

# REPORT OF CROATIAN YOUTH NETWORK

[2005 / 2006]

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Dear Friends and Associates,

This is a biennial report on Croatian Youth Network activities. This report represents the activities of the Management Board and associates of Croatian Youth Network from December 2004 until December 2006.

It is divided in three parts:

- 1] Development of organizational capacities,**
- 2] Program report** (including reports on different programs and projects) and
- 3] Public events.**

In the last two years we have been working together with numerous organisations, institutions, individuals...

We would like to thank everyone that somehow helped the development of Network and its current stability.

It is a great pleasure to introduce the work of our organisation and show you what we have put our time and energy into, as well as the results we have achieved in this period.

Think with us how young people bring changes:)

Croatian Youth Network

Croatian Youth Network (**CYN**) is an alliance of nongovernmental youth associations that acts as National Youth Council in the Republic of Croatia. It is a nongovernmental, non-profit and non-party association established in December 2002. CYN is democratic, representative and inclusive, and recognized as such on national and international level.

CYN advocates and promotes interests of young people on principles of tolerance, understanding and respect of their rights and needs.

**Vision:** active young citizens involved in creation, implementation, supervision and evaluation of youth policy in the Republic of Croatia.

**Mission:** CYN develops youth policy through informing, public advocating, thematic networking, international cooperation, youth organization support and influence on youth policy.

CYN assembles **48** nongovernmental youth associations operating on national and local level in 15 counties in the Republic of Croatia.

CYN was established for:

- the necessity of cooperation between youth associations
- the improvement of mutual communication, regardless of program specificity and organizational structure, and with complete respect for the philosophy of life, national, gender, religious and cultural orientation or affiliation of the young people they represent or advocate
- more efficient and more effective advocating of interests and needs of young people in the Republic of Croatia
- partnership relations with the government in creation and realization of youth policy

Croatian Youth Network bases its activities on:

- democratic decision-making process and public activities
- openness towards all interested organisations and initiatives of young people and for young people
- respect for integrity and independence of its members
- support for local initiatives of and for young people

- building of responsible partnership with interested associations, institutions and bodies of the state and local government acceptance of young people and their interests and needs
- promoting tolerance and mutual appreciation in society
- protection of human rights and ethnic minority rights
- promoting healthy life styles
- building-up self-awareness and interest of young people for active and responsible participation in society and public decision-making process

Membership in CYN can be:

- regular
- associated &
- individual

All national and other registered youth associations can become **regular members** of Network under equal conditions, as well as not more than four constitutive structures with legal abilities of one youth association that is not already a regular member, based on its free orientation. The CYN Assembly of Members makes the decision on acceptance of regular members.

Youth associations not interested in becoming regular members of Network can become **associated members**. When a youth association whose constitutive structures are members of the Network becomes a valid member, then all those constitutive structures simultaneously become associated members of the Network. The Assembly of Members makes the decision on acceptance of associated members.

**Individuals** can become members of the Network without the right to participate in decision-making process and management of the Network. The Management Board of CYN makes the decision on acceptance of individual members.



# **ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF CYN**

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One of five strategic goals of Croatian Youth Network for the period between the year 2003 and 2007 is the development of organizational capacities. In the period from the year 2005 to 2006 a great improvement was achieved in organizational development from aspect of financial resources, material resources, human resources, monitoring of quality of Network services, decentralization of the decision-making process as well as public appearance of the Network and its positioning as a **National Youth Council**.

