



students' forum

Civil Society and Youth Work: Trends and Challenges in a Globalising World



Evaluation report of a Students' Forum 2000 Study Session,
held at the European Youth Centre Strasbourg, March 19-26, 2004

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INTRODUCTION

In origin, structure and activities, Students' Forum 2000 is a highly unusual initiative. It was established in 1998 as an offspring of Forum 2000, an initiative by Czech President Vaclav Havel aimed at providing world leaders from all walks of social, political, economic and cultural life with a forum to discuss the challenges facing mankind at the turn of the millennium. In order to include the viewpoints of the young generation, Forum 2000 organisers decided to establish a youth forum, subsequently named Students' Forum 2000, which quickly developed its very own ideas and activities, yet continues to function under the umbrella of the Forum 2000 Foundation.

As with its mother structure Forum 2000, an annual conference providing the space for theoretical reflection stood at the beginning of Students' Forum 2000 and has remained one of the pillars of this initiative. Past conferences were devoted to specific aspects of globalisation in their specific relationship to young people. Students' Forum 2000 activists and conference participants, however, soon realised that, in order to be informed by and relevant for the realities young people face today, theoretical reflection needs to be accompanied by practical approaches to affecting these realities.

This realisation triggered the development of a second pillar of Students' Forum 2000 activities that is of a more practical orientation. Through so-called de-centralised projects, conference participants as well as a wider circle of interested global youth are encouraged to translate theoretical reflection into practical grass-roots approaches to issues, challenges and problems of globalisation in local contexts. Students' Forum 2000 makes efforts to support such practical projects through training courses for project carriers. Modelled on the long-term training courses of the Youth Directorate of the Council of Europe, a first training programme took place for a global group of project leaders in 2001.

Students' Forum 2000 can thus best be described as a network initiative bringing together a global target group of young people and their organisations, who are interested and active in developing the involvement of young people in theoretical discussions and practical approaches to dealing with the effects of globalisation on the life contexts of young people. Its emphasis on students in name and, frequently, activities notwithstanding, Students' Forum 2000 welcomes and encourages the participation of young people not currently involved in higher education.

In the pursuit of this mission, Students' Forum 2000 remains in permanent evolution, as its activists are continuously trying to develop forms of activities that are better able to address the exchange between theory and practice on challenges globalisation poses for young people, and to tackle these challenges in the very local context where young people experience them. In part, the fact that Students' Forum 2000 applied for and held a second study session in cooperation with the Council of Europe can also be read as strengthening a form of activity which brings new lights for the development of the Students' Forum 2000.

THEME

The Students' Forum 2000 held this second study session in co-operation with the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg with the overall aims of exploring and discussing the changing concepts, forms and trends of civil society in a globalising world and its impact on young people and youth work and to contribute the SF network positioning itself and finding inspiration for its future development. Experienced youth workers were brought together to share their views on civil society and try to explore new trends and practices in youth work.

The re-emergence of the concept and the real life political and social impact of Civil Society since the beginning of the 1990s and the growing acceptance of its importance for the health and development of democracy indicates a need to address current societal problems via "alternative" rather than existing 'official channels'.

Given the context of globalisation and other transnationalist trends, it is becoming apparent that many young people are no longer satisfied with participation in traditional youth structures and prefer to associate in less formalistic ways to civil society. The Students' Forum 2000 initiative itself - as an informal youth network with a global reach – is a result of such developments and is, therefore, convinced of the need for further exploration of how the field of youth work and youth policy can benefit from the experience of Civil Society as it develops today. As the concept of Civil Society is very vague and also often misused, the Study Session provided us a space to reflect and elaborate on it so as to be adjusted to both the fundamental features of youth work with a global reach and modern institutional achievements, like democratic participation and active citizenship.

One of the main challenges for Students' Forum 2000 and for this study session was to interlink the local and often particularistic orientation of youth organisations from different regions with some concepts of intercultural learning to address young people's problems in times of far-reaching globalisation. This study session contributed to the re-definition and innovative re-creation of the Students' Forum 2000 initiative, but also enriched our scope of projects aimed at learning from theoretical perspectives and practical experience.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study session were:

- to create common understanding of the meanings of civil society and its relevance for global youth work and discuss its conceptual development in the global context,
- to provide participants and the SF network with the opportunity to learn from each other's experiences and to engage in the intercultural learning processes,
- to identify and share different dimensions, trends and approaches used in youth work today,
- to encourage critical thinking,
- to stimulate and support the integration of discussion outcomes into the SF network and the participants' working contexts,
- to generate ideas for future development of the SF network.

PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 19 MARCH	SATURDAY 20 MARCH	SUNDAY 21 MARCH	MONDAY 22 MARCH	TUESDAY 23 MARCH	WEDNESDAY 24 MARCH	THURSDAY 25 MARCH	FRIDAY 26 MARCH
Arrival	<p>Opening Introduction of Team & programme Introduction to Council of Europe and Students Forum</p>	<p>Overview of the understanding of Civil Society through history</p> <p>Exploring issues and challenges of the concept of Civil Society (Joerg Foebrig)</p>	<p>Follow up of discussions Me in the context of Civil Society (Osmar Filho)</p> <p>Me in the context of Civil Society, Drawing our personal paths</p>	<p>"The Society" Simulation game.</p>	<p>Defining needs of young people</p> <p>* my needs, others needs and explorations Forms of Youth Work reacting to the needs</p>	<p>Project ideas * individual plan of action * SF plan of action * inspiration Finding innovative ways of Cooperation & Networking</p>	Departure
	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch (+Travel Reimburse.)	Lunch	Lunch	
	<p>Exploring expectations Group-Building</p>	<p>Exploring the concept of Civil Society in a global context</p>	<p>Role of Youth Work in the context of Civil Society</p> <p>Organisation and Youth Fair</p>	<p>Visit to Council of Europe</p> <p>Free afternoon</p>	<p>Identifying the requirements of the SF network</p> <p>Future drives of the SF network</p>	<p>Follow-up Evaluation</p>	
Welcome Evening	Creativity Evening	Intercultural Evening	Discussion Lounge	Dinner in Town	Film & Reflection Space	Farewell Evening	

PEOPLE

The objectives outlined for this study session also determined the profile of participants to be selected. In particular, the following aspects were considered important:

1. Personal motivations for participation;
2. Gender balance;
3. Geographical balance;
4. Potential to act as multipliers of the study session results,
5. Diversity of academic, professional and organisational backgrounds.

Although the call for participation was open, applications from previous participants of Students Forum 2000 activities were particularly encouraged, however a previous participation did not constitute a criterion for selection.

In all cases, participants had to be:

- Supported by an organisation, faculty - student body, authority or network;
- Able to communicate and work in English;
- Between the ages of 18 and 30.

With a view at the global nature of the theme to be discussed, the team also aimed at particularly encouraging the participation of non-European youth. From the beginning, however, it was clear that the extent of non-European participation in the study session would be determined by the conditions of the Youth Directorate of the Council of Europe as well as financial conditions on part of Students' Forum 2000. The budget available for this study session also made it necessary that, as a secondary criterion, travel expenses foreseen by participants and requested for reimbursement had to be taken into account.

After a preparatory meeting of the team in December 2003, Students' Forum 2000 launched a call for participation and distributed information and application materials through its network to hundreds of youth organisations worldwide. Until the end of January 2004, more than 300 applications had been received. At a selection meeting in February 2004, 30 participants were selected and 5 remained on a waiting list for this study session on the basis of the above-mentioned criteria.



