



Associazione per la Mobilitazione Sociale Onlus



DG Istruzione e cultura
Programma «Gioventù in azione»



European Youth Bridge – 4.3



PALERMO 19-25 MARZO 2012

Our experience...

Partners:



A.I.E.M.



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Introduction:

European Youth Bridge, financed by Youth in Action Programme, is a project of Partnership-building Activity (measure 4.3) presented and coordinated by Associazione per la Mobilitazione Sociale (AMS_ Italy). These type of experiences are events organized with the aim to allow participants to find partners for transnational co-operation and/or for project development. Partnership-building brings together potential partners and facilitates the development of new projects around a chosen topic and/or an Action of the Youth in Action Programme.

Partner and countries involved:

Italy (AMS), Poland, Turkey, Portugal, Greece, Malta, Estonia, France, Hungary and Bulgaria

Aim of the project:

The aim of the project is to put together associations (experts, youth operators and young people) that work in the field of the youth policy and in the promotion of the youth health, using active methodologies as life skills education or peer education.

This meeting was finalized to promote the exchange of experiences and abilities from different cultural perspectives to increase the knowledge and the ability to use the different methods of social work of all the participants.

The sharing of the tools and the experiences is finalized to create a “bridge” between the participants to promote future projects of cooperations and exchanges (and European voluntary) which involve the youth operators and even their beneficiaries. The project aims to realize a European partnership in which everyone guarantees support and know-how for the development of the projects, support in the partners research, tools and ways to improve the quality of the projects and the exchange of good practices.

The partnership we want to realize with the project has the following objectives:

- To **create** network, or rather exchange informations for a reciprocal benefit to reach common aims.
- To **coordinate**, or rather share activities and projects for a common benefit.
- To **cooperate**, or rather share the resources (material or not) and integrate the activities to reach the common aims.
- To **collaborate**, or rather share risks and problems to improve the abilities to reach common aims.

How we want to reach these aims together:

- by allowing the creation of common projects among the youth organizations from different countries.
- by promoting the exchange of good practices.
- by developing the cooperation on the specific theme of youth training or education, to know the organizations that coming from different countries of Europe.

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THE ACTIVITIES

1. SOCIALIZATION ACTIVITIES

During the exchange have been realized various activities in order to favour the socialization and the mutual knowledge. The simple games have had as objective the acquaintance of the names and nationalities. For the creation of identities of the group have been realized also other types of games like:

BALL OF WOOL GAME

Aim:

- ✓ learn the names of participants
- ✓ meet each other

Course:

All the participants stand up in a circle. The trainer starts the game throwing the ball of wool to one of the participant of the group, telling the name of the other one and keeping for himself an edge of the ball of wool. Who receive the ball of wool throws it to another participant telling the name of him/her and repeats the same game. In this way there will be a network that represents the connection between all the participants that during the experience will become stronger. The last one who receive the ball of wool has to start again the game throwing the ball of wool to the participant that threw it to him before.

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Power point session.

Each association presents itself through a video or power point presentation prepared before the exchange. Through this way the participants learn: operative modalities and methodologies used by other involved associations. This session allows the participants to know each others and start a comparison founded on a educational and methodological level.

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EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES

Another important moment of comparison, on a professional and personal level, was the one dedicated to the exchange of good practices. During this session each association presented to the other ones the projects realized through the use of life skills and peer education methodologies.

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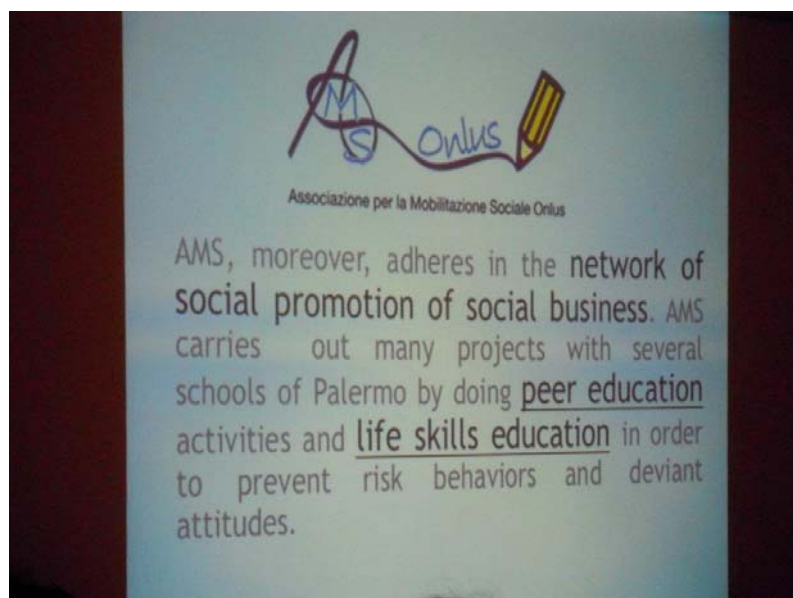
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COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

