in cooperation with the League of Arab States, a long-term training course for youth leaders involved in and/or intending to become active in Euro-Arab youth cooperation projects.

### *Aim of the course*

The course aims at supporting Euro-Arab youth cooperation by developing the competences of thirty leaders of youth organisations from the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States as well as to support the development and the implementation of innovative projects for youth policy development, youth participation and intercultural dialogue through non formal learning and by youth organisations.

### *Objectives of the course*

- To train thirty youth leaders from European and Arab regions in the areas of non-formal education, youth work, youth policy, youth participation and Euro-Arab cooperation;
- To develop participants' understanding of concepts such as non formal learning, intercultural dialogue, human rights education, youth participation, and youth policy;
- To provide tools to understand and address challenges faced by young people from European and Arab regions, in relation to social and political participation, social exclusion and poverty, xenophobia, discrimination, racism, and prejudices;
- To highlight the values underlying Euro-Arab youth cooperation and to reflect on how they can best be promoted in future youth projects;
- To support the development of participants' competences in the areas of democratic leadership and youth participation, projects development and management, intercultural communication, advocacy and organisational capacity building;
- To initiate, support, implement and evaluate innovative and sustainable youth projects with a multiplier effect across European and Arab regions;
- To support the development of sustainable networks of youth organisations in the European and Arab regions.
- To better understand the current realities of the youth field in the European and Arab regions as well as the relation with the youth policies and structures of the Council of Europe and League of Arab States youth sectors;
- To further work towards needs-based youth policy developments.

### *Competences to be developed*

The course will develop the participants' competences (skills, knowledge and attitude) through residential training seminars, distance learning as well as through the set up of projects to be implemented in European and Arab regions. The participants/youth leaders will receive training on:

- The understanding of intercultural dialogue, youth participation and of the main mechanisms and instruments for their promotion and application;
- Knowledge about the relevant programmes and instruments of the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States as well as both institutions' partners;

- Youth policies development, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
- Critical thinking skills and the ability to create multiple perspectives on contemporary youth social and human rights issues related to young people in the context of Euro-Arab cooperation;
- Intercultural dialogue and its applicability in local youth work;
- Management of cultural diversity with youth groups;
- Non formal learning and its role in developing youth projects as well as youth participation;
- Developing democratic leadership and participatory approaches with young people;
- Project planning and project management cycles;
- Communication and presentation skills;
- Networking and negotiation skills;
- Fundraising and financial management.

### ***Expected results/outcomes***

For the course participants and their organisations involved in the projects:

- Innovative youth projects developed among the participants and encompassing dimensions such as democratic leadership, youth participation and intercultural dialogue;
- Capacity building of youth organisations from European and Arab regions;
- Future quality projects in the youth field and in particular in a Euro-Arab cooperation framework;
- Greater visibility and recognition of participants' projects and of their potential contribution to youth policy development;
- Increased competences of the participants;
- A better understanding of non formal learning as a pedagogical approach in youth project development.

*For the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States, it is expected that the course will result in:*

- Thirty youth leaders trained in non formal learning, intercultural dialogue, democratic leadership and youth participation;
- Innovative youth projects set up at local or regional level;
- Quality criteria for future similar projects identified in view of the multiplying function of the project;
- Greater visibility of youth organisations in a Euro-Arab cooperation context;
- Increased experience and expertise in enhancing Euro-Arab youth cooperation;
- Further recognition and understanding of the role of non-formal education and youth work;
- A publication with results and examples of success stories (best practices) of participants;
- Enlarged networks of youth leaders across European and Arab regions;
- Increased involvement of youth leaders in youth policy development processes.

## ***Methodology and calendar of the course***

The course will be run in the format of a long-term training course. It will include two residential seminars: the first one in December 2010 and the second one -on the evaluation and consolidation of projects- in the second half of November 2011. In between these seminars, participants are expected to develop and start a project reflecting the needs of their organisations and those of the young people they work with, based on non formal learning and intercultural dialogue. The projects will have to be developed keeping in mind the values, principles and purposes of non formal learning, human rights education, democratic leadership and youth participation.

The course consists of four phases stretching over a period of one year, including face-to-face and distance learning elements (mostly through e-learning), in which each phase and learning feature is equally important. The phases will tackle respectively or simultaneously contents of training youth leaders as well as project development and intercultural learning.

Essential when working on leaders' roles and competences, this overall methodological approach will allow for a good balance between theory and practice, between learning and practical implementation, and understanding training as a process that is necessarily longer than the duration of a single training seminar. Therefore, a diversity of working methods will be used, the starting point of the course being participants' experiences as youth leaders. Interventions from experts will help set the theoretical framework for the course.

