



European Activities to Strengthen Youth (E.A.S.Y.)



E.A.S.Y. Booklet Series Vol. 3

Głogów Living Library 2008 ■ European Youth Summit 2008

Two more Local Attractor Projects 2008 ■ Ten Tips to work with Young People



Education and Culture DG

'Youth in Action' Programme



Wissenschaftsstadt
Darmstadt



E.A.S.Y. - The Booklet Series

Welcome to the third volume of the E.A.S.Y. Booklet Series. The series documents the process and outcomes of E.A.S.Y., a large scale European project* which lasted from 2006 to 2008. E.A.S.Y. stands for: „European Activities to Strengthen Youth“ and was realized within the framework of the Youth in Action Programme operated by the European Commission. E.A.S.Y. dealt with innovative approaches in European youth work with special focus on the involvement of young people with fewer opportunities into activities starting from the local and aiming up to an European level of mobility and exchange - a level that often seems to be ‚completely out of reach‘ for the target group in question: „Europe? That’s something ‚inaccessible‘, a ‚mystery‘, maybe for the others, but not for me!“ ... really? We were not sure about it, but motivated to find literally easy ways to extend the chances of participation of young people with fewer opportunities. First of all in so called Local Attractor

Projects, but also on the occasion of international meetings and during training activities where good practice experiences and knowledge could be exchanged and methodologies of involvement and participation could be elaborated.

The so called V.I.P. approach was in the center of all activities: young people do certainly have the biggest competence to deal with their own affairs, and when it comes to youth work it is probably them who know best what the role of the so called „professionals“ should be in order to facilitate the achievement of their goals. The project was run by a network of six partner organisations from Germany (Network ROPE), Italy (GIOSEF UNITO), Lithuania (Youth Exchange Agency), Poland (SZANSA), Spain (Inter Europa), and the UK (TribesNETribes). The Centre of Excellence (CoEx), established from the (local) project coordinators and young V.I.P.s, was in charge of project-management, documentation and public relations. We hope you will enjoy reading our third booklet a lot!



* This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



E.A.S.Y. Booklet Vol. 3

Table of Contents

Page 04

Głogów Living Library 2008

A travelogue

Page 04

I. Idea and reason of the journey

II. Is Poland a part of Europe?

or: The way to Głogów

Page 05

III. Arrival and first day

Page 06

IV. Our experiences at the Living Library

Page 09

V. Finish and Departure

Page 10

European Youth Summit 2008

German V.I.P.s spread the word

Page 10

The way to Kapfenberg

Page 11

Aims and process of the Event

Page 15

Excursion to Graz

Page 16

workshop-phase: insights into functioning
of the task group „integration“

Page 17

Trip to Vienna, handing over the „Declaration
of Kapfenberg“, and departure

Page 18

Concluding remarks, acknowledgements,
and feedback from participants

Page 19

Résumé of a participant
and task group leader

Page 20

Two more LAPs in 2008

Youth Events in Kranichstein/Germany

Page 21

Ten Tips to work with Young People

collected by María Peralta, local coordinator
and member of the Centre of Excellence
(CoEx) from Logroño/Spain

Page 22

Editorial Information

Table of Contents

This is the report of Essayas Afewerkie-Tekie, Nassim Beyay, Rachid Bouji, and Christoph Klinger who took part in our E.A.S.Y. partner's Local Attractor Project „Living Library” at the Głogow town festival on June the sixth 2008.

I. Idea and reason of the journey

Can you imagine a library without books? Actually, we – Essayas, Nassim, Rachid, and Christoph – had been invited to such a library without books by our Polish partner in the E.A.S.Y. project from Głogow: SZANSA. Such a library is called a „Living Library”. The idea behind it is quite simple: In a Living Library visitors can borrow people („Living Books”) and keep them for a certain time in order to talk to them. In a Living Library you will mostly find people that have been discriminated against or have become an object of ridicule in their lives, people against which there exist stereotypes and prejudices in some part of society. Through dialogue with their own prejudices visitors of the Living Library shall seize the opportunity to reflect on the way how they think and make judgements

about themselves and others, respectively. Our role in the Głogow Living Library consisted of helping with the set-up of the festival stand and acting as Living Books. Essayas was supposed to be the „Black Book”, Nassim and Christoph the „German Books”, and Rachid the „Muslim Book”.

