

**eif**  
european intercultural forum

# european mobility and citizenship

interrelations and implications



Education and Culture DG  
"Europe for Citizens" Programme







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Design: Tiphaine Coulardeau, Berlin, 2011

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Education and Culture DG

'Europe for Citizens' Programme

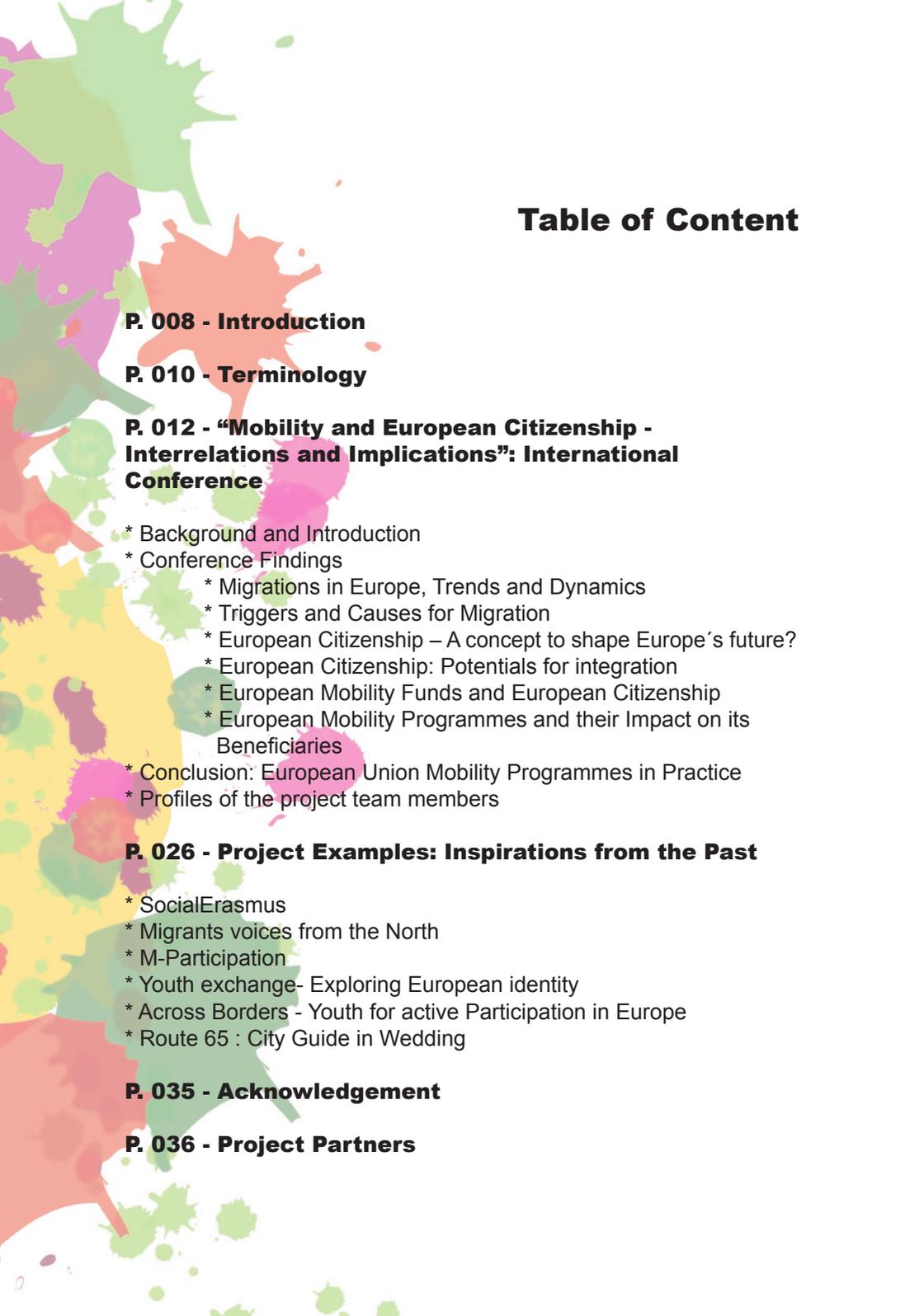
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The left side of the page is decorated with a vertical column of abstract, colorful splatters and blotches. The colors include shades of green, purple, orange, yellow, and red. The splatters vary in size and shape, some being large and irregular, while others are small and circular. The overall effect is a vibrant, artistic border.

# **Mobility and European Citizenship**

*Interrelations and Implications*





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## Introduction

Migration and mobility processes are increasingly affecting the European Union. Two waves of enlargement in 2004 and 2007, integration of the South-East European countries in Euro-Atlantic structures as well as the global economic crisis all contribute to the growing impact of both migration processes and mobility on European societies. Both internal EU migration as well as migration from non-EU countries and mobility schemes bring European societies closer and redefine the notion of citizenship.

European Union's mobility schemes are available to a large number of European citizens and residents of EU Member States. Most of those schemes positively contribute to the increased competences, personal and professional skills of its participants.

On the other hand, migration is all too often a synonym of poverty and social exclusion. What is more, it brings about challenges for both the migrant and native communities and individuals affected by migration. Migration can be a cause for discriminations and but also an opportunity for European societies in terms of social and economic development and cultural diversity. Migration and European Citizenship can be of help in addressing common European challenges.

All of the above phenomena call for a wider debate on the changing character of Europe, the interaction between migration and mobility processes and the construction of European citizenship.

“Mobility and European Citizenship: Interrelations and Implications” is a joint initiative of civil society organisations in Czech Republic, Germany, Poland and the United Kingdom aimed at fostering a public debate and promoting a dialogue on European citizenship and mobility among European citizens. The project promotes a reflection on the reasons, consequences, and challenges of migration within the EU and the influence of intensified mobility across Europe on European citizenship. Additionally, by bringing together civil society representatives from a range of different organisations working with citizenship



issues, the project contributes to an exchange of experiences and tools supporting European citizenship initiatives.

The central element of the project was a five-day European Conference that took place in Berlin (January 12-16 2011). The conference brought together youth workers, social workers, project managers dealing with migration, citizenship and mobility from Czech Republic, Germany, Poland and the United Kingdom. The main aims of the conference were reflection on the concept of European Citizenship as a tool to foster integration in local communities, sharing experiences, tools and approaches of inclusion work and reflection on the impact of the European Commission's mobility programmes on the identification of its users as European Citizens. Moreover, a debate was intended to be launched about necessary improvements in mobility programmes to foster their effectiveness in regards to their expected outcomes and impacts.