Croatian Youth Network was established in December 2002., and registered as the Alliance of associations on 1st July, 2003. In 2003, CYN had a budget of 40,000kn, and in 2004 of 67,000kn. In the year 2005 CYN budget was doubled to **131,000kn**, while the year 2006 will be finished with the budget of **520,000kn**. Only about **5,000kn** of this amount is from membership subscriptions, while the rest of the money comes from the projects obtained through public tenders financed by **1 Croatian institution** and **6 international donors** written and applied by the Management Board in 2005 and 2006. It should be mentioned that in this two-year mandate, until the moment of writing this report, not one kuna came from the Ministry of Family, War Veterans and Intergenerational Solidarity as the ministry responsible for youth policy, through institutional support or through tenders for projects. CYN was financially supported by **Academy for Educational Development (AED), CARE International, European Commission (EC), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), World Bank (WB), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and National Foundation for Civil Society Development.**

As far as material resources are concerned the situation was not favourable at the beginning of the year 2005. CYN did not have its office even though it had filled a claim, at the very beginning of its activities, to the state and the City of Zagreb for subsidized lease of office space. It occasionally used office spaces of members' organizations – **Green Action, Centre for Peace Studies, Croatian Youth Hostel Association, Multimedia Institute**. Network did not have any office equipment or office furniture either. Since July 2006 CYN has a **temporary office** primarily thanks to **Croatian Student Union**. Further more, thanks to **CARE International, ZaMirNet and Green Action Network** has enough office furniture in its possession to equip a 150m<sup>2</sup> of office space. Through projects financed by foreign



donors, Network currently has several **computers, a printer, 2 fax-machines** and **LCD projector** at its disposal.

Human resources are one of the key elements to assess the capacity of organization. At the beginning of the year 2005 Network did not have any employed people. Network managed to survive until the beginning of 2005 primarily thanks to volunteer efforts of certain members of the Managing Board and acting secretary **Marija Belošević**. Since there was no institutional support from the government, Network could not employ a secretary general. However, thanks to the project financed by CARE International, The Managing Board managed to provide means to employ an administrative coordinator – **Sandra Begović**, employed in July 2006 on part-time bases, after a public tender. At the end of 2006 three more people were employed in the Network through different projects. When we talk about human resources, besides the employed people, we have to mention **volunteers in CYN**. The Management Board has paid attention to development of voluntary work in CYN, so there were 24 people volunteering on CYN activities during 2005 and 2006. Currently, there are 6 volunteers in CYN team, and it should be mentioned that in 2006, amongst Network members, there was an international volunteer from Sweden.

In the last two years there have been investments in building of capacity and organization development through the introduction of the Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations – PQASSO, in Croatia known as **SOKNO**. The system that enables the association to answer the needs of users, in order to provide quality service according to suitable standards, was led under licensed mentorship of **Zvezdana Batković**. PQASSO team included members of Management Board, Supervisory Board, administrative coordinator, volunteer group and operation team. The group leader, the so called Quality Champion is **Emina Bužinkić**. According to PQASSO, the selected priorities in a year's period are: **orientation towards users, employees and volunteers**, and **financial management**. PQASSO became an integral part of the planning and managing cycle in CYN.

Recognition of an association in public is one of the factors used to assess the capacity and success of the association and in the case of the Croatian Youth Network that acts as National Youth Council in Croatia, this element could be crucial. Up until the year 2005 Network

was barely present in the media, and was rarely recognized by the broad youth sector. During 2005 and 2006 the representatives of CYN appeared live in **programmes on Croatian television** on 7 occasions and on **Croatian radio stations** on 13 occasions. The CYN representatives gave about **130 statements for domestic television networks** and about **70 statements for domestic radio stations**. In 2005 and 2006 CYN is mentioned in more than **200 newspaper articles**. Numerous CYN activities were covered by the media, from public forums and Youth Associations Fair to projects in local communities. However, Network received the biggest attention from the media during the initiative **The Right to the City** (Pravo na grad) and the operation of crossing-out the billboards with the mayor's picture, because of the broken promises about the youth policy in the City of Zagreb. This operation and the campaign that took place in July 2006 got a lot of media attention for the Network, which is undoubtedly without precedent for a youth organization. In connection with this operation there was an appearance of the Network's president, **Tomislav Tomašević**, in the main political contact programme '**Otvoreno**'. As proof of a growing CYN public status there is an invitation for another appearance in programme '**Otvoreno**' that should soon be realized. Due to bigger public recognition, Network is more and more recognized as the leading subject advocating interests of young people and the status of Network as **National Youth Council** towards state institutions and other stakeholders is becoming unquestionable.