II. Is Poland a part of Europe?

or: The way to Głogow

Prior to our departure Dariusz Grzemny (Darek), our colleague and friend from SZANSA, the Polish partner organisation in the E.A.S.Y. project, had warned us: „Głogow is located in the middle of nowhere. You need GPS. Otherwise you will not find the city and you will get lost on the country roads which are not in too good a condition compared to German roads.” When we asked for GPS in the car rental agency the saleslady explained to us that she would first have to find out whether Poland was on the GPS- „Europaprogramm”. But Poland's highways, tracks and cities were not included in any of her programmes! Also an attempt to get a suitable GPS from Rachid's sister failed: again Poland was not included in her GPS's software. Hence there was nothing left for us but –





according to the costumes of our fathers and mothers – to navigate using maps and our sense of orientation. This worked out fine. If we were not really sure we would simply ask locals for the right way. It might confirm a stereotype but it matched our experiences many a times: A lot of Polish people are very passionate drivers on the country-roads – motorways there are not too many. We were being overtaken by ten times even at very difficult to overview spots whilst we did make only two trucks. Nevertheless we arrived safely with a delay of one hour at the hotel where Darek and Martina welcomed us warmly.

III. Arrival and first day

6th of June during the morning we went shopping and sightseeing in the city centre of Głogów. The city which has approximately 75000 inhabitants today had been declared a „Festung” (fortress) by the Wehrmacht and was destroyed almost completely at the end of World War II. Not much more than a heap of rubble remained of the city centre out of which poked the ruins of some impressive buildings. At first the rubble served as a resource for

the reconstruction of Warsaw. In the fifties and sixties then other remains were dismantled and some leftovers of historical churches were blown up. In the meantime the reconstruction of Głogów was carried out in the typical socialist manner of urban development in the rather unattractive form of „Plattenbauten” (kind of prefabricated slab-construction) whereas the city centre persisted as a debris field. Starting from the eighties, though, the will was there to exactly rebuild historical monuments and also to build a new city centre that would be considerate of their respective proportions. At this juncture also former inhabitants of Głogów that had to leave their home town as a result of their expulsion after 1945 were helping with words and deeds in the reconstruction, a promising token of German-Polish reconciliation. As we could witness the new city centre is very lively nowadays on the old city layout. With much attention to detail the town hall with his impressive tower and the castle were both rebuilt in original historical form. Yet the baroque style Gryphus-theatre and the parish church are

still waiting for reconstruction. Around noon Darek and Martina invited us for a visit of their organisation's youth centre. On the ground floor of the building you find an ordinary library while in the first floor kids, youth and parents are offered numerous activities.

We were deeply impressed by the cellar rooms - some of which are equipped with sound insulation – where young people can rehearse and work in music-projects with their bands.

The musicians span the full range from Hip-Hop to Jazz to Metal and Alternative. A jazz musician we met there told us that some of the musical instruments are paid by SZANSA so that young people can try them out without having to buy them themselves.

Around four in the afternoon Darek ran the meeting for the „Books” of the Living Library. After having shortly elucidated the genesis of the Living Library-method Darek mainly explained the technical details that were important for the activity: The deadline provided for borrowing Books was one hour. Yet extension was possible provided that it was negotiated with the librarians. We were also told that „Books” are not allowed to leave the festival area. The

stereotypes assigned to the individual books were listed in a catalogue and should help visitors or borrowers with starting the conversation.

The „German Book” was characterized in this catalogue as „rich, fat, neo-nazi, and stinky” – at least the first attribute we would not have objected. But it didn't fit us, either.

Subsequent to the meeting we had still some hours of spare time that we used for sauntering through the tower block areas which reminded all of us a little bit of Kranichstein.

In the evening we helped the Polish organizers to setup the Living Library. We carried chairs which we put in a station waggon and at the festival site we helped to put up a tent all together.

IV. Our experiences at the Living Library

Christoph Klinger

As in the beginning of the Living Library there were not too many visitors and being only the ‚second’ German Book I seized the opportunity to have a conversation with the „handicapped book”. Norbert, as the person's name was, had already mentioned at the preparatory meeting that he speaks German so I did not reckon with





language barriers. Norbert told me that – shortly after the „Wende” (turnaround/German reunification) – he had studied in Germany and that he is now working as a translator. Back then this was quite exceptional.

Studying being handicapped already poses a challenge in your own country and abroad it must be even harder. But Norbert was

brave and did what many a ‚normal’ person would not have the courage to do. We rather talked about history, German-Polish relations, and German

literature than about his handicap. Norbert’s thesis at university was about German author Heinrich Böll’s war stories and he turned out to be a real connoisseur of German culture.

Upon the topic of disability we only touched by accident.

