

ewoca³ – european workcamps 2012–2014

Funding programme for youth work organisations
from North Rhine-Westphalia

Impressions and Perspectives



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Further information on the ewoca³ – Funding programme for youth work organisations can be found on: www.ewoca.org

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Personal greeting

by the Premier of the State of North-Rhine-Westphalia, Hannelore Kraft

Europe lives by the people filling the European idea of peace and justice, prosperity and fair chances for all with life. The Europe known to most citizens happens on the big stages of politics. But it is lived most in the seemingly small, where the attraction of the unified Europe really can be felt. And it is exactly this, what is happening at ewoca³. As Premier of the State of North-Rhine-Westphalia and convinced European, I am proud that this project was realised here in our North Rhine-Westphalia. Already in the first year, more than 250 youths from 14 European countries were able to spend a whole summer together. Jointly, these young people, who often became friends, realised twelve charitable and sustainable projects. They will benefit mainly the people in our European partner countries, from Turkey to Italia, from Poland to Belarus, from Bosnia and Herzegovina to Cyprus. In their very personal way, together and in practical work for the greater good, these young people filled the European idea with life.



They are examples that, in the face of all difficulties, it is possible to reach a common goal, if one is willing and commonalities are elevated over self-interest. In a way, by looking at it this way, it is here as well that Europe on a small scale happens – and it obviously works better as the Europe of conferences and crisis summits. This togetherness across borders is the big strength of a Europe, which many generations before us could only dream of, and which we, but most of all our young people can, step by step, make a reality. This gives us courage for the future.

I am thankful to all those involved at the IBB and Stiftung Mercator, who made ewoca³ possible and will continue to do so. I want to encourage them to continue this project in international youth work with the same commitment, with which it was begun. As it is here as well, that a new, a strong, a lovable and livable part of Europe is growing.



Hannelore Kraft

Personal greeting

by Bernhard Lorentz, President and CEO of Stiftung Mercator

Experience Europe – ewoca³

What is Europe? What does it mean to live European? As mundane as these questions sound, as justified is their being asked. Especially in the last few years it became clear that, for many people, the convergence and integration of the continent and its political accomplishments aren't experienceable any more. And yet, there are so many advantages, on the small as on the large scale, which we in Europe can enjoy every day: Travelling without borders, cheap telephone calls, strict food inspections, exchange programs for pupils, students and professionals – all of these and much more belong to the everyday benefits of a converging and integrating Europe. No other association of countries worldwide makes this possible. But the European project comes alive only if citizens deal with and reflect on what Europe means for them, how Europe is present in their lives and what benefits it presents them every day. Only this way great challenges like the current Euro crisis can be mastered together.

It is exactly for this reason that Stiftung Mercator supports the trilateral partnerships between youth work organisations from North Rhine-Westphalia and two other European countries. Youths from Russia and Turkey also take part in ewoca³. In this, the programme unambiguously expresses that the European idea has to be imagined across national boundaries and beyond the scope of the current EU-member states. To strengthen the intercultural competences of youths by their common encounters and, at the same time, contributing to local sustainable youth work is one of the central challenges in supporting international understanding and tolerance.

Through ewoca³, youths with inherently few possibilities to take part in international exchange programmes get a chance to expand their horizons and acquire first-hand knowledge of other cultures by sharing personal experiences with their peers from other countries. The 16- to 24-year-olds belong to a generation growing up naturally in a free Europe without borders. To realise this principle not just in the current political discourses but in the hearts and minds of all people, it is essential to make the European idea experienceable in practice. Especially our young people have to take part in building the “House of Europe”.



Photo: David Aussenhofer

In the context of ewoca³, the young participants experience the meaning of getting to know and appreciate people from other cultures and to collaborate with them on projects, surmounting language barriers. This frequently leads to very creative and remarkable outcomes, like the transformation of urban derelict land or the installation of alternative energy sources. In this practical work we find the answers to what Europe is: Collaboration across borders, bringing people from different backgrounds together and creating fruitful results from their cultural diversity – that is Europe! The earlier we can inspire the youths for this, the better our chances are to make the young people of today into the wellspring of a truly pan-European society of tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Lorentz'.

Bernhard Lorentz

ewoca³ – An innovation from North Rhine-Westphalia

The focus of ewoca³ – funding programme for youth work organisations in North Rhine-Westphalia is on 36 international workcamps, which allow youths from 14 countries to get into an active exchange with each other. These youth encounters are realised by 12 trilateral partnerships, which are constituted by one organisation from North Rhine-Westphalia and two from other European countries. Each country in the partnership hosts the workcamp once and, in cooperation with their partner organisations, implements a project at a local youth work institution. The target group of the projects are youths, which due to their educational background, their social or financial situation or their geographical living area, have less chances to access international exchanges. Beyond that, the funding programme features a comprehensive support and qualification programme. This way even organisations with little or no experience in international youth work and characterised by their mainly volunteer members are motivated to participate in the project. ewoca³ thus takes it as its aim to introduce new players to the field of international youth work, both on the participant and the organisational level. Beyond that, the sustainable strengthening of the structures of international youth work is an essential part of the programme. The associated support programme thus emphasises the networking between and further qualification of the participating organisations and supports the collaboration of the partnerships with common planning and networking meetings.

Sustainability through networking

International youth encounters are challenging projects for youth work organisations and often demand special effort from all participants. ewoca³ wants to support this effort and encourage the project partnerships to continue to work in this field in the future. In order to achieve this, the three years of ewoca³ are also used to build a network of youth work organisations in North Rhine-Westphalia and Europe. Within this network, information and competences can be shared and exchanged, and partner and support for further projects can be found. The long duration of the project allows for relationships to stabilise and increases the chances of further collaboration beyond the end of the project.

The project planning congress

The project planning congress commencing each project year gathers representatives from all 36 partner organisations. Beyond exchanging ideas and information about the partnerships and projects, problems and successes, the further qualification of project managers takes centre stage. Each congress features elements of further education and workshops to a specific topic. For the beginning of the new phase in 2012, the selected topic was “Education for sustainable development”, as this is the overarching theme of all ewoca³-workcamps for the duration of the project. The congress of 2013 will focus on “Diversity and sustainability”, in the final year 2014 possibilities for supporting the participation of youths will be further explored.





The network in North Rhine-Westphalia

Additionally, twice a year a networking meeting for representatives of the organisations from North Rhine-Westphalia takes place. Here, experiences are exchanged, open questions are settled, problems are discussed and suggestions and tips are given. The face to face encounters strengthen the network idea and create supportive relationships between the organisations.

Strengthening identification!

However, face to face encounters and the experience of being part of a big network are not just important for project managers and youth workers. The youths themselves should experience their taking part in a programme bringing together people from different parts of North Rhine-Westphalia with people from several other European countries. The funding phase 2012 to 2014 thus features both a preparation meeting at the beginning of summer and a follow-up meeting after the workcamps for all youths from North Rhine-Westphalia. Here they can present their project ideas to one another and share their experiences. This supports a feeling of togetherness among the youths from North Rhine-Westphalia and strengthens their identification with the European programme. The participants have the chance to share their positive experiences of the camps with others and reflect together what Europe means for them. In this the ewoca³ programme wants to specifically counteract the rather negative portrayal of Europe in the media since the beginning of the economic crisis.

Learning and testing intercultural methods – the workcamp leader training

Taking care of and guiding participants in international exchanges is a major challenge for all those involved. The youth workers need special knowledge of methods and need to be sensitised for encountering people with different cultural orientations. Conveying sound intercultural methods thus is of great importance for ewoca³. The workcamp leader trainings target those people working with youths and forming an international team at the camps. The focus will be, among other topics, on leadership skills and methods for team building. Additionally, the specificity of intercultural communication and resolving conflicts will be discussed. The basis of all trainings will always be recognising the similarities between people, irrespective of their nationality and cultural background and the critical view on one's own prejudices. As each partnership sends one person per country to the workcamp leader training, the basis for collaboration on eye level is set and a common standard for all ewoca³ projects is given.

Individual advice at all times

In addition to the scheduled events of the ewoca³ support programme, the IBB offers individual advice to all project partners. This involves support with the acquisition of third party funds, even for additional projects, with public relations work, finding experts within and outside the ewoca³ network and guidance and support on planning the project.

Once again!

ewoca³ – The second phase

The successful concept of “ewoca³ – funding programme for youth work organisations in North Rhine-Westphalia“ was continued for the new phase 2012-2014: For three years, trilateral project partnerships organise workcamps on the topic of “Education for sustainable development“. While the first phase was funded by Stiftung Mercator entirely, since 2012 the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia takes over financing the workcamps to secure the new phase and the future potential of the ewoca³ programme. The structural costs and parts of the support programme are still funded by Stiftung Mercator.

The project partnerships

Twelve project partnerships with organisations from 14 different European countries take part in the second phase of ewoca³. In the years 2012 to 2014 a total of 36 workcamps will be realised, bringing together more than 700 youths. The structure of the participating organisations in the current programme phase is very diverse: church-based organisations, non-profit associations and municipal institutions take part. Some organisations have a long experience in the field of international youth work, some are just taking their first steps. The success of the first phase is evident in several of the “old partners“ continuing for the years

2012 to 2014, sometimes in new partnership constellations. This is a clear indication that specifically the networking aspect of ewoca³ has a positive impact.

From participants to team members

ewoca³ did not only inspire organisations and project managers; some of the youths are taking part for the fourth time in a row. These young people know numerous exciting ewoca³ stories to tell, for them the programme is a fixed element of their summer break. For some the enthusiasm for the programme and international youth work even went so far that, after three years as participants, they decided to take part in the workcamp leader training and support the camp as team members.

The 2012 projects

The projects realised in the summer of 2012 were very diverse: From building a ropes course in Westerkappeln, over participating in building a health facility in Belarus for resettlers from Chernobyl, to the conversion of a house in the Ukraine to make it accessible for use by handicapped people, in all camps the youths showed great effort and lots of interest in meeting with people from other European countries.