PARTICIPANTS LIST

Name	Surname	Country of nationality
Agata	Oblakowska	Poland
Alexianne	Galea	Malta
Andrej	Nosko	Slovakia
Andris	Stastoli	Albania
Borja	Paladini	Spain
Celine	Holtkotter	France
Edgar	Sargsyan	Armenia
Hilary	Jeune	Jersey Channel Islands/Great Britain
Humphrey	Polepole	Tanzania
Iulia	Timofiticiuc	Romania
John	Ucciferri	USA
Kari	Mckay	Malta
Katsiaryna	Radzko	Belarus
Kelly	Ribeiro	Brazil
Kristina	Starcevic	Croatia
Lidia	Astafeva	Russia
Lorenzo	Dugulin	Italy
Manu	Caddie	New Zealand
Marte	Hellema	The Netherlands
Michelle	Dagnino	Canada
Oleksander	Kondrashov	Ukraine
Orinta	Zizaite	Lithuania
Piotr	Uhma	Poland
Sam	Schatteman	Belgium
Secil	Cetiner	Turkey
Snezana	Baclija	Serbia and Montenegro
Tatevik	Margaryan	Armenia
Tomas	Bouska	Czech Republic
Yaroslav	Kromyak	Ukraine
Ziya	Gaziyev	Azerbaijan

** Please, see Annex 1 with Participants Short Biographical descriptions.*

The participants of the study session formed a group combining gender (14 males and 15 females) and age balance (within a range of 18 to 31 years of age) with representativity of cultural and organisational background – participants came from 27 countries - and from a wide range of organisational forms and fields.

A broad spectrum of different cultural and organisational experience was brought to the session by participants, based not only on the diversity within Europe but also due to the attendance of five non-Europeans. The thematic focus of the session on civil society and youth work in a globalising world would have certainly benefited from even greater geographical diversity. Here, the participation of non-European participants - from Tanzania, New Zeland, Brazil, United States of America and Canada was particularly fortunatate. Although we would have liked to have some representatives from Asia.

Comparably balanced and representative was the team of the study session:

Miriam	Lexman	F	Slovakia	Council of Europe, European Youth Centre Strasbourg
Sebastian	Buettner	M	Germany	University of Bamberg, Germany Students Forum 2000, Prague
Jan (Honza)	Stepan	M	Czech Republic	Students' Forum 2000, Prague
Katerina (Katka)	Klimova	F	Czech Republic	Students' Forum 2000, Prague
Daniel	Nogueira	M	Portugal	Students' Forum 2000, Prague
Celina	Del Felice	F	Argentina	United Network of Young Peacebuilders Students' Forum 2000, Prague,

* Please, see Annex 2 with team members Short Biographical descriptions.

Other advantages of this particular team composition were:

- the diversity of personalities which made the experience a discovery of new perspectives.
- that most of its members had previous experience with educational activities with different approaches which enriched the team meetings and discussions.
- that some of them had worked together on a number of occasions before.

This combination of multiple and diverse experiences made the Study Session a learning experience in itself for team members who amalgamated into a balanced, effective and well functioning team.

PARTICIPANTS REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES DAY BY DAY

To share responsibilities, this activities report was prepared in a participatory way by participants, coordinated by the reporting team.

Day 1 - March 19th 2004

WELCOME EVENING

Report Prepared by Agatha

Participants arrived for the study session on Saturday March 19th. In the evening of that day, the team organised a first informal gathering, the welcome evening, prepared by Daniel Nogueira. The introduction of the team was followed by some exercises to familiarise participants with each other and icebreakers. In addition, participants were provided with some basic technical information on the functioning of the youth centre.

Review of Ice-breakers and games

1. In a circle, as fast as possible, pass a 'whoosh' to the person on your right.
2. Again in a circle, standing up, express yourself verbally to the rest of the group, e.g. scratch your head, jump up and down.
3. This time sitting down but still in a circle, start with one object e.g. pen, sticky tape, pencil and say 'this is a cat', anything else will do. Pass the object to the person on the right and repeat the phrase. The game gets more 'sophisticated' when new objects are introduced and called; they start circulating in all directions.

4. Repeat the exercise described above but with an object each of the people have with them. Say 'this is<the name>. Pass it to the person on the right. Everyone in the group does this at the same time until each person gets back their object.
5. Each person in a circle says his or her name and says, in one sentence, what they like.

Balloons

1. The game starts with one person making statements, e.g. I like strawberry ice cream, I have been to Strasbourg before, <trivial things>. The more each person shares the opinion, the more they blow their balloon up. Different people can then suggest new statements.
2. Each person blows the balloon up and puts their name on it. The idea is not to let the balloons touch the floor so everyone has to play with them throwing and kicking them into the air.
3. The game stops and each person has to grab one balloon. Then in turns they have to find, in a circle, the person whose balloon it is and then participants take turns doing the same. People still stay with the balloons of others.
4. Now each person has to put the balloon on the back of the person whose balloon they have. A line is formed and balloons are maintained in place without holding them.

The silent floor introductions

1. Participants place themselves without speaking, in an alphabetical order.

Day 2 - March 20th 2004.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAMME

(Report prepared by Marte Hellema)

- Introduction round of all present, with a special stop at the different experts present (Osmar Filho) and the guests (Luis D'Avila from Global Youth Action Network and Olger Gonzalez from the Interamerican Human Rights Court).
- What is the Students Forum 2000?
- The slow recognition of international politics that civil society, including youth is of great importance.
- Aims of the study session; - concepts, forms, trends of civil society in a globalising world and impact on youth.
- European Youth Centre – rules and regulations (computers and ICT, fire-alarm, do not swim in the river, cafeteria + other centre facilities, sauna, smoking, biking)
- Reimbursement of Travel Expenses
- Mind Map – Sessions Diary (silent anonymous reaction or content comments)
- Social Committee appointed
- Report Committee appointed

Introduction to Council of Europe and Students Forum 2000

- General announcements (Paris trips – drinks shopping)
- Presentation on the Council of Europe (see print-out)
- Presentation on the Students Forum 2000 (SForum/ SF2000)
 - Challenging Youth
 - Project/Part of Forum 2000 Foundation
 - talk on neutral grounds on subjects like globalisation and future challenges.
 - 1998 – SF2000 – evolved into independent organisation
 - Mission (globalisation & respective action)
 - Aims: challenging youth to challenge themselves
 - intercultural exchange
 - networking
 - joint action + multiplication
 - dialogue on global issues

- knowledge, skills, attitudes
- Active young people with diverse backgrounds from around the world
- Org. Structure
 - Co-ordinator & Prague Team
 - Steering Group
 - International Team!!!!
 - SF Network
- No hierarchical structure – A puzzle
- SF2000 is part of the advisory commission of the Council of Europe
- Activities;
 - by the Steering Committee
 - Decentralised activities (f.e. YTC)
- Contact info
- Questions & Remarks; - What happens with results?, - reports, - oriented towards personal growth of participants, - no advocacy – neutral space for discussion
- Funders; - Council of Europe, - European Youth Foundation, - NIPON Foundation etc.

EXPECTATIONS AND FEARS

(Prepared by Kika)

« The hugging experience »

We started this exercise by each one of us thinking of the main reason why we are here on this study session. Then we had to go into the circle, and by hugging 10 people tell them our reasons. It contained a variety, like “I deserved it”, or “I came to evolve in professional and personal life”, or “I need to share my experience with the experiences all over the world”. Very relaxed and funny way to open an important subject of expectations...

Tree of expectations and fears

We wrote all of our expectations on pink post-its, and our fears on blue ones. Then we had to organize them on a tree of paper, by this order- lower the fears positioned, less the fear is becoming true. Lower the expectations positioned, less they are realized so far. Further instructions were to move our papers every day if found necessary, higher or lower on the tree of expectations. There was a great variety of expectations and fears on our tree, here are some of them:

EXPECTATIONS- everybody being proactive

- fun
- ideas for international action
- good discussions about civil society etc...