For example when Norbert explained that he always types with only two fingers and at this reaching a speed like other people would by using all ten fingers.

From the internet Norbert benefits even more than other people. He gets all kinds of information into his own four walls and there is no need any longer to frequent libraries which in the end he could possibly not even enter sitting in

a wheelchair.

In this sense the internet opens up very attractive possibilities for handicapped people and contributes actively to reduction of barriers. Norbert does not (yet) make use of speech recognition software – he’s still faster with his two-fingers-system!

Rachid Bouji

I was the „Muslim Book” at the Living Library. I was borrowed by a schoolboy (circa eighteen years old) who seemed very interested and did not have any prejudices. In the beginning he did not really know how to start off. But by and by the situation and our conversation got easier. We talked about the basics of Islam. He told me about a Muslim in his own family with whom – after some start-up difficulties – he now gets along very well. Through him he also knows that Islam is different from what many people think it is. Time past rather quickly and I myself gained a lot from our conversation. We both talked in English. I also had conversation with the „Handicapped Book”. We talked about the situation of disabled people in Poland compared with their situation in Germany. The festival as such I liked very

much. The weather was excellent and people were friendly and very open-minded. Also I did like the music. Something I had not expected. I think it was a pity that the food was not so good there. Apart from that kudos to the food in general, because it tasted really really delicious. All in all I liked our trip very much. I always did feel welcome.

Essayas Afewerkie-Tekie

I was the „Black Book“ at the Living Library. I was borrowed by an older man (circa fourty years old), by a group of young schoolgirls (circa fourteen to sixteen years old), and by a young schoolboy (circa eighteen years old). They all seemed very interested and seemed to be without prejudices. The start of our conversation was always a little bit slow.

But by and by it got easier. With the first man I talked about living in Germany as a black person and about his own experiences which he has made in France. The schoolgirls were more interested in my private life: what are my hobbies, what music am I listening to, and if I have a girlfriend.

The time passed rather quickly and I did learn a lot, too, from the conversations.

Two times a Polish woman

translated for me. The schoolboy knew English. With the translation I got along very well.

Generally speaking I liked the festival as such. The weather was great and people were nice and open-minded. I also liked the music.

Concerning the whole trip I can only say that I found it „supergail“ (drop-dead gorgeous). I also liked the aspect of having a lot of free-time to see the city. And also from my side: kudos to the food – it tasted awesome.

Nassim Beyay

I was the „German Book“ at the Living Library. I was borrowed by two young men. The first of them was circa twenty-five years old and a miner. He had a different conception of a „German“. In our conversation he defined quite clearly what his image of a „German“ was and I thereupon told him and showed him that stereotypes about Germans are tosh. He asked me many questions and I tried to answer them as good as possible. At the end of our talk he even invited me cordially to his home.

The second borrower was a schoolboy, circa seventeen years old. Regarding him I noticed immediately that he had a big interest to learn new things for he borrowed many books.





He asked me a lot of questions and he was crazy about German culture. I tried my best to introduce him to Germany and German culture.

At the Living Library I also talked to other books. For example I talked shortly with the Roma people who told me that they have been living in Germany and that they are considered a fringe group in Poland and are being avoided by others.

In Poland I got along very well as many people speak English or German. The people in Głogow were very friendly. My own stereotype about Poland has been disproven there: since then I see those people very different.

I like the idea of the Living Library very much because you can give people a new view of other people which helps to eliminate prejudices. Although I imagined the Living Library differently, I must say that I was pleasantly surprised. The whole atmosphere at the festival was great. The weather was fine, people were friendly and I had much fun experiencing something different.

Personally I benefitted a lot from the Living Library. I have learnt very much from other people. It was great to be part of the organization of such an event

and to be able to have a look behind the scenes.

V. Finish and Departure

Although the Living Library was not frequented that well our Polish partner and we as guests arrived at the conclusion that all together the event had finally been a success. Maybe next year some more visitors of the festival will find their way to the Living Library when this brilliant method has got around.

Together with the local organizers we finally went to wine and dine (or cola and dine, respectively). So we concluded our sojourn with delicious food and then we hit the disco.

On Sunday we returned to Germany because we wanted to see our national soccer-team beat the Polish team in Berlin! It all went according to plan. But this is a different story...

European Youth Summit '08

German V.I.P.s spread the word

This is the travelogue of the German V.I.P.-delegation for the „European Youth Summit 2008 - Under the EU-umbrella: Welcome Diversity - Europe's Youth in an Intercultural Dialogue“ (18th to 27th of July 2008).

