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MEETING OF YOUTH AND DIVERSITY

The meeting of Youth and Diversity took place in Strasbourg from the 17th to 22nd of November 2014. The main aim of this meeting was to create a space for the presentation of youth initiatives and valorization of the acquired skills of youth through non-formal education (Youth exchanges, training courses, EVS, solidarity workcamps). During the week, youngsters from different districts of Strasbourg came together through round tables and debates, in collaboration with our local partners, to share their experiences on youth issues like unemployment, active participation and volunteering.

The best moments of the week were on Saturday, November 22nd in which we hosted an all-day-long programme that included a variety of activities was proposed by AMSED. Local associations and partners and youngsters from different neighborhoods of Strasbourg were informed about the event through posters, flyers, mailing and social media.

Let's take a look at the activities of the day:



LIVING LIBRARY

The living library discussing the online hate speech was available for visitors from 14h30 to 16h. Some of the "books" were a woman, a young man living in a difficult neighborhood and another migrant young boy who often faced online hate speech attacking their gender, race or ethnicity.

What is living library???

The concept of a living library is the same as in any other library; the readers come and borrow some "books" for a limited time (15 or 30 minutes per loan). The difference is that the books of the living library are people who are, most of the time, confronted to prejudices and stereotypes, or sometimes, are victims of discrimination or social exclusion.

A "catalog" presents the "books" and the prejudices that are linked to the "books" and future lectors can consult it to make their choice easier.

When the reader has chosen his book, he notifies it to the librarian who looks if the book is available, and a library card is given to him. This library card mentions, among others things, the title of the

borrowed Book, the hour when it has been borrowed and the hour when it should be taken back to the librarian.

The book and the reader discuss together, ask each other some questions. The aim is to fight against the prejudices, to promote the tolerance towards others cultures, religions, professions, and to permit the intercultural dialogue.



VILLAGE OF ASSOCIATIONS



From 14h30 to 18h30, we hosted a "village" that presented many associations working on diversity, intercultural learning and youth. The representatives decorated their stand with posters, flyers and tools created by their volunteers; they also had the opportunity to meet with youngsters from different backgrounds and present their future projects.



YOUTH TESTIMONIES

All visitors came together in the meeting room at 16h to listen to presentations by youth that participated in European and international mobility projects (international solidarity work camps, youth exchanges, training courses, EVS, Erasmus+ internship). Youngsters shared their experiences and skills acquired through these projects and answered the questions of those who were interested to participate in such projects in upcoming years. These presentations permitted youngsters not only to valorize their competencies, but also to motivate other young people to take part of this kind of projects.

GENERAL PERSPECTIVE ON NETWORK

With the presence of youngsters, local and international partner organizations and staff from public employment service, we put network activities in perspective in terms of employability of young people with fewer opportunities. After presenting the rest of the network activities such as e-platform, webinars and other online tools created for the young people and youth workers, we discussed more about how to promote and valorize active participation of youngsters through non-formal education.

Solidarity work camp in Morocco



Erasmus+ internship in France



ROUND TABLE

Then a round table took place on girls' access to education in Burkina Faso, with the participation of our partner from Burkina Faso. We discussed the girls' illiteracy in the country and lack of educational opportunities.

IN.J.AWA.RA GAME

AMSED volunteers played with youngsters coming from Lithuania the In.J.Awa.Ra Game, which is an interactive and educational game that permits the players to learn about the millennium development goals of the United Nations. (This game has been developed during the Europaid project entitled "Intercultural Joint Awareness Raising" which envisions contributing to raising awareness among EU youth on issues related to sustainable development.)

FESTIVE EVENING

To close the day, talented young artists from different neighborhoods of Strasbourg played, sang and danced during a joyful evening with snacks, music and dances from all over the world – an entertaining occasion for young people to express artistically.