The development of the organization grew in complementary manner with **program orientations** agreed on, as a frame of development, at Action planning of the Management Board in the December 2005.

Through five basic programs CYN has developed the idea of clear program guidelines that enabled implementation of independent projects, as well as their linking. Members of The Management Board took over the coordination of individual programs and enabled program planning and viability with their regular meetings. These are the programs and their coordinators:

- **Development of National Youth Policy** – Emina Višnić
- **Development of Local Youth Policy** – Dražen Puljić
- **Building the Capacities of Youth Organizations** – Emina Bužinkić
- **International Cooperation** – Tomislav Tomašević
- **Info-service and Publishing** – Teo Petričević

Each program tried to form a **work group** that would, together with the Management Board coordination, develop an action plan of the program and include larger number of members' organizations in planning and implementation of projects. The effort on work groups was not very intensive. However, they have developed program guidelines for each individual program. The development of work groups will be continued in the future.

During the last thematic assembly, regardless of work groups, CYN has formed the so called **thematic policy committees** or work groups created by the representatives of CYN members' organizations active in some of the fields relevant for the youth policy. The idea is that thematic committees would create CYN positions related to 7 thematic areas that the Management Board would advocate on national level.

The following committees were formed:

- 1] **Youth and Economy**
- 2] **Participation of Youth in Society**
- 3] **Culture and Leisure Time**
- 4] **Information, Communication and Media**
- 5] **Education of Youth**
- 6] **Conflicts, Violence and Discrimination**
- 7] **Mobility of Youth**

It is recommended that in the next mandate these committees are made stronger to be even more effective in giving recommendations to advocate the implementation of quality and standardized public policies for young people. The financial means for this purpose have been secured in partnership with Association **Domaći** to get the committees separately assembled at the beginning of 2007.



# PROGRAM REPORT

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## 1] Development of National Youth Policy

### Advisory Council for Youth and advocating implementation of NYAP

In the October of 2003 the Government of the Republic of Croatia established its **Advisory Council for Youth** as an advisory body for the Government in youth policy. In addition to the representatives of state institutions, representatives of national youth associations were appointed to this council: **Ognjen Golubić** for the Croatian Youth Network, **Aleksandar Lukić** for a Croatian Scouts Association, **Igor Filajdić** for a Croatian Youth Hostel Association and **Emina Višnić** for a Clubture Association Alliance. The first meeting was held shortly after the Government's decision. However, Council's later work was blocked for more than a year due to changes of the government. Before the next meeting held in January 2005 there was a new convocation of the Council with the same youth representatives.

During the first-year's mandate Council's meetings are still held very rarely, decisions reached on such meetings mostly do not become reality, and state administration responsible for the coordination of Council's work is mostly slow and inefficient. The new CYN president **Tomislav Tomašević** is actively joining the Council's work as an outside member.

At the same time, since an Operational Plan for National Programme of Action for Youth (NPAY) does not exist, the execution of the key role of the Council has been made ineligible: **monitoring of NPAY implementation**. Therefore, the basic standpoint of the CYN Management Board, as well as the other youth representatives, was to insist on enactment of relevant and efficient implementation plan (Operational Plan) that will clearly set the timelines, activities and necessary means for their implementation in state budget. Despite numerous obstacles resulting from the slow and unwilling system and following the first National Youth Conference, **Operational Plan** of NPAY was finally created in December 2005. Council members, along with other CYN Management Board members worked actively on suggestions in final processing of the proposed Operational Plan, and some of those suggestions were accepted. Although we can not be completely satisfied with the content of this document, it is extremely

important that it finally exists since without this Operational Plan, NPAY remains merely a list of wishes. Operational Plan enables us to follow and publicly discuss whether and how the state institutions implement measures of its own youth policy.