The way to Kapfenberg

by Vanessa Schelper

Friday morning, 18th of July 2008

- Darmstadt, main station. It's early in the morning, very early in the morning! While some are still on their way others try to catch up for the breakfast they missed at home. The rest does not give the impression of being really fit already.

Accompanied by Sven Rasch who forms the farewell -committee seven courageous „Heiner“ (nickname for the inhabitants of Darmstadt) are heading for a far away world - at least the overall travel time of 9 hours and 37 minutes suggests this assumption - also known as Austria.

Immediately we found out that the ÖBB - Österreichische Bundesbahn - ain't any better than the Deutsche Bahn: We are being shipped crisscross the country, delays, breakdowns, and rail replacement service - all

inclusive.

After this adventurous journey which really caused physical fatigue as sleep was out of the question with so many changes we were well received by Tobias one of the Austrian tutors and again seated on a bus to be carried to our accommodation.

This accommodation turned out to be a residential school for agriculture and forestry (Land- und Forstwirtschaftliches Internat Kapfenberg) which probably made some of us dream of agrotourism or „holidays at the farm“. In fact it was not exactly this way but I do not mean this deprecatingly.

The residential school is outlying a bit situated between meadows and fields. Concerning its facilities there was no cause for complaint whatsoever.

Christoph our local expert was accommodated in a single room. Eun-Cheong and me shared a three-beds room and also the four V.I.P.-gentlemen Essayas, Rachid, Nassim, and Paul were given a big six-beds room for their own. Boys and girls clearly separated on different floors as it is good manners in catholic Austria! Apparently also the meals were much better than in many hotels as we could experience right after arrival. Not least because of Klara the





informal hostel warden who anticipated our every wish. And so from the beginning all worries were disposed of once and for all.

Aims and process of the Event

by Christoph Klingner

The European Youth Summit which had as its motto this year: „Under the EU-umbrella: Welcome Diversity - Europe's Youth in an Intercultural Dialogue“ took place now for the thirteenth time.

The organizers intended to contribute to the „European Year of Intercultural Dialogue“. Although young Europeans from six different countries were officially coming together in Kapfenberg to work out a common declaration which should represent their point of view concerning issues like immigration, integration and intercultural dialogue, also informal contact making, feasting, and simply having fun should not be underestimated as major aims of the summit. In this spirit skills like teamwork, exchange of opinions and points of view could be actively practiced and improved under democratic terms.

Whereas in recent years mainly parliamentary proceedings had

been simulated in Kapfenberg this year the attempt was to simulate a scientific congress of which the mission was to come up with claims towards European policy and to sketch solution statements for such challenges as migration and integration.

All participants virtually adopted the roles of experts. That's why right from the start their knowledge base was widened through excursions, hearings, presentations, panel discussions and plenary debates.

In the second phase of the summit then - following democratic rule - the congress was constituted: candidates for the presidential chair or the task group chairs were proposed and later on elected.

In the third phase all participants chose to participate in one of the task groups.

Finally the results from the different groups were compiled and rewritten in the form of a declaration.

Eventually the „Kapfenberg Declaration“ was presented to representatives of the European Union in Vienna.

Input- and constitutional phase

The next days were marked by an ambitious programme and a stringent workflow that affected

the leisure-time activities in equal measure. On the first day participants met at nine a.m. in the plenary hall to listen to Dr. Tafner's lectures. The speaker gave an instructive overview of the development, mode of operation, and future challenges of the European Union. Special emphasis he laid on such contexts as „pluralism“, „tolerance“ and the question of a „European identity“ that were also relevant to the summit. At this Mr. Tafner advanced the view that in a pluralistic European society „identity“ and „values“ cannot be exhibited in a top-down-process. In this sense he also rejected any desire for a consistent European identity comparable to national or other collective identities. For centuries Europe did not stand out due to the existence of a political entity but to the co-existence of many different nations and cultures even if - and regardless of countless wars and conflicts - throughout its intellectual history the unifying idea of the „occident“ or the „christian west“ has been kept alive. According to Tafner in a „Europe of Diversity“ the strive for an European identity should be limited to an interest in political process in Europe and a knowledge of the European

institutions - complemented by advocacy for tolerance.

Subsequent to Dr. Tafner's lecture a discussion arose about the possible accession of Turkey to the European Union and about agricultural subsidies and their impact on emerging and developing nations.

This discussion was followed by another lecture that had been prepared by students of political science from Poland about the institutions of the European Union.

After so much intellectual activity the schedule foresaw some physical activities in the afternoon. We hiked uphill to the fortress of Kapfenberg, a two hours walk.