Participating countries



The target group

ewoca³ has taken as its aim opening the doors to international youth exchanges, especially for youths with special support needs. It wants to reach young people, who for cultural, social, economic, physical or geographical reasons find it more difficult to access programmes and activities of international youth work. Especially important is that all those involved can participate in the projects without being discriminated against. However, ewoca³ is not a programme explicitly for disadvantaged persons,

so youths from a variety of environments can participate in the workcamps together, in order to support the social integration of all those involved. The work with the target group calls for a special education of the pedagogical teams and the project managers responsible for planning. It is thus the methods and strategies specifically adequate to the participants of the workcamps that are conveyed and discussed during the course of the ewoca³ support programme.

“No language is diverse enough to express the palette of emotions experienced during the project. Everything was magical and unforgettable.”

Nastja (24 years), team member from Smolensk, Russia

01_PROJECT “INTERNATIONAL BARBECUE CONSTRUCTION – BARBECUE“

Ambitious work and intensive exchange

A Barbecue to everyone's taste

The outdoor spaces of the youth guest house Marienhof needed a big barbecue area with different grills to allow for the preparation of pork separate from other meats. When, during the planning phase, it became clear that the workcamp would have a high percentage of female participants, the organisers wondered how much physical labour they could expect from the group. Because of this, Igor Yahorau, the leader of the Belarusian team, made a point of careful planning. And, behold: In the end an extraordinary barbecue area was created, a herb spiral, the composter and a construction trailer were renovated, and all in just two weeks.



Hard-working participants

Next to the Russian and Belarusian girls, who, even on the construction site, always wore fancy clothes, the German participants were ready to deal with all weather conditions. But irrespective of their outfits, everyone laboured diligently. The City of Hagen and their twin city, the City of Smolensk, collaborate for years; the Vitebsk group takes part in ewoca³ since 2009. Now the new barbecue area is open to everyone visiting the Marienhof, from other locals to visiting groups of youths.

Cleaning, dishes, self-supply

For the duration of the workcamp, the participants stayed together at the self-supply guest house of the Marienhof, where they also had to organise the cleaning and dish-washing shifts for themselves. The age differences within the group turned out to be a great advantage: Two younger girls from a Muslim family in Hagen precisely explained washing the dishes or cleaning the bathroom to the Russian and Belarusian participants. Several times during the camp it became clear that the social backgrounds of the participants were quite different. However, they mastered all their problems together.

Different backgrounds

In addition to the barbecue area, the youths built a number of benches from logs and poling boards. The seating area was then decorated with the national flags of the participant countries. While the German participants suggested adding the country names, this was rejected by the Belarusian participants as totally unnecessary: “Every child knows the names!“, a participant remarked. In other discussions the naturalness with which German youths voiced their opinions and critiques surprised the partners. Here, the different educational systems of their respective countries seemed to shine through.

Irrespective of their differences, their living together and the interesting programme accompanying the work (swimming, barbecue evening, bowling, rafting on River Lenne, cultural events, a day trip to Münster, amusement park) brought the young people closer together as a group. The Haus der Geschichte (House of History) in Bonn particularly impressed the youths.



"The cultural togetherness was a very positive experience."

Tina (19 years), participant from Hagen, Germany

Project partners

City of Hagen (Germany)
City of Smolensk (Russia)
City of Vitebsk (Belarus)

Information about the 2012 camp

Date: July 17th to July 31st, 2012

Location: Hagen, Germany

Participant structure

- Germany: 7 participants, all pupils from Hagen schools
- Russia: 7 young adults between the ages of 19 and 23, including the team member, studying at the University of Smolensk, mostly coming from rural areas
- Belarus: 8 young adults between the ages of 21 and 28, including the team member

Participants

- Germany: Xenia Gutschinski, Jana Neuenhöfer, Indra Neuenhöfer, Ronja Wilhelms, Tina Rosin, Jennifer Schmitz, Alberina Beganaj, Tugce Erkaya
- Russia: Valerya Degtyareva, Inna Pavlova, Darya Karpetchanka, Maria Trishina, Uliana Judina, Anna Mishchenkova
- Belarus: Dmitry Yegorov, Vitaly Borisenko, Krystsina Kaspiarovich, Natallia Shcharbakova, Margaritam Lugowzowa, Katsiaryna Kirylava, Natallia Mandrykava

Team and support

- Germany: Hans-Joachim Simon, Natalia Keller, Thomas Venjakob, Heiko Schmidt, Yasemin Kirkgöz, Gordon Kemper, Manuela Osbahr, Dietrich Kötting
- Russia: Anastasia Melentyeva
- Belarus: Igor Yegorov

Camp 2013

Location: Smolensk, Russia

The City of Smolensk celebrates their 1150th anniversary in 2013. The ewoca³ project will contribute to the preparations for the festivities.

Camp 2014

Location: Vitebsk, Belarus

“Most of all I want to thank you for this beautiful ropes course.”

Elke Ursinus, manager of the AWO (worker's welfare association) day-care centre in Königsteich

02_PROJECT “GREEN FRIENDSHIP – BUILDING A ROPES COURSE“

Full power, all the time!

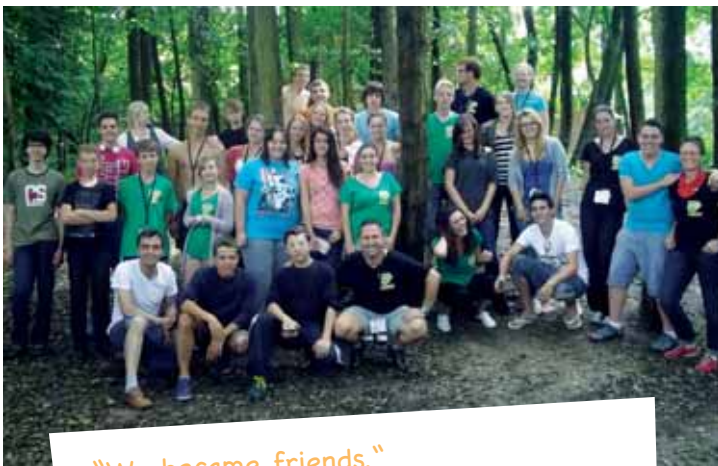


Lots of fun with simple means

The camp of Kreisjugendamt Steinfurt (municipal youth welfare service) showed that, even with comparably little equipment, it is possible to have lots of fun in an international group and, at the same time, create a ropes course and two raised vegetable beds. Even a film about all the activities was made! The European Office of the youth welfare service has lots of experience in intercultural youth exchanges and knows what teenagers like. With full effort, the participants gave everything for the green friendship. The project's goal was fully reached: The farewell was highly emotional and everyone embraced each other.

Something remains

The goal of the trilateral encounters is to create something sustainable at each project location. In this case, an outdoor area for kindergarten children right in the middle of a forest was to be realised, and the workcamp was erected right next to it. The participating youths from Lithuania, Spain and Germany gathered in mixed working groups: The kitchen group prepared the food in a tent kitchen, while the building group was responsible for manual labour and the media group documented everything. In an improvised television studio, including a self-made teleprompter, the media group produced funny and informative films about life on the camp, accessible on Facebook and on the camp website at www.ewoca.org.



“We became friends.”
Miquel about the other youths at the workcamp

Differences creating closeness

The educational and leisure programme was oriented towards natural preservation: The workcamp participants visited a paper factory and the Bundesstiftung Umwelt (Federal Fund for the Environment) in Osnabruck. They canoed on River Ems and navigated a high ropes course. During the afternoons the Lithuanian games of movement made time fly, Spanish flamenco dances required some temperament. Whether it was Lithuanian soup or paella cooking over the open fire, it always was the exchange of the respective everyday cultural customs and manners which created closeness. The most important result of the camp was undoubtedly that friendships have been forged.



“Multiculturalism is cool.”

Inga Hindersmann, member of the Lithuanian team



"Farmer's golf is very funny!"
Marta, Spanish participant



Great feedback from the region

The German hosts, through a number of funny game ideas, proved that even predominantly rural areas can offer their international guests a lot. Probably most memorable was "farmers' golf", where the participants drove a football with a sledgehammer over hills, meadows and paddocks. Finally, inaugurating the ropes course was a big event with representatives of the municipality of Westerkappeln, the youth welfare service, the association of friends of the day-care centre, the press and of course all the kindergarten children, who will use the forest playground in the future.



Project partners

Kreisjugendamt Steinfurt (Germany)
Youth Club Telsiai (Lithuania)
Asociación Opendoors (Spain)

Information about the 2012 camp

Date: August 1st to August 15th, 2012
Location: Westerkappeln, Germany

Participant structure

- Germany: 7 youths from Westerkappeln between 16 and 18 years old, either in vocational training or visiting secondary schools
- Lithuania: 8 youths from the youth club in Telsiai, Lithuania.
- Spain: 8 youths without vocational training from Valencia.

