



„Wandelbares Wasser“- Changeable Water- Water speaks all languages ...

Youth in Action Programm, Action 1.1
Exchangeweek: 16 – 23 of March 2010

Project:1st of February – 31 May 2010

Coontact:

Youth 4 gain&sustain: europe

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„Wandelbares Wasser“- Changeable Water- Water speaks all languages...

Youth project by the EU on the topic of „Water“ in combination with the UN World Water Day on 22nd of March 2010 under the motto "Communicating Water Quality Challenges and Opportunities" as the main highlight. The planned duration of the project "Changeable Water" is four months, and the intercultural exchange week as part of this project will take place between 16th and 23rd of March 2010.



Date/Location: Graz/Austria, from 16th- 23rd of March 2010

Participants: 45 young adults aged between 18 and 25 and 9 leaders.

Cooperation Partners: Radio Helsinki, CSR-Expert Group of the Chamber of Commerce, European Commission, Governor of Styria- Waterland Styria, Major of Graz, Austrian Ministry of Agriculture and Environment- Generation Blue, Council of Europe and European Center of Modern Languages.

Goals and Objectives:

- Establishment of Styria as a forerunner region in Europe with regard to responsible water policies
- Supporting the solidarity and the understanding between EU states rich in water resources and those with limited water resources
- Alliances between politics and art for a more ethical contact with water (in cooperation with the CSR Expert-Group of the Economic Chamber of

Austria)

- Create a nation-connecting foundation for Europe-wide campaigns on preserving water quality

Content:

- Representation of social as well as geographical contrasts concerning our food Nr.1: Quality and Quantity
- Representation of water as a central and connecting element for the common future of Europe
- Link between the political order in view of the world water day and an artistic expression of young adults from different countries
- Indicate contrasts and differences as well as common characteristics in dealing with drinking water
- Raising awareness and increasing reflection on the future of the water economy



- Multimedia representation of different regions of the EU and their water situation as one of the highlights of the UN World Water Day activities in Graz
- Development of a creative package of measures for water protection in the everyday life
- Forum and radiocontribution on the subject „Challenges and Possibilities for the protection of the drinking water in Europe“
- Documentation of the Water Decade as well as perspectives and creative ideas for a „Liquid Europe in 2010“

Advantages as a partner: Show proactive engagement, presentation of one's own CSR activities, marketing of the region, participation in joint activities et al.

Partners:



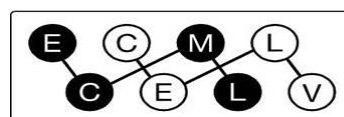
Das Land
Steiermark



Education and Culture DG



'Youth in Action' Programme



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR
MODERN LANGUAGES
CENTRE EUROPÉEN POUR
LES LANGUES VIVANTES



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DER STANDARD



UN World Water Day 2010:

The World Water Day (WWD), also known as „day of the water“ takes place every year on the 22nd of March. This worldwide initiative was started 17 years ago in a UN resolution. The aim of this global project is to point out the particular importance of water through concrete actions and to draw the attention of the society to that topic. Besides, the WWD also intends to discuss the problems of our time related to nature, politics and sustainability. On the WWD, all UN Member States are asked to draw attention to water-related problems by means of concrete actions on critical water subjects. On the website www.UNwater.org emphasizes in addition that: „To make the world water day more known, the UN and all organisations and enterprises, have to seize this opportunity to realize their water-economic duties so that they can follow or contribute something to the protection of drinking water. The sense is to provide the special value of drinking water requested and to create more understanding for this issue in the public –with events of information or with creative actions, concerts and events.“

Every year the World Water Day has a different theme. In 2010 the over-arching topic will be "Communicating Water Quality Challenges and Opportunities". The principal purpose of this year 's WWD campaign is to pick out as a central theme PR campaigns and debates on current considerations/discussions concerning water quality, and quantity.

Drinking water as a life basis:

Because of its varied **ecological and cultural functions**, water in all its manifestations plays a special/key role in the life of every person on this planet. Nearly 70 percent of the earth's surface is covered by water, so water offers living space for flora and fauna and influences the **climate change**. Only 2.53 percent of the global water resources is fresh water, and the proportion of water with drinking water quality is even less. Moreover, two thirds of these 2.53 percent are bound constantly in ice covers and glaciers. Within Europe there are huge **regional differences** in view of quality and distribution of the water resources. Our aim must be to protect/preserve the water supply also for **future generations**. To make this **goal achievable** immediate **raising of awareness** and sensitizing of the population is needed, above all the young people all over Europe/in Europe.