In the evening then we had a barbecue. But who had guessed that we would just end the evening harmoniously with full stomachs was wrong. A styrian local costume group played dance music and could even motivate those spectators who considered themselves a dancing-sourpuss. Most of the folk-dances were passably easy to learn and provided fun even for unpracticed dancers. But for the „Schuhplattler“, symbol of styrian maleness, coordination of almost every part of the body was required - not really easy for everyone!





On sunday forenoon every delegation reported on immigration and integration and as the case may be about the situation of national minorities in their countries.

We started the session. The first part of our presentation consisted of data concerning the proportions of immigrants residing in Germany. Afterwards we gave an historical-genetical overview of the evolution of immigration and integration whereupon we put a special emphasis on the reactions of the political system from it and the subsequent social discourses. Preliminary ‚punch line‘ on the national level in our point of view: reform of the German law of citizenship and - following the report of the commission on immigration in 2005 - adoption of the law on immigration (Gesetz zur Steuerung und Begrenzung der Zuwanderung und zur Regelung des Aufenthalts und der Integration von Unionsbürgern und Ausländern - „Zuwanderungsgesetz“).

Finally we did not want to leave out a closer look at the local level as integration de facto has to be considered a socio-spatial process which can - and has to be - supported by governmental and semi-governmental

institutions and NGOs.

To illustrate this thesis we chose our own V.I.P. project in Cranestone (suburb of the Science city of Darmstadt) and the European level project E.A.S.Y. (European Activities to Strengthen Youth). Both projects are connected insofar as with E.A.S.Y. what is being developed on a local level in the V.I.P. project: peer education and social prevention work is being transferred, reflected and further developed in terms of methodology on an European level in cooperation with five other countries.

In the process exchange of experiences between youth is in the focus. Especially Essayas Afewerkie-Tekie, Nassim Beyay, Rachid Bouji, and Paul Czekalla who are all involved in the local V.I.P. project as well as in E.A.S.Y. project could report clearly and straight from the horse's mouth about their experience.

On monday morning with an official representative of the city of Kapfenberg being present the conference as an integral part of the programme was opened. Then a breeze of big politics was blowing through the conference room. The embassies of some of the participating countries, namely Poland, Czech Republic, and Turkey had delegated

European Youth Summit 2008

diplomats to the panel discussion. This panel of experts was rounded off by a representative from the European Commission who gave a statement on the intercultural situation in Europe in praxi.

On monday afternoon the conference simulation started.

Although this year - as said earlier - a *scientific* conference on the topic of immigration, integration, and intercultural dialogue was simulated this should not be deemed a renouncement of politics.

At first participants split into task groups on „legal migration“, „illegal migration“, „integration“, „intercultural dialogue“, and „Human Rights and democracy“. Again other participants joined the „press group“ which observed the work process of the different groups, documented current events, and published results in the form of a wall newspaper every day.

So far so good. Whereas splitting-up of participants took place passably quiet the cast of the chair-positions became a question of influence and power. In short: a political question.

As nomination of candidates for presidential and vice-presidential chairs lay in the hands of national groups the informal process of nomination and

decision-making had started much earlier.

In the style of ‚back room diplomacy‘ consultations between several groups took place in order to reassure one another necessary votes at election.

With four national delegations being present two chairs (the presidential and the vice-presidential chair) were not enough to negotiate about. So without further ado the chairs of task group leaders were incorporated into the bargaining. However at election of the president a crucial vote occurred between two candidates. Casting of votes did not happen bundled but one by one in secret ballot. So until the very end of counting the suspense grew who would be ahead.

Finally it turned out that alliances formed before persisted.

In the late afternoon following long debates, speeches, and voting we could finally go for a short stroll. By the way we surveyed townspeople from Bruck and Kapfenberg. A simplified version of the Eurobarometer in English language served as a basis for our interviews on the streets. (The Eurobarometer is a series of surveys regularly performed by the European Commission which





reports of public opinion of certain issues relating to the European Union such as for instance European unification, European institutions, or Europe's common currency).

The questions centred on attitudes of people towards Europe, immigration, integration, and intercultural dialogue.

Coming from Germany we had a clear advantage over the other groups when it comes to language skills and so we split into these groups to help with translation.

Afterwards every group produced a short summary of the surveys' results in English.

Later then the „countries' evening" appeared on our agenda.

In order to introduce our country and our city we had imported three beer barrels (10 litres each as we were almost 50 people altogether), pretzels, and we had prepared a quiz.