After a few months of Council's half-functioning out of mandate, a process of members' appointment in new Council's convocation started in February 2006. The key change regarding the previous convocation is that the members are elected through a public tender with the support of at least 10 youth associations, on a three-year mandate (so far mandate of members was one year).

The appointed youth representatives are: **Tomislav Tomašević (CYN)**, **Igor Filajdić (Croatian Youth Hostel Association)**, **Mirela Varović (Croatian Scouts Association)** and **Toni Maglica (MOST Association)**. The first Council meeting in new convocation was held in June 2006, and in the meantime there was another in November 2006. In both convocations, youth representatives, especially CYN Management Board members, actively participated in Council's work and advocated for youth interests.

## Creation of a Law on Youth Councils

When in 2002 there was a culmination of the process to create of National Programme of Action for Youth, an initiative to create a Law on Local Youth Councils on standards of some European countries appeared. Finally, as the 75th measure in National Programme there was an entry on enacting Law on Youth Councils saying: *'To enact Law on Youth Councils that would regulate their establishment, status and constitution. Youth Councils would be founded on local level (districts and towns) from the local youth association representatives, and would be in charge of representing interests and needs of all youth groups involved in work of district and town councils, as well as county councils (without the right of formal decisions). District and town youth councils would be mutually networking to create county (regional) youth councils through their representatives.'*

After two years of discussion on Law on Youth Councils and 7 versions of the document, a draft of Law started defining **advisory**

**youth bodies to local governments**, and not networks of youth organizations as the representative bodies autonomous from the local governments. On the Thematic Assembly of CYN in May 2005, Croatian Youth Network held a workshop on the draft of Law and the CYN members voted a document reflecting CYN positions on the Law. The basic content of the document introduces the difference between youth advisory and representative bodies, it defines the CYN members' position that since the Law started arranging advisory youth bodies this should be done in proper way, in which case the name of the Law should change to **Law on Youth Advisory Committees**. On the other hand, CYN members demand that youth councils, as networks of youth organizations on local level should be defined within the Expert group at the Ministry that is already setting the foundations of the future Law on Youth Organizing.

The position paper on Law on Youth Councils from the CYN meeting served as the basis for lobbying on the 1st National Youth Conference organized by The Ministry of Family, War Veterans and Intergenerational Solidarity at Bjelolasica in June 2005, where one of the four working groups was involved in the analysis of the draft of Law. The working group has concluded that the draft of Law had to be adapted with the European terminology and its name should be changed into Law on Youth Advisory Committees.

Despite that discussion and the conclusions from the 1st National Conference, The Government passes a new Bill and sends it for the legislative procedure to the Croatian Parliament on 20 July, 2006. This adopted version is (according to our count) the twelfth version of The Bill which has never been publicly discussed nor sent to Advisory Council for Youth. Before the first reading of The Law in the Croatian Parliament on 5th October, the CYN Management Board had organized a few discussions with the youth branches of political parties and some existing youth councils at county level, which resulted in a **compilation of The Law Amendments** sent to the Ministry of Family, War Veterans and Intergenerational Solidarity. This was followed by 5 negotiation meetings with the Ministry representatives, and almost all Network amendments to The Law were adopted, as well as the principal change of the name of the Law. The Government made a new Bill according to the amendments which should go to the second reading at the Croatian Parliament till the end of the year. The biggest changes in the content refer to the **obligations enforced on all towns, districts**



**and counties to form youth advisory bodies** in the six-month-period. They do not have that as an option any more. Furthermore, the subjects able to candidate persons for the members of advisory youth bodies have changed and are now **strictly youth organizations**. Also more rights are insured for youth advisory bodies to participate in the decision-making processes and their local or regional government is responsible to provide space for meetings and administrative support.