Participants

- Germany: Doreen Roschewski, Annemarie Sparenberg, Angelika Knodel, Paul Zent, Florian Debbert, Ronny Josch, Franz Wallmeier, Pascal Pehle
- Lithuania: Benas Klemanskis, Vytautas Trusovas, Edvinas Varkalis, Julius daraskevicius, Egle Gelezinyte, Gabriele Urnezute, Gabriele Karunkeviciute, Mante Norvaisaite
- Spain: Cristina Divieso, Anouk Fornas Brotons, Miquel Navarro Martines, Sara Montero Carrasco, Marta Gimenez Martinez, Aaron Bosch Senabre, Arantzazu Elias Triguero, Alberto Lacort Burgos

Team and support

- Germany: Ralf Bornstedt, Steffi Harks, Pascal Niemann, Jonathan Finke, Peer Berkemeier, Adam Brozynski, Janek Brozynski, Inga Hindersmann, Frank Bükler, Elke Ursinus
- Lithuania: Karolina Andriekute, Inga Nagyte
- Spain: Salvador Martínez Manzano, Maria Pilar Tronchoni Vives

Camp 2013

Location: Telsiai, Lithuania
Creating a sports area for youths next to the youth club

Camp 2014

Location: Quart de Poblet/Valencia, Spain
Renaturation of a river bank

Facebook:

ewoca³ Green Friendship



"Oh no! The goulash from our native region was a somewhat delicate present. We just didn't know that the Hagen youth club usually doesn't serve pork."
 Jérémy Richard, French youth

03_PROJECT "INTERNATIONAL CULTURE IN MOVEMENT AND IMAGE"

Stereotype reduction at the summer camp

Experiencing diversity

"We thought we would meet German youths", a French participant surprisedly exclaimed, when he first looked around at the youth club in Altenhagen. With this the workcamp had immediately arrived at its topic. This diversity of cultures, quite natural in the Ruhr area, was not well known to the youths from the small town of Gravelines in Northern France.

An international community

The local group of Falken/Sozialistische Jugend Deutschlands (Socialist Youth of Germany) was an enthusiastic follower of the ewoca³ idea from the beginning. So, for the second phase, they once again organised the commencement camp at the youth club Friedenshaus (House of Peace) in Hagen-Altenhagen, a borough where about 80 percent of families originate from Turkey, Italy, Syria, Russia or Morocco. The team from Hagen itself had members with migrant backgrounds: Camp leader Meral Karadag, for example, supported the Turkish group as an interpreter.

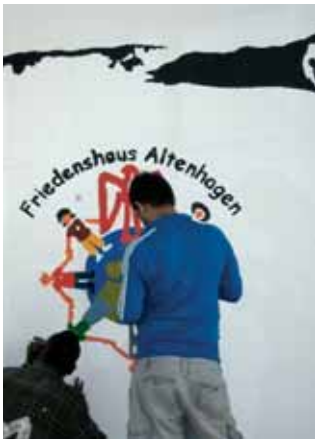
Reunion with guests from Mugla

A team from Mugla in the west of Turkey took the trip to Hagen once again. The exchange between the young people from Turkey and the youths from Turkish migrant families in Hagen again worked especially well, but the French participants also became part of the group quite fast. At night, they stayed at the youth club together, while each day the Falkenhof next door was being renovated. Modules of a photovoltaic plant installed at the first ewoca³ camp, but stolen since, had to be replaced. Additionally, the wall surrounding the courtyard was decorated with a mosaic.

Avoiding stumbling blocks

The linguistic diversity of participants was quite a challenge for the workshops. Thus, in the morning language exercises were used to help participants overcome their inhibitions and get into talking with each other. The usual stumbling blocks at camps, like for example the different culinary customs were elegantly avoided. The goulash, brought as a present by the French team, was, with a warning, added to the otherwise pork-free buffet at the youth club. The French group, on the other hand, got the daily portion of French fries they asked for.





The creative group activities preparing for the halfway party and the final party were innovative and very diverse. The teenagers from Turkish families were surprised to see the French boys dressed up as women, as is a traditional carnival custom in their home town. A documentary group photographed and filmed all activities. The social gathering all around the Falkenhof, at the barbecue or the camp fire strengthened their team spirit. Finally, day trips to Amsterdam, Dortmund, the Wuppertal Zoo and Cologne Cathedral created a laid-back holiday atmosphere.



Project partners

SJD – Die Falken Hagen (Germany)
Municipal Youth Club in Mugla (Turkey)
Cefir (France)

Information about the 2012 camp

Date: July 8th to July 28th, 2012
Location: Hagen, Germany

Participant structure

- Germany: 14 participants from Hagen, between 14 and 22 years old, with a migrant background.
- Turkey: 7 youths from Mugla, between 17 and 25 years old, some of them students.
- France: 5 youths, between 16 and 23 years old, from Northern France, currently without employment.

Participants

- Germany: Resit Yilmaz, Erdi Nayci, Hasan Alkan, Shabnam Azhar, Shamim Arzhar, Berkan Yek, Cem Degerli, Rüya Hareli, Tufan Hareli, Onur Hareli, Samet Er, Semih Er, Dilara Aylin Beydogan
- France: Ludovic Fournier, Moussa Coulibaly, Kérim Wienecke, Jérémy Richard, Michaël Cornil, Nolwenn Le Letty
- Turkey: Oğuzhan Cinar, Utku Dursun, Yahya Demir, Yusuf Cem Albayrak, Kenan Katanalp, Mehmet Deveci

Team and support

- Germany: Waldemar Laschert, Meral Karadag, Zaffer Degerli, Thorsten Wely, Jan Kölpin, Betül Yek, Verena Meißer, Christoph Kirsbach, Irfan Altunyay, Hanim Karadag
- France: Gregory Thulliez, Sophie Gaudan, Sandrine Ribeiro
- Turkey: Onuk Abdullah

Camp 2013

Location: Mugla, Turkey

Camp 2014

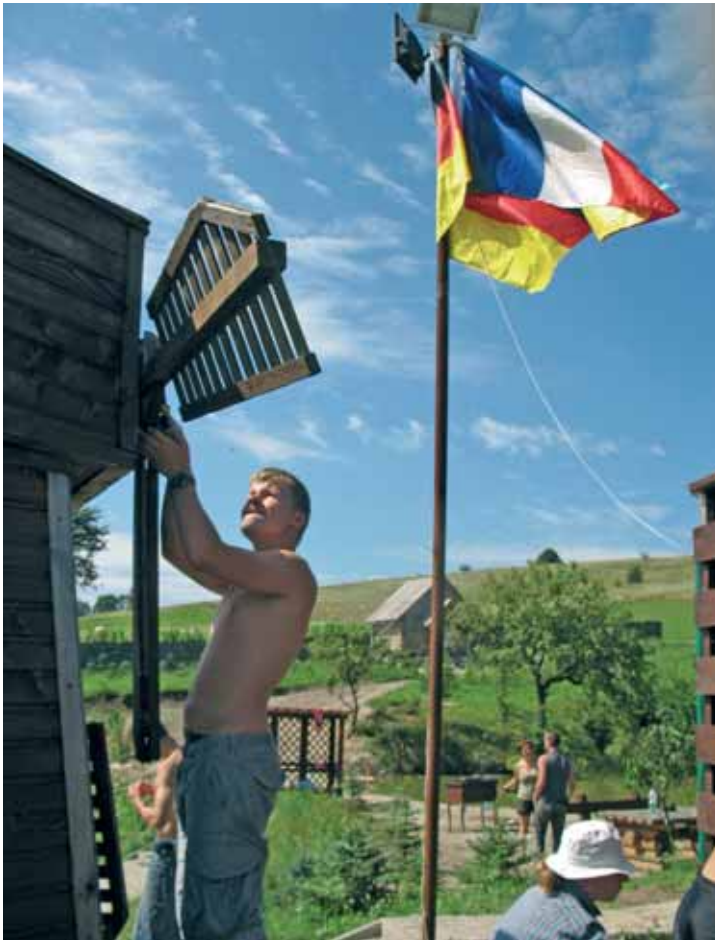
Location: Gravelines, France

“Ich bin eine Kartoffel.” (I am a potato.)

First sentence in German by Ugo Dubuse,
French participant (17)

04_PROJECT “YOUTH SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES“

Goulash beneath a starry sky



Barrier-free conversion

The goal of the Ukrainian workcamp was a barrier-free conversion of a holiday home in the mountains to allow for physically handicapped youths to spend their holidays there. The house is located about 70 kilometres from Lviv, situated in the most beautiful natural scenery and right between two marvellous lakes. While patience and the ability to improvise were demanded from every participant, in the end the whole team managed to solve all problems with energy and charm. The visiting youths from Germany and France experienced Ukrainian hospitality first hand, as team leader Olek Voloshinsky invited all participants to stay at his private home in Sukilnyky for several days..

Mastered the initial difficulties

Under the umbrella of ewoca³, the partnership between Open Door St. John from Cologne, Europe Unie from France and the Green Cross Society from Ukraine came together for the first time. After getting to know each other in Lviv, the groups drove to the building site in Iliv. There, first of all, the tents had to be erected. The house featured three refrigerators, several power outlets and a sauna, where groceries and dishes could be stored. The kitchen, however, had only a small stove with two hotplates, which, from the perspective of the German group was not quite ideal to cook for such a large group. In the end, everyone worked together to, from a culinary perspective, make the best of the situation. Olek organised another big pot, and the kitchen teams cooked goulash with potatoes over the camp fire: a rather romantic moment in the evening after work was done.



“Wat es loss he?” (What's up here?)

Marco Fischer's version of mediation in the local dialect of Cologne, German participant (14)

Jackhammer and brushes in action

A thunderstorm during the first night at the camp necessitated drying the tents in the morning. After that was done, the youths wanted to start working as soon as possible and organised themselves: They repainted the fences and gates, worked on the structure for a handicapped accessible wooden house and excavated the ground to make room for a barrier-free swimming pool. Fortunately, one of the German youths had completed an apprenticeship as a builder and so was able to teach the others how to handle a jackhammer.



Big rafting tour on the Dniester

Working a lot deserves a reward. The youths, in their work on the project, performed truly remarkably; now a four-day rafting tour was on the programme. For the young people, the wild river and camping in nature at the riverbanks of the Dniester was a definite high point of the workcamp.

"Schachtar Donezk versus FC Karpate: an exciting game full of goals!"

Hans-Josef Bauer, team member from Germany

Partly in their national groups, the teams visited the city of Lviv. The French group took a city tour in English, the Germans one in German. Thanks to the efforts of Olek's wife, ten interested youths were able to visit the match between Schachtar Donezk and FC Karpate at the Euro Cup Stadium in Lviv. At these trips, but most of all in the atmosphere of the camp the participants experienced a great time with each other, in which they learned to understand the other's culture. A highlight of the playful encounter was a celebrity show on the last Sunday, where the youths impersonated current bands in full costume.