Taking into account the heavy and partly polemical debate in Germany about the so called „Einbürgerungstest" (citizenship test) it seemed very appealing to us to place some of the official questions next to less serious ones.

Not only did we ask for the „speed limit on German

highways" (Autobahn) but also for the „animal of the flag" of the Federal Republic of Germany. Furthermore - to liven up the quiz a bit more - we used the thoroughly German carnival tradition: for every right answer „Kamellen" (caramel candies) were thrown into the crowd.

Excursion to Graz

Tuesday morning was not the time for sleeping late even if one or the other was probably in need of it after the „countries' evening". The bus to Graz left at a quarter past eight already. But we were fully remunerated by a visit to ISOP (Innovative Sozialprojekte GmbH) in Graz. ISOP is an organisation that can look back on relevant experiences in intercultural youth work and feels obliged to an integrated approach which rests upon cross-linking of social work at school, youth work, and parental involvement.

Due to the fact that also in Austria adolescents with a migration background are underrepresented in higher education a main focus of ISOP's work is additional tuition, and language-competence instruction.

Moreover ISOP is also active in „classical' open youth work and

street-work

Around noon we attended a reception in the town-hall of Graz. Again at the subsequent discussion the podium was (wo)manned with top-class specialists but translation that day was weak.

Bernd Schönegger (ÖVP) represented the city of Graz, Svetlana Podlesnik the „Migrationsbeirat“ (advisory board for migration), and Günther Bauer the „Landesflüchtlingsreferat“ (Styrian department for refugees).

After sending regards from the Science City of Darmstadt and having expressed our joy of finally being guests in our twin-town we were certainly curious to hear more about how on local level the challenges of immigration and integration are met.

In spite of the achievements in the field of bureaucracy like intercultural receptiveness of administration, reduction of waiting time for approval of application for supported housing, the subsequent discussion would not stop at such hot potatoes as „parallel societies“, „boundaries of tolerance“, and „transformation of quarters through migration“.

Thanks to a tasty municipal buffet we did start out fortified

to discover the city.

workshop-phase: insights into functioning of the task group „integration“

Wednesday morning the conference was continued and now entered its „hot phase“. After V.I.P. Paul Czekalla from Cranestone had been elected chair of the task group we went about investigating facts and identifying most important issues for internal discussion. We passed on to dividing our group that consisted of ten people all together into working-pairs and one group of three persons. The teams corresponded to the task group's sub-themes:

- * Education (Bildung und Erziehung)
- * labour market
- * welfare state
- * culture, tolerance, and religion

Already at eleven the chairman had to stand up to the questions of the „journalists“ at the press conference.

For the afternoon another plenary meeting was scheduled in which the task group chairs should present controversial topics for discussion. We did raise the question whether





participation in integration courses should be free of charge or not. Also we wanted to discuss whether such courses should be offered to immigrants as an obligatory or as an optional event.

Our second, 'hot issue' was the interrelationship of Islam and integration. Polemically said: does Islam pose an obstacle to its followers when it comes to integration? In order to concretize the question we linked it to the so called head scarf debate („Kopftuchstreit“).

And as if it were not enough we also prepared a four pages paper to be mooted at the plenary debate after dinner!

After such a long day we fell into our beds and slept like logs. The whole forenoon on thursday we were trying to agree on common claims and viewpoints.

At this point it should not go unmentioned that despite differences of opinion the working atmosphere in our task group was marked by tolerance and mutual understanding: at no time did we lose sight of the ultimate goal, namely to consent to important claims for improvement of integration policy.

We found it a difficult task then what we had to do by the end of the workshop phase: Our

concerted results had to be represented in brief statements and transferred into a one-sided list of claims, all this of course in English language. Around noon this process was completed.

In the afternoon the president, the vice-president, the task group leaders, and organizers gathered for an editorial meeting.

We reassessed all claims of the different task groups critically in terms of content, form, and grammar. For the majority of claims we reached consensus.

But some aspects and wordings still had to be discussed.

Where we could not come to an agreement single claims were put to vote.

By ten in the evening so good headway was made that the now finished „Declaration of Kapfenberg“ could be read out in plenary and be adopted by a vast majority.

Trip to Vienna, handing over the „Declaration of Kapfenberg“, and departure

by Paul Czekalla

The night was too short again as we had to departure for Vienna already at a quarter to seven in the morning. To make matters worse this day we also had to cope with the task of waking up

everybody in one or the other way.

After long negotiations and the final event the night before, getting up for the bus trip meant just a short disruption between two phases of sleep for many people.