Mysticism of water:



Water is a central **symbol** in most cultures and plays a key role in different **myths and religions** of the world. There several legends and fairy tales about "**water creatures**" which have prevented a person from grief by giving advice and telling stories; however, water creatures have punished people for their **irresponsible actions as well**. At the same time water is a symbol for **life**, as well as for its **transitorines** which underlines the contradictory character of this element of

nature. Destructive flood or fertile rain, life-menacing avalanche departure or drinking water supply necessary for survival by thaw, water in salutary hot springs or in contaminated sewersWater has many facets!

Styria- the country of water:

The province federal province of Styria is located in the **south of Austria** and is well-known for its richness in water and the possibilities of water utilisation in the whole of Europe. There are **lots of water resources** in high quality- snowy mountains, hot springs, rivers, lakes. Furthermore, it has to be pointed out over and over again, that there is a kind of **responsibility of the water-rich countries** for the underprivileged regions affected by water shortage within Europe. Sooner or later they will require support and a common **strategy for cooperation**. Styria is an important forerunner in the area of the protection of the environment, and raising of awareness and has already implemented many **worthwhile signs** with numerous initiatives. Now intensified cooperation should also take place at the European level, so that other EU Member States can be motivated for more engagement as to **youth and environmental politics**.

Water and sustainability:

The desire for a **sustainable and responsible economy** and development in which **social, economic and ecological factors** must be given equal consideration, is immanent. In that context the topic of water is also of special relevance. On the one hand the available water resources have to be protected to be able to maintain the **ecological circulation** in general, on the other hand water itself is the most elementary nutrition.



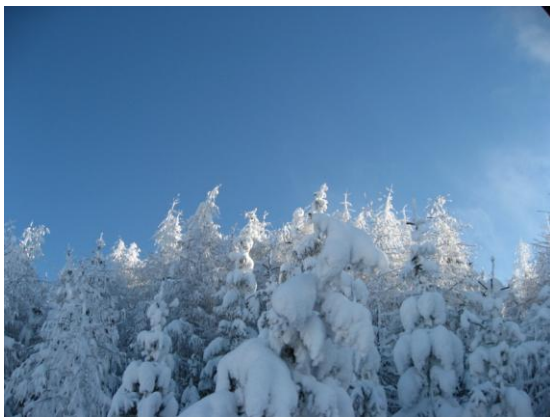
Education and public relations:

The United Nations consider public-relations campaigns and educational measures key instruments for the mediation of sustainable future-based water use methods. The youth and the regional population must be enabled to take decisions concerning local water problems and challenges. In order to create a platform for an open dialogue between water-poor and water-rich regions, the main focus in this direction during the UN-supported water decade 2003-2013 has to be placed on the regional population and young adults.

Global dimension:

In a global context, the **water consumption** has almost **increased tenfold** during the past 100 years. Population growth, urbanization and industry, but also **climate change** have tremendous effects on the water cycle and contribute to a shortage of the vital resource. Today about 50 countries are threatened by continuous **water shortage**. Worldwide 1.1 milliard people have no secured access to clean drinking water. This number could almost double until 2030 according to OECD-estimates.

Changeable water:



Because of its **varied manifestations** and qualities, the topic of water is a interesting and highly topical subject for an EU-funded youth project. Such a project concerning water opens **countless possibilities** and ways to approach each other, share common experiences and promote understanding for each other's situation. The possibility of this vermiform element, that can be converted in all three aggregate states, as well as that the chemical and physical peculiarities and qualities of the water bring **keenness and amazement** to experiment of all age groups. Whether **snowy mountains** and glaciers, icebound lakes, steaming **thermal baths or hot thermal springs and tearing waterfalls**, all are full of fascination and all can be found in the federal state of **Styria**.



Water and Art:



Waters are marvelous elements of the landscape and inspire people's fantasy and creativity. Not only the beautiful side of this element but also the powerful and in a way scary aspect of water can be an inspiration for the artists to transform these powers into impressive artworks. The sound of water can, due to its intensity, be either stimulating, calming or terrifying. All these characteristics are the starting point of the artistic process with the element water.

Social and political dimension:

Dramatically, the decline of crops and economic losses due to a lack of water can cause social and political conflicts - on the one hand domestic conflicts and on the other hand conflicts between nations. About 40% of the world population is dependent on the water resources of their respective neighboring states. In other words, this means that these countries cannot decide alone what happens with their natural resources. The resulting dependency has to imply trust, but not only between the heads of state, but also in the main majority of the population. That requires the creation of intercultural trust through an extended bottom-up process, which can be very well built between young Europeans in the form of youth activities.

Everyone is different and has its own personal experiences. During this workshop water constitutes the connecting element as everybody can experience water personally, very intense with all senses. This feeling of connectivity will grow due to specific activities during this joint project. Also complex connections of politics and the different nations of the participants can be visualized through the philosophy of water. The aim is to create understanding for each other and the speciality of every country. That in turn leads to a stronger EU-policy that is fully understood by its inhabitants, and brings us to the following slogan: Diversity in Unity.