- The second stage of the project is a series of four local one-day events in the partner countries in spring 2011. The local events will bring together social workers, youth workers, youth leaders and representatives of organisations working on integration and inclusion in order to share the conference findings and to intensify the debate on the usage of mobility programmes as a tool for fostering European Citizenship internationally.

This handbook is a result of the European Conference. It aims to be a practical resource for those working with European citizenship issues, particularly in relation to migration and mobility issues. The publication is divided into two main parts. The first part is a summary of the conference key notions while the second part is a description of successfully implemented initiatives fostering European Citizenship implemented by partner organisations and other European civil society organisations. Moreover, the publication features short descriptions of the main key words in the context of European Citizenship and migration.

We wish you a pleasant reading and are looking forward to receiving your feedback.

Sincerely Yours,  
Maksymilian Fras and Sebastian Schweitzer  
Facilitators of the Conference in Berlin

# Terminology

## European Citizenship

The concept of European Citizenship (not equal to European Union citizenship) defines citizenship as an active community united by common values such as democracy, human rights and social justice. European Citizenship is voluntary and is not linked to any political structure.

## Mobility Programmes in Europe

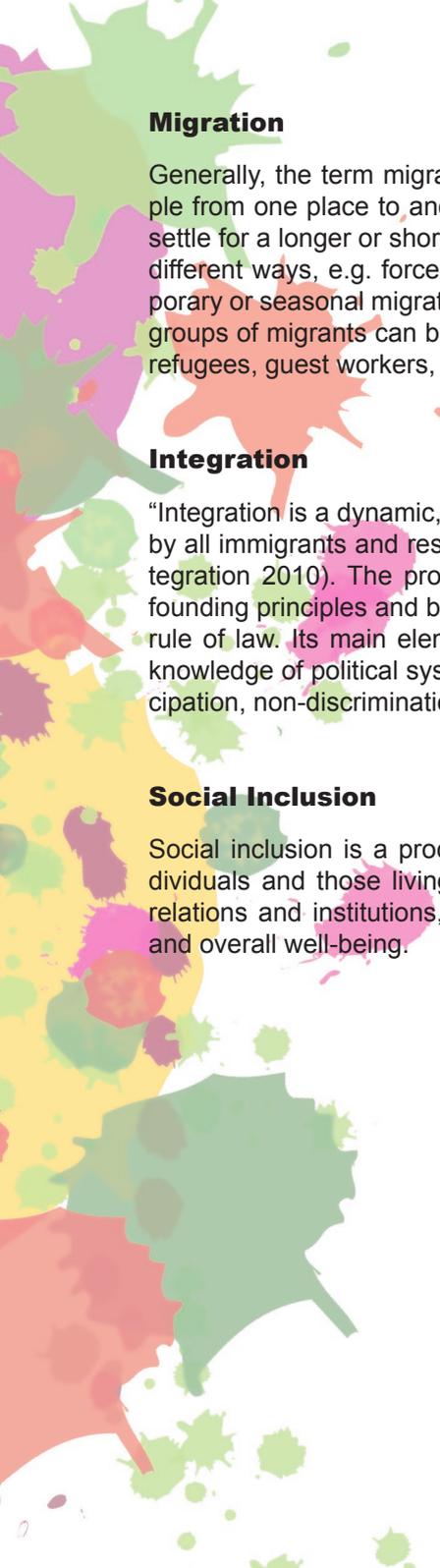
Mobility programmes of the European Union offer a wide range of learning experiences across Europe with the objective to foster European Citizenship, social cohesion and an exchange of good practise among institutions, organisations and individuals. Mobility programmes include: Lifelong Learning Programme, the Youth in Action Programme and Erasmus Mundus. Europe for Citizens Programme is often not included in this category, even though it is similar in character.

## Non-formal Education

Non-formal education is a structured and organised education activity that is based on voluntary participation outside the public or publically recognised educational system. Its main stakeholders are non-governmental organisations and institutions that complement education offered by schools and tertiary institutions.

## Intercultural Education

Intercultural education is a tool to increase societal capacities for community life based on an inclusive approach and an understanding of equality. Pluralism, respect for cultural differences and the value of these differences are the pillars of intercultural education.



## **Migration**

Generally, the term migration refers to a physical movement of people from one place to another which includes the necessity or will to settle for a longer or shorter duration. Migration can be categorised in different ways, e.g. forced and voluntary migration, permanent, temporary or seasonal migration or legal and irregular migration. Different groups of migrants can be classified accordingly as: asylum seekers, refugees, guest workers, students etc.

## **Integration**

“Integration is a dynamic, two way process of mutual accommodation by all immigrants and residents of Member States” (Handbook on Integration 2010). The process implies respect for European Union’s founding principles and basic values of democracy, human rights and rule of law. Its main elements include employment, language skills, knowledge of political system and institutions, education, active participation, non-discrimination and intercultural dialogue.

## **Social Inclusion**

Social inclusion is a process by which marginalised groups and individuals and those living in poverty participate more fully in social relations and institutions, allowing them to improve living standards and overall well-being.

# **“Mobility and European Citizenship - Interrelations and Implications”: International Conference**

## **\* Background and Introduction**

The international conference “Mobility and European Citizenship - Interrelations and Implications” took place in Berlin, Germany, in January 2011. It was the starting point of the project under the same title and brought together 40 practitioners from Czech Republic, Germany, Poland and the United Kingdom. The participants, experienced with mobility programmes of the European Commission, joined the project initiated by European Intercultural Forum e. V. and its international partners in order to engage in a mutual process of reflecting on the usage and impacts of EU mobility programme in current practise.

The conference was dedicated to migration as one of the most important European challenges dominating public debates across the European Union. It offered time and space for reflection on the potentials the concept of European Citizenship offers to address migration on local and European level, focusing on its two main aspects: self-identification and active involvement in political, social and cultural life.

Further on, after a short summary of activities the European Commission’s mobility programmes offer, participants reflected on the projects they implemented. The objective of this programme part was to critically assess activities and draw conclusions in order to ensure and enlarge outcome orientated project planning and implementation fostering European Citizenship and thus addressing consequences of migration.

The conference was a starting point for a civil society initiative of practitioners and NGOs aimed at evaluating own practices and their relevance to the objectives of EU mobility programmes, starting from grass root level. In order to identify appropriate and useful modifications and improvements within project frames which could increase the outcomes of civil society initiatives, the project partners plan to



continue working on sharing of practises and aiming to enlarge a network of committed individuals and organisations.