As a grand finale of the conference simulation our „Declaration of Kapfenberg“ was read out and finally commented by us in the name of the youth of Europe in the agency with representatives of the Commission and the press being present.

Due to very positive feedback we set off eased and happily for a tour of the city.

Vienna is a gorgeous town and thanks to good weather we will probably remember this promenade for a long time.

It started near the opera, took us through a shopping street down to Stephansdom, from there via the „Pestsäule“ and Heldenplatz to the Museum complex where we spent long time.

From there we were sauntering through Mariahilferstraße to Westbahnhof where we finally got on the Vienna metro that took us back to the Opera.

After dinner in a restaurant - to be found on the menu of course: „Wiener Schnitzel“ - we spent our last hours in the city at the Prater. After so many turbulent days we

could finally relax a little on saturday, buying supplies for our travel back home, playing soccer and regenerating energies for the farewell party.

The only official agenda item that remained was evaluation. The return journey strongly resembled the outward journey (see Vanessa's report above). But for all that we came home healthy, lucky, and wealthier in many experiences and impressions.

Concluding remarks, acknowledgements, and feedback from participants

by Christoph Klinger

We wish to thank our hosts in Austria (Europazentrum - Europahaus Graz), Science City of Darmstadt - Office of City Partnerships and Internationales Büro, namely Dr. Patricia Latorre whose presentation „Integration and Prevention“ was very helpful for us in preparing the trip, Netzwerk ROPE e.V. - European Network for Educational and Youthwork Services, and the E.A.S.Y. project.

As already said here and there in the report we would have liked to have some more free time for individual arrangements. Less would have been certainly more as this is concerned. It seems to us that one should not underrate





the capacity of young people to
occupy themselves for some
hours a day.

In view of the intellectual
standards that had to be met in
Kapfenberg our preparation
could have been more intense.
Although our participants, being
politically interested young
people, reading the daily press
and even knowing the pheno-
mena in question: migration and
integration from everyday life -
some of them from very
personal, biographical experi-
ence - there was definitely a lack
in knowledge of European law,
Human Rights conventions, and
existing programmes of the
European Union. This little deficit
was also owed to the fact that we
had all been to this event for the
very first time, though.

All the other groups had
minimum one Kapfenberg-
experienced participant in their
own ranks...

Résumé of a participant and task group leader

by Paul Czekalla

These were very exhausting days
during which I learnt a lot,
though. I got to know many new
people, swapped ideas, and
received first-hand and, unfiltered,
information about the
situation in different countries

from locals.

All of the lectures were very
interesting, and during
workshop and presentation
phases one could learn things
that are certainly going to be
helpful in the future.

I would participate anytime
again in an event organized by
the Europazentrum Graz, and I
would know now what to expect.

Two more LAPs in 2008

Youth Events in Kranichstein/Germany

In the second half of the year
2008 V.I.P.s from

Kranichstein/Germany were
involved in two mayor events,
namely the „1. Kranichsteiner
Kinder- und Jugendsportfest“
(Kids and Youth Sports Festival)
on 30th of August and the
„Kranichstein Soccer Night“ on
December 12th to 13th.

1. Kranichsteiner Kinder- und Jugendsportfest

The Kids and Youth Sports
Festival was run in close
cooperation with a lot of local
institutions such as the schools
and youth centres of Kranich-
stein and attracted hundreds of
kids/youth from 3 to 23 years old
but also a lot of adults.

Among the attractions visitors
could chose from where: a rallye
around the quarter's lake, Karate-
and Hip-Hop-trial courses,
Electrodancing, Ultimate Frisbee,

Human Table Soccer, and a lot
more activities that – alongside
teachers and youth workers from
Kranichstein - V.I.P.s were in
charge of.

The Festival proved that Sports
and fun activities are an
important tool for social
inclusion in quarters with a

special need for development.
In that sense also the „Kranich-
stein Soccer Night“ was a big
success which shall be repeated
by the end of 2009.

Kranichsteiner Soccer-Night

This event was masterminded by
German V.I.P.s and organized
with the local youth centres: IB
Jugendcafé Chillmo and
Ökumenisches Kinder- und
Jugendhaus, with social workers
from Erich Kästner Schule (SKA
SchulOase), Sharks' Gym (a
sports-project of the Science City
of Darmstadt), and Junge
Filmproduktion Kranichstein
(JFK).

Young (real) football-addicted
people had the unique opportu-
nity to hit the local school's gym
before and after midnight to kick
it. Soccer Nights have some
tradition in Darmstadt which
unfortunately dwindled away
some years ago.