FEARS- being not concrete enough

- getting into conflicts
- not going further from debating etc..

This activity provided us with an insight of our own, and the people around us..



Islands

This activity gave us an opportunity to combine symbolism with our expectations. Paper islands were put on the floor, with terms like- practical, theory, friends, future, globalisation, questions, happy, sad, sf2000, home, vision... etc. Our mission was to get an object and through it symbolically refer to as much as islands we find needed, all for better expressions of our fears and expectations. For example; the glasses were the object, on the island if vision- the message is to change our visions, glasses, perspectives, through the eyes of someone else- to use the perspective of

others. Some of the other expectations were to combine theory and practice, to balance personal and professional lives, to be a part of an intercultural process, to get partners for a project of ours, to have

links and friendships, sf2000 would help us to communicate to get answers to the questions we might have, to have critical examination of the possibilities of the civil society, to have better questions, etc....

Some of the comments: “I liked when we mentioned theory and practice part, and I also think it is really important and we should talk about it” (by Secil); “I thought its great, dynamic, we got to raise some principles, enjoying, playing..” (by Kelly); “Some people got hopes and dreams, other people got ways and means..” (by Jack)

GROUP BUILDING SESSION

Prepared by Hilary Jeune



We all got in a circle and held hands then Daniel in his usual eloquent manner asked if we wanted the easy option or the harder. Of course, the majority opted for the easy and found that for the next one and half hours we would be singing ‘we are the world, we are the children.’ Another plan quickly formulated, which resulted in us throwing the ball from one to another shouting that persons name as we did so. The first couple of tries resulted in near loss of heads and arms as Daniel and Marte battled with controlling their urges to decapitate the other participants. This part was hard because it was the first day and with so many foreign names to learn. We then repeated the process backwards.

Daniel then gave us the challenge; staying in the order as we threw the ball we had to pass the ball as fast as possible, ending with the person who started. A great discussion and process began. The first result beginning to form a tube with all our

hands and let the ball roll down the slope making sure all.

Day 3 - March 21th 2004

CIVIL SOCIETY AND ITS MEANINGS

Report prepared by Marte Hellema

- Some clarifications were made by Miriam Lexman about the methods we use at this Study Session: Non-Formal Education (not based on one-way knowledge transfer)
 - Interactive, creative process
 - Combined with theory and expertise of all

Expert input by Joerg Foebrig

- Work and Foundation description
- Chaos of so many terms & definitions – develop overview together
- What are we talking about when talking about Civil Society?
- Why are we talking about it?

It was pointed out that:

- The overview used is one of many
- Range of conceptual questions – debate can become very abstract
- Will be a general overview – not focused on Youth
- When using incomprehensible terminology – Ask!

- When did you first hear of Civil Society as a concept?
 - Who uses the term? Ideologies, political parties, IGOs, NGOs
- How does Civil Society translate to your own language?

- Draw a model of what Civil Society looks like in your own country (example of the exercise)
- Debate on what everybody had drawn (examples of Romania, The Netherlands/Belgium...)

Continuation of expert input

- Put three different post-its with key-actors of Civil Society on board
 - Analysis of the wall of key-actors
- Overview of concepts (historical) of Civil Society – Joerg’s presentation on Civil Society on the Social Analytical Dimension and the Philosophical Normative Dimension
- Remarks and debates after the presentation
 - Distinctions of definitions/concepts of Civil Society stemming from different legal systems (Anglo- vs. Continental Legislation etc.)
 - Regulations coming from these concepts and following legislation
 - Civil Society as a functioning reality vs. Ideal/ Utopia of Civil Society + Hierarchical classification of different actors in Civil Society
 - Influences of contemporary political ideas on reality or utopia of Civil Society
 - Civil Society and Citizenship vs. Global Humankind
 - Possibility of Global Civil Society

LIMITS OF CIVIL SOCIETY

An attempt towards awareness and self-criticism. Complication of the concept of Civil Society in combination with other concepts: Why is Civil Society so important? Question for the smaller groups; Why is Civil Society Good for Society?

Group 1; What is Civil Society? How is Civil Society different from Society? Freedom from expression vs. Freedom to be Poor.

Group 2; Positive factors of Civil Society? Why is it needed?

Group 3; Pro’s and Con’s

Group 4; Bring people together – just for the fun, etc.

Group 5; The presumption of Civil Society being good? What is Civil Society? – Attempt to define Civil Society

Group 6; Good points/key-elements of Civil Society

- Energiser on yes/no on different statements – Spit into two groups, those who think they’ve talked a lot and those who don’t
- Exercise with ball and statements – division between yes/no – clarification and trying to convince others when one gets the ball and is allowed to speak

Group discussions

Summarising list of issues/concepts of Civil Society.

- Civil Society: Positive and Strengthening Impact – Democratic Regime.
- Civil Society: Negative and Weakening Impact – Democratic Regime

The results of the work in small groups: The discussion about what is civil society

Prepared by Andrej Nosko

1. Why is civil society good for society? 2. What does civil society do? – Why there seems to be an obsession with this topic?

Presentation of group conclusions

1. Group 1 (Michelle):

Difference between society and civil society?

Division according to personal experience

- i. countries in transition

- ii. countries from established democracies
- Civil society is essential to democracy,
 - voice
 - participation in community
 - social net
 - human rights
- independent from state, can exist even in authoritarian state
- positive and negative freedom
 - i. association
 - ii. expression
 - iii. freedom to be poor, unemployed, homeless, be hungry
- take away state responsibility

2. Group 2 (Tomás)

Increasing the opportunities for people

- civil society should help people express themselves, providing the possibility to act, preserving the individual rights
- balance between government, non-government and business
- improving the welfare, civil society should increase the level of the development of the welfare
- objective information, should help deliver non-biased information
- exchange of ideas
- dealing with border-line problems, and improving the activities in which states don't act
- distribution of responsibilities
 - i. not only state, but society as well
 - ii. civil society improves the consciousness of responsibilities
- think-tanks
 - i. pressure on governments

3. Group 3 (Andrej)

Diversity of choices for freedom

Filling the gap, more efficient than done by state, complement to the state

“Government strong enough to give everything, that strong enough to take away everything”

providing Social cohesion

civil society in preventing the conflict

participation – formulating the interest, showing the responsibility

monitoring the government policies

- difference as in group 1. – transition vs. established democracies
- overdeveloped civil society
- bridging the gap – international civil societies

4. Group 4 (Secil)

Bringing people together,

- just for fun – BBQ w/ neighbors in Flanders
- concrete aims
 - i. showing the needs and demands quicker
- society powerful enough
 - i. different sectors can understand what people really want
 - ii. civil society makes world better
- institutional society
 - i. people members of NGO – place in civil society
 - 1. people in order, feeling a part of something
 - 2. helping whole country
 - ii. mirror of diversity of society
- sharing
 - i. transparency

- ii. networks
- making the decision and implementation process quicker

5. Group 5 (Agatha)

Presumption that civil society is good

- strong push that civil society is good
- definition: what is it? Problems reaching the common ground on the definition
 - i. chance and means to participate
 - ii. in society is civil society, but it doesn't mean that everybody is involved
- freedom of expression
- group formation – stronger voice
- responsibility for state for the policies, taking the opinions into account
 - i. participation – decision making process
- community life
- tolerance
- communication – everybody is heard, and important, source of information
- negative:
 - i. ideology (western civilization is imposed)
 - ii. can civil society exist without democracy (Iraq, Algeria)
 - iii. legal framework as limitation