The main conclusions of the conference are summarised briefly in the next pages and shall add to the on-going debate in the European educational and mobility sector about the intended and factually reachable impact of projects aimed to shape a European society based on common values of democratic participation, equality and cultural diversity.

## \* **Conference Findings**

### ***Migrations in Europe, Trends and Dynamics***

In Europe, migration is often considered to be a predominantly European affair. It is important to put it into a global context. Migratory movements have always been a part of world history. In the modern times, mass migration was marked by European colonisations in the 16th century and the growth of international slavery. Particularly, the colonisation of Africa, Latin America and Asia by European powers had and has still an impact of nowadays migration flows to Western Europe.

Since the early 19th century in times of ascending industrialization a trend of intercontinental migration is increasingly noticeable, lasting until the Second World War. With the turn to the 20th century about 12 % of European population left the continent. Between the two World Wars, Europe went through a period of limited migration rooted in restrictions of trade and investments, the eroding world economy namely the crises at the end of the 1930s. However, due to the Second World War Europe witnessed large migration flows of refugees and displaced persons all across the continent in this period.

The immediate post-war period was affected by mass migration of labour forces within Europe and from other continents to Europe. From the 1960s onwards global migration can be characterised as post-industrial. Migration flows refer to a global circulation based on labour activities and markets. Especially emigration from Africa, Asia and Latin America increased enormously. In the European context immigration mostly takes place in western European countries like France, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Sweden and the Netherlands as well as in south and south west European countries like Spain, Portugal and Italy which receive immigrants mainly from Africa, the Middle East and from former colonies particularly in the case of France, Portugal and the United Kingdom.

However, it is important to point out that migration is a global issue. While distinguishing between in- and out migration it is an interesting fact that the level of in-migrations between 1960-1995 is the highest in the USA, followed by Germany, but also in countries like Saudi



Arabia, India, the former USSR or Australia. Out migration is a global phenomenon as well: Mexico, Afghanistan and Bangladesh have the highest level of out migration.

The fall of communism created new trends in migratory movements around the world, particularly in Europe. Trends of liberalization and globalization caused a growth in wealth differences between countries and within countries. Due to increasingly restrictive migration policies the number of irregular migrants in Europe also increased.

Contemporary migration can also be attributed to globalisation of the world economy that goes along with new ways of communication and transportation. One of the current challenges of migration is rapidly growing migration flow from rural to urban environment, resulting in the creation of megacities on one hand and shrinking cities on the other, leading to massive demographical changes.

The countries that mostly received migrants in the past years are in the following order: USA, Russian Federation and Germany. Europe and Asia are the regions where migration is mostly concentrated at.

Over six percent of EU's population, a total of 31,9 million people, are foreign-born.. In absolute numbers most of the foreigners live in Germany, Spain, France, the United Kingdom and Italy. Non-nationals in these countries sum up to 75% of the total EU foreign population. More than thirty percent of foreigners living in the EU member states are nationals of other EU countries. However, the majority of foreigners in each EU country are third-country nationals with the exceptions of Luxembourg, Ireland, Belgium, Cyprus, Slovakia and Hungary.

### ***Triggers and Causes for Migration***

Economic reasons are often considered to be the main cause for migration. Although economy is an important push factor for migration it is not the only one.

Culture offers a dimension as well that is connected to social and also life style aspects and advantages. Religion and religious freedoms are often quoted as a reason for migration. Education is also a factor for being mobile, reaching qualified educational degrees, higher accredited degrees, or the fact that the profession can only be achieved

or deepen at a certain place.

Security is an aspect that needs to be considered. Concerns for personal security and that of the country or community become important reasons for migration. The large flows of refugees in the 1990s from the Western Balkans to Western and Northern Europe illustrates this clearly with the consequence that nowadays still many of the former refugees live in the places they fled to.

To analyse reasons for migration one must differentiate between forced and voluntary migration. As a new category within forced migration one may find the environmental aspect, based on natural disasters (partly aroused by the climate change).

When looking for reasons that encourage people to immigrate to a specific country, state policies play an important role. Migration and integration policies determine if the access to a given society is rather open or restricted and which chances a society offers to everyone willing to join in. These state policies have also to be considered to understand which images of countries and their politics are established or even advertised abroad: low restrictions tend to attract migrants while high restrictions rather hamper in-migration. Restrictions can be of different kind ranging from social and financial security to citizen rights and work permission.

### ***Consequences of Migration***

Challenges of migration can be analysed on different levels and within various structures: on political/ institutional level, in the economic sphere, as well as on society and individual level.

Politically, primarily the hosting country and the country of origin are confronted with challenges resulting from migration. As the governments are responsible to secure order and freedom, they are forced to find a balance between the different societal actors in their societies. This in turn means that new-comers and natives have to be both satisfied in political, social and economic concerns or that the gaps emigrants cause in terms of missing qualified workers or the disappearance of certain social classes have to be filled by other social groups. The challenges for the labour market are closely related: job security, employment, wages, brain drain and foreign transfers and as well as global investment trends.



As far as the social dimension of migration is concerned, stereotypes, racism, nationalism, xenophobia and discrimination are frequent challenges for communities affected by migration. Religious diversity and religious freedoms have recently moved up the migration agenda in Europe, not least because of the increased presence of Muslim communities in European countries which had little or no experience of dealing with intercultural and interreligious dialogue in the recent past. Controversial political and public discussions about integration influence the perception of migrants and determine the chances for an active participation in the new home.

The individual dimension of migration consequences, often ignored in public debates, is just as important as the social dimension. Individuals have to deal with issues of cultural adaptation, language barriers, social security and financial stability. The situation in an unknown country forces the individual to handle new structures and patterns in daily life, to deal with inequalities and intolerance and forms of discrimination. Within all that a new process of identification takes place and obliges the individual to position himself culturally and individually in the new environment aiming to find a new point of reference for self-identification.

### ***European Citizenship – A concept to shape Europe´s future?***

Migration and integration is a complex cluster with many dimensions: social, political, economic and cultural. Hence, an approach for a solution should reflect this complexity. The modern understanding of citizenship is such an approach, but is it applicable in a transnational context as Europe?

Defining Europe through geographic terms and borders seems impossible. Is Europe based on geographical definition, political or economic structures or historical, cultural and religious dimensions?