Thanks to the youth of Kranich-
stein this very attractive event is
back in town now!

author: Sven Rasch

photo: Christoph Klinger





Ten Tips to work with Young People

collected by **María Peralta**, local coordinator and member of the
Centre of Excellence (CoEx) from Logroño/Spain

We spend many hours working with young people in local and European projects. We feel the power of youth and we are motivated to support the release of this power as youth workers. From our experience we have extracted „Ten Tips“ which we want to share with readers of the E.A.S.Y. Booklet Series. We hope you will also find them helpful and motivating:

1. - Never think that young people can't do something. If they are motivated they can accomplish almost anything!
2. - Invest time to identify this (source of) motivation inside each young person.
3. - Once this inner motivation is revealed, try to help the young person to find appropriate tools and possible ways to set things in motion.
4. - Maybe the young person will not find adequate tools and ways for herself/himself easily and therefore feels frustrated. Doesn't matter! Start it off again, don't loose patience.
5. - In doing so it is very important to be a good listener, to *facilitate* rather than to *patronise*. Get them the support *they* need, but do not try to impose your own will on them. Don't think that you have to do everything for them or to always make it very easy - young people feel better when they can do it themselves, even if or: especially when it is sometimes demanding.
6. - Many young people think that (European) projects are for „very important people“. They are right! Look for or design projects which are suitable to your target group in order to make participants feel useful, allow for them to realize that actually they are important people.
7. - Young people may be afraid of working with other young people from foreign countries. Invest time showing them that all young people all over Europe have similar ideas, problems, visions... no matter where they come from, and independent of their culture, religion, status - you can always connect!
8. - Use methods and tools that non formal education offers to let young people share their experiences and ideas - they very often learn a lot more if they don't feel like being in school.
9. - Often young people are very shy when it comes to talking in a foreign language. Use the enormous capacity of non verbal communication to establish relationships between them. There's always an alternative to talking using different senses.
10. - Yet, the most important: don't believe them when they say: „I can't speak English!“
At four in the morning, with a glass of wine in their hand, they are able to speak English as well as Chinese, if it is important then to have conversation with somebody they like (...and it goes without saying that this ain't no pretext or allowance for alcoholism)!

The E.A.S.Y. Booklet Series

E.A.S.Y. Booklet Series Vol. 1

Deluxe Edition – Starter Conference
Mühlthal/Germany – 25.02.-02.03.2007
Mission accomplished – The complete Report

E.A.S.Y. Booklet Series Vol. 2

V.I.P.-Training Course – Bonn/Germany
20.-29.07.2007
Midterm Conference &
V.I.P.-Training Course – Logroño/Spain
20.-28.03.2008
Final Conference – Berlin/Germany
10.-14.12.2008

E.A.S.Y. Booklet Series Vol. 3

Glogow Living Library 2008
European Youth Summit 2008
Two more Local Attractor Projects 2008
Ten Tips to work with Young People

E.A.S.Y. Booklet Series Vol. 4

E.A.S.Y. Methodology revisited:
The V.I.P. Approach (evaluated)
Participatory Needs Analysis

was published in 2009 by

Netzwerk ROPE e.V. / Network ROPE
European Network for Educational and
Youthwork Services

Administration:
P.O. Box 10 10 07
D-64210 Darmstadt
Phone: ++49 (0) 6131 - 48 28 57 3
Email: info@network-rope.org
www.network-rope.org

Coordination E.A.S.Y. project and
E.A.S.Y. Centre of Excellence (CoEx)
Sven Rasch
Phone: ++ 49 (0) 6071 - 74 84 26
Email: rasch@network-rope.org

Coordination Local Attractor Project Germany
and E.A.S.Y. Centre of Excellence (CoEx)
Andreas Krauß
Phone: ++ 49 (0) 6255 - 95 28 10
Email: krauss@network-rope.org

The E.A.S.Y. Booklet Series has been created
thanks to authors from the E.A.S.Y. Centre of
Excellence (CoEx) and V.I.P.s from Germany,
Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Spain and the UK

Editing & Layout: Sven Rasch
Photos: Christoph Klinger, Maria Peralta,
Sven Rasch, Roxana Meechan

Reproduction, distribution and use for non
commercial purposes is permitted provided
that original publisher and source are
mentioned:

www.easy-easy.eu
www.easy-rope.org
www.network-rope.org/easy

The E.A.S.Y. Booklet Series is available for
free download from our website
www.easy-easy.eu

All Booklets are also available in a printed
version that you may order from:
info@network-rope.org
It is also for free, but you may be charged the
shipping costs!





