

“Participation of Young People in Youth Information Work”

Vienna, 20-23 April 2006

European Seminar, organised jointly by ERYICA, Eurodesk and EYCA,
in the framework of the Austrian Presidency of the European Union

<p>DESCRIPTION OF INITIATIVE OR PROJECT INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE DIRECTLY IN AN ASPECT OF YOUTH INFORMATION WORK included in Compendium of Projects prepared for the European Seminar</p>
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Ref: **06-10**

Organisation: **AGORA**

European Affiliation: **ERYICA** (via NIDM)

<p>1. Name of Initiative (project, activity, service or product):</p>
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<p>10 - CZECH REPUBLIC: Way to the Parliament</p>
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<p>2. Description of Initiative or Project (<i>please give a short but complete description, including the aim of the initiative or project</i>):</p>
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The “Way to the Parliament” project that we have organised on the basis of a Dutch example is a way to boost the ability of the youth to lead a discussion, but also to listen, to defend one’s opinions and to learn from the opinions of others. “Way to the Parliament” is a debating contest.

For students, discussion is not only entertaining, but also formative in that it will teach them to react, to use correct and matter-of-fact arguments, to persuade others about their opinions. At the same time, debates make students think about current issues.

The Way to the Parliament project seeks to enhance the ability of Czech secondary school students to discuss things, to express themselves openly, to formulate and defend their opinions. The project is focused on pupils from secondary schools.

In this second year of the project we are focusing on discussing mainly themes about the European Union.

The project has two main stages. Before the students come to the competition, we hold a seminar in each co-operating school. The seminars are held in an interactive form in order to help students use their ability to debate and to develop it further. They get the idea of how to debate correctly, what to focus on and how to present their opinions. At the same time, the contest itself – its structure and rules – is introduced to them. We put an emphasis on training for the debate and on the ability of students to assess critically their own performance.

The second stage is the competition itself. It has got its structure and rules. After the seminars, students get ready for the contest with the help of teachers (the school co-ordinator) and practise debating among themselves.

<p>3. Form of Youth Participation in Youth Information Addressed by This Initiative : <i>(please click on / activate the box which corresponds to your answer)</i></p> <p>This is:</p> <p>a) An initiative or project that involves young people directly in the identification of the information needs of young people in their locality or field of interest <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>b) An initiative or project that involves young people directly in the designing and preparation of information magazines and materials (for a young public) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>c) An initiative or project that involves young people directly in informing or advising other young people <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>d) An initiative or project that involves young people directly in managing or evaluating youth information centres or other services (such as a youth card) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>e) An initiative or project that addresses another aspect of youth participation in youth information work (please specify the aspect): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The project involves young people directly in debates - discussing current issues and searching for information before the actual discussion.</p>
<p>4. Name and Address of Organisation Responsible for This Initiative:</p> <p>Name: Agora Central Europe Address: Petra Rezka 12, Prague 4</p>
<p>5. Name and E-mail Address of Person to Contact (for information about this initiative):</p> <p>Name: Hana Blahnikova E-mail Address: hana.blahnikova@agora-ce.cz</p>
<p>6. Who Participated in This Initiative ?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Pupils from the secondary schools</p>
<p>7. What Was the Scope of This Initiative? <i>(please click on / activate the box which corresponds to your answer)</i></p> <p>Local <input type="checkbox"/> Regional <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> European <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>8. When Was This Initiative Undertaken<i>(please state the date when the activity was started, when it finished, or if it is still continuing):</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">First year of the competition was in 2005, and the second year continues in 2006.</p>
<p>9. What Were the Results Obtained by This Initiative?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">With our project, we are trying to develop the civic attitudes of Czech young people and subsequently to contribute to greater democracy in Czech society.</p>

10. Report – Publication – Other Product (if there is a report, publication or other “product” relating to this initiative, please state where it can be obtained or consulted, and in which language):

The following material is available concerning this initiative:

(please click on / activate the box **which corresponds to your answer**)

Report Publication Other Product (specify)

Title: Way to the Parliament: How to Debate about EU

Language(s): Czech

Can be consulted / downloaded at this web-site: <http://www.agora-ce.cz/?apc=--cz633464>

Can be obtained from (address of organisation):

11. Additional Information:

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This description form has been completed by:

Name of Person: Hana Blahnikova

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Name of Organisation: Agora Central Europe