

“Participation of Young People in Youth Information Work”

Vienna, 20-23 April 2005

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>
--

Ref: **06-36**

Organisation: **Richter Foundation**

European Affiliation: **Eurodesk**

<p>1. Name of Initiative (project, activity, service or product):</p>
--

<p>36 - NETHERLANDS: Go Europe Info Centre, and Schools Out</p>
--

<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>

Young EVS Volunteers and local young people in the city Den Helder in the north of the Netherlands provide information on European opportunities in the Go Europe! Info Centre, located in the Den Helder Euro House. The main topic is the opportunities for informal learning in an international context through the Youth Programme. The EVS volunteers also visit schools (Schools Out!) to inform other young people in an informal and active way about the possibilities of the Youth Programme and other European opportunities. These are activities of the Stichting Richter, which is a local relay of the Dutch Eurodesk network.

The Schools Out Project is an activity of the local relay within the Eurodesk framework. It can be regarded as a follow up to the Expo-In-Action: a travelling exhibition at which young people inform other young people in different countries about their experiences within the Youth Programme (see “10. Additional Information”)

RICHTER as an organisation:

Since 2000, the Richter Foundation has been active as a partner in the Youth Programme of the European Union and since 2001 also as local relay for the Eurodesk network in the Netherlands. Richter was created by a group of professionals with interests in Art, Theatre, Cultural Activities and Europe. In all our activities, we co-operate with young people from the province of Noord Holland. They participate in the activities on a voluntary basis. Richter is a non-profit and non governmental organisation; it is mainly active in social integration projects but has also a tradition of working on youth information projects.

Peer education -- Working method:

This working method is based on the fact that it is more effective and inspirational when European young people inform other European young people directly about the different possibilities within (and outside) the Youth Programme. Without interference from officials, project leaders, managers and youth leaders can build together with the young people the framework in which they can organise their own actions.

Young people can inform themselves on a local level about European opportunities and instruments, like the Youth Programme, Eurodesk tools, youth information portals, etc. The contact between young people of the same age result in a better insight into each other's worlds. Thus this project contributed to a better environment of intercultural learning and a wide distribution of information on Europe among Den Helder young people.

1. EVS VOLUNTEERS IN THE GO EUROPE INFORMATION PROJECT:

Since 2001, the Richter Foundation is active as a sending and a hosting organisation for European Voluntary Service (Youth Programme). At the moment we offer four projects. Two of these are especially aimed at youth information about Europe: 'Den Helder Europe centre' and 'Go Europe!'. Go Europe! is the Dutch name for the local relay network of Eurodesk Netherlands.

The Go Europe! Info Point is located in an Internet café in the city centre of Den Helder. This place attracts a lot of young people and is perfect for meeting young people in an informal atmosphere. The volunteers that are and have been active in this project are informing local young people about their possibilities in international activities, especially with the Youth Programme.

Richter is an official Go Europe information point and a local helpdesk within the framework of Eurodesk Netherlands (Local relay). At the moment we are moving the Go Europe office to the Euro house. The Euro house is a place where the Richter EVS volunteers live in a characteristic building in the Den Helder city centre.

The projects have a big impact on the local young people. By meeting our volunteers, they get in contact with new cultures, and information about the Youth programme is made available and made suitable for them. Besides this, they learn to have a positive opinion about their hometown: 'If young people from all over Europe visit Den Helder, it can't be too bad'.

2. PROJECT SCHOOLS OUT:

Besides the work in the Go Europe info point, our volunteers are active at the local high schools. This project developed during the last years, and this year the co-operation with the schools is so strongly developed that even schools outside our city are showing interest in it. 'Schools Out' aims at students between 15 and 18 years. In one lesson of an hour, our volunteers inform them about EVS, youth exchanges and youth initiatives. They do this in an active and informal way. The success of this project is due to the fact that young people inform other young people. Our volunteers are the best example of EVS in action.

