



**„GOING AHEAD WITH EURO-MED“ –  
INTERCULTURAL TRAINING SEMINAR FOR TEACHERS INVOLVED IN STUDENT EXCHANGES  
MUNICH. 23<sup>RD</sup> – 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2013**

**Summary**

The project, lead by the City of Munich Department of Education, Teacher Development Centre, aims at promoting intercultural awareness and competence for teachers who are actively involved in international youth exchange between schools in the Euro–Mediterranean region.

Exchanges of this nature require a very special sensitivity as to the individual cultures, religious backgrounds and ways of interaction. They are a challenge both to teachers and students faced with different, often unknown ways of life and mostly very different family structures.

Teachers who are involved in school exchanges are generally required to be familiar with various intercultural aspects. However, a busy schedule at school and the extra time needed to make sure the logistics of an exchange are working, often neglect the fact that very careful preparation and thought also needs to be given to all the aspects of intercultural communication and learning.

The training seminar is based on experience with teacher development seminars for Munich teachers on intercultural learning but will now focus on a very direct and immediate interaction between teachers from Germany, Jordan, Spain, Croatia, Israel. Knowledge about tools and methods to secure a successful youth exchange will be the main content of the seminar. Moreover, a seminar between educators of these countries will certainly create an atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance, of new forms of cooperation and last not least a vision of a dialogue between cultures that needs to be promoted continuously in our educational institutions.

**Background,**

Youth exchanges are a good means to promote intercultural dialogue at a very grassroots level of society in the Euro-Mediterranean region. In order to conduct successful student exchange programs that foster intercultural understanding and mutual respect teachers need to be trained and qualified to work with their students in the process of intercultural communication and learning.

However, teacher training and development institutions do not yet on a regular basis provide such professional qualification. It is, thus, the role of projects like this to empower teachers for such tasks, develop training materials and create a network of stakeholders.

**Aim of the project**

The project aims at enabling teachers to successfully conduct student exchanges between different countries in the Euro-Mediterranean region taking into account the various aspects of the individual cultures. For exchanges to be interculturally effective teachers must be able to address relevant issues with students and accompany them through the process.

**Specific objectives to be achieved**

Through the training seminar teachers will gain knowledge in the field of intercultural youth exchanges from several different national perspectives; the exchange of best practices in this area fosters cross-cultural dialogue and leads to a better understanding and mutual respect. The seminar encourages its participants to develop new partnerships for youth exchanges and to work on integrated approaches to intercultural learning and orientation on these exchanges.

Associating different stakeholders (public authorities, schools and NGOs) and bringing together people working in formal as well as non-formal education extends the outreach ability of the project into communities.

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