Project partners

OT St. John Köln (Germany)
Green Cross Society (Ukraine)
Europe Unie (France)

Information about the 2012 camp

Date: July 7th to July 23rd, 2012
Location: Iliv, near Vil. Slavske, Ukraine

Participant structure

- Germany: 8 youths, between 14 and 21 years old, from the borough of Stammheim in Cologne
- Ukraine: 9 participants, between 16 and 25 years old. Youths with and without physical handicaps.
- France: 7 participants from the rural regions of Southern France, near the city of Carbonne.

Participants

- Ukraine: Justyna Lukovych, Marko Lukovych, Anastasia Voloshynska, Kateryna Dobko, Danylo Manila, Victor Dobko, Janis Jegers
- Germany: Niko Klein, Justin van Drunick, Stephan Bitz, Marco Fischer, John Böttgen, Saskia Aulbach, Helena Maria, Schmitz, Cynthia Brenny, René Lützenkirchen
- France: Ismaël Boudina, Floria Beuscart, Olga Portaries, Edgar Rock, Gerome Cecilia, Ugo Dubus

Team and support

- Ukraine: Oleksandr Voloshynsky, Armands Kuprijanovs
- Germany: Hajo Bauer, Yvonne Schneider, Renate Bauer
- France: Amandine Forner

Camp 2013

Location: Cologne, Germany
Work at several youth clubs in Cologne is planned.

Camp 2014

Location: Marseille, France
Creation of a hiking trail, either in Marseille or a smaller town near Toulouse.



05_PROJECT “LIFE IS A PLAYGROUND“

Full programme in Belarus



Different approaches to planning

For the first time the City of Minsk, together with the association Nash Sled, organised an ewoca³ youth exchange. Beforehand the new partner had a number of questions regarding the planning of the workcamp. How much work can the youths deal with? How laborious can the task be in general, how is the leisure programme to be organised? In the end, the Belarusian partner decided on a more touristic entertainment programme with less self-organisation and exercises to support group dynamics.

Diverse needs on the ground

According to the original concept and motto “Life is a playground“, the youths were to build a playground at the youth academy “Camp Leader” in Minsk. On short notice, this plan was adapted to the situation on the ground. The teams from Germany, Belarus and Italy first cleared a piece of forest from rubbish and brushwood and then installed a tabletop football, a dartboard and an air hockey table in a room at the youth club. Work enthusiasm among the youths took various forms: While the German youths, working in gardening, landscaping or other crafts, sometimes felt like they were not being challenged, for some students from Belarus the physical work was quite demanding.



Big fun: Presenting the nations

Such initial stumbling blocks were quickly overcome at the national evenings. Wearing traditional clothing, presenting bread and salt, the Belarusian hosts welcomed their German guests (the Italian group arrived a bit later). Playing football and other group games, the mixed teams made first contact. Already on the second day, Irina's birthday was celebrated, who, with pleasant surprise, received much congratulations. And at the presentation of games typical for each country everyone laughed a lot.



Looking for rubbish, finding ideas

In order to go beyond mere cleaning work, the youths were asked to voice their ideas for a future layout of the playground. Additionally, following the motto “Re-Cycle”, the rubbish found in the forest was transformed into new objects. This way a unique chair, a funny spider's net and a sun dial were created, all from found wood, metal and plastic. A television team made an interview for a local station and reported on the international exchange.



Comprehensive: the entertainment programme

The participants stayed at a student's hall and were taken by bus to the building site and the trips. The youths visited the national library, several memorials against war and violence and the "Minsk State Palace of Children and Youth", a youth centre. At the Loshita Public Garden, an open-air museum, the guests were introduced to Belarusian traditions. They also took part in a bicycle tour and a boat trip, where for a short time part of the Italian group got lost, but was fortunately found quickly thereafter. An example for education for sustainable development was presented by the Belarusian secondary school No. 19, a school with an ecological focus, featuring a "garden of the senses" and lots of sustainable principles. Here, the youths created "Bereginya" dolls, which, with their ample bosom, represent wealth and happiness: great fun for everyone.

The farewell festival was the most beautiful party, with lots of singing and dancing and a funny presentation on the shared life at the workcamp.

Project partners

Agricola e.V. Dortmund (Germany)
 Istituto Istruzione Superiore Giovanni Cena (Italy)
 Nash Sled (Belarus)

Information about the 2012 camp

Date: August 3rd to August 19th, 2012
 Location: Minsk, Belarus

Participant structure

- Germany: 10 youths from Dortmund. The youths receive vocational training at Agricola e.V., and are between 18 and 21 years old.
- Italy: 9 youths between 16 and 18 years old from Ivrea. Pupils of the Istituto Istruzione Superiore Giovanni Cena.
- Belarus: 11 youths from Minsk, 17 to 22 years old.

Participants

- Belarus: Irina Slobodskaya, Valeria Lavnikovich, Alexandr Anushko, Pavel Meerovich, Anton Bulkin, Tanya Zezulkin, Olga Tretyakova, Alexei Kireishin
- Italy: Gianino Matteo, Natascia Brotto, Margherita Manurita, Francesco Polesel, Matteo Lai, Ellen Moirano, Davide Gariglio, Stefano Castro
- Germany: Juliane Niski, Benjamin Balkenhol, Elke Prins, Justin Stanley, Madeleine Stegenwallner, Demir Ertan, Martin Klimas, Pia Manning, Sandra Jasmin Pella

Team and support

- Belarus: Alexandr Ihnatchyk, Larisa Piaskova
- Italy: Maria Antonietta Ciociola, Anne Marie Harder
- Germany: Melanie Eva Maria Koch, Kevin Harry Ewe

Camp 2013

Ivrea, Italy
 Landscaping a riverbank and work on an outdoor classroom

Camp 2014

Dortmund, Germany



“When I have a garden myself, I will also build a pond like that ... and a wind mill ...”
 Katharina Pommée (22), participant from Germany

06_PROJECT “HIGH ENERGY CAMP”

The joy of cooking together

Beautiful workcamp weather at the premiere

Enjoying beautiful summer weather and at times even a heat wave, the first ewoca³ camp of the Youth Academy Walberberg dealt with climate change. It was so hot, that often nobody was willing to use the installed solar showers. The topics of regenerative energy and sustainability were the focus of the encounter.

“Without the great support from IBB and being integrated into the ewoca³ network, we would have been unable to realise a project that comprehensive”, Claudia Hauck of the Youth Academy said. “It was awesome to be received so well.”

Three workshops on climate change

The youths dealt with the causes and effects of climate change and explored what can be practically done to save energy and reduce CO² emissions. In this, the participants were divided into three groups:



Workshop 1 experimented with solar energy using model kits, to then start on the construction of a solar oven. The oven supplements the already existing solar cooker of the Youth Academy: Now it is possible to even make pizza using just solar energy. The team researched on how to build such an oven on the internet, supported by Italian team member Andrea Porcu. Finally, the oven was assembled using wood, metal sheets and glass.

Workshop 2 restored a completely overgrown pond. Using heavy machinery, the pond had to be excavated, the youths landscaped the area and created a number of different levels. Absolutely every hand was needed to lay out the giant pond liner. It is planned to later power the pump with solar energy as well.

Workshop 3 followed the principle of recycling: Using an old washing machine and other pieces of scrap metal, the team constructed a small wind mill, which, using the washing machine motor, is able to generate electricity.

Living and cooking together

The youths living together at the Youth Academy used every possibility offered to them: The area was ideal for games of movement; especially “chicken run” was a favourite. The camp organisers themselves had an interesting experience: Even though the participants were fed by a professional kitchen team, the heterogeneous group demanded to cook together, whether at the barbecue evening or at oven and stove. In general, Claudia Hauck





said, everyone experienced a “relaxed and peaceful camp life”. Naturally everyone vowed to keep in touch after the camp, so the participants created a Facebook group.

International evening instead of national presentations

The youths experienced team building in a practical way at the ropes course and a climbing wall. A climate rally in Cologne followed the tracks of best-practice climate activists, for example an architectural practice dedicated to energy efficiency. A trip to the Ostler farm near Bonn gave an example of organic agriculture. In contrast to the national evenings common to ewoca³ encounters, where each team presents their home country, the group in Walberberg decided to celebrate “international evenings” instead, which, in the spirit of diversity, showcased the variety of the group.



Project partners

Youth Academy Walberberg (Germany)
 putevi mira (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
 CEMEA del Mezzogiorno onlus (Italy)

Information about the 2012 Camp

Location: Walberberg, Germany
 Date: August 13th to August 26th, 2012

Participant structure

- Germany: 5 young adults, between 17 and 22 years old.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: 8 youths, between 17 and 22 years old.
- Italy: 8 youths, between 16 and 19 years old.

Participants

- Germany: Sarah Peters, Katharina Pommée, Fabienne Schwaegermann, Neves Dias Jeremias, Michelle Falkowski
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: Marina Dugajlic, Melissa Ogorinac, Miso Atelj, Milan Prodanovic, Rade Prodanovic, Jovana Prodanovic, Rajko Babic, Milena Lazic
- Italy: Fabrizia Camplone, Enrico Mandolini, Luca Violo, Matteo Piva, Riccardo Loche, Alessio Corda, Daniele Boi, Filippo Dessi

Team and support

- Germany: Carmen Kühnöl, Svenja Rickert, Kristin Goetze, Sanela Mukladzija, Thomas Erdmann, Sejad Klipanovic, Bernhard Fornol, Michael van Dawen, Christian van Thun, Sergio Rosario, Claudia Hauck, Reinhard Griep, Pia the Dog
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: Branka Mandic, Vladimir Rados, Cima Zdenac, Sadija Becirevic, Kasim Krivdic
- Italy: Lucia Montironi, Andrea Porcu, Daniele Nubile, Maria Teresa Padula

Camp 2013

Location: Italy
 The camp will deal with environmental education.