## Cooperation with the youth branches of the political parties

The first public debate in the series called 'focus:youth' held on 15 March, 2005, introduced a topic 'Young people in politics'. After that first debate, and patterned from other national youth councils in Europe – an initiative to **coordinate the activities and positions of Croatian Youth Network with national organizations of the youth branches of political parties** emerged. The first coordinating meeting was held on 1st April, 2005.

Croatian Youth Network is registered as the Alliance of Associations, according to The Law on Association, and as such only citizen associations can be included in its membership, and not any other forms of youth organizations legally defined by other laws, such as the youth branches of political parties, youth branches in unions etc. Youth branches of political parties are one of the major forms of self-organizing of young people, which are usually included in national youth councils in other European countries. Until the special status of National Youth Council is legally defined in Croatia, the Management Board wanted to maintain at least informal communication and coordination of positions with the youth branches of political parties.

Since the beginning of 2005 until today 7 coordination meetings have been held on topics such as implementation of the National Programme of Action for Youth, Law on Youth Councils, development of local youth policy etc. An e-mail list for communication has also been established [mladi-stranke@lista.mmh.hr](mailto:mladi-stranke@lista.mmh.hr). Recently there has been an initiative to formalize the relationship between CYN and national organisations of youth branches of political parties i.e. to sign a **Memorandum of Understanding** with each youth branch to guarantee their participation in decision-making processes in CYN, and on the other hand, to guarantee CYN the support of youth branches in Croatia and abroad.

## CYN participation in public policies

Croatian Youth Network, as one of a few representatives of the civil society, has participated in creation of **The Strategic Framework for Development 2006-2013**. We are talking about 'the strategy of all strategies' in the Republic of Croatia which gives the main direction of the development of the state in the next 7 years. CYN representative in this process, **Tomislav Tomašević**, has represented the priorities of The National Programme of Action for Youth. Therefore this Strategic Framework pays special attention to formal and informal education of young people as well as employment of young people through special programs.

CYN, as one of the main protagonist, also participated in the creation of the first draft of the **Strategy for the Civil Society Development**, through its representative at the Advisory Council for the Civil Society Development – **Marija Belošević**. After the public discussion in Zagreb and appointment of new Work Group for the creation of the new draft of The National Strategy for the Creation of Stimulating Environment for the Civil Society Development, **Emina Bužinkić**, as CYN representative, participated in writing of certain parts of the strategy.

In June 2006, after dissolving The Advisory Council for the Civil Society Development due to the expiry of the mandate, the Government of the Republic of Croatia, via Governmental Office for Non-governmental Organizations, invited applications for the new convocation of the Government of the Republic of Croatia **Advisory Council For the Development of Civil Society to the Government of the Republic of Croatia**. After the democratic process and associations voting in each of the ten sub-sectors of the civil society, **Emina Bužinkić**, as the CYN candidate, was elected for the sub-sector '**Youth**'. This enabled Croatian Youth Network to outnumber the candidates of Croatian Citizen Association Alliance and Croatian National Youth Alliance, and become the representative of youth sub-sector in the Advisory Council.

In the creation and monitoring of the implementation of national youth policy, CYN acts primarily towards the Government of the Republic of Croatia and coordination body for youth policy – **Ministry of Family, War Veterans and Intergenerational Solidarity**. This dialogue mainly proceeds in the Advisory Council for Youth, where CYN has

one member. However, there are other bodies in the Republic of Croatia very important for the development of national youth policy as well. Therefore, the CYN Management Board has taken certain steps towards establishing cooperation with those bodies as well. This mainly refers to the **Committee for Family, Youth and Sports of the Croatian Parliament**, being the advisory body for youth in the Croatian Parliament. During the Croatian visit of an European Youth Forum a tripartite meeting between the representatives of the Croatian Parliament Committee, European Youth Forum and Croatian Youth Network was held. According to Standing Orders of the Croatian Parliament, CYN or any other association can not become an outside member of the Committee. However, work has to be continued on finding a way to somehow institutionalize the dialogue between CYN and Croatian Parliament Committee. Also several meetings were held with the Presidents Office. Some work has been done on establishing a **Working Group for Youth at the Presidents Office** which should continue next year.