Through the Treaty of Amsterdam in 1997 the European Union established a European Union citizenship for every person that holds a nationality of an EU member state without replacing the national citizenship. This concept focuses exclusively on the political dimension and leaves out all the other above listed criteria on how to define European borders. For the European Union, a political structure, this approach might work out well, but it does not offer any answer to those

European countries that are not part of the European Union.

Conversely, the concept of European citizenship has a different focus point: it proposes a Europe of Citizens that can be chosen voluntarily and without belonging to a specific territory.

European citizenship means “belonging to a value-based community”. The main values include: democracy, human rights, rule of law and social justice. European Citizenship is today something in between a tangible reality and a distant ideal - an ideal that could be reached by the full and balanced development of all dimensions of citizenship at European level: political, social, cultural and economic.

The political dimension points to political rights and responsibilities vis-a-vis the political system. Its development can be achieved through knowledge on the political system, the promotion of democratic attitudes and participatory skills. The social dimension subsumes interactions between individuals in a society. For progressing this dimension social skills and the knowledge of social relations in society are required. The cultural dimension focuses on a common awareness of cultural heritage. The economic dimension describes the relationship of an individual to the labour and consumer market. It refers to the right to work and to a minimum subsistence level.

In terms of migration, a common European challenge, it might be interesting to reflect on what civil society initiatives and projects designed to foster European citizenship can offer for integration of EU and non-EU migrants in the EU. Addressing issues of integration and inclusion between minorities and majorities and contributing to social inclusion on local as well as on national and European level can foster European Citizenship in numerous ways.

### ***European Citizenship: Potentials for integration***

The concept of European Citizenship might look at the first glance as an idea that is hard to grasp. Active participation across Europe is the declared aim; a Europe of citizens based on common values the vision. How can that be understood in practice and what are the linking points to issues of migration respectively integration?

For a long time, migration and migrants have been considered a threat to the hosting community in many countries. With the switch to the



inclusion theory in national politics, newcomers received a different role. Nowadays, it is a common place in integration policy to focus on the potentials of immigrants and their contribution to the hosting society. However, ensuring equal opportunities and integration of migrants remain a major challenge for Europe.

European citizenship as a multidimensional approach addresses inclusion by focusing on four aspects that play a crucial role on modern societies: political participation, social cohesion, intercultural tolerance and economic integration. A full development of all dimensions would not only foster active citizenship in each nation state and across Europe but would consequently lead to an inclusion of marginalised groups such as large parts of immigrants in European states.

The civil society sector could contribute to this applying a broad range of activities to foster active participation and a sense of belonging to a community by individual capacity building, empowerment and lobbying for political rights for minorities.

Social and political activism and responsibility are the bottom lines of European Citizenship. The starting point is the local level offering people a chance to identify and articulate own interests and to learn and apply tools for active participation. It is not about feeling European in first place, but sharing and taking responsibility for a community and its values. Belonging to such a community makes someone European and shapes individuals that identify themselves as citizens of Europe.

The mobility programmes of the European Commission are a tool to foster the identification as a European citizen, because they offer the opportunity to link individuals and institutions across national boundaries, creating a feeling of belonging together and finally reduce the geographical distance by providing space to meet and network.

### ***European Mobility Funds and European Citizenship***

When reflecting on the possibilities European Citizenship offers in tackling issues of migration, it is important to review the opportunities offered by the European Union's Mobility Programmes partly set up to foster European Citizenship: the Lifelong Learning Programme, Youth in Action, Erasmus Mundus and the Europe for Citizens Programme.

The Lifelong Learning Programmes aims to enable people at all stages of their lives to take part in stimulating learning experiences. Parts of the programme are several sub-actions: Comenius (school), Erasmus (higher education), Leonardo da Vinci (vocational training, qualification on the labour market), Grundtvig (adult education), Transversal programme and Jean Monnet.

The Youth in Action Programme offers diverse possibilities for young people to learn and to discover life realities in other European countries from short term encounters or training courses to long-term volunteering endeavours based on non-formal learning methods and activities. The range of project types is as diverse as the needs and interests of young people.

The Erasmus Mundus Programme aims to enhance the quality in higher education through scholarships and academic cooperation between Europe and the rest of the world.

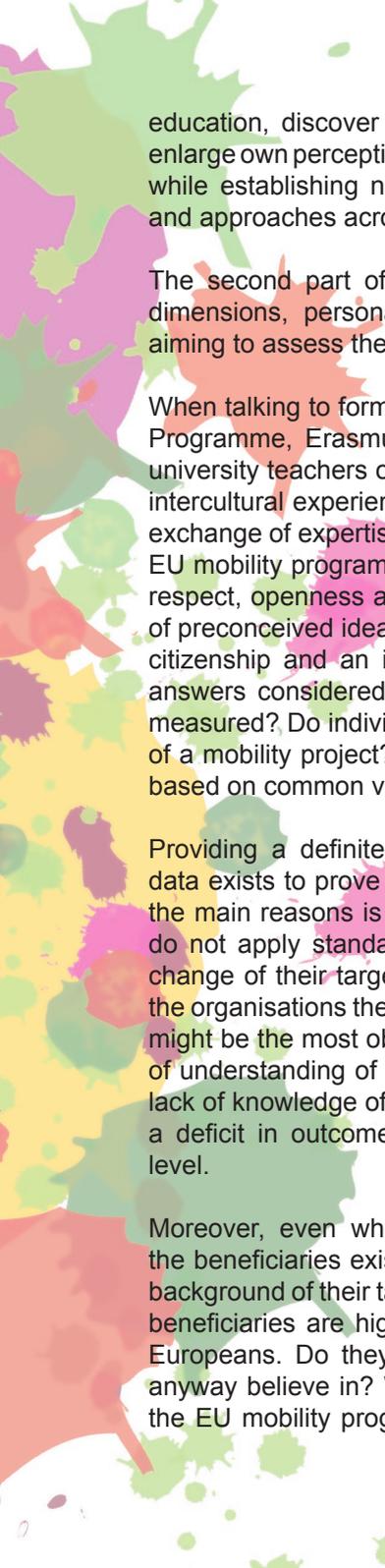
The Europe for Citizens programme is targeted at European citizens to enable them to become more active in the democratic life of their community and in shaping Europe's future.

Even though these programmes are commonly used and most of them well known, the question remains: What is the contribution of projects implemented with these EU funds to the perception of its user's and indirect beneficiaries as European citizenship and to the spreading of the concept of European Citizenship? And even more, what is the contribution of the concept of European Citizenship to common European Challenges such as migration?