6. Group 6 (Humphrey):

Civil society

- Opportunities and capacity building for community
- Room for participation
- Facilitates transparency
 - i. Right of information
 - ii. Accountability of the government
- Values
- Mutual responsibility (couple of people)
- Ownership
 - i. Feeling the sense of ownership of the community

Final remarks by Joerg Foebrig:

- Civil society
 - i. control of the state
 - ii. interest mediation
 - iii. social integration
 - iv. political socialization
 - v. service provision

INTERCULTURAL EVENING

Prepared by Lidiya Astafyeva

This evening was full of fun, excitement and joy. The room where the party took place was like a world map. Upstairs we had Sweden with their incredible bread and souces for it. Downstair were represented all the other countries. We had bunch of International food: sweets, Ayzerbajan baklava, dutch busquit, polish sweets and a bunch of different cultural drinks. The real fun and surprises started with a belly dance. Girls presented it as professional for guys. They all were going crazy about it. After that incredible performance other people represented thier national dances and played national music. Manu with other guys gave a feed back to girls and danced New Zealand dance. All the girls really enjoyed it. Osmar danced Capoeira. The main thing about this dance is that you always need to keep an eye on

your opponent. Defence and fight. Katka took a bunch of pics of us dancing and doing crazy stuff. It was an incredible evening.



All the girls attending the Study Session prepared belly dancing for the Intercultural Evening

Day 4 - March 22nd 2004

- 6 Most important learning points for Youth NGOs
 - o Discussion in smaller groups (Andrej, Kelly, Alexianne and Marte)
 - Youth NGOs should be aware of/take into account that Civil Society can have drawbacks/challenges,
 - Given the dynamic/diverse nature of Civil Society, Youth NGOs should be open and responsive to ongoing changes,
 - Youth NGOs should have a functioning mechanism to ensure continuity and knowledge transfer/empowerment
 - Youth NGOs should establish and actively participate within and outside a broad network of Civil Society and Governmental actors.

ME AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Thinking of your own trip + What made you the youth worker you are today? – Draw a sketch of your trip + What the essential elements are that you have gathered in your backpack? + Questions to the Oracle about your future?

ME and Civil Society – ME and Youth Work

▪

CASE STUDY: OSMAR'S PRESENTATION ON HIS PERSONAL PATH AS A YOUTH WORKER

Prepared by Tomas

- despite coming from South America, there's a clear international link to global thinking
- example: presenting Osmar's biography map
- civil society (c.s.) = civil (citizenship) + society (all possible relations among a group of people)
- Latino America – 300 milion citizens but only 5% in civil society
- under the term of c.s. – private x state level with many questions and aspects
- IMF, World Bank, Washington Army = policy for Latino America, no need of army, with a novel aim to deminish the role of state, transform central power to small groups and NGOs
- in South America – catholic x socialist tradition
- Joerg's comment – state = from provision to supervision, there is a strong need of a strong state but including civil society
- What is the role/impact of a state?



- suggestion for South America – reshape the state according to the model by Worker’s Party in Brazil – movement established in 1980, started with municipalities = grassroots, with the aim to put the civil society to power => succesful, movement went to politics – presidency => Worker’s Party lost the contact with regular people because of a big power without network => today it is looking for another way, empowering new activists to unite
- Can civil society control a state?
- youth activism/work
 - o in Brasil – youth = „minority“ x older people
 - o example – Paris 1968 – similarity or difference ?, ideology or process in terms of democratization?
- we need more feelings, intuition, rationality, belief in our generation, tolerance
- be more prepared for „molekular revolution“, empower ourselves
- environement and youth should work together

A SWOT ANALYSIS OF (YOUR) YOUTH WORK

SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats and Opportunities. The exercise consisted of doing this analysis for each one of our organisation and discuss it in small groups. Each group had to share with the whole group the more frecquent and common trends.



NGO Fair

After dinner, each participant displayed materials, brochures and put up posters and pictures which described their organisation. A “tour” was organised so that they group could visit one by one, each organisation and hear a short presentation on the organisation’s history, objectives and main activities. Participants were impressed by the diversity and the quality of projects.

Manu Caddie from New Zeland making his presentation.

Day 5 - March 23rd 2004

THE SOCIETY: SIMULATION GAME.

Prepared by Snezana Baclija

Simulation game, “The society” – group reflection, debriefing

First of all, I have the need to explain the concept of the report that follows. Since we all remember the Society - how overwhelming, how strong and emotional experience it was, you can imagine that being myself involved in this roll-play as much as everybody else, to grab a paper and start writing a report was the last thing on my mind! So, I’m afraid, I don’t have any clear facts, or notes from that session, hence, this report will be more of my personal reflection. However, I hope that it’ll give you, at least the chance to remember some of your own emotions and ideas looking through my pair of glasses. I’m sorry again for this sort of report, but it was the best that I could do!

Now, let's remember the question: "How do you feel?", and the answer that was supposed to explain all that we've experienced in some hour and a half only in one word.

There were some interesting comments, and most of them were in a way negative. We've had: confused (number of times), disappointed, happy, relieved, frustrated, hopeless, distrustful, loaded :-). For some of us, it wasn't that easy to "decant" all our emotions in just one word - the other ones, on the other hand, knew immediately which is the word that describes in the best way possible what they've had experienced and how did they feel at the moment.

However, looking at the faces around, it was clear that most of them were simply confused or disappointed (except some of them thrilled and exited because they've obviously seen the light at the end of the tunnel :-)

First part of the group reflection was kind of a tool for all of us to get some closure about our feelings - to again find our place inside the Society and to once again identify ourselves with our roles.

After that, it was supposed to be a moment when we should try to explain why do we feel like we do, and which kind of behaviour and actions brought us to that point. In this part it was much easier to connect the person with the role assigned, and it was more or less obvious how we all met with our own place in the Society.

Some of the actions came as a complete surprise to all of us; some of the persons had shocked us totally, and some people's reactions were just as we expected!

However, I have to add that we were dealing with the expectations based on only several days' acquaintances, and even if not so, we are talking about the "judgment" for the situation and reactions connected with the conditions and moments, so extreme, like we have never experienced in the real life! Besides, I have to admit that there were number of us that were surprised with their own actions and reactions!

Even though this simulation doesn't appear realistic, when you give yourselves the time and the space for the proper reflection, you'll realise that "Society" is exactly the reflection of the reality and behaviour that every single one of us will conduct in most of the situations (Hey, the truth hurts! :-)

As an example for this statement is the fact that the "Secret society" (group that has stolen the stamps and started a quiet revolution), although in the first moment confused and amused, but also not too proud of their own course, till the end of discussion, had identified with their actions. Even myself, with the first word "disappointed", and, at that moment, with the moral values at the point 0, when I've analyzed my behaviour, I've realised that I can stand behind my actions, that I can even in a way justify most of them, and that in some extreme situation that would confront me with the possibility of dying, I would conduct myself exactly like I did during the Society! (Scary, right?)

But, let me go back and analyse some of very interesting examples.

Osmar, for example, behaved exactly according to the customs in his society - being very calm and stable when confronted with the problem, he was trying to make as much friends as possible, because, as he said, you never know when you might need the help from some and any of them.

How many of us have also used the customs and habits from our own societies?

Question similar to that one, was on Iulija's mind - she was wondering did we all went for well-proven recipes from our societies, or some of us sought for new ways of surviving?

I'm afraid that I went for the ugly every day's reality in my country, where more than one decade most of the problems are solved by using corruption, criminal, operating on the black-market etc. If nothing else this thought me how to survive in "The society" :-)

But, the real question is why didn't I seek for any other solution, any other way besides corruption, criminal...? Why have I just integrated in the stereotype of my country?