Camp 2014

Location: Bosnia and Herzegovina
 For a long time now, the Youth Academy and putevi mira agree that the topic of “regenerative energy” is very interesting for the youths, especially as there are few approaches in Bosnia (in part because of the war situation). But both demand and possibilities are enormous. First ideas include the installation of a photovoltaic plant at the youth club, possibly with the support of a German company.

07_PROJECT “STOP! HERE BORDER!”

Cheerfulness without limits!

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

The first camp in 2012 took place in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, at what was once the border between the two German states. Host for the groups from Cologne, Gadebusch, Volgograd and Dheryneia was the Cologne municipal youth welfare service in collaboration with the association Alte Schule e.V., Buchholz. The association is the operator of the guest house Goldensee, located directly adjacent to the former border fence. The topic of the workcamp was accordingly: experiences with borders, limits and boundaries.

Camp fire every night

At first the youths travelling from afar were pretty surprised: They did not expect Germany to be so green, so forested and especially so solitary. “There is no concrete idea of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in Cyprus“, Bernd Seifert laughs. He organised the project on behalf of the City of Cologne. But the more the participants enjoyed the quiet landscape at day, the more they moved together at the camp fire at night. The task was to convert an old, dilapidated garage into an educational centre for “experiences with borders, limits and boundaries” and to revitalise an overgrown access road. “A lot of work“, Bernd Seifert says, and adds: “At some point we were afraid we would not make it.” But all participants worked hard and so, in the end, they could open the self-organised exhibition in the converted garage. All other work was also done communally. Some worked on the kitchen team, others were responsible for documenting the exhibition. And even domestic work got a playful aspect: Everyone drew their personal task from a lottery.

Border experiences

The effects of borders on the population is known first hand not only to Germans, but also to Cypriots. The Russian group came from Volgograd, formerly known as Stalingrad, and thus a historically extremely important location of World War II. The educational part of the camp contained several tours on the topic of borders, for example visiting the museum “Grenzhus” in Ratzeburg or the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. Visiting the Holocaust Memorial, the youths remembered National Socialism as the historical cause for the division of Germany. With the background that a lot of the participants were only born after the fall of the Berlin Wall and German reunification, the encounter was a great opportunity for discussions in how far closed borders are often based on closed-mindedness. But a

general goal of the camp was to strengthen the confidence of the participants, train their social and intercultural competences and expand their language skills.

Camping in a circus tent

Thanks to a number of games from the three participating countries designed to support group dynamics the sometimes slightly rainy mood was lifted up with ease. Trips to the beach in Lübeck, a weekend excursion to camp in a circus tent or the trip on a large Viking boat on Lake Ratzeburg were a balance to the physical work at the camp. Every evening, sitting at the camp fire, telling stories and singing songs, quickly turned into a popular tradition. The participants also enjoyed the trips to the medieval town of Ratzeburg, where they walked the town centre, shopped or had ice cream.





"Green belt instead of Iron Curtain"

Adna (23), participant from Cologne



"Through cleaning the way to the forest we clean our way to a border free world."

Christina (21), participant from Cyprus



Project partners

City of Cologne (Germany)

City of Dheryneia (Cyprus)

Volgograd NGOs Support Centre – VNSC (Russia)

Information about the 2012 camp

Date: August 6th to August 20th, 2012

Location: Groß-Thurow, Germany

Participant structure

8 participants each from Cologne, Volgograd and Dheryneia, accompanied by one or two team leaders. All participants took part in an exchange for the first time.

Participants

- Germany: Elena Kubitzki, Kevin Freuck, Franziska Tews, Ulrike Kuhlmann, Melanie Ziegler, Raimonda Surblyté
- Cyprus: Andreas Vasou, Rafail Loizou, Maximos Panteli, Chryso Michail, Eleni Maouri, Marilena Dimitrou, Marianna Andreou, Christina Takoushi
- Russia: Polina Sevriyukova, Daria Kaplunova, Valeriya Kozhanova, Maria Drannikova, Dmitry Salmin, Vasily Varlamov, Oleg Chesnokov, Veronika Utkina

Team and support

- Germany: Adna Bavic, Pegah Kramizade, Bernd Seifert, Christof Müller
- Cyprus: Lefki Poumpoun, Maria Mavroyiannou
- Russia: Anastasia Makarenko, Evgency Eysfeld

Camp 2013

Location: Dheryneia

According to current planning, this camp will also focus on partition and borders.

Camp 2014

Location: Volgograd

This camp will especially deal with the the history and course of World War II, leading to the end of the Nazi dictatorship and the division of Germany and Europe.

08_PROJECT “A CITY WORTH LIVING IN – MAKE SOMETHING OUT OF IT!“

Singing against rain and mud



New ewoca³ partnership founded

Together with its friends in Romania and Estonia, the Oberhausen youth club ParkHaus founded a new ewoca³ partnership. The focus of the encounter was on the urban landscape of the borough of Knappenviertel in Oberhausen: Young people actively shaping the neighbourhood they live and spend their time in. In this, they were supported by their friends from Estonia and Romania. And even though they had bad luck with the weather, the mood among the workcamp participants was exceptional.

Knappenviertel: A borough in need of renovation

Since the middle of the 1990s, the borough of Knappenviertel in Oberhausen is among the more disadvantaged residential areas. High unemployment, a large number of welfare recipients and families with migrant backgrounds characterise the borough of 7'500 citizens. Thus international youth work is a fixed part of the work of ParkHaus youth club. The goal of the ewoca³ exchange was an intensive examination and exploration of both prejudices and assessments of one's own and of others.

A real challenge: the weather

Nobody expected a German summer like that: Rain, clouds, and more rain. The Romanian group had just left their home country experiencing a heat wave and thus was expecting high temperatures. Nonetheless, the weather was unable to spoil the good mood: There was lots of singing, even as the dishwasher broke down. Sometimes it was really hard to stay motivated, as when it was raining cats and dogs at the trip to the Tetraeder (tetrahedron observation tower in Bottrop), but nonetheless the

participants had a good time. Loud and enthusiastic singing kept the mood up. And even the sheer uncomfortableness of a rainy building site did not prevent anyone from working hard.

Tidied up and beautified

All around the youth club things were renovated and repaired. The youths cleaned the old, defect and filthy rainwater retention basin and installed a new pond liner. They tidied the old school garden, planted raised beds and moved a fixed ping pong table. And at the billiards room, the youths painted the flags of the participating countries on the walls. Funding for a touch of green in the borough's public spaces was provided by the local merchants advertising association: The businesses sponsored the plants the youths then planted on tree flower beds.

Climbing walls and other magical places

Another goal of the German youths was putting something of the culture and history of the region across to their foreign guests. Up they went at the high ropes course the youth club operates in the neighbouring Umlandpark and at the climbing wall at the Landschaftspark, a large public park in Duisburg. Excursions brought them to Cologne, the Haus der Geschichte (House of History) in Bonn, the Klutert cave in Ennepe and to Hattingen. Additionally, trips to Belgium, the Eifel and to the exhibition on "Magical Places" at the Gasometer Oberhausen were on the programme.

Scheduled shower times

The work camp was housed at the ParkHaus youth club, a former school. As there was only one big shower room in the gymnasium, boys and girls had to schedule their shower times in the morning, giving rise to a number of jokes. The kitchen team got out of their way to fulfil all wishes and the Estonian girls got a round of applause for their breakfast pancakes. The camp community was formed incredibly fast due to a number of games for getting to know one another, among them "Toaster", the ant game and several rounds of karaoke in the evening. The high point were the "Chaos Games", a crazy outdoor mixture of quizzes, action and reflex games and orienteering race.

"Most activities were funny, we really connected to each other."
Ott, Rauno, Huni, Szili, Kira, Jill, Mandy from Estonia



“Misunderstanding in a common language – English – for example 'birthday cake' and 'ant game’”

Tünde, Toni, Kati, Mart, Björn, Celina from Romanian



“One of the least complicated youth encounters I have ever experienced.”

Stephan Kutsch, team member from Oberhausen, Germany



Project partners

Children and Youth Club ParkHaus Oberhausen (Germany)
 Noored Toredate Mötetega (Estonia)
 Outward Bound (Romania)

Information on the 2012 camp

Location: Oberhausen, Germany
 Date: July 9th to July 22nd, 2012

Participant structure

- Germany: 6 youths, pupils at secondary schools from the neighbouring boroughs and from Essen.
- Estonia: Pupils, an apprentice and an unemployed youth. Some come from families which are, due to their financial situation, unable to visit other countries on holidays.
- Romania: Pupils from different schools in the region.

Participants

- Germany: Lucina Kainka, Leonie Kainka, Celina Steppkes, Jill Bracht, Björn Rokitta, Kira Kammann, Felix Kutsch, Mandy Groll
- Estonia: Katrijn Adamov, Pille-Mari Eit, Merlin Grosberg, Mart Maaikmae, Rauno Leppikus
- Romania: Julia Barabas, Tin Jozsa, Emese Kovacs, Toni Sütö, Huni Barabas, Szili Jakab

Team and support

- Germany: Maren Janzen, Kim Wüstkamp, Ursula Servi, Yilmaz Stuhlemer, Stephan Kutsch
- Estonia: Ott Maidre, Piret Eit
- Romania: Tünde Beke

Camp 2013

Location: Romania

In August 2013, it is planned to erect an ecological town of yurts in the region Tirgu-Mures, which will then be used by Outward Bound Romania for their further youth work.

Camp 2014

Location: Estonia

The final project will take place in July/August 2014 in the South-Eastern part of Estonia. In the region Sömerpalu, sports facilities for a rural youth club are to be built. The plan includes building a climbing area and a multi-purpose athletic ground. Both will benefit the youth work and school in Sömerpalu.