## Conference ‘Youth Associations in Implementation of NPAY: Measures 39 and 40’

At the end of May 2005, Network held a conference about youth with special needs. In the conference preparations we have cooperated with **L’ASSOCIATION POUR ADULTES ET JEUNES HANDICAPES - AJPAH**. According to the basic program goals to enforce youth self-confidence for active and responsible participation in society and public decision making through advocating quality implementation of national and local strategies, as well as reinforcement of youth associations, with this conference Network gave its contribution to the realization of National Programme of Action for Youth, measures 39 and 40 to be specific.

*39 Educate youth on unity, culture of living and respect for differences, as well as the need for active involvement of disabled individuals in society with the appreciation of their independence and dignity, through regular education and additional education/campaigns.*

*40 While planning activities for young people systematically take into account the possibility of access and participation of disabled young people.*

These associations presented their experiences: **Ambidekster club**, **Centre for Creative Work**, **European House Vukovar**, **Youth Musicians of Croatia – OZANA**, **Croatian Esperanto Alliance**, **Croatian Youth Hostel Association**, **Scouts Zagreb**, **Association ‘Grad sunca’**, **Blue Phone** and **P.O.I.N.T.**

Conference participants were: youth association representatives from Velika Gorica, Split, Vukovar, Zagreb, disabled individuals association representatives (Split, Zagreb), youth branches of the political party representative (HNS), a student of Social work studies, Education and Sports Office of the City of Zagreb employees, The City of Zagreb Health, Work and Social Care Office employees and a Member of Parliament (Vesna Škulić).

Mirjana Dobranović, BSc, while introducing the topic, had a lecture ‘Disabled individuals in the Republic of Croatia’. Dražen Gečević and Branimir Rukavina from Croatian Youth Hostel Association talked about the mobility of youth. The problem of how to approach disabled individuals was presented by Ljiljana Igrić, dr., from the Croatian Association for Professional Help for Children and Youth with special needs IDEM.

The Conference ended with a play ‘Face’ by Ratko Bjelčić, prepared by the participants. A **sales exhibition** of young travellers was organized in cooperation with **Croatian Youth Hostel Association** in order to raise some finances to support the mobility of disabled young people.

## The second National Volunteer Conference

**‘I volunteer and I don’t have to!’** was the slogan that marked the conference held in Trogir. In mid-October 2005, CYN in cooperation with the association **MoSt** from Split as the main organizer and in partnership with associations **MI** (Split), **SMART** (Rijeka) and **Centre for Peace, Non-violence and Human Rights Osijek** (Osijek) held a conference as the answer to prejudice and pessimism.

The Conference promoted **values of volunteer work** as well as advocating of better evaluation of volunteer work in society. The topics discussed in workshops included main issues of volunteering – **youth**

**and volunteering, volunteering of business sector, education on volunteering and conduction volunteer programs**, along with the examples of good practise.

On 15th October, the last day of conference, there was a volunteer **action of cleaning** the spring of the river Jadro in Solin conducted by the participants. About 250 representatives of associations, schools, organizations and institutions from Croatia participated in the Conference work.

## 1st National Youth Conference – Bjelolasica

A two-day conference **'Youth and transition countries'** organized by the Ministry of Family, War Veterans and Intergenerational Solidarity was held on Bjelolasica in June 2005. This was the first national youth conference after seven years.

CYN Management Board suggested three out of four topics of the conference which were divided into four work groups in the conference program: Law on Youth Councils, Implementation of NPAY, Info-centres and macro-regional youth centres and Setting of criteria for National Youth Council and other youth organisations.