As interesting was the role of the "poor, little, rich girl", who just didn't know what to do with her money (and she was loaded!), and because of that she was slowly going deep into boredom and apathy! While the rest of the Society was going into deepest circles of Dante's Hell, craving for the amount of money needed for the waking up at the beginning of the new day in the Society, she just didn't know where to start and what to do first.

However, this isn't such a big problem. The thing that bothers me the most is why nobody, besides Tomas and Hilary, didn't have any idea about who she was, although it was clearly stated that there is someone who is loaded among us - so it had to be someone who is inside this small-enough group of just more than 30 participants! If nothing else, that was supposed to be easy! Nevertheless, only less than 10% of the Society had any idea about the girl that could give us so much wanted salvation!

Another interesting person - Boss of the factory B.

The question here is - did he chose the easier way, just to work alone and be responsible only for his own actions? Is this the right way? By choosing to work on his own, he has put certain limits to his own achievements, as well as to development and prosperity of the Society in whole! But, at the end of the day, who is the one in the position to judge him - I strongly believe that the most of us would do the same thing if given the opportunity that he had.

And, at the end, some of the impressive examples.

Hilary and Humphrey - well done guys! This is exactly the way we should fight to find our place under the Sun! Of course, things are never that simple as they sound, so for example we have some rumours that in his first days Humphrey has stolen

some money and also tried to cheat in some way! And, also some of the others that have had some crappy roles (like being junky with no education), didn't have such a nice starting point! Nevertheless, they've developed themselves in the way that the rest of us can only admire! :-)

Which leads me to the "Secret society", how I like to call it. Yeah, well, we did some things that deserve jail – I can not argue about that! But, at the end of the day, I believe that we've chosen the only way possible for making fast and strong changes. Yes, Hilary and Humphrey would possibly change our world some time in the future, but I'm just not sure whether it would be done by them or some future generations – and who knows how many people would die before that moment! This will sound like I'm trying to justify myself, and it's probably like that. It will also sound like I'm trying to make a propaganda for the "secret Society", and that's probably true either. But, common, I've explained the "rules" of this report, so please understand that I am just another human being, and being like that, I'm as subjective as it gets! :-)

At the end, I want to state that the roles that were assigned to the people in advance (such as police officers, desk-clerks, every kind of boss etc.) were just as impressive, and the people also had very unique way of comporting themselves in certain situations, but they were just more limited with the certain rules that the rest of us, so it was in a way harder for them to loosen up and just feel as an equal part of the Society. Big part of that was the fact that they didn't have to fight to survive, so they had different problems than the rest of us, but you could also say that I was proven wrong by the fact that the Boss of the Factory A died, although he had every condition to be even more successful than in the beginning

And, at this point, here are some of the questions raised at the very end of the discussion.

One of the questions was whether the roles were assigned according to the personalities present in our group, or the envelopes were just randomly distributed to every one of us?

The answer was that, besides couple of roles that were prepared in advance, all the rest were just completely unintentional. But then, there's another question coming – how is that we all got acclimatized so well while playing our roles (ok, more or less :-)? Is it because we had so much fun being integral part of the Society, so it was very easy to pretend to be somebody (anybody) else? Or, when it comes to difficult times and difficult conditions, there are no more roles to play? In the situation when THE question: "To be or not to be?" is raised, is there any difference between the roles of police-officer, bank-clerk, boss of the factory or youth worker?

And we are talking about the situation when all that's left to do is to choose between surviving and not surviving! Then, if you choose to stay alive, is the rest just the meter of the method used – are you joining the black-market, or are you going to steal "the stamp", keyboards or are you going into corruption?!

This question leads to another one – why did some of us reach for extreme measures in order to survive, while the rest of us simply made the decision to "go with the flow" and finally get through with the agony called "The Society"? Is this the question of moral, ethics, incapability to fight for staying alive or something completely different?

Is there any excuse for stepping into criminal actions, but, on the other hand, is there any excuse for making the decision that there is no point in continuing with the life given, when there is even a slight possibility that at the end of the day some of the things that we could accomplish (if, and only if staying alive :-)) would bring certain changes in this cruel and unfair world?

"Where is the line, which we would never cross in order to simply continue with our own life?"

And just another question that simply impose itself – if we are talking about the real world, would there be more or less dead people at the end of every day?

Ok, it's easy to say: "If this was happening to me in the reality, I would never choose that easily to go in the robbery, corruption or whatever" And that's probably true. But, also, in the real world, the people that just lay down and died – would they do this as easily knowing that their "real" life is on the line. Or they might consider robbing a Bank or doing whatever it takes just in order to stay alive? That's definitely something to think about.

And, like at the begging of this simulation game when we were asked to leave aside everything that was connected to our personality and just to hop into the person A, B, C, L, N, 1, 2, 5 ..., at the end of the discussion we did just the opposite. We were asked to throw our stitches with the characters assigned to us and to go back being people that we really are (whatever that might mean!)

This part was very important, because that way we avoided the "vicious circle" of blame for our actions, since our behaviour in number of occasions endangered survival of the rest of the members of the Society.

But, in spite leaving our roles behind, many questions were still there and discussion went on and on and on ...

Too many questions, not enough answers! But, maybe we don't have to have all the answers! I guess the value of this simulation is in stimulating processes in our heads, and to enable indefinite reflection. At least that's how I look at it. If you find yourself thinking about some of the things that you've done during this simulation, or find yourselves wishing that you could have done something differently, or maybe just applying in your everyday reality what you came up to in this process, then, I guess "The Society" has achieved its goal!

VISIT TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND MEETING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NGO'S UNIT

During this afternoon, we were given a short tour through the Council of Europe

We also had a meeting with (I am missing the names!) representing the Council of Europe NGO Unit.

This Unit is in charge of contacting and working with NGO's as the Council of Europe recognises their influence: "independent non-governmental organisations are a vital component of European society, guaranteeing freedom of expression and association both of which are fundamental to democracy." The Council of Europe provides international NGOs with the opportunity to acquire participatory status. The two representatives explained participants about this status, what it represents, as well as the structures for co-operation between these NGOs and the Council of Europe.

They also discussed the situation of youth representation in these structures and how to improve cooperation with the Youth Directorate.



For more information contact:

Council of Europe

NGOs Unit

Directorate General of Political Affairs

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Fax: +33 (0)3 90 21 47 66 Mail : <mailto:NGO-Unit@coe.int>

<http://www.coe.int/T/E/NGO>

FREETIME & EVENING MEAL

Prepared by Manu Caddie

- After the visit to the Council of Europe the group went into Strasbourg to look around, visit the Cathedral and other attractions. Some participants cycled to Kehl just over the German border.
- The group met at the restaurant "La Bourse" for dinner at 8pm and were treated to delicious 'tarte flambe', salad, a drink and sorbet desert.
- Some people went back to the Centre after the meal for an early evening, others went out for a drink at nearby pubs.

Day 6 - March 24th 2004

EXISTING NEEDS & OUR REPOSSES

Prepared by Manu Caddie

1. Ice Breaker (elephant, mixer, toaster) - *Miriam*
2. Session - *Honzqa*
 - a. brainstormed a range of needs that exist for:
 - yourself
 - family
 - neighbourhood
 - community
 - society (geographic, country, regional, cultural, etc.)

- global
- b. chose one need and got into small groups around common themes (e.g. students, conflict resolution, local issues, global issues, etc.) – decided on single words or short phrases to summarise the key ideas;
 - c. shared these with the group (tossed on the floor to walk around);
 - d. chose two or three key ideas from those listed that we are interested in developing a project plan for addressing the need;
 - e. project planning presentation by Miriam [refer to attached PowerPoint handout];
 - f. listed a project idea on a sheet of paper to try and find one or more people to help us work on our project plan.