### ***European Mobility Programmes and their Impact on its Beneficiaries***

What stimulates young people and adults to engage in European Mobility Programmes and what are the effects created through their participation? This is the central question to assess the impact of the above described programmes the EU offers.

Practitioners would answer the first part of the question with a wide range of aspects in personal and professional concerns. Seeking



education, discover a new country and a new environment and to enlarge own perceptions of Europe would fall into the personal category while establishing new networks and exchanging working methods and approaches across borders qualify for professional reasons.

The second part of the question is more difficult to answer. Two dimensions, personal and societal, need to be considered when aiming to assess the impact of EU mobility programmes.

When talking to former volunteers of the European Voluntary Service Programme, Erasmus students or professionals such as teachers, university teachers or young professionals they usually highlight their intercultural experience, the contact with other professionals and the exchange of expertise as the outcomes of their projects. Promoters of EU mobility programmes often mention an increase of tolerance and respect, openness and understanding for diversity and the reduction of preconceived ideas and stereotypes. A general promotion of active citizenship and an increased eagerness for participation are other answers considered as common sense. But have the effects been measured? Do individuals feel more European after having been part of a mobility project? Does the understanding of a European society based on common values increase thanks to mobility programmes?

Providing a definite answer is a challenging task. Little statistical data exists to prove the effect on the individual beneficiaries. One of the main reasons is that implementing institutions and organisations do not apply standardised evaluation methods to measure attitude change of their target group. The reasons for this are as diverse as the organisations themselves. The lack of time and financial resources might be the most obvious one. However, other aspects such as lack of understanding of the overall purpose of the mobility programmes, lack of knowledge of project planning tools join in and indicate clearly a deficit in outcome-oriented project management on organisation level.

Moreover, even when assuming that the above-stated effects on the beneficiaries exist, most promoters if keeping track on the social background of their target group have to admit that the majority of their beneficiaries are highly educated, well integrated and open-minded Europeans. Do they need to be re-confirmed with a concept they anyway believe in? What about those that do not use the possibility the EU mobility programmes offer, and who are the declared target

group of the programmes?

This deficit grows even bigger when referring to the project's indirect impact (beyond the direct beneficiaries). Each project implemented within one of the mobility programmes claims an outreach that is exceeding the project frame. For example, an EVS volunteer from Poland serving in the United Kingdom in a social project would not only benefit himself but the hosting community as well. Measuring impacts on community level is clearly more difficult, and the lack of financial resources in the funding schemes of the mobility programmes hampers any intention regarding evaluation of community impacts created by the project.



## **\* Conclusion: European Union Mobility Programmes in Practice**

As most of the EU's mobility programmes reach the more privileged members of society and miss the inclusion of less advantaged people, the main question for those working with the mobility programmes is how to integrate people with fewer opportunities, especially migrants, and to foster European Citizenship among them? Moreover, how to measure the impact of mobility programmes on its users and indirect beneficiaries?

One of the main problems of inclusion is the access of people with fewer opportunities to information about specific mobility programmes: it is about promotion and access. Stakeholders of mobility programmes, NGOs, former beneficiaries, the funding institutions such as the EACEA or the National Agencies might have to consider a closer networking using common resources to promote the mobility programme beyond the usual target group to reach out to those that are factually excluded.

Some organisations have extensive experience with successful integration of people with fewer opportunities in their projects, while others struggle hard to find approaches on how to increase inclusion. Examples for good practises exist but are not widely spread to other stakeholders. Lessons learnt by one organisation should be a basis for the learning process of others. The solution is simple and far from being new: networking and an exchange of best practise with a specific focus on inclusion!

Other aspects of the above identified questions are closely linked to project management and planning and evaluation tools.

When talking to practitioners of organisations being highly involved in EU mobility programmes with the aim to foster social cohesion within the EU and to promote European Citizenship, one often recognises potentials for a further professional development related to project management and the understanding of the objectives of the mobility programmes.

Project planning shall be based on a clear understanding of its purposes as specific short and long term goals determine the project design. Many different project planning tools have been developed for this purpose, and provide guidance for project coordinators and ma-

nagers in order to develop a coherent project that follows determined intervention logic and puts inputs and results in relation. Why are they so rarely used in frames of mobility programmes?

Framing aims and objectives within a mobility programme is the key to identify appropriate indicators allowing for an evaluation of the project at the end. Even though means of monitoring and evaluation are usually not supported by the EU mobility funds, the stakeholders should have an interest in measuring the success of their projects beyond the impact on the direct beneficiary. This not only because each project needs to be justified to the funder in regards to its contribution to the general objectives of the respective programme, but also to be able to measure internally if the set project objectives have been reached and which organisational lessons could be drawn from the project.

Also here the wheel does not need to be re-invented. Different means of monitoring and evaluation are at hand of everybody who is interested in using them.

As far as long-term evaluation is concerned, post-project questionnaires proved to be helpful in assessing the impact of the project on the direct beneficiaries after specific time duration. Outcome and impact evaluation benefit from surveys among the indirect beneficiaries and media surveys even on local level. For a single organisation, a statistical database collecting information about its beneficiaries might be of limited use, but as a network of partners a database offers the potential to evaluate past projects on meta level and to reflect on own work.

Last but not least, the financial frames of the mobility programmes result in a lack of evaluation measures applied by the promoters of mobility projects. No funding is dedicated to de-centralised evaluation of project outcomes,. Stakeholders and practitioners who are closest to the beneficiaries are limited to drawing conclusions from their own work and to gradually and incrementally improve their performance. The argument that the centralised efforts to evaluate the impact of the programmes, as currently undergoing in the frame of the Youth in Action Programme, are a sufficient replacement for the lack of an adequate project evaluation can be challenged. Learning is based on individual experience, and following this central idea of modern education the results of an anonymous evaluation offer much less to learn than a project linked assessment in the context of responsible promoter.

## **\* Profile of the project team**

### ***Facilitators and Authors***

Max Fras is London-based freelance consultant working in the field of civil society development, youth work and human rights. He managed and facilitated over 50 European educational and civil society projects including Youth in Action, Europe for Citizens and Leonardo da Vinci projects, amongst others. Between 2006 and 2009 he worked at Minorities of Europe, a pan-European minority youth platform, as the organisation's Director of European Development.

Sebastian Schweitzer is the president of European Intercultural Forum e. V., a freelance trainer and project manager in the field of international cooperation in and outside of the European Union since more than 5 years. His expertise covers peace-building, active participation of young people, European citizenship and project management.

