



Dialogue Through Debate

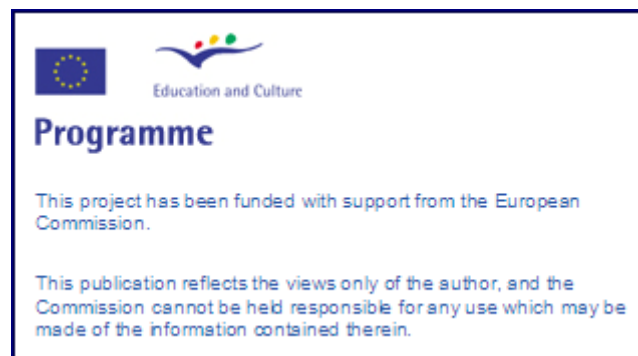
STUDY VISIT LITHUANIA June 21 – 30, 2007

During the study visit in Lithuania, the six participants (three from Rwanda and three from Uganda) had a chance to observe the Lithuanian debate forum in Druskininkai. During the forum, the participants attended debate theory sessions conducted by volunteer debate trainers, observed the debate tournament and had a chance to discuss the development of debate in Lithuania with trainers, coaches and debaters from different cities of Lithuania (including the participants of the Russian debate program). The participants also visited debate clubs in Vilnius Mazvydas school, where they had a chance to have a round-table discussion with the members of the club, their trainer Zoja Rudak and the principal of the school Mr. Manelis.

The second part of the study visit consisted of workshops and the preparation for the Regional Youth Forum to take place in Uganda, on December 1-10, 2007. During the workshops, the participants discussed the goals and objectives of the Forum, analyzed the target audience and its needs. After the discussion of the methodology to be used at the Forum, a list of suggested topics for debates was produced after a discussion between the Rwandan and Ugandan partners. Lastly, the participants prepared a draft schedule for the Forum, and developed the time-table of work in the process of the preparation for the event.

1. Goals. After a detailed discussion, the participants of the Lithuanian study visit identified the following goals of the Regional Youth Forum:

- Education
- Developing the culture of debate
- Developing an understanding of the current situation (laws, political processes, etc.)
- Sharing experiences
- Introducing debate as a tool for advocacy



- Introducing and teaching research
- Youth empowerment through action (skills, self-esteem)
- Improving civic participation.

2. Objectives. The participants discuss how the objectives of the Forum need to be SMART

S specific
M measurable
A achievable
R relevant
T timely

The discussion identified the following specific objectives of the regional Forum:

1. To train 80 participants in debating skills;
2. To enhance cross-cultural exchange amongst participants from Uganda and Rwanda through experience sharing: discuss cultures, daily life. (Some of the activities might include a *Culture night: dancing, poetry, singing; Symbol of hope; Kitch party.*)
3. To equip 80 participants with life and leadership skills; communication, team building and self-esteem. (through *Team-building activities; Session on leadership skills.*)
4. To develop a team of leaders who will implement public advocacy projects in their communities; To select 20 leaders from two countries to provide them with experience necessary to implement those projects;
5. To establish for a through which the 80 youth can interact, analyze, develop and practice the skills mentioned above;
6. To create an environment of working relation between all stake-holders in both countries. (teachers, students, NGO workers for the sustainability of the project).

3. Target audience and dates.

The dates of the regional forum will be December 1-10, 2007, with December 1st being the arrival date and December 10th, the departure date.

The forum will host 100 participants: 20 trainers (university students, NGO workers and teachers; we need 8 trainers on content material and 2 trainers/organizers from each country), 40 participants from each country: 10 coaches/judges (university students, teachers, youth workers) and 30 students/debaters.

There should be the following categories of participants:



- Secondary school students 16-18,
 - Teachers/youth workers – coaches/judges (each school has a coach); *They can be motivated by certification and skills.*
 - University students. You may want to review this part of the proposal with the participants to see if it is doable.
- a) Selection- who do we want from among the categories listed and what criteria we can use for selecting students, teachers, etc.

Selection of trainers:

- Clear description of the roles and procedure
- Issue a call
- Identify the addressees
 - CV
 - Teaching philosophy
 - Lesson plan

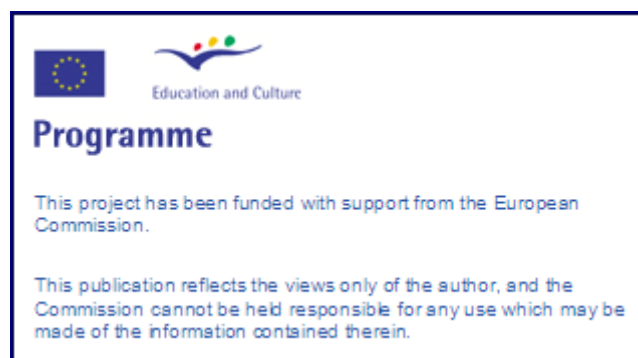
Selection of teachers:

- Use the existing list of teachers associated with debate;
- Include absolutely new list of teachers associated with debate;
- Application procedures:
 - Creating description or roles and qualifications (see IDEA standards +English as minor criteria)
 - Issue the call for teachers.