Day 7 March 25th 2004

PROJECT PLANNING, COOPERATION AND NETWORKING

Prepared by Piotr Uhma

The session started with a wrap up of the last day. Several participants commented on the movie, which had been screened yesterday and considered it as complementary to their discussions this week. Katka reminded participants about the session yesterday, where they were asked to think about projects they would implement upon returning home and asked one by one to share them with other participants in a very condensed way. Several projects were presented, some of them requiring co-operation between Study Session participants from different countries. For example Marte from the Netherlands and Ziya from Azerbaijan will focus on the education for conflict prevention, Lorenzo and Agata will focus on minorities and their rights. Several other projects were tabled and these included: monitoring the elections in Ukraine (Yaroslav), sustainable networking between environment youth NGOs in Turkey (Secil), establishment of centre for minorities in the Asia Pacific region (Manu), touring the world in a "youth bus of us", organising a convention of young European citizens on the European Constitutional Treaty (Sam), etc. Agata and Piotr suggested a follow up project to emerge from this study session and to be organised in Poland towards the end of this year, this time bringing even more participants from outside Europe.



Following these brief presentations participants were given one hour free time to discuss these project in detail and to form possible small working groups to implement them, if needed.

Farewell party

Prepared by Borgia Paladini

"As a closing ceremony of the study session and after the last wonderful French dinner we had THE BIG PARTY in the Austrian Room. Everybody danced and drank a lot. Some of us even speak with others. No information about more. I was occupy coping CDs".

EVALUATION

RESULTS OF EVALUATION FORMS

Programme elements (1 poor – 5 excellent)	Average rate given by participants
Intercultural Evening	4.8
The Society- Simulation Exercise	4.6
Civil Societing -Creativity workshop	4.4
Farewell Evening	4.4
Limits of civil Society (Joerg Foebbrig)	4.3
Dinner in Town	4.2
Welcome evening	4.2
Civil Society and its meanings (Joerg Foebbrig)	4.1
Evaluation	4.0
Youth NGO Fair	4.0
Cooperation and Networking	3.9
Follow-up	3.9
Identifying Needs of Young People and Youth organizations	3.9
S.W.O.T Analysis of Y.W	3.9
Visit to the Council of Europe	3.9
Consultancy Exercise	3.7
Creativity/Free evening	3.6
Introduction to the programme	3.6
Me in the context of Civil S.	3.6
Introduction to the Council of Europe	3.5
Project Planning	3.2
Film and Reflection Space	2.9
Case Study	2.8

As it can be observed from this chart, the most preferred activities were the Intercultural Evening and the Simulation Game “The Society”.

Rating of other aspects:

Facilities (Internet, Library)	4.2
Accommodation	4.1
Pre Study Session information and communication	4.0
Catering	2.9

ACHIVING OBJECTIVES...

Most participants agreed that the objectives were achieved and some indicated limitations. It is important to know that participants came from a variety of experiences. For some this international activity was a discovery, for others an opportunity to analyse their own work through a different perspective.

Some of their comments were:

- "I think that common trends were identified, and different cases were studied"
- "Through different useful games we were encouraged to use our critical thoughts. The last positive thing for me was that the last two days we tried to work to stablish new projects and exchange ideas among us and the Students Forum"
- "About the objectives, all of them were reached, although I would have preferred a more extended theoretical input and less discussion about our common sense experience"
- "I learnt a lot about other's experiences and their NGO's work. I developed some of my project ideas and I have a clear understanding of the term: civil society. What's more I learnt a lot about the SF2000 and the Council of Europe. But the main thing is that I explored opportunities for project implementation"
- "I think that although we did a lot of great and very important work on developing and conceptualizing our own concepts of C.S., we did not get the part where we could change them or see trends in them. Still even highly specialized experts would have a hard time on such a discussion."
- "I'm satisfied with the exploring and the offered space of discussing and sharing of ideas about what does the concept of Civil Society truly represents. It was interesting to observe different stories, perceptions, and experiences related to it. I strongly believe that common understanding of Civil Society was achieved if looking at it as a common definition. So, we achieved our goals! About the trends and development of Civil Society, I believe that space for those kind of issues was not that much present. Intercultural learning spaces, as one of my basic expectation, was a total success"
- "The exploring of its impact on youth work was for me extraordinary well developed. I believe there is a high pad of knowledge experience I am bringing with me. This gives the space to go into so much more other directions and spaces of Civil Society and youth work"
- "I feel enriched not only in terms of information but also in critical thinking. I am fully satisfied with the event. I learnt a lot about myself and I look forward to be invited to future activities like this."
- "Concepts of CS were explored not just by experts but also by all the participants and it was done through facilitated discussions. Now I have more questions than before, It is a great contribution as questions are the engine of human being. Just the fact that 30 multipliers filled by questions now."
- "The Study Session achieved its aims and objectives to a high degree -the exception may be the first part of the first objective. "to create a common understanding..." Rages of meaning were explored and different understandings were articulated, but common understanding was not possible. The exploration was beneficial and useful in and itself. All the other aims and objectives were achieved more than adequately."

CONCLUSION

One of the participants wrote: “The main outcome for me is that I realized that youth organizations are not alone, and that they can work together and hopefully change small pieces of this world”.

The outcomes of this Study Session can be summarized in some key words:

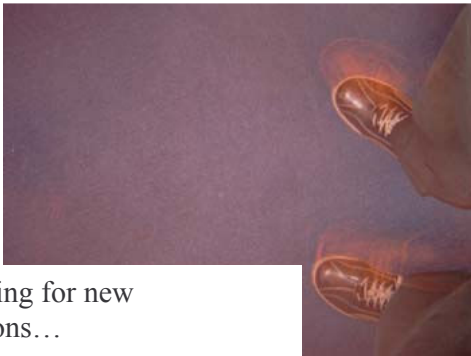
reflection,
information
understanding
partnership
inspiration
ideas for action

It contributed to reflection on this very complex issue. Participants were challenged with questions and new ideas. One of the most rich and valuable outcomes of this Study Session was that different perceptions of civil society could engage in a honest and open dialogue. Exciting discussions emerged and various ideological, historical, cultural, religious and personal perspectives underlying these discussions could be traced. The fact that participants made use of this space for encounter was in itself an achievement when we are living in a world of clashes and rejection of the different.

It provided valuable information about youth organisations, their work, strategies, obstacles and challenges. We realise one more how many youth initiatives exist in isolation and how much we still need to learn from one another.

It reinforced our strong belief in partnership among youth organisations and other bodies such as intergovernmental organisations. Various new projects were drafted and follow-up activities started to be organised!

It helped us discover many new ideas from the synergies created during this meeting. By getting to know committed youth workers and their amazing work, we felt inspired to continue. The Students Forum 2000 has got a lot to digest and to analyse in order to set new directions and improved strategies for its future development.



Searching for new directions...

Assisted by the participants and the team of the study session, this report was edited by Celina Del Felice, member of the organising team of this study session. With any enquiries regarding this report, please contact: Celina Del Felice, United Network of Young Peacebuilders, Venedien 25 – AK 1441 – Purmerend – The Netherlands, celina.delfelice@unoy.org
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BIOGRAPHIES OF PARTICIPANTS
(as submitted by the participants)

NAME: **Agata Oblakowska** (24)

NATIONALITY: Polish

PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Poland

Agata is a final year student at the Institute of Applied Linguistics at the University of Warsaw where she specialises in simultaneous interpreting (Polish/ English/ French). She also studies international relations specialising in European Integration. Since last year she has been working for a translation/ interpreting office. As of September she

NAME: **Alexianne Galea** (21)

NATIONALITY: Maltese

PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Malta

Alexianne Galea has just graduated from Law and International Relations at the University of Malta where she is currently furthering her studies in law. Actively involved in AEGEE, the European Students Forum, for the year 2003, she has been managing the Year Plan Project 'Youth & Globalisation' which culminated in the World Youth Summit on Globalisation. Presently, she is working on the follow-up project while leading other projects and initiatives in Malta within AEGEE-Valetta volunteered at a refugee camp working mostly with Afghan and Chechen with children where she is the International Officer.

