

PRESS RELEASE

Krakow,
Sunday, 25th of July 2010

Youth exchange “Intercultural Crossroads in Europe”

From the 18th to the 25th of July, the youth exchange “Intercultural Crossroads in Europe” took place in the Salesian Centre WDM in Krakow. It is organized by Don Bosco Youth-Net and sponsored by the European Union “Youth in Action”-Programme. The youth exchange is a 7-day programme focussing on Intercultural learning and European citizenship through a series of non-formal and creative sessions. 40 participants and 8 group leaders from 8 countries came together to learn different intercultural aspects, which are basic competence for international youth work. This mixture of people and cultures bring learning experiences forward.

Through the programme the group leaders install *mutual understanding* amongst the participants. It was done by giving the participants a taste of the *cultural diversity* which exists within Europe: getting to know their traditions, their languages, their habits. This is the reason why the participants themselves are key-persons in the exchange: the group leaders will create the frame and moderate the activities, but the real actors of the exchange are the young participants with their enthusiasm and ideas.



During this week the participants also introduced their countries to the whole group. Later on during the day the participants go to taste the different foods of each country. Listening also to some traditional music and learning new dances and even songs. Continuing the week, workshops such as dance, animation movies, eater and music took place. This helped the participants to use their imagination in order to create their final task.

At the same time working on mutual understanding by showing cultural diversity also helps to *develop solidarity and promote tolerance* among young people taking part in the youth exchange. The group leaders scheduled specific sessions on conflicts and values to work on these issues. Participants went along with the sessions and showed a lot of enthusiasm trough out the sessions. They learnt more about the intercultural communication, conflicts and how they can become creative and active as a European citizenship.

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Aim of Don Bosco Youth-Net ivzw and of the partner promoters is to let the young people become *active* in future activities that are promoted in Europe. Most activities organised by the DBYN are aimed for youths to do voluntary work or youth exchanges in other countries.

Ending the week with a farewell party made the participants to unite for the last time as a whole group. The reactions of the participants at the end of the week are hard to describe though the youths surely showed how much fun they had during the week. At the end of the youth exchange, each participant received a personal “Youth Pass”, recognized by the EU.



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For more information:

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