09_PROJECT “BUILDING EUROPE TOGETHER“

How would you promote Cologne-Mülheim?

Intercultural encounter in Cologne

Right in the middle of the Cologne borough of Mülheim, characterised by many cultures and religions, lies the Don-Bosco-Club, a large youth centre with lots of rooms and a large outdoor area. Here the workcamp of the Gustav-Stresemann-Institut (GSI) Bonn set up their surprisingly comfortable camp beds. Intercultural exchange was the focus of the encounter, and, utilising a number of games and activities, the youths from France, Poland and Germany got closer very fast.

Communication in partner languages

The unique concept of the project partners consists in asking the participants to not only rely on their English language skills, but instead learn a few words in the other two languages. Where this approach fails, they can use any number of gestures. But ultimately the willingness to communicate is what counts. “We try to work things out without English and want to promote the languages as part of the culture of the countries”, explains Marion Dautreppe of GSI, who has good experiences with this kind of language exercises. “The youths are quite surprised, how much words they can say in a foreign language after just a few days.” The work order for the participants: Create a bench from a log, jazz up the garden area of the youth centre, document all of the work and cook for all participants. The collective work took about seven sessions of two to three hours each.

Respectful encounter

All youths, from Germany, France and Poland come from boroughs characterised by poverty and high unemployment. Thus the games in the morning often focused on teamwork and solidarity. What does respect mean? Using this question as a starting point, the youths created camp rules for themselves, which they then followed to the point. A number of physical activities and language games brought the group closer together. A particularly funny example was the “flying egg machine”, where the youths, split into small teams, were to construct something to let a raw egg survive a drop from a window onto the ground. At one time the group met with participants from the ewoca³ camp organised by Falken/Sozialistische Jugend Deutschlands (Socialist Youth of Germany) from Hagen.

*“The communication worked very well, irrespective of the language barriers.”
Participant from Poland in an anonymous questionnaire*

Closeness arises in community

The guiding question during the scavenger hunt all through Cologne-Mülheim was the difference between the borough and the home towns of the participants. Also: “How would you promote this borough?” This also was the first exercise where the youths





"It is an opportunity to make friends and learn a language."

Participant from Poland

had to navigate one or even two foreign languages. An individual description of one's "river of life" (Where do I come from? Where am I now? Where am I going?) allowed for very personal exchanges.

Angel of Cultures

The collective work also gave cause to intercultural understanding on the Christian, Jewish and Muslim religions. Sitting on the newly constructed bench, one directly looked at the "Angel of Cultures", an art project by Gregor Merten and Carmen Dietrich, consisting of a circular relief on the ground in which the symbols of the three big Abrahamic religions, cross, crescent moon and Star of David, together form the shape of an angel.

Multi-faceted leisure programme

The foreign guests were impressed by their visit to Zeche Zollverein in Essen. The following detour to the high ropes course in Oberhausen then brought some participants to their physical limit. However, the experience to master difficulties by themselves was understood as very valuable.

Guided tours of a Cologne synagogue, a mosque and of course Cologne Cathedral further intensified the exchange on religious topics.

At the end of the project, after the work was done, the youths had the opportunity to present their work in a formal manner to representatives of GSI and IBB. Even a project song about the workcamp was written and performed.

Project partners

Gustav-Stresemann-Institut, Bonn (Germany)

Cefir, Dunkerque (France)

Association ZZPZ, Rogoznik (Poland)

Information about the 2012 camp

Date: July 22nd to August 5th, 2012

Location: Cologne, Germany

Participant structure

8 youths, between 16 and 23 years old, from each country took part in the workcamp. The youths are all in job orientation programmes, went back to school to graduate or currently visit a school for special needs.

Participants

- Germany: Sharon Balla, Jason Schander, Andre Witz, Sebastian Löwengeth, Andre Wegen, Raphaela Boyela, Dominik Ossendorf, Nico Heinen
- France: Rémy Duval, Françoise Dewaele, Elodie Bruwaert, Julien Dormieu, Kevin Langlais, Mikael Caneele, Rémi Olivares, Baelde Romain
- Poland: Daria Gustab, Artur Olesiński, Natalia Porębska, Robert Strzemieczny, Tomasz Zygmunt, Błażej Łyp, Marta Dudek, Alicja Zarychta

Team and support

- Germany: Abdoholsein Shad Taheri, Ekaterina Supyan, Sabine Goldschmid, Matthias Marienfeld, Phil Balzer
- France: Angeline Wanparys, Claire Imbert, Julie Tailler
- Poland: Maciej Pawelczyk, Adrian Fijolek

Camp 2013

Workcamp in France 2013

In France, in the region Nord-Pas-de Calais.

Continuing renovation of the barrier lake at the City of Hazebrouck, which was begun during the first phase of ewoca³, creative workshops and group activities on sustainable development, external cultural and educational events, sports activities. Additionally, intercultural methods for working in a team will be employed.

Camp 2014

Workcamp in Poland 2014

Region Silesia.

Ecological and creative workshops, trinational group activities, guided tours on the environment, sports activities.

"The team growing together was quite fascinating. There were conflicts, which were resolved communally. But the togetherness was noticeable."

Participant from Poland in an anonymous questionnaire

10_PROJECT “A HEALTH CARE FACILITY FOR RESETTLERS FROM CHERNOBYL”

“Yalla, yalla! Dawai, dawai!”



Done a lot, laughed a lot

Building walls from straw and clay is no child’s play, but hard work and craftsmanship. This was the insight of not only the Belarusian youths, but also those from Germany and Italy. The Belarusian girls sang without interruption, their repertoire seemed inexhaustible, and in the end even the others could join in for a few songs. But the multilingual tangle of voices also created some funny combinations: Shouting “Yalla, yalla! Dawai, dawai!”, a mixture of Arabic and Russian, they motivated themselves to work faster.

Clothing, cooking and culture

Some worked without a pause, others got tired a bit faster. Differences in clothing styles (the Belarusian girls attached great importance to their looks, even on the building site), other food preferences: The diversity of cultures among the participants was evident in many places. The meals at the camp, based primarily on locally sourced groceries, were a challenge for the Italian and German youths, who, after the end of the camp “had enough of potatoes and blueberries”, as Maisha Rindle (16) from Germany said. The kitchen served potatoes with cabbage, potatoes with beetroot, potatoes with pasta and potatoes with rice. Take-home message: In Belarus exotic products are much more expensive than local ones.



“Helmuuuuuuuuuuu!”

All Belarusian participants, whenever something needed to be screwed

Social commitment for resettlers from Chernobyl

Stari Lepel is a village in the North of Belarus, where people from the region around Chernobyl resettle. For years, in this village youth projects put their social commitment to the test by





practising the principle of empowering people to help themselves. This kind of help is organised by the association Heim-statt Tschernobyl from Bünde in Germany and the association ÖkoDom from Belarus. For the ewoca³ project, the organisation I Siciliani from Italy joined them.

Following the construction of several homes for families from Chernobyl, this summer the youths built a health care facility for the resettlers town. All houses for the resettlers from Chernobyl are built in an environmentally friendly way with clay walls in order to encourage thinking about alternative ways of saving energy. The building materials are sourced locally. Construction manager Gero Müller is happy that dealing with public authorities always works smoothly and that, over the years, a good relationship has been established.

Making new friends

The youths as guests felt being integrated into the town life. At "Narnia", a romantic cabin in the woods featuring an outdoor fireplace, the town's youth met in the evening. Also, a love story across borders developed between Jascha from Germany and Nastja from Belarus. They will meet again in autumn, when Jascha starts his social volunteering in Belarus.



"Potatoes and Blueberries are off the table for a while."

All Italian participants

"I was very moved by the memorial in Chatyn, where every 30 seconds bells are rung. It remembers the Belarusian victims of World War II."

Katharina Kujawa (16), participant from Germany

Project partners

Heim-statt Tschernobyl e.V., Bünde (Germany)

ÖkoDom (Belarus)

I Siciliani SOC. COOP ARL (Italy)

Information about the 2012 camp

Date: August 3rd to August 17th, 2012

Location: Stari Lepel, Belarus

Participant structure

23 young volunteers, between 16 and 20 years old (5 from Italy, 11 from Belarus, 7 from Germany).

Participants

- Germany: Nadja von Cube, Andreas Kammerlander, Katharina Kujawa, Jascha Loos, Maisha Rindle, Vera Christina Rzepka, Franziska Zimmerhackl
- Belarus: Oksana Dorz, Jekaterina Gladkaja, Tatjana Hmelnizkaja, Anastasija Ignatujk, Natalja Jewenko, Darja Kopatj, Anna Koslowa, Jelena Shankewisch, Darja Shdanowitsch, Dmitrij Starowojtow
- Italy: Massimo Amata, Chiara Baio, Giovanni Di Giorgio, Giuseppe Lupo

Team and support

- Germany: Gero Müller, Uwe Graf, Monika Graf, Dr. Bernd Kemper
- Belarus: Anastasija Babina, Jurij Suprinovich
- Italy: Rosa Perrone

Camp 2013

Workcamp in Palermo (Italy)

The project should, through work and practical experience, spark interest for organic cultivation of groceries in the children cared for by the organisation.

Camp 2014

Workcamp in Germany

The project will probably take place on a farm, where physically handicapped youths live and work in agriculture. The workcamp participants are to develop and execute a project with the handicapped youths. The ewoca³ participants will also live on the farm for two weeks.

“I thought that Bosnians were underdeveloped and mostly criminals. But our welcome was so open and friendly, that I immediately threw my prejudices overboard.”