Tentative Program EU-Project “Youth in Action”, Action 1.1.

Changeable Water: water speaks all languages...

16. 3.	- 13:00	Arrival and check in	Youthhostel Idlhofgasse, Graz*
	13:00	Lunch and reception hosted by Styrian politicians	
	14-16:00	Presentation and discussion on the role of Styria as the region with most of the water resources in Europe	
	17:30	Start packages and presentation on Graz	
	18:00	Dinner	
	20:00	Evening reception: Cultural evening Austria	GZ
17.3.		Water – challenges and opportunities	
	9:30-12:00	Radio Helsinki, conception of radio program; Moderation: preparation in the country groups	
	12:30	Lunch**	
	13:30-17:30	Interviews and Music selection for the radio-program “World Water Day 2010 – challenges and opportunities within Europe”	
	18:00	Dinner	
	20:00	Evening reception and cultural program Italy and Greece	
18.3.		Water in its aggregate states	
	09:30	Excursion to Stainz: Erzherzog Johann water-adventure-path	Stainz
	12:00	Reception by the Major of Stainz, lunch and keynote address	
	13:30-16:00	Christina Trstenjak (Tourist Expert from Styria Tourism) on sustainable tourism	
	16:30	Night-tobogganing at the Hebalm followed by original Styrian food, departure for Graz at 21:30	Hebalm
	22:00	Arrival in Graz	
19.3.		Liquid Europe 2025	
	9:30-12:00	Future-Scenario: Mediation & Peace Management	
	12:30	Lunch	
	13:30-17:30	Teamwork: Sketches with own choreography or comic-drawing	
	18:00	Dinner	
	20:00	Evening reception and cultural program Latvia and Spain	
20.3.		Water Mystics	
	9:30-12:30	Workshop about Water Literature	
	13:00	Lunch	
	14:30-17:00	Aquarelles – creating artwork out of stories	



	18:00	Dinner	
	20:00	Evening reception: Cultural evening Turkey and UK	
21.3.		Water & Wellbeing	
	9:30	Departure to the thermal springs "Therme Nova" in Köflach	Köflach
	10:00	Presentation "water&health"	
	11:00-17:00	Water and Sports in Styrian Thermal region	
	17:00	Styrian Jaus'n in Buschenschank	
	18:00	Return to Graz	
	19:00	Dinner	
	20:00	Preparation for the exhibition and activities on UN-World-Waterday	
22.3.		World Water Day 2010	
	8:00	Final Preparation for the exhibition	
	11:00	Press conference and inauguration of the exhibition "Wasserkunst"	
	11:30	"The Sound of Water" CD-presentation and performance of the Sketches	
	12:30	Lunch	
	14:00 – 18:00	Canalization-Challenge (voluntary) or guided tours through the exhibition	
	19:00	Evening reception hosted by Waterland Styria	
	22:00	Farewell-Party	
23.3.	10:00	Departure	

* All activities will take place in Graz, except the explicitly mentioned cities in the programme above.

** Just Breakfast and dinner included into the project-budget.



Die Initiators:



Youth 4 gain&sustain

The association "gain&sustain:europe" was founded in 2009 in Graz, Austria, and exists at the moment of ten enthusiastic young people at the age between 18 and 30 years. The organisation aims at the support of social, economic and ecological sustainability in Europe and also in developing countries all over the world. In the centre of our activity the desegregation of politics, society and economy with youngsters stands in the global context to step in an open dialogue and to generate valuable common strategies for future and present. As our major task we see the interlinking and consultation of youngsters in connection with international, multicultural events and EU projects to promote a raising of awareness in the direction of tolerance, EU citizenship and cultural diversity with the generation of morning.

The main objective of the association is the interlinking of single organisations and private individuals, above all youngsters, around subjects like Sustainability and Social Entrepreneurship in order to give space to innovation & creativity and to allow a cultural exchange.

Mission

- ☐ Promotion of the solidarity and the common activities between young people from different EU member states
- ☐ Creation of an alliance between politics, society and art for charitable projects related to awareness-raising within the EU
- ☐ Creation of a nation-connecting conversation base for european-wide campaigns and projects in the area of youth work

Activities

- ☐ Coaching-programmes and talent analysis for young people
- ☐ Linguistic courses and multicultural dance courses
- ☐ Participation and organisation as well as hosting of „Youth in action“- programmes
- ☐ Consulting and Networking for practicals and EVS
- ☐ Workshops for young entrepreneurs
- ☐ Workshops on the topic of cultural diversity and european policy



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(Founders of Youth 4 gain&sustain: europe)

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