### ***Invited Expert***

Gunther Ring has been working since 1998 at the Society for European Education (GEB) in EU project management with a focus on vocational education and training. Since 2010 he is a member of the GEB's board of directors and director of the office in London.

The non-profit and non-governmental organisation GEB, founded in 1989 with two offices in Berlin and in London, fosters European integration and intercultural understanding by implementing international exchanges in Europe and worldwide.

### ***Project Coordinator***

Tiphaine Coulardeau is project coordinator at the European Intercultural Forum e. V. since its founding in 2009. She is responsible for short and long-term exchange projects at the European level as well as for the communication tools and strategy. She holds a higher education degree in architecture with specialisations on developing contexts and cultural heritage.

## **Project Examples Inspirations from the Past and the Present**

The project “European Mobility and Citizenship: Interrelations and Implications” seeks to address with this publication one of the above identified shortcomings of international mobility projects by sharing examples of successfully implemented projects.

The outlined projects shall function as an inspiration for other promoters of EU mobility programmes to realise projects with a focus on inclusion, a long term outcome and to foster networking among stakeholders based on an exchange of experiences and methodology.

The projects have been shared by a broad range of organisations and institutions working with the EU mobility programmes in the past years in Czech Republic, Germany, Poland and the United Kingdom. Their activities range from EU cooperation to cooperation with Neighbouring Partner Countries, include non-formal and formal educational settings and involved professionals as well as young people and volunteers.

The European Intercultural Forum e. V. cannot be taken responsible in case the below described projects are not displayed with exactitude. The project information has been provided by the respective partners and they hold the responsibility for its content.

## \* **SocialErasmus**

### ***A project of Erasmus Student Network Poland***

**Theme:** Ecology, teaching languages, help for children from orphanages

**Date:** Since 2008 academic year, running

**Venue:** Various cities across Europe

The project gives international students the opportunity to volunteer, to do charity work in the local community as well as getting to know a new culture and system of education. The project encompasses multicultural information meetings in schools, as well as ecological and cultural events (Erasmus Forest) and charity events (International Santa Claus). All the projects are run by international students. The project is based on the idea of enriching society through international students.

The aim of the "SocialErasmus" project is to complete the stay abroad with the original values of the Erasmus Programme. Erasmus is supposed to be an opportunity to get to know new cultures and education systems as well as to make new unforgettable friendships, but also it should be an inspiration for a future life. Moreover, the "SocialErasmus" project enables people to experience something new, as a consequence, Erasmus programme participants will get a new perspective, which would be beyond their cognitive abilities, if they did not take part in the Erasmus programme. Taking into consideration the above factors, the main slogan of the project is:

Reach higher! Go further! Go Social!

International students integrate with local societies, are introduced to local problems, culture, educational system, cuisine and people. As a result of these meetings and activities international students become more compassionate to problems of regional communities, become emotionally more attached to the place of their exchange. The project is more and more popular, each next week there are more students willing to participate in meeting in children's home.

### **Contact**

Erasmus Student Network Poland (PL)

[www.socialerasmus.esn.org](http://www.socialerasmus.esn.org)

## \* Migrants voices from the North

### *A project of Migrants Supporting Migrants, United Kingdom*

**Theme:** Integration, cultural exchange, migrations

**Date:** February-April 2011

**Venue:** Manchester, United Kingdom

**Supported by:** OXFAM and Lottery Awards

“Migrants voices from the North» is a project in partnership between Migrants Supporting Migrants with «North Manchester 106.6 Radio» and “Commitment in Communities”. The aim of the project is to help refugees and migrants to integrate into British life, access information, advice and guidance and participate in local activities.

During the project, migrants broadcast from “North Manchester FM Radio Station” a programme every Monday from 6pm to 7pm between February and April 2011. The programmes are be run by four teams of volunteers from a migrant or refugee background. Each team follows an agreed programme structure and coordinates, prepares and delivers the programmes in turn in Polish, French, Spanish and Russian languages.

The project gives members of the community the opportunity to get involved in the radio programme, especially those for who English is not their first language. People will be able to get in touch with the shows through live phone-ins and try activities and services advertised on the show. The project increases the volunteering opportunities not only for migrant and refugee communities but also for those with additional language knowledge and looking for new opportunities to work in the media and communities.

Listeners (members of the community) have the opportunity to learn more about rights at work, employment, health, benefits, housing, etc discussed during the radio broadcast and can call the radio in order to express opinion about those issues in an informal and friendly atmosphere.

Allowing migrants to express their concerns and ideas and let them understand problems in the UK will increase awareness and will encourage getting actively involved in their community. Knowing what is happening in the area, city and country will help to increase the levels of confidence, trust and motivation to participate in the community



life. Allowing migrants to communicate in their own language to other migrants breaks the isolation in which they are immersed. People better informed can make better decisions so increasing their chances of getting better jobs and better quality of life and it can help to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

“Migrants Supporting Migrants” runs as well a Welcome Centre, meant to help those from disadvantage background in order to improve their quality of life in the UK (refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers). They provide support to the most needed in Hulme – Manchester, sharing information, training and advice related to housing, health, benefits, work, and education. They also provide the opportunity to integrate with the rest of the community by organising local events.

### **Contact**

Migrants Supporting Migrants, Manchester (UK)  
[www.migrantsupport.org.uk](http://www.migrantsupport.org.uk)

## **\* M-Participation**

### ***A project of Miasto Mława, Poland***

**Theme:** Decision-making processes and youth participation

**Dates:** June-December 2009

**Venue:** Mława (Poland) Atarfe and Colindres (Spain)

The project supported young people's (aged 14-15 from Spain and Poland) participation in democratic life, creating a network of municipalities that launched initiatives for the inclusion of youth in the public life of the town in corporations, councils, youth parliament, and young chambers with the objective to collect ideas, experiences and methodologies of activities that improve youth participation at European level. The result was to create a network for exchange and development of best practices among the participating countries.

To this end,

A dialogue between youth and associations was facilitated through practical learning experience including a simulation of the work of the European Parliament in order to foster an exchange of experience and increase knowledge on the practices of representative democracy and active citizenship.

The following activities were implemented: Conferences for youth associations and youth corporations about the situation in the participant countries for juvenile participation at local level and to gather good practice examples applied in each place about youth participation in public life. Simulation of activity of European Parliament, with young participants from these structures, that will meet to simulate the process. They defended identified matters to the head of the calendar of the EU and of special relevance for youth. with the participation of EU representatives. Creation of a Net for the exchange, development and diffusion of good practices in the youth's environment and participation.