CYN members actively participated in all four work groups, and the president Tomislav Tomašević moderated the work group discussing info-centres and macro-regional youth centres, and ran some parts of the plenary session. The conclusions from the recently held CYN Thematic Assembly contributed to more quality discussions. However, since consensual solutions in the decision-making process were insisted on by the Ministry, the key decisions were not made. Therefore all conference conclusions were only suggested conclusions still open for discussion three weeks after the conference. After this three-weeks deadline for comments on conclusions, Ministry decided that there are no conclusions on issues like criteria for National Youth Council and other youth organizations. Most certainly the biggest outcome of the conference is the fact that youth organizations' representatives manage to decide on 40 priority measures out of 110 measures from NPAY with the implementation commitment until the end of 2007. Based on this, at the end of 2005, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the Operational Plan for NPAY for the period 2006-2007.

## 2] Development of local youth policies

### Youth and Independent Culture

In spring of 2005, CYN, as the youth sector representative, started a strategic, tactic and natural partnership with a sector of independent culture. In other words, together with the organizations gathered around the platform '**Zagreb – Cultural Capital of Europe 3000**', clubs **Močvara**, **Attack** and **mama** and network **Clubture**, we have started a process of public advocacy, discussing the problems of **independent culture and youth of the city of Zagreb** in the context of the city development. After a number of public debates where different aspects of the two sectors were discussed, which were attended by youth organizations and independent culture representatives, decision makers, city administration, politicians, media and others, a **declaration Independent culture and youth in the development of the City of Zagreb**, was adopted. It was signed by 9 political parties and coalitions, as well as the current mayor of the City of Zagreb, Milan Bandić. One of requests in Declaration was that City of Zagreb after 2 years starts finally implementing City Programme of Action for Youth

In September 2005, the independent culture organizations, coordinated by **BLOK** (Local base for culture refreshing) and **Platform 9.81** (Architecture research association), organized a ten-day international event 'Operation: city' ([www.operacijagrad.org](http://www.operacijagrad.org)) situated in the former factory '**Badel**'.

During this event a public meeting of interested parties was held, where the **Initiative Board** for founding of **Independent culture and youth Centre** was established. This Centre is macro-regional centre for youth which is in one of the measures in City Programme of Action for Youth and National Programme of Action for Youth. Croatian Youth Network (Tomislav Tomašević and Emina Bužinkić) currently represents the youth sector on this Board. The organization **Association for Centre**, with CYN is one of co-organizers, resulted from the Initiative board and was formally organized.

At the end of last year, thanks to intensive advocating efforts of this institution, the City of Zagreb for 2006 included in its budget items assigned for realization of some measures listed in the Declaration, out of which we emphasize: founding and establishment of the Centre,

realization of competition for Youth association programs, increasing of **budget** for urban cultures and youth cultures, establishing foundation for independent culture etc.

However, due to non-functioning of the city management and administrative and political blockade, despite active dedication of this initiative, the City did not do anything in the first half of the year. Stimulated by absolutely unacceptable promotion of the mayor's figure on billboards for a cultural event addressing youth (Youth Salon), while at the same time nothing had been done on those two fields, an initiative **Right for the city** ([www.pravonagrad.org](http://www.pravonagrad.org)) was formed, and an action of crossing out the billboards was conducted, which achieved an unrecorded public transparency of this issue and put the youth issue to the centre of media interest (for example items on central news on all television stations, participation in programme 'Otvoreno', etc.) It is important to mention that after this action the position of CYN towards the Ministry of Family, War Veterans and Intergenerational Solidarity was improved.

After this action The City finally published an open call for **youth association programmes** funding. However, it was done unprofessionally and in most inadequate way and CYN publicly reacted.

The initiative Right for the city will continue to publicly deal with this specific issue, as well discuss more general questions involving citizens' participation, especially youth in decision-making processes. Besides advocacy work, CYN was intensively included in the creation of a **functioning model of the Centre**, which includes **macro-regional multi-functional centre** for youth, based on civic-public partnership, on open, participative model of use and management of resources and on poly-location infrastructure.