Paper's towers

Aim:

- ✓ encourage the group's work
- ✓ encourage the cooperation between the participants

Course:

The group was divided in small subgroups (about 6 people for each subgroup) that had to plan and build the highest tower without letting it fall. In both phases (planning and building) all the participants had to be agree. Each subgroup (for the building of the tower) could use: papers, adhesive tape, glue, scissors, etc.... They had 45 minutes of time to finish the work. During the building of the tower the participants thought over the following themes:

- way of cooperation
- possible exclusion of one of the member of the subgroup (why? How did you feel?)
- the way the participants reached the final aim

At the end of this work session will start the evaluation phase. All the towers were located one next to the others and each subgroup answered the questions made before. The trainer asked to the winner subgroup to share with the others their operative strategy. The group was invited to think over if the reaching of the aim was obtained by the group or individually.



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THE BRIDGE'S GAME

Aim:

- ✓ the meaning of: cooperation and negotiation
- ✓ think over the role that each participant has in the phase of cooperation and negotiation
- ✓ learn the value of communication to reach the common aims.

Course:

The group was divided in 2 subgroups. The trainer gave them some indications. They were the inhabitants of 2 cities divided by a big river. After many years of conflicts they decided to build a bridge to cross the river. Each city had to build half bridge. But they couldn't communicate to each others. Only one person could talk to the leader of another group to discuss about the planning of the bridge (for 10 minutes). They knew that the length of the bridge was 1 meter and that it had to support the weight of a toy car. At the end of this phase the 2 subgroups presented their part of the

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bridge and the trainer could test it. The result was great because the 2 subgroups built a strong bridge that could support the weight of a toy car. During the building phase the participants thought over the following themes:

- how did you organize the group?
- Anybody could express their own opinion?
- How did you elect the leader of the group?
- Anybody was involved?
- How did the negotiations going?
- Did you modify the original project? Why?
- Were there any conflicts in your subgroup?
- Did you have any problems in the communication with the others?



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Outdoor activities:

An important moment of this experience, from a professional and human point of view was certainly the visit to a school located in a risky area of Palermo, called Zen. Since many years in this school some operators of the promoter association, Association for Social Mobilitation, had activated some song laboratories directed to students and ex students of the school; the aim of these laboratories is not only for the students to learn to sing, but even to help them to think over, through singing, about some themes, such as: diversity, friendship and solidarity.

The participation of the European youth to these laboratories represents a very moving moment, both for the participants of the project and protagonist students of the laboratory; also it allowed to establish a dialogue with the scholastic institution that accepts and encourages initiatives of health promotion addressed to youth, often labeled as “disadvantaged”. Through a dialogue between the school institution, represented by the scholastic executive, and the several representatives of the host associations, it was possible to compare about didactic and recreational operative modalities, often connected, and participation and management methodologies about the projects; also, through the participation of european youth, it was possible open the mind of the students that live in the Zen area towards Europe, because they are often closed inside the borders of their country.



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4. INTERCULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The exchange of experiences between the partners, the deepening of their own vision of young people, problems and solutions of the same ones, has given important opportunities to think over the role of culture in youth work.

We have had many intercultural moments like intercultural evening during which participants have introduced their countries through video, music, dances, food and drinks explaining and listening the several aspects of their and other cultures.

During the intercultural evening the participants present their national traditions, food and drink and give some informations about the cultural peculiarities. Each group will be committed presenting the culture of their country.



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