Vanessa Appel (20), participant from Germany

11_PROJECT "RE-CYCLE – TOGETHER FOR A GLOBAL ECOLOGICAL FUTURE"

Bike recycling in Donji Vakuf

Understanding ecology globally

The workcamp's title is the programme: Each year, in Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey, the focus will be on recycling. The participants of the first camp in Bosnia and Herzegovina repaired old bikes, erected recycling bins, calculated people's carbon footprint and, with the help of locals, collected rubbish. Beyond sensitising the participants for ecological topics, on a local, European and global scale, another goal was to use the intercultural context to introduce the youths to a range of opportunities for social participation.

Well supported by IBB

After a previous long-term cooperation, the three partners met again under the umbrella of the ewoca³ workcamp. Torsten Rutinowski, who, on behalf of the City of Bochum, lead international exchanges for many years, found positive words for the assistance given by IBB and the context of the other youth encounters: "The support was very good."

Large ecological problems, little awareness

The first camp was organised by the "Initiative for Direct Democracy" at the small town of Donji Vakuf in the centre of Bosnia and Herzegovina, home to 14'000 inhabitants. The town faced severe ecological problems in combination with little to no ecological awareness on the part of the locals and specifically the

youths. Being situated in a rural area, the ideas of sustainability are neither particularly present in the administrative nor the educational system. One recycling idea: In Donji Vakuf separation of waste was not practised until the camp, so the youths erected containers to collect materials that can be recycled, like scrap metal and tin plate. In the long-term, the Bosnian initiative is to look after the containers.

Respecting the value of things

Additionally, in a concerted action, the youths were joined by local volunteers to collect rubbish. At a highly visible public event, the inhabitants were encouraged to help. And, finally, the third idea: 15 bikes, which had fallen into disrepair, were overhauled and brought into a usable state again. The bikes were then raffled off to those locals who had volunteered to help with rubbish collection, once again at a large event on the town square.

Living together, learning from each other

The youths had a whole hotel all for themselves and were also catered for. However, on three intercultural evenings, the youths entered the hotel kitchen themselves to cook meals typical for their respective countries. For the remainder of their leisure time, the participants had little or no restrictions. "The idea of informal learning is specifically that youths learn with and from each other without really noticing it", Rutinowski explains. The German and





Turkish participants encountered youths, who had lived through a war and in part are still adversely affected by it. The little town of Donji Vakuf offered little distractions, so the exchange between participants intensified quite quickly. Communication in English worked exceptionally. And where language problems did occur, as in the case of some Turkish youths, a German-Turkish team member from Bochum helped out.

"Many buildings show scars of the war: Bullet holes and grenade damage on the facades."

Vanessa Appel (20), participant from Germany



Project partners

City of Bochum (Germany)

Çivril İçe MEM (Turkey)

Initiative for Direct Democracy (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Information about the 2012 camp

Location: Donji Vakuf, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Date: July 8th to July 22nd, 2012

Participant structure

- Germany: 7 youths, all but one from Bochum.
- Turkey: 8 youths, between 16 and 19 years old. All come from Denizli, a provincial capital of about 500'000 inhabitants (the second largest city on the Aegean Sea, which population has tripled in recent years due to rural flight).
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: 8 youths, between 16 and 23 years old.

Participants

- Bosnia and Herzegovina: Karić Mahir, Aldijana Maharemović, Dalila Šutković, Damir Šutković, Smajić Smajo-Sinbad, Bašimamović Medina, Edna Vučić, Amar Hrvat, Tarik Verem
- Germany: Michelle Schröder, Vanessa Appel, Nils Jankord, Franziska Elsner, Hanna Ludwig, Andres Schmauzer, Phyllis Sen
- Turkey: Nebiye Gokakoğlu, Tuğba Alak Yildirim, Bilge Aydin, Can Tevfik Akkoyun, Ibrahim Yuce, Feride Yildirimoglu, Mehtap Gültekin, Özge Cemile Tuğrul

Team and support

- Bosnia and Herzegovina: Neldijana Rujanac
- Germany: Hasret Celik, Torsten Rutinowski
- Turkey: Ergün Aksoy, Murat Aydoğmuş

Camp 2013

This workcamp will take place in Germany. The actual content should, after getting an idea of the environmental situation, be self-organised by the youths. First talks with participants from children's and youth recreational centres show demand for a transformation of derelict land into youth-appropriate spaces. This would allow for nature experiences close to the youths' place of living, even in densely populated urban areas. The working title for the camp is "recycle nature". To increase publicity, the project will be coordinated with the countrywide 72 hours of social, ecological and cultural action organised by the German Association of Catholic Youths.

Camp 2014

The workcamp will take place in Turkey. Here, once again, the youths are to explore the environmental situation and then, based on that, develop the project themselves. A reprisal of the bicycle project is a possibility.

12_PROJECT “CONFLICT & COMMUNITY“

How to cope with the effects of war?



Multi-faceted constellations

A particularly exciting constellation was present at the workcamp of the City of Gütersloh: The youths from Germany all had a migrant background. Three Yazidi youths came as refugees from Syria or Iraq, one young woman had a Russian, two had a Turkish background. These met a second group from Bosnia and Herzegovina and a third from Belarus. The topic of the workcamp “Conflict & Community” spoke to the participants on a very personal level. The Bosnian youths and those now living in Germany experienced war and displacement themselves, the Belarusian participants know war situations from stories of the previous generation. Together, they explored German history and exchanged experiences on conflict and community.

The library as a dormitory

The workcamp 2012 took place at Städtische Hauptschule Nord (Municipal secondary school North). The participants originally planned to stay in tents, but low temperatures of about seven degrees Celsius forced them to move to the school library. According to Galina Müller, the German participants still remember their workcamp experience “bright and vividly, they discovered unbelievably many new perspectives for themselves.”

Conflict & Community

A part of the workshop was held at the memorial centre “Stalag 326“, a former Nazi prisoner of war camp at Holte-Stukenbrock castle. Here, the history of World War II was addressed. In Berlin, participants visited the Jewish Museum and organisations like Action Reconciliation, which work towards international understanding. Overcoming the division of Germany was an important topic as well. In Gütersloh the youths then constructed a Place of Communication, with benches and a fireplace. As a symbol, they then planted an apple tree together.

Work at the memorial centre

A central element of the workcamp was the archival work at “Stalag 326”. The youths studied prisoner’s files and letters from the war and post-war years, written in Russian, German and English. Physical work was done at the cemetery of honour for Soviet casualties of war, the prisoners’ path and in parts of the former prisoner’s camp.

“ewoca³ was like starting to fly.”

Galina Müller, team member from Germany

Personal conflicts

In rounds of discussion, the youths dealt with the effects of societal conflicts on the biographies of individuals. Sometimes these talks became very personal, as most of the youth had either direct or indirect war experiences. To lift the mood, the excursions dealt with today’s modern European politics, focused on reconciliation and community. The message: We want to leave military conflicts behind and move towards democracy. The youths also got practical experiences in finding consensus by peaceful means at the camp itself, where in some places minor organisational conflicts were to be resolved. Small obstacles, like the lack of warm water on some days were overcome by the whole community. The specifically founded Facebook group is very active to the present day.



"The day before yesterday I bought a sleeping bag. Just for you!"

Melissa Aydin, participant from Germany



Project partners

Department for Youth and Education, City of Gütersloh (Germany)
Kult, Gradacac (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Education without Borders, Minsk (Belarus)

Information about the 2012 camp

Date: August 10th to August 24th, 2012

Location: Gütersloh, Germany

Participant structure

- Germany: The target group were youths between 16 and 19 years old. All participants visit the Municipal secondary school North, all have a migrant background (3 x Iraq, 1 x Russia, 2 x Turkey).
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: 6 youths, between 16 and 22 years old.
- Belarus: 6 youths from the region of Minsk, between 17 and 20 years old.

Participants

- Germany: Dulovan Mosah, Tarek Hajy, Melissa Aydin, Rukiye Armutcu, Christina Ulrich, Asmahan Elias Omar
- Belarus: Lizaveta Charkas, Stanislav Tsvirka, Yana Tonkavich, Natallia Zhitova, Alena Halamazava, Dmitry Boyka, Valeria Halauneva
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: Sabina Bajramovi, Haris Avdicevi, Anes Prole, Selma Avdic, Esmir Pamukovic

Team and support

- Germany: Galina Müller, Jürgen Zöllner
- Belarus: Nastassia Kuzmich
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: Edvin Ramic

Camp 2013

Workcamp in Belarus

At this camp the participants will deal with practical and philosophical aspects of "Conflict & Community". Humans and their needs, nature and industrialisation will be points for exploration.

Camp 2014

Workcamp in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The topic "Conflict & Community" will be looked at from the perspective of the individual. The focus will be on tolerance, strategies for resolving conflicts and forms of peaceful coexistence.

ewoca³ – Decidedly going against the tide!

Funding for international youth work in Germany since 1992 is steadily falling. This led to a massive reduction in programmes and reductions in staff working in this field. Many municipalities pulled out of international youth work altogether and non-profit associations often lack the funds necessary to execute international projects. This is an alarming trend, especially considering the well-known positive effects of international encounters on the building of character and competences of young people. Against this background it seems paradoxical that intercultural competences, language skills and international mobility are increasingly seen as basic requirements for a successful start into the job market.

Supporting international activities!

ewoca³, as an innovative programme from North Rhine-Westphalia, runs counter to this negative development and strengthens the concept of international youth work in both public

perception and scientific discourse. As Prof. Dr. Andreas Thimmel of the Institute for Childhood, Adolescence, Family and Adults at Cologne University of Applied Sciences writes in his report on the ewoca³ funding programme:

“Within the discursive context of international youth work, the fundamental approach of the programme has to be seen as innovative and significant. It can be adapted to work in other programmes/projects which tried to and are trying to lead new target groups into international youth work.”

In light of the decline in involvement of institutions active in international youth work, the funding programme specifically targets organisations which have no or little prior experience in international work and encourages them to continue their work in this field independently of the ewoca³ programme. The organisations thus gain an international character and further professionalise their sometimes mainly volunteer structure.