Main goals of the project are:

- ? To make young people aware of the coming changes in Europe
- ? To show people how the changes in Europe have an effect on their lives
- ? Making young people aware of their own position amid all the other European cultures
- ? Teaching young people to see differences and similarities between cultures without judging
- ? To give Den Helder a place in the European changes so that the inhabitants can inform themselves in an active way and be part of the changes
- ? Making information available for all young people in Europe regardless their social, economical and geographical situation
- ? Show young people what their possibilities are in Europe as well in their own country
- ? Creating a movement of young people who explore Europe in every way thinkable
- ? Youth informing youth, creating a European network, open to all young people
- ? Stimulate and support young people to undertake new initiatives.

In the last two years, Schools Out was followed by workshops led by our international volunteers. Last year a volunteer from Moldova, together with a Dutch trainee, did a theatre workshop for the local students, some of whom stayed with our organisation and joined us for a youth exchange. A few of them are now volunteers in Richter. Last year, a volunteer from Germany worked with a trainee on a video workshop and was actively involved in the organisation of a 'video exchange' in Latvia. This year the success of Schools Out is even bigger and at the moment two big groups of young people are busy with video workshops and preparations for international exchanges.

All the above projects reached young people who otherwise probably would never have known about the Youth programme, or not have seen Europe as something that concretely offers opportunities for them. The activities are informal and accessible for all.

Through this project Richter translates the sometimes difficult information that comes from the European Institutions into a language that suits European young people of today.

3. Form of Youth Participation in Youth Information Addressed by This Initiative :

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

This is:

- 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**
- b) An initiative or project that **involves young people directly in the designing and preparation of information magazines and materials** (for a young public)
- c) An initiative or project that **involves young people directly in informing or advising other young people**
- 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)
- e) An initiative or project that addresses **another aspect of youth participation in youth information work** (please specify the aspect):

.....

4. Name and Address of Organisation Responsible for This Initiative:

Name: Richter Foundation
Address: P.O. Box 6062, NL-1780 KB Den Helder, Netherlands

5. Name and E-mail Address of Person to Contact (for information about this initiative):

Name: Remco Schaap
E-mail Address: richterholland@hotmail.com

6. Who Participated in This Initiative ?

Young people from the region 'kop van Noord Holland', and EVS volunteers from all over Europe.

7. What Was the Scope of This Initiative?

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

Local Regional National European

8. When Was This Initiative Undertaken *(please state the date when the activity was started, when it finished, or if it is still continuing):*

Expo in action from 2001 till 2002 --- Schools out from 2002 till this moment

9. What Were the Results Obtained by This Initiative?

We reach a large group of young people to inform about the possibilities of the Youth programme, their position in Europe, making them aware of the European Union, making it all transparent for them in an informal way, and to inform them about the methods of peer education.

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) photos on web-site

Title:

Language(s):

Can be consulted / downloaded at this web-site: www.richtereu.com

Can be obtained from (address of organisation):

11. Additional Information:

3. EXPO IN ACTION as background to Go Europe Infopoint and Schools Out:

In the last years Richter did an international project to inform young people about the possibilities of the Youth programme and other European opportunities. The project is called ‘Expo in Action’ and consists of three parts.

1. an international travelling exhibition with artworks inspired by the emotions of the participants who had experienced youth exchanges. All the artworks are made by a group of young artists, who are also active in the preparation of the youth exchanges and in the organisation of the travelling exhibition.

2. an exchange between the people of the ‘Expo -in-Action’ and young people in of the countries visited by the exhibition.

3. in co-operation with the National Agencies of the Youth Programme in the countries visited, local organisations and young people received information in their own language.

This project was invited to open the Youth programme in Bulgaria and was also active in Wales, Moldova, Romania and of course the Netherlands.

EXPO IN ACTION was:

The creative follow-up of a successful multilateral exchange programme.

Informing young Europeans about Europe.

European experiences are shared in an informal environment and this creates an atmosphere of intercultural knowledge and learning.

Youth inform Youth is a direct way.

This description form has been completed by:

Name of Person: Remco Schaap

E-mail Address: richterholland@hotmail.com

Name of Organisation: Richter Foundation, Netherlands