The project aimed to foster understanding on EU policy and politics in the context of youth, to deepen the knowledge about decision process in European Institutions and about the real challenges and threats standing prior to EU and how are they linked (e. i. demography and migration, enlargement of EU). The projects raised identity issue and dealt with the concept of European citizenship in the context of common history and democratic tradition.

At the end of the project, participants better understood how decisions are taken and opinions expressed. They raised their awareness on decision-making processes on different levels in Europe and focussed on aspects of representation and influence of different groups of stakeholders and public bodies

### **Contact**

Miasto Mława (Municipality Mława, PL)

[www.mlawa.pl](http://www.mlawa.pl)

In partnership with: Municipalities of Atarfe and Colindres (SP)

## \* Youth exchange- Exploring European identity

*A project of the Herefordshire Council Voluntary Youth Services, United Kingdom*

**Theme:** European Citizenship, Intercultural Learning

**Date:** August 2010

**Venue:** Herefordshire, United Kingdom

**Supported by:** Youth in Action Programme, British National Agency

The project was a 6 days long youth exchange raising awareness of and discovering different attitudes towards our European citizenship. The aim of the project was to make a film based on this theme and to present this film to each of our own communities. The countries participating were England, Romania, Bulgaria and Poland. Participants had the opportunity to film each other and people from Herefordshire. It was expected that different attitudes will be displayed towards our European citizenship and participants were then asked to reflect on this.

Overall this was an opportunity for all involved to gain a greater understanding of European citizenship and culture as well as recognising intercultural differences, how and why these arise, and their contribution to developing and strengthening a sense of European cohesion. The young participants had the opportunity to decide what four themes they would focus on and what material to include in the final presentation.

The participants represent four different countries, four different cultures and undoubtedly numerous subcultures. Through interacting with each other every participants gained a greater understanding of the cultures represented during the exchange. Participants engaged in an active dialogue and “positive play” such as sports. On every day of the week there was an opportunity to learn something new about the behaviour of another culture.

Young people’s prejudices were challenged. Through working together and demonstrating the results of their activities to the local community in Hereford the group collectively challenged each other’s prejudices and any prejudices towards young people or their cultures in the local community where the exchange took place.

The overall integration of the different groups was extremely successful

and some extremely strong links have been made amongst young people and the organisations that support them.

Contact

Herefordshire Council Voluntary Youth Services  
[www.herefordshirecvys.org.uk](http://www.herefordshirecvys.org.uk)

## **\* Across Borders - Youth for active Participation in Europe**

***A project of The European Intercultural Forum e. V., Germany***

***Theme:*** European Citizenship, neighbouring countries of the EU

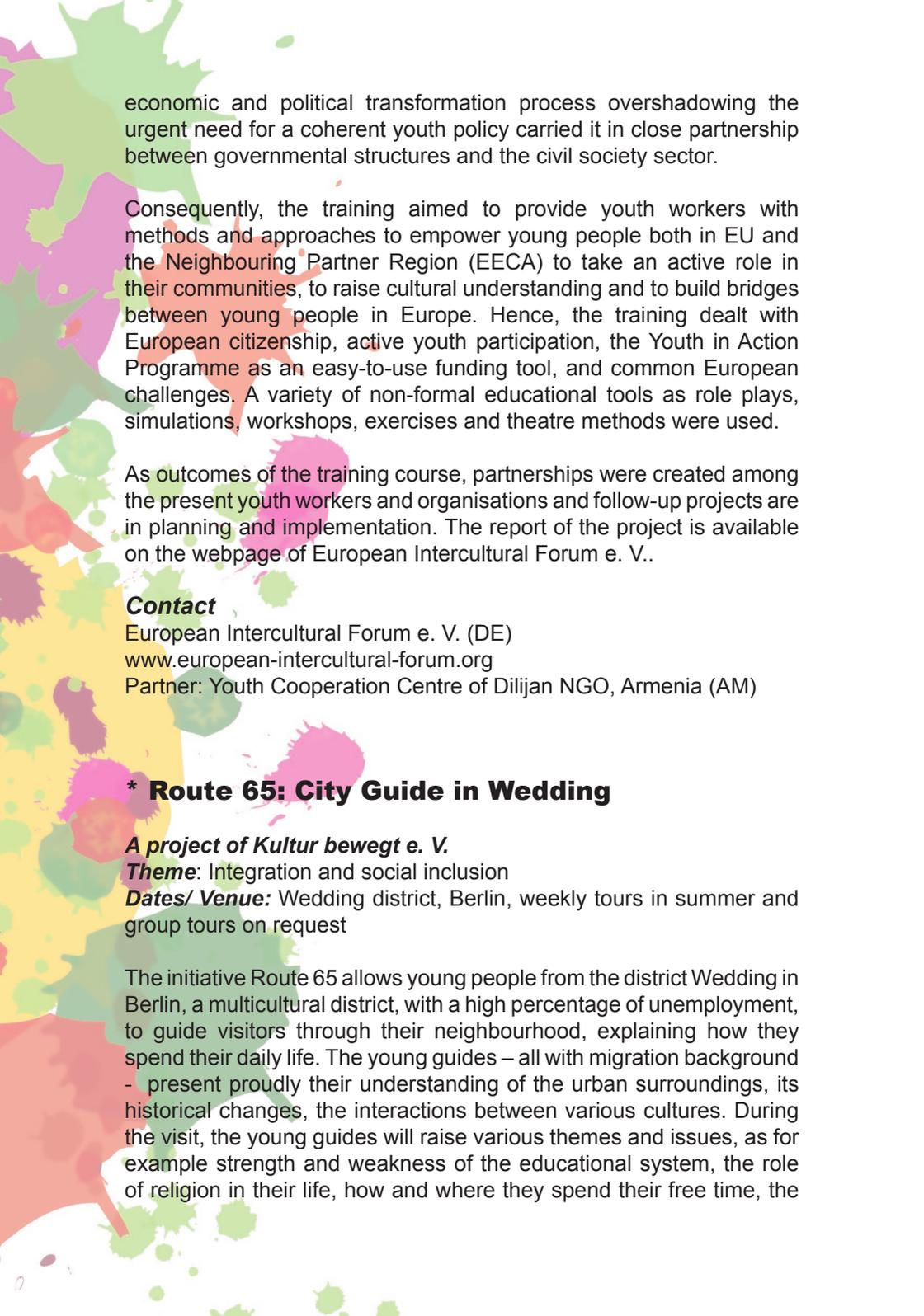
***Dates:*** November 2010

***Venue:*** Dilijan, Armenia

***Supported by:*** Youth in Action Programme, German National Agency

The project “Across borders – Youth for active participation in Europe” was organized for 26 youth workers from Youth in Action Programme Countries and Partner Countries from East Europe and Caucasus (EECA). The training aimed to contribute to the ongoing European discussion on the borders of the European Union, its common European values and the possibility to create a working common civil society across the national borders in Europe. Various issues ranging from migration and integration to economic development and religious freedom are currently dominating political debates all across the European Union, while young people are mainly excluded from these debates they will have to live with the consequences of decisions made nowadays.