Strengthening commitments!

Compared to other countries, when it comes to implementing and recognising methods of non-formal education, the situation in Germany is less than ideal. While one can discern a positive trend, projects with non-formal education concepts still struggle to compete against more academically oriented and job qualification projects. However, the methods of non-formal education are often especially applicable to working with challenging target groups and can easily be implemented in intercultural contexts. Regarding the effects of international workcamps, Prof. Dr. Thimmel writes:

“The specific mix of education, work, encounters and free time allows for acquiring social, democratic, personal, intercultural and economically relevant competences.”

In virtue of their practical work as part of the projects, the youths learn to experience their own self-efficacy and become aware of their personal strengths. Engaging in activities on the topic of “Education for sustainable development”, the participants realise their possibilities in shaping their social environments and are empowered to actively participate in social processes. Evaluation of the first programme phase of ewoca³ has shown that many of the former participants found new motivation to, for example, learn a new language or volunteer their time.

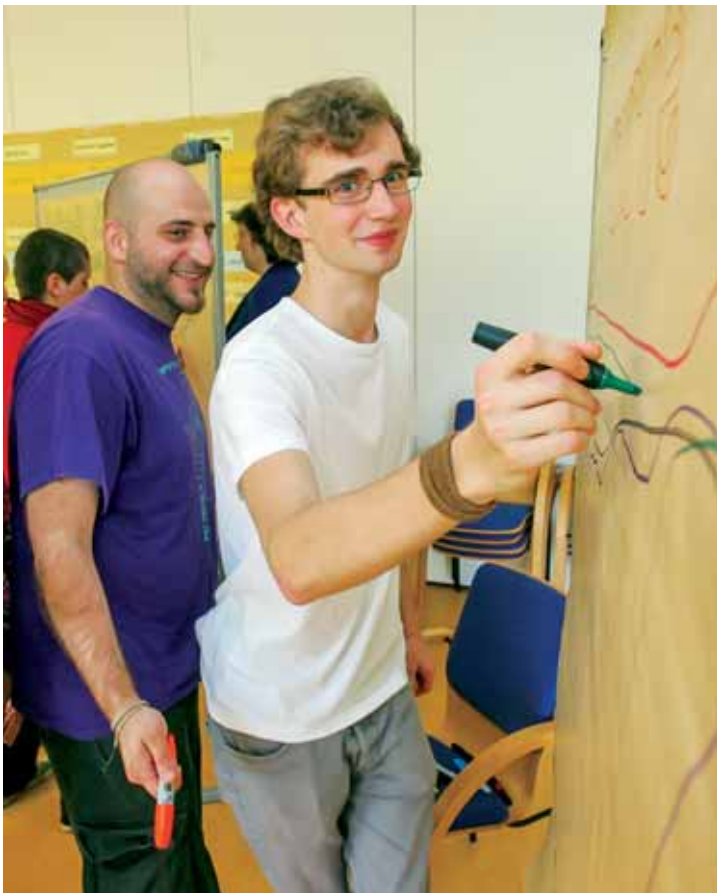


Photo: IBB/Pressebüro vom Bickel/Stephan Schütz



Creating European perspectives!

Already at the 2009 UN conference against racism, concerns were raised that the current economic crisis and simultaneously rising unemployment might lead to increased xenophobia. History teaches us that such concerns are not without grounds: In phases of economic instability and individual uncertainty racist ideologies and discrimination against minorities multiplied. The dominantly sceptic attitude towards Europe in the media allows for such tendencies to thrive. It is thus even more important to show to young people that Europe is more than politics, financial markets and economic calculations: Europe is an idea representing peace and community. ewoca³ enables youths from more than 14 countries to initiate intercultural dialogues and experience more about life in Europe today. During their practical activities in the

workcamps, they experience diversity as a positive force, contributing to collaboration and enabling new perspectives. International youth exchanges further tolerance towards people from other countries, counter stereotyping and inspire curiosity about different cultural orientations. Independently of the current economic crisis, the integration and convergence of Europe brought peace, prosperity and political and cultural freedoms to many. ewoca³ – funding programme for youth work institutions from North Rhine-Westphalia thus wants to kindle enthusiasm for the European idea in both project organisers and the youths participating.



ewoca³ – A project with a future!

Strengthening Europe

A common and peaceful future for Europe necessitates the coming generation being ready to enter into dialogue with other cultures, with cosmopolitanism and without prejudices. Only if young people encounter each other internationally and learn to engage with the perspectives of others, seeing what connects them and emphasising this, a European community can develop. This is why professional European education programmes and encounters become ever more important to strengthen the positive image of Europe.

ewoca³ takes this up and contributes to the realisation of sophisticated youth encounters originating from North Rhine-Westphalia. It focuses on the European topic of “sustainable development” and targets participants, who often have no access

to programmes like this. The participating organisations prove their competencies in regard to working with the target group and the topic and strengthen their European profile, while the participating youths develop a European consciousness and enter into intercultural dialogue. For this reason ewoca³ is special within international youth work.

A stable network for international youth work

As ewoca³ runs over three years, the project partners can engage in long-term planning and relationships within the network are stabilised. The feedback received by the funding programme for its concept was universally positive, not only from the participating organisations, but also from interested parties in the field of international youth work. Due to academic publications, a consistent public relations strategy and regular appearances at



Photo: IBS/ Rolf van Reken



conferences and symposia, ewoca³ is well-known even outside of North Rhine-Westphalia and managed to strengthen international youth work in public discourse.

More than just a funding programme

The experience of four years of ewoca³ shows that a great number of professionals and organisations are very interested in realising international projects. However, most organisations are also hesitant to take on the challenge of an international project, as this not only demands a highly motivated staff and experience in the acquisition of funds, but also integration into a regionally and internationally active network. This makes clear that financial support alone is often not sufficient as an incentive to realise international encounters. Especially those organisations relying mainly on volunteers are dependent on an intensive support structure. This impression is confirmed by the extensive use of individual support and high turnouts at qualification and networking events throughout the duration of the programme.

ewoca³ – A successful concept with prospects

ewoca³ is a notable example of successful international youth work, which can show concrete results and is a great deal of fun for the participants. Not only the participating youths, the professionals involved enter into intercultural dialogue as well. With this the programme makes an important contribution towards intra-European understanding.

To be continued?!

How can the ewoca³ programme be continued beyond its current funding phase? What is needed for the partnerships to pursue their successful work beyond 2014 and for new organisations to enter the field of international education? Future goals are a continuation and deepening of the networking between organisations and to consolidate the support office established at the IBB beyond 2014. We have a strong commitment towards advancement of the European identity of the coming generation. The youths participating in the ewoca³ workcamps today are the Europe of tomorrow.

“Money makes the world go round”

An exemplary and comprehensive programme like ewoca³ is dependent on sufficient funding. In the current phase of the project, the support office is financed with 380 000 Euro over three years by Stiftung Mercator. The 12 workcamps receive 180 000 Euro each year from the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia, which, as each project partnership additionally contributes 15 000 Euro per workcamp, corresponds to a funding of 50%. The qualification and networking programme with its diverse elements needs funding of 100 000 Euro per project year.

Summary

The federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia and the Stiftung Mercator together made a second phase of “ewoca³ – Funding programme for youth work organisations from North Rhine-Westphalia” and with it many exciting workcamps possible. In 2012, the qualification programme was supported by the European Union (Youth in Action programme) and the Federal Support Plan for Children and Youths. Over the last four years the support office at the IBB has become a well-known institution for questions regarding international youth work in North Rhine-Westphalia. Now the successful programme needs to be secured to sustainably strengthen international youth work in North Rhine-Westphalia and broaden its public recognition as an example to follow.



The Sponsor - Stiftung Mercator

Stiftung Mercator is one of the major German foundations. It initiates and supports projects for improving educational opportunities in schools and universities. True to the ideas of Gerhard Mercator, it supports enterprises, which employ intercultural exchanges to fill the ideas of cosmopolitanism and tolerance with life and which further the open exchange of knowledge and culture. The foundation shows new paths and leads the way, to enable people, irrespective of their national, cultural and social background, to form their character, learn about commitment and use the opportunities they have. This way it wants to inspire ideas. Its work ethos is characterised by an entrepreneurial, international and professional spirit. It shows a special connection to the Ruhr area, the home of the benefactor family.

More information about Stiftung Mercator can be found on www.stiftung-mercator.de



Photo: Simon Bernard



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The Partner – IBB

Overcoming boundaries: For the International Association for Education and Exchange (IBB e.V.) its guiding idea is equally vision and solution, both the means to and the ends of all its work. Further education and international exchange are the established hallmarks of the IBB in Dortmund since 1986. With its departments “Youth and School“, “Job international“ and “Further education on the road“ the IBB offers individually tailored educational opportunities for all age-groups. For youths, the IBB offers seminars on historical and political education, bilateral youth exchanges, and, since 2004, on behalf of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia, organises the youth congress of the Weimar Triangle. Since its founding, the IBB is active in Belarus; since 1994 its dedication can be seen in the educational centre “IBB Johannes Rau“ in Minsk, which, in its development, was supported by the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia. The IBB, as an institution within the framework of the Evangelisches Erwachsenenbildungswerk Westfalen und Lippe e.V. (Institute for further education of the Protestant church in Westphalia and Lippe), is a registered and certified institution for both adult education and political education and a registered youth welfare institution.

More information can be found on www.ibb-d.de and www.ewoca.org



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Photo: IBB/Pressebüro vom Büchel/Stephan Schütze



Photo: IBB/Pressebüro vom Büchel/Stephan Schütze



Photo: IBB/roff van Redden



Photo: IBB/Pressebüro vom Büchel/Stephan Schütze



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Foto: IBB/Pressebüro vom Büchel/Stephan Schütze



Foto: IBB/Reif van Reulen



Foto: IBB/Pressebüro vom Büchel/Stephan Schütze