NAME: **Andrej Nosko** (22)

NATIONALITY: Slovak

PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Sweden

Andrej Nosko, born in 1981, entered the Faculty of Social sciences of Social Sciences of the Charles University to pursue bachelor's degree in Political Science and International Relations. He also studied Prague Security Studies. At the moment Andrej is on an exchange at Uppsala Universitet, Sweden. Andrej's areas of interest include questions of European Security, regional cooperation in Visegrad group; he was a delegate to Visegrad Youth Confederation. Andrej was also a vice-chairman of Czech Political Science Student's Union.

Andrej is interested in conflict prevention and consensus building, spent a year on Long Island, New York, he was a counselor at a school International Counsel there, promoting intercultural communication and awareness. He participated on a number of conferences, debate tournaments, and published some essays and articles on various issues of his interest. In 2002 he was Slovak delegate to Students Forum 2000 conference; in 2003 he was a member of the NGO Market staff team.

NAME: **Andris Stastoli** (25)

NATIONALITY: Albanian

PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Tirana

Andris STASTOLI has born in Tirana in 23 April 1977 in one of the nobles Albanian families. Following his university graduation in Clinical Psychology with Magna cum laude in year 2000, has had a remarkable and rich experience focused primarily in psycho-social projects trying to deal with a society under political transition like the Albanian society, through ASSA-Zeitgeist organization in which he is co-founder. Andris is author and co-author of several research studies and articles regarding the Albanian psycho-social developmental reality. Since September 2004, Andris is a postgraduate student at the LSE for the M.Sc. program in Social Anthropology.

NAME: **Borja Paladini Adell** (27)

NATIONALITY: Spanish

PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Barcelona, Spain

Borja Paladini Adell, Graduated in Political Science, International Relations branch. I hold a Postgraduate degree in "Culture of Peace", and in "Planning and Management of Development Projects about Education, Science and Culture" as well.

Currently, I am taking a Ph.D. on Conflict Transformation and Peace Building. As an educator I have planned and facilitated several workshops for youth on "peace culture" and on "education in and for conflict". I have some professional experience as a project manager in a development NGO and in a Norwegian Peace Organisation.

NAME: **Céline Holtkotter** (21)

NATIONALITY: French

PLACE OF RESIDENCE: United Kingdom

I have just completed a two years course to become a Trilingual Secretary (French, Italian, English). I have undertaken different work placements abroad, especially in Italy for 4 months and now in England for 9 months to the end of July. I like travelling and discovered other countries, sharing different culture and different point of view. My hobbies are reading, swimming and mountains.

NAME: **Edgar Sargsyan** (27)
NATIONALITY: Armenian
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Republic of Armenia

1993-1998 – Yerevan State University, Department of Oriental Studies, Persian Language and Literature, Diploma
1998-2000 – Vanadzor Municipality; Department of Culture and Education, Specialist of the 1-st range
2001-2004 February – International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES)-Armenia, Civic Education Trainer within the "Citizens Awareness and Participation in Armenia" project since March 2001.
2004 January-present – NGO "Center for Community Dialogues and Initiatives", Head of the Lori regional branch, Civic Education Trainer

NAME: **Katsiaryna Radzko** (26)
NATIONALITY: Belarusian
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Republic of Belarus

Katsiaryna Radzko is a member of NGO “Women for Revival of the Naroch Land”, honorary member and founder of AEGEE-Minsk, junior researcher and coordinator of educational programs at the Center for Civic Education of the European Humanities University, coordinator on training of the UNDP project “Support to Expanding Public Space for Women in Belarus”, works on PhD dissertation on social psychological aspects of volunteering and philanthropy.

NAME: **Hilary Jeune** (25)
NATIONALITY: British
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Amsterdam

I was born in 1979 and come from Jersey, the Channel Islands. I have a Bachelors degree in Geography from Newcastle University, UK and a Masters in International Development from Amsterdam University, the Netherlands. I have worked in several countries in Africa within local NGO’s focusing on resource issues and access. At the moment I volunteer at the secretariat of the United Network of Young Peacebuilders in the Netherlands. I am relatively new to youth work and am finding it interesting and challenging.

NAME: **Iulia Timofticiuc** (23)
NATIONALITY: Romanian
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Constanta - Romania

I have just graduated Political Sciences in French Faculty and have been working for the Political Research Institute in Bucarest. My educational background includes a four year Art Studies and a Foreign Languages High-School. I have been working since my first year in University and I had different administrative and public relation responsibilities, which enhanced me with both post-communist bureaucratic and human “behaviour”. Romania is an interesting “melange” of working souls and bodies...

NAME: **Jack Ucciferri** (25)
NATIONALITY: USA
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Santa Barbara, California

Jack has worked with (and even founded a few) trying to address coastal environmental issues in California for many years. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science from the University of California- Santa Barbara, Jack served as a delegate representing USA Youth at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. As a part time resident, Jack is studying and helping guide the development of Nicaragua. He is currently working in the realm of USA domestic politics.

NAME: **Kari McKay** (20)
NATIONALITY: Maltese
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Malta

Currently completing a B.Sc (Hons.) degree in Computer and Information Systems and working for Maltacom plc. (the local telecommunications company). Other relevant qualifications: Oxford University and MATSEC Computer Studies ‘O’ Level, MATSEC Computer Science ‘A’ Level, NCC IAD (International Advanced Diploma in Computer Studies).

NAME: **Kelly Cristine Ribeiro** (27)
NATIONALITY: Brazilian
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Brazil

Degree in Business and Management Administration and currently attending a Specialization in Art-Education. Working as organizational consultant, trainer and storyteller with several non governmental organizations, mainly in the areas of non formal education, social management, sustainable development and co-operativism.

NAME: **Kristina Starcevic** (23)
NATIONALITY: Croatian
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Zagreb, Croatia

I am a 4th year student of Social pedagogy at the faculty of Educational Rehabilitational Sciences at University of Zagreb. I participate in couple of researches on the subject of bullying-violence in schools, from which one is supported by UNICEF. Furthermore, I am working as a group leader in the organisation called "IGRA" (PLAY), where I organise group activities and else for a group of children which are at risk of developing disorders in behaviour. I am also active as a group leader in volunteers' camps.

NAME: **Lidia Astafeva** (19)
NATIONALITY: Russian
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Kyrgyzstan

I am a second year student in American University – Central Asia. My department is Business Administration. I am alumna of the FSA Flex program. I studied one year in USA high school. I am a member of FSA Flex alumni association. I know four languages and now in a process of learning German. At my university I attend marketing club. In my home country I graduated from Kyrgyz-Turkish girls lyceum.

NAME: **Lorenzo Dugulin** (22)
NATIONALITY: Italian
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Italy

I aim to graduate in "Sciences and Techniques of Interculturality" at the University of Trieste in 2004. I have been working as a newspaper and radio journalist on the themes of immigration since 2001. I am in charge of the press office of "Coordinating Committee of Associations and Communities of Immigrants in the Province of Trieste-Onlus" and of the local chapter of Intercultura-AFS in Trieste. I am an active volunteer of "Italo-Somali Cultural Association Sagal-Onlus". I speak English (proficient), French (advanced), German (intermediate) and Slovene (elementary).

