

To: IEC, EEC, ERC, NGO-Relations, EDR
Cc: IO, CISV Germany

2nd European Youth Summit 15.05.-16.05.2005 in Warsaw - Aninia's Report

From Sunday the 15th of May to Monday the 16th I had the chance to participate as a representative of CISV at the "2nd European Youth Summit" of the Council of Europe that was held in Warsaw. Parallel to the 3rd Summit of Council of Europe Heads of State and Government, which took place from the 16th to the 17th of May, about 100 young representatives of national youth councils and/or other non-governmental youth organisations had the chance to express their perspective on the key issues the Summit of Heads of State and Government debated about: democracy, human rights, rule of law. At the same time we had the chance to give our opinion and expectations concerning the future work programme of the Council of Europe in the youth sector.

The two days of the Youth Summit were each dedicated to a different, yet connected, topic to be tackled:

- Sunday "All different, all equal; young people changing attitudes" and
- Monday "Making democracy work".

Both days started with a plenary session, where the topic was introduced and we had the chance to hear some interesting people (e.g. Terry Davis [Secretary General, CoE], Giovanni Di Stasi [President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the CoE], Lech Walesa [Nobel Peace Prize winner], Lord Russell-Johnston [Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Youth and Sport of the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE]).

All different, all equal - This is the title of a European youth campaign to be launched in April 2006. The title is the same as from the European youth campaign in 1993; however the meaning has slightly changed. The last campaign was aimed at fighting racism and xenophobia where as the new one will focus on promoting diversity and participation. So this should be the background of the working day 15th of May and was thus theme of the working groups taking place.

I personally took part in the working group "**diversity: basis for unity**", since it seemed both interesting and most appropriate for me as a CISV's representative; Bastian Kuentzel joined that same working group. The task of our working group was firstly to discuss what "diversity" actually means, how it could be promoted and in the end come up with some concrete action proposals that could be used for the campaign in 2006. Here Bastian and I had the chance to share some of CISV's special experience in promoting diversity through our programs.

In the middle of the working time two German radio journalists (ARD - RBB) came and wanted to ask a few questions. Together with Georg Bolt, a Finish participant and member of the Advisory Council (as far as I know), I then talked to them for some minutes. Unfortunately I don't know if and when they are going to broadcast it, but if they do, CISV International will be mentioned as my sending organisation. I'm already trying to find out...

The whole "All different, all equal" campaign is very important for CISV in my eyes. Since the main topic is "diversity", the whole thing seems to cry out for CISV to become active. The campaign will take place next year from April to October and will be supported and carried through by a European steering group (including the European Youth Forum, the Advisory Council, EU, UNESCO etc.) and the so called "national campaign committees". These national committees will co-manage the campaign and adjust it according to the specific situation in the countries. In these national committees a high involvement of NGOs is desired.

In my opinion CISV should get involved with these national campaign committees or at least get in contact with them and cooperate. The deadline for building these committees is June 2005, which means that everyone would have to react extremely quickly. Maybe it is a too small amount of time to actually build and become a member in these committees, I don't know. But I think this campaign would be a great platform for us to share our expertise in the field of promoting diversity.

The framework for the activities that should take place has three headings:

- Youth promoting Dialogue
- Youth promoting participatory democracy
- Youth celebrating diversity.

At least in the first and the third of these frameworks I can see CISV act. One idea could for example be, to do an activity during the EJBM 2006, which will take place in Germany around Easter. However more ideas should be elaborated in each of our (European?) associations on all levels (senior and junior).

On the second day, after the "usual" introduction to the topic "Making democracy work", we had time for working groups again. I was in a working group with the title "Reborn democracy- threats and opportunities for European democracies". In this working group we discussed how well democracy seems to function in the different countries we were coming from. Then we changed a little and tried to figure out what our role as youth and youth organisations is in today's Europe to improve democracy and how we can fulfil this role. In the end we came up with some concrete ideas for action again on how to promote participatory democracy.

Bastian on the other hand was in a working group with the title "Europe with out dividing lines, pretence or reality", whose results he then presented back at the plenary, as you might have read in his report already.

During the 16th the Youth declaration mentioned above has been adopted. It aims at holding the European campaign for and by young people against racism and intolerance, and with the aim of promoting diversity and participation, that I explained above, and emphasizes the importance of youth and youth work in Europe. This declaration was later presented to the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the CoE by the President of the European Youth Forum, Renaldas Vaisbrodas, to obtain support.

Both the declaration and the report with the results of the Youth Summit in Warsaw will be given to Governments, local authorities and youth organisations, as far as I understood. Furthermore the results will be used to continue elaborating the campaign for 2006.

As Bastian mentioned in his report, the year 2008 will be announced "Year of Intercultural Dialogue" by the European Commission... We still have three years to go, but it seems to me that this calls for action.

Well, this is what I wanted to share with you concerning the Youth Summit. Remains only one thing and that is to say that I enjoyed the Event a lot. It was interesting to come in this environment and see how people work together.

If anyone would like to know more details about something in particular, would like to read the youth declaration, know more about the youth campaign... Please ask me, I will try to answer.

Warm regards,

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