Based on the assumption that young people are mainly excluded from current European debates such as migration, integration, economic development and religious freedom, the project addressed youth participation and the vision of a common European Citizenship. While problems for youth participation are very diverse within the European Union ranging from a lack of infrastructure, limited financial resources, post-communistic heritage, challenging social circumstances of young people and their families, to a lack of competent youth workers and issues of migration from rural areas to urban centres as well as processes of ghettoization, all Eastern European and Caucasian countries face very similar structural obstacles resulting from an



economic and political transformation process overshadowing the urgent need for a coherent youth policy carried it in close partnership between governmental structures and the civil society sector.

Consequently, the training aimed to provide youth workers with methods and approaches to empower young people both in EU and the Neighbouring Partner Region (EECA) to take an active role in their communities, to raise cultural understanding and to build bridges between young people in Europe. Hence, the training dealt with European citizenship, active youth participation, the Youth in Action Programme as an easy-to-use funding tool, and common European challenges. A variety of non-formal educational tools as role plays, simulations, workshops, exercises and theatre methods were used.

As outcomes of the training course, partnerships were created among the present youth workers and organisations and follow-up projects are in planning and implementation. The report of the project is available on the webpage of European Intercultural Forum e. V..

### **Contact**

European Intercultural Forum e. V. (DE)

[www.european-intercultural-forum.org](http://www.european-intercultural-forum.org)

Partner: Youth Cooperation Centre of Dilijan NGO, Armenia (AM)

## **\* Route 65: City Guide in Wedding**

***A project of Kultur bewegt e. V.***

***Theme:*** Integration and social inclusion

***Dates/ Venue:*** Wedding district, Berlin, weekly tours in summer and group tours on request

The initiative Route 65 allows young people from the district Wedding in Berlin, a multicultural district, with a high percentage of unemployment, to guide visitors through their neighbourhood, explaining how they spend their daily life. The young guides – all with migration background - present proudly their understanding of the urban surroundings, its historical changes, the interactions between various cultures. During the visit, the young guides will raise various themes and issues, as for example strength and weakness of the educational system, the role of religion in their life, how and where they spend their free time, the

difference of perception of multicultural districts from outsiders and insiders, etc.

Since October 2006, some city tours led by the inhabitants have been set up in various multicultural districts in Berlin, mainly Wedding and Neuköln. The initiative developed by the organisation Kultur bewegt e. V. gathered a lot of attention of both citizens and medias as it gives an opportunity to discover multicultural districts from another perspective. More than that, the initiative gives the chance to youth with fewer opportunities to get empowered and become active citizens by allowing them to present their district and way of life in a positive manner.

The organisation Kultur bewegt e. V. is engaged in intercultural and antidiscrimination educational programmes with youth and adults in Berlin.

### **Contact**

Kultur Bewegt e. V.

[www.kulturbewegt.de](http://www.kulturbewegt.de) / [www.route65-wedding.de](http://www.route65-wedding.de)



## Acknowledgement

I would like to thank all persons and institutions that contributed to the creation, editing and publishing of this publication.

Naturally the first acknowledgement goes to the participants of the conference “European Mobility and Citizenship: Interrelations and Implications”. Only due to their hard work, critical comments and contributions of own experiences during the five days in Berlin the presented paper was made possible. Herewith, the project team deeply thank all participants for their constructive feedback, patience and the permission to publish project examples of the partners.

Moreover, because of equal importance, I would like to express my gratitude to our colleagues Zuzana Blahutova, Maja Brand and Sandy Ascenso Carreira, who with their efforts and contributions as the responsible coordinators on local level in Czech Republic, Poland and the United Kingdom helped to make the project and the publication a success.

Special thanks go to Lisa Müller who supported the work process at different stages with impressive enthusiasm. Therefore, the manual owes a debt of gratitude to Lisa for her detailed notes of the conference being the basis for this publication.

Last but not least, this publication would not have been possible without the generous financial support of the European Commission’s Europe for Citizens Programme.

Tiphaine Coulardeau  
Project Coordinator  
European Intercultural Forum e.V.

## Project Partners

### Asha Foundation, Gloucestershire, United Kingdom



The ASHA Foundation's mission is to bridge nationalities, religions and cultures, to encourage and honour the contribution of all communities and to harness support for charitable projects internationally. ASHA's target groups are as diverse as its activities.

The Centre aspires to be a regional centre for European initiatives, both local and international, fostering a debate on issues of European importance and the future of European Union.

### European Intercultural Forum e. V., Berlin, Germany



The European Intercultural Forum e. V. (EIF) is a non-profit and non-political organisation which operates on a local, national and international level in the field of European youth work, intercultural learning, arts and culture, European citizenship, youth mobility, conflict management, and human rights education. It aims to foster young people's competences through education and activism and to contribute to intercultural understanding and tolerance in Europe and beyond.

### Forum 2000 Foundation, Prague, Czech Republic



The Forum 2000 Foundation aims to identify the key issues facing civilization and to explore ways in which to prevent escalation of conflicts that have religion, culture or ethnicity as their primary components. It aims to provide a platform to discuss these important topics openly and to enhance global dialogue. Through the activities, the organisation also intend to promote democracy in non-democratic countries

and to support the civil society, respect for human rights and religious, cultural and ethnic tolerance in young democracies.

## **Stowarzyszenie Rozwoju i Integracji Młodzieży, Krakow, Poland**

Stowarzyszenie Rozwoju i Integracji Młodzieży (STRIM) was established in 2001 in Krakow as a non-governmental organization. The mission is to develop activity amongst young people and broaden their horizons. The organisation associates people who are active, full of ideas, responsive to social and youth problems and willing to make an effort to build an open society. STRIM develops regional, national and European awareness, removes barriers and create bases for better understanding between Eastern and Western nations.









Education and Culture DG

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