- b) Needs of the audience – this will be important for designing the curriculum of the camp – what is it that they expect from this experience and what do we need to do in terms of methodology and activities that can meet the needs (you can link it to objectives of the camp as well) (SEE OBJECTIVES)
- c) Limitations of the audience- what problems – issues can we expect:
- i. Language difficulties -> have trainers available to translate
 - ii. Information getting -> resource center
 - iii. Lack of previous debate experience -> trainers’ assistants and mixed teams; training material evaluation and presentations of the Forum and material at the schools.
 - iv. Judging -> separate section on judging (2 intro sections; de-briefings).

5. Methodology. The workgroup identified the following methodology to be used during the work at the forum:

- Debate



- Dilemmas
- Case studies
- Forum theater
 - The emphasis on practical, interactive and experiential learning experience.
- The need to incorporate community action and conflict resolution.

6. Topics. The workgroup also discussed the possible topic areas where the resolution for the Forum could be chosen from. The emphasis is put on the age group of the participants, as well as the significance and importance of the issue.

Topic areas:

- East African Community
- HIV/AIDS
- Environment
- Conflict resolution
- Children's rights

In order to formulate the resolution, the group was presented with the following types of resolutions, which were analyzed in terms of the educational value for the participants:

- Value resolution: a resolution which encourages a more philosophical debate emphasizing values.
- Comparative: encouraging a comparison of different values or plans.
- Policy: resolutions asking participants to discuss the present situation, propose plans which would solve the problems in the present situation and discuss the benefits of those plans.

After a long discussion, the work-group selected two potential topic areas to be use at the Forum: East African Community and Children's rights (it is up to the organizing committees to narrow down to one topic area and one resolution).

Suggested resolutions:

Children's rights

- Children should be given their full rights.
- Children rights are essential for children's development.
- Full children's rights will limit control of parents.
- *The implementation of the UNDCR* hinders the protection of African cultural values



East African Community:

- Expansion of the East African community (EAC) is essential for promoting regional cooperation
- Expansion of the EAC it essential for its regional sustainability
- The integration of Rwanda and Burundi into the EAC will boost/increase the economy of the East African region.

7. Activities. After the discussion of the possible topics, the workgroup continued to brainstorm the possible activities and workshops at the forum.

Debate theory sessions:

- Debate basics: what is debate; why; rules; team-responsibilities;
- Public speaking and effective communication;
- Debate Formats
- Propositions/resolutions
- Case development
- Argumentation (construct and refute arguments; logical fallacies)
- Refutation and rebuttal
- Note taking and flowing
- Critical thinking (practical session) – dilemma methodology
- Research (practice and theory)

Practice debates:

- 2 sessions (practice affirmative and negative)

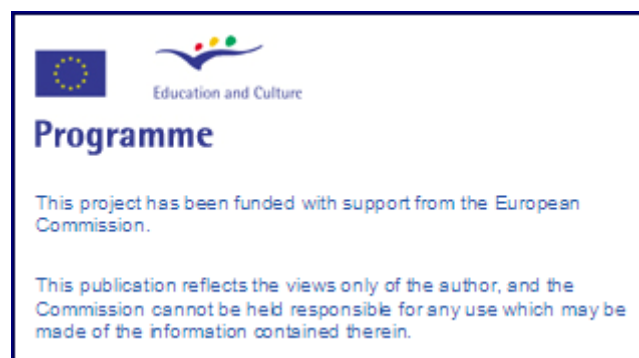
Content sessions:

- 2 sessions (overview, history, critical evaluation)

Extra activities:

- Advocacy
- Leadership
- Self-esteem and confidence
- Conflict management (elective)
- Human rights (elective)
- Team-building (one main and on-going)
- Community outreach
- Cultural evening

8. Roles and responsibilities



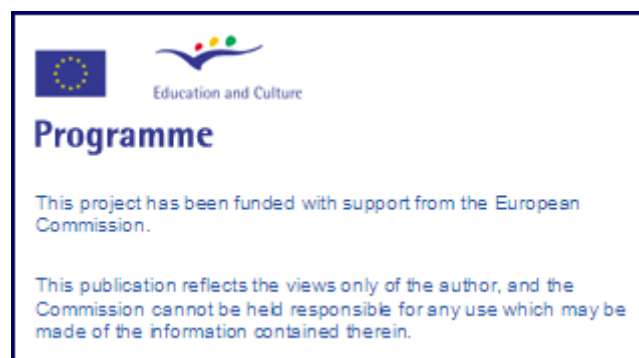
During this session, the workgroup discussed the main roles of people involved in the Forum. With the use of IDEA Youth Forum Standards the group discussed the roles and duties of the Forum Director, Curriculum committee, the logistics team, volunteers/organizers, and trainers. The participants decided to discuss the roles with their respective organizations and nominate the candidates for these positions.

9. Time-line

Date	Activity	Responsible individuals
August 15	Selection of the organizing and curriculum/topic committee	Jurate, Agula and Ronald
September 1	Topic selection	Topic committee: Jurate, Agula, Ronald and any other representatives
September 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainers' selection • Organizing committee selection 	Agula and Ronald
October – November 1	Curriculum preparation	Trainers supervised by curriculum committee
November 1	Curriculum and topic material prepared	Trainers
October 30	Participants' registration deadline	Organizing committee
November 30	Information sharing with the participants	Trainers

Participants

Name	Organization	Contact information
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