The preparation of the course by the participants may include tools for self-evaluation and personal preparation which will be used by the trainers' team when finalising and designing the programme of the course. Internet-based tools may be proposed to this end.

### **Phase 1 - Introduction and preparation of the participants - the Internet**

*November 2010*

This phase will serve to create a common ground for presentation and communication among the participants of the course. Based on an e-learning platform, this phase will include:

- Getting to know each other;
- Building up a learning community;
- Learning how to work with the e-learning technology;
- Share expectations in relation to the course;
- Assess participants' competences;
- Preparation for the seminar;
- Tools for analysis and understanding the context of the course - background readings.

### **Phase 2 - Initial Residential Seminar**

*5-13 December 2010 (5<sup>th</sup> = arrivals and 13<sup>th</sup> = departures), European Youth Centre Strasbourg, France*

This first residential seminar will address most of the knowledge-related issues described in the competences. Through inputs, practical workshops and sharing of experiences, the participants will expand their understanding of Euro-Arab youth cooperation, intercultural dialogue, democratic leadership, and youth participation. Moreover, they will also get the chance to further explore and experiment elements and dimensions intrinsically linked to training of youth leaders (and to the work on skills, knowledge and attitudes) with a specific focus on Euro-Arab cooperation and non formal learning. They will also get the chance to go further in depth in understanding and analysing the challenges faced by

young people in both European and Arab regions. Besides specific competence focused sessions, a considerable part of the seminar will also be devoted to developing and shaping the participants' projects to be implemented during the next phase.

The objectives of the first residential seminar are:

- To promote tools for a better understanding of the reality of youth policy in participants' countries;
- To create a common ground for communication and cooperation in the group;
- To develop a common understanding of the course, its purpose, its methodology and its structure;
- To clarify with participants the youth policies and structures of the Council of Europe and of the League of Arab States in the youth field;
- To explore the meaning of intercultural dialogue and human rights education in the context of Euro-Arab youth cooperation;
- To develop a common understanding of youth policy, their implementation and monitoring;
- To develop participants' competences in youth projects management;
- To get acquainted with the values and principles of non formal learning in the youth field;
- To develop participants' practical competences in areas such as democratic leadership and youth participation, teamwork, intercultural communication and conflict transformation;
- To evaluate the first phase of the course and e-learning as a feature ad process;
- To prepare the third phase of the course: project development and management;
- To prepare the support mechanisms for the participants during the third phase.

### **Phase 3 - Project development and implementation**

*December 2010 - September 2011 - Participants' countries and the Internet*

During this phase, each participant will work on the implementation of his/her project. Participants will benefit from the support and mentoring of the trainers' team and advice from experts, if necessary and within the existing possibilities. Project related meetings may be held, bringing together similar projects (modalities to be defined and confirmed).

E-learning and the use of e-tools will most probably play an important role in this phase, with exploration of themes and methodological issues related to the course and to the projects.

### **Phase 4 - Evaluation and consolidation seminar**

*Second half of November 2011, to be held in a country member of the League of Arab States (probably a Gulf country - to be confirmed).*

The second residential seminar will evaluate the overall relevance and achievements of the course. This will be complemented by exchanges of best practices and the consolidation of the network of expertise generated by the course. The e-learning tools will remain available after this final phase (depending on the needs and commitments of the participants).

## Participants' projects criteria

During this course, each participant will have to develop a concrete project to be implemented with young people, based on non formal learning and intercultural dialogue. The projects should start after the first residential seminar in Strasbourg.

The projects should:

- Aim at capacity building of youth organisations;
- Demonstrate potential for sustainability;
- Respond to the needs of your target group and have a non formal learning approach;
- Have an explicit and strong Euro-Arab cooperation dimension;
- Be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-bound (SMART);
- Ensure the participation of young people at all stages of the project.

The projects should be addressing the following thematic areas of youth policy:

- Youth policy development;
- Intercultural Dialogue;
- Capacity building of youth organisations including development potential for democratic leadership and youth participation.

Types of projects could be (for example):

- The development or the adjustment of existing resources and material;
- Participatory research;
- Training for youth leaders and/or youth workers/capacity building;
- Projects fostering volunteering and youth participation;
- Projects supporting and consolidating national and transnational networks of youth organisations;
- Projects promoting youth mobility or students mobility;
- Migration related projects (e.g. projects dealing with youth migrants and refugees, youth projects preventing illegal migration and/or human trafficking, etc);
- Projects using/promoting non formal learning as a way to work towards the social inclusion of young people;
- Projects developing the social competences of youth leaders and youth workers when working with young people.