NAME: **Manu Caddie** (31 (just!))
NATIONALITY: New Zealand
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Aotearoa (NZ)

I am affiliated to the Nga Puhī tribe in the north of Aotearoa (NZ), to the islands of Tonga as well as Spain, Ireland and Scotland. I live just down the road from where 'The Whale Rider' was filmed. I studied visual communication design at university and also have a post-graduate diploma in teaching. I have ten years youth work experience as a volunteer, alternative educator, project manager, networks facilitator and trainer – but still have heaps to learn! I am passionate about supporting positive youth, family and community initiatives based on indigenous development principles and bi-cultural models.

NAME: **Marte Hellema** (25)
NATIONALITY: Dutch
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Amsterdam

My name is Marte Hellema from the Netherlands. I hold a Doctoraal (Dutch equivalent to BA and MA in one) in Political Science, International Relations from my studies in Amsterdam and Granada, specialising in conflict studies. At the moment I am doing an internship at UNOY Peacebuilders, working on different projects involving youth and peace-building. From April I will start another internship at the European Centre for Conflict Prevention.

NAME: **Michelle Dagnino** (23)
NATIONALITY: Canadian
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Toronto, Ontario

CURRENTLY: PROGRAM COORDINATOR, YOUTH ACTION NETWORK
CURRENTLY: BOARD MEMBER, WORLD YOUTH CENTRE

CURRENTLY: RESEARCH CONSULTANT, GENDERING ADOLESCENT AIDS PREVENTION PROJECT
CURRENTLY: Researcher/Organizer, Women in Hip Hop Research and Action Project
2001: Child Labour Campaign Coordinator, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions

NAME: **Oleksandr Kondrashov** (22)
NATIONALITY: Ukrainian
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Ukraine

My name is Oleksandr Kondrashov. I am 22 years old. I live in Lviv, a city in the Western part of Ukraine. I recently graduated from Lviv National Polytechnic University with Bachelor of Sociology degree with specialization in social work and now do my master in educational administration at the same University. Beside studies I do volunteer work in St. Volodymyr fund in Lviv with youth of multi-children families.

NAME: **Orinta Zizaite** (21)
NATIONALITY: Lithuanian
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Vilnius, Lithuania

Born in Vilnius, 1982. Currently third year student of Law University of Lithuania, deepen knowledge in Public Administration branch. Simultaneously, responsible for public relations and communication with mass media in the Student Association of Public Administration. Representing organization in different national and international seminars, conferences, other events. Participating in a qualification improvement courses. Events coordinator at a Student Representative. As an exchange student studied half a year in the University of Tampere, Faculty of Economics and Administration (Finland). Participant of Northern European Youth Forum (2003, Ockero, Sweden).

NAME: **Piotr Uhma** (25)
NATIONALITY: Polish
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Poland

Lawyer. Graduated from the Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Poland. Member of the Steering Committee of the International Council on National Youth Policy (ICNYP), www.icnyp.net z headquartered in Vienna, Austria. Secretary General of the Polish Youth Council (Polska Rada Młodzieży PRM), www.prm.org.pl - the umbrella organisation uniting major youth NGOs in Poland. Director of the Secretariat of the World Scout Parliamentary Union (WSPU), www.wspu.org - the international organisation of members of parliaments (MPs) interested in supporting national youth policies worldwide.. Advisor to the Ministry of Home Affairs of Kenya and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport of the Province of Kosovo. General Rapporteur at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) seminar on youth policy in Central and East African Countries (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2003).

NAME: **Sam Schatteman** (24)
NATIONALITY: Belgian
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Berlin

Born in Flanders, 1979. Degrees in Economics (bachelor and master), Contemporary History (bachelor), and Slavonic Languages (post master) at the university of Leuven and Warsaw. Currently with an EU-scholarship (Youth Action EVS) working at the German-Russian Exchange, Berlin. President of the European Convention of Young Citizens Berlin.

NAME: **Secil Cetiner** (23)
NATIONALITY: Turkey
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Ankara

Now I am a last year economics student in Middle East Technical University in Ankara. I was an active member in AEGEE (European Students Forum) two years ago. In January 2004 I participated in "Training for Young Environmental Leaders" program in Regional Environmental Center (REC) in Budapest. I participated in YES in Izmir, Turkey. (An international event of British Council organized with the participation of 130 students from 36 countries). I participated in Peace Trail in Antalya, Turkey. (With the participation of students from Greek, Israel, Spain and Turkey.) I was the fund Raising responsible of AGORA (the general meeting of AEGEE from all over the world) that was made in Ankara with the participation of 600 young people.

I was a member of the organization team of 3. European Youth Festival in Ankara. I joined a Summer University (with AEGEE) in Italy. I joined a Field Work Trip in Germany, had formal meetings with most of the universities' Erasmus Offices to prepare a report on Socrates. I joined an International Youth Camp (with the participation of 150 students from different countries of Europe) in Germany.

NAME: **Snezana Baclija** (23)
NATIONALITY: Croatian
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Serbia & Montenegro

Born: 16.12.1980. in Novi Sad; at the moment on the 5th year of University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Technical Sciences, Department of Management; Co-President of the NGO BalkanIDEA Novi Sad and leader of the project "L'écologie diplomatique des Balkans"; has a Council of Europe's certificate from "Training for Trainers working in South East Europe". Also participated in previous SF2000 Study Session: "Global youth work: From theory to practice". Favourite colour: blue; Most important thing to accomplish: inner peace :-)

NAME: **Tomas Bouska** (23)
NATIONALITY: Czech
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Falun, Sweden

I was born in Prague and I study Political Science and Humanities on Charles University in Prague. I focus on global security issues, NATO, sustainable development studies, political extremism and terrorism. At the moment I am studying Master's Program of European Political Sociology in central Sweden, where we deal mainly with welfare state studies and anthropology. The aim of my Master's thesis is to deliver a life history of Czech political prisoner. Apart from my studies I am keen on sports and travelling.

ANNEX 2

BIOGRAPHIES OF PREPARATION TEAM MEMBERS *(as submitted by the team members)*

Celina Del Felice

Celina is 27 and comes from Argentina. She studied Political Science in Rosario University while volunteering for the United World Colleges. After graduating she was the youth programmes coordinator at Educating Cities Latin America. She currently works for UNOY Peacebuilders in The Netherlands and is a member of the SF 2000 Steering Group.

Daniel Sa Nogueira

Daniel, half Portuguese, half South African in nationality, time spent in, heart space, etc. 27 years spent enjoying beautiful moments on beautiful earth, a few of which dedicated to European youth work, training and creative thinking. As a member of the Steering Group, he strives to introduce the absurdness of this text to his life and the life of others.

Honza Stepan

Honza comes from the Czech Republic, although right now he is finishing his masters' degree in economics in Belgium. He is 23 years old and has been working with the Students Forum for more than two years as a volunteer, coordinator and Steering Group member.

Katka Klimova

Katka currently studies at Cardiff University Law School. She is 24 years old and has been involved with SF2000 since 2002 when she became a member of the Prague Team. Prior to that she has been an active member of ELSA Prague and ELSA Czech Republic as a Vice-president for Academic Activities.

Miriam Lexmann

Miriam comes from Slovakia and works as a free-lance trainer and consultant for different NGOs. She is regularly working for the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe, since she is member of its' Pool of Trainers. She also works for SALTO Youth Program of the European Commission.

Sebastian Buettner

Sebastian is 25 years old and currently graduating in Sociology and European Studies at Bamberg University in Germany. During his studies he concentrated on the concept of Civil Society on different occasions. At the moment he is a member of the Steering Group of the Students' Forum 2000.