What is a project?

A project is	A project is not
Realistic	A dream or an idea
Based on a needs analysis	The work that your organization does all the time
Defined with clear aims and objectives	An isolated activity
Limited in time and space	A work that others do
Complex (it is a process not one activity)	A work of one person alone
Made up of different stages	What you always do or what you have done before
Sustainable (need collective effort)	
Unique (not a repetition) and meant to develop something new	
Possible to be assessed and evaluated	

## ***Profile and selection of participants***

The course is organised for youth leaders of youth organisations and of youth projects in member states of the Council of Europe and of the League of Arab States who are:

- Having some experience in running youth projects and intending to engage further in Euro-Arab youth cooperation ones;
- Supported by their organisations for participating in the course and in their intentions to contribute to increased Euro-Arab youth cooperation;
- Motivated to learn and to share their experiences on youth work and youth policy;
- Able to act as trainers or multipliers within their organisations;
- Committed to develop and implement a cooperation project;
- Able to work in Arabic or/and English (if needed, simultaneous interpretation Arabic-English will be provided for the duration of the course)
- Available to attend the full duration of the course including the e-learning and project development phases;
- Be aged between 18 and 30 years (preferably).

The course organisers will select a group of up to 30 participants, taking into account the following criteria:

- Motivation for learning and potential for development as leader of the youth organisation's project;
- Youth leaders in a position to influence their organisation's programme and to support youth policy development in it;
- Youth leaders of youth organisations or networks of youth organisations in the position to develop and implement further Euro-Arab youth projects;
- Compliance with the profile of the participants;
- Experience in previous Euro-Arab activities or projects;
- Diversity of types and scope of the youth organisations;
- Regional balances in both European and Arab regions;
- Estimated feasibility of the participants' projects.

## ***Working languages***

The course will be held in English and Arabic. If needed, simultaneous interpretation will be provided for the residential seminars. Documents for the seminars and for the e-learning phase will be made available in both languages where possible and if necessary.

## ***Financial conditions***

Board and lodging for the first residential seminar in Strasbourg is provided and paid for by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre. The board and lodging for the second residential seminar to be organised in a country member of the League of Arab States will be covered by the League of Arab States.

Travel expenses for the participants from Council of Europe member states of the first residential seminar are fully reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe,

Directorate of Youth and Sport. Travel organisation and expenses for the participants from the League of Arab States countries will be paid for by the League of Arab States.

The co-organisers will not cover the costs of using the Internet during the e-learning phases. Participation in these phases will not require the purchase of extra software by the participants.

The Council of Europe and the League of Arab States will not directly fund or co-fund projects to be developed by participants, as this is a responsibility of the latter and of their organisation. However, both institutions are committed to provide participants with the necessary educational and institutional support needed for the development of their projects.

### ***Procedure for applications***

All ***applicants from European countries***<sup>1</sup> should apply using an Internet-based application form. The form is available, after registration on the website, at <http://youthapplications.coe.int>. In case of technical difficulties, please contact Ms. Viktoria Karpatska at [Viktoria.Karpatska@coe.int](mailto:Viktoria.Karpatska@coe.int).

**Applications must be submitted in English.**

All ***interested persons from Arab countries***<sup>2</sup> should contact the office of the League of Arab States by email: [youth@poplas.org](mailto:youth@poplas.org) for receiving information about the application procedure.

The **support letter** for the candidate should be presented **by their sending organisation**. The letter should explain the need and the value for the sending organisation or authority and for the candidate to attend this course. It should also specify the support the organisation is ready to provide the participant with, especially when it comes to his/her project development and implementation.

If an organisation wishes to propose more than one candidate, the order of priority should be clearly indicated and justification for the priority list should be provided.

Applicants without recommendation letter will not be considered. The recommendation letter can either be uploaded on the website mentioned above, or sent separately by e-mail to the respective person in charge of receiving the application.

The applicants must provide also a brief outline of the project that they intend to develop and implement during the course. The project outline is important to illustrate what the applicant has in mind and the social context within which the project is placed. The possible acceptance of an applicant does not imply, for the Council of Europe or for the League of Arab States, automatic support or acceptance of the project.

### ***Deadline for applications***

All **applications must be completed, validated and sent by the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2010**. Selected candidates will be informed of their selection by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2010. A waiting list may be drawn up.

---

<sup>1</sup> Residents in the Council of Europe's 47 member states

<sup>2</sup> Residents in the countries of the League of Arab States