## County Youth Councils

The task and mission of two national projects realized in 2006 were to create county youth councils as the subjects with legitimacy to represent youth in before county government and other stakeholders thus giving youth organizations the opportunity for better influence on decision-making processes and involving youth in particular.

County Youth Councils, as networks of youth organizations, are made of different existing forms of **youth self-organizing** (non-governmental associations, youth branches of political parties, student organizations, pupil councils, initiatives etc.) that become a subject and interest group which will increase influence of youth organizations through public work. Due to the non-existence of **institutionalized frame for youth councils** and the confusion in terminology, there is neither universal model for youth councils nor connection amongst the existing youth councils on local and regional level. Therefore, CYN has made a decision to start projects for founding county youth councils, first through education of youth organizations on **local youth policy**, and then through the process of **networking** of youth organizations and forming county youth councils as networks of youth organizations.

In all projects CYN has always had a role to educate, as well as to coordinate and facilitate the process of youth organizations networking into county youth councils. The experiences of already established youth councils have shown that networking is in the interest of youth because it enables them to **advocate their needs** more efficiently, in interest of youth organizations because of quality communication with the government and realization of their programmes, but also in interest of local government because the position of certain youth organizations are not segregated any more and much less capacitate local government.

This project was realized in two cycles. The first referred to the establishment of county youth councils in Međimurje County, Sisak - Moslavina County and Osijek - Baranja County in partnership with CYN members **ACT** from Čakovec, **Youth Culture Centre** from Kutina and **Youth Club Osijek**. The project manager was **Dražen Puljić**.

**Youth Council in Međimurje County** so far presents the greatest success amongst already established councils because of the coherence, transparency and visibility of its work. After only a couple of months after the training this Council has shown enviable success in the work of networked youth organizations on local level. The Council wrote a project **'Creation of County Programme of Action for Youth'** and, in **cooperation with the County**, applied with project to MFWVIS. MFWVIS has granted Youth Council of Međimurje County a proposal of **80,000kn**. This Youth Council is intensively working on the examination



of youth needs in Međimurje County. Therefore, **3 public stands** and several **focus groups** have already been organized. An **extraordinary Assembly** of the Council was held only 6 months after the Founding Assembly. The Council also works on its capacity building; therefore it is currently involved in **employing a coordinator** and procuring a **computer**. Currently they are facing the signing of a partnership contract with the County Government.

After the Founding Assembly, **Youth Council of Sisak - Moslavina County** has written a project '**Creation and adoption of The County Programme of Action for Youth**', and in cooperation with Sisak - Moslavina County, applied for project to the Ministry of Family, War Veterans and Intergenerational Solidarity. Ministry approved **73,000kn** for implementation of the project starting at the end of 2006.

**Youth Council of Osijek - Baranja County** has focused on cooperation of associations and youth branches of political parties, and for some time worked on capacity building. The common interest of different organizations represented in the Youth Council was visible during the organization of an extremely well-attended public stand '**Entrepreneurial possibilities for youth**', which included the representatives of the Croatian state administration, development agencies, ministries and numerous representatives of the civil society.

The second cycle of the project is taking place in the middle and north Croatian counties – Karlovac County, Varaždin County and Koprivnica - Križevci County. CYN realizes the project in cooperation with CYN members **KVARK** from Križevci, **Domaći** from Karlovac and **Independent Youth Association** from Lepoglava. The project managers are **Igor Roginek** and Emina **Bužinkić**.

**Youth Council in Varaždin County** has adopted an action plan and held a number of meetings with the county administration representatives, had numerous media activities and additional education training on communication and prejudices. The Youth Council of Varaždin County Founding Assembly was held on 2nd December 2005 at the County Hall. Youth Council of Varaždin County is in the process of **signing an agreement with the County** as well as an arrangement on creating the **County Programme of Action for Youth**.

After the training **Youth Coalition of Koprivnica and Križevci County** has continued with the activities according to the arranged action plan. The Coalition is currently in the process of **involvement** of other **youth organization** from the County in the Coalition, as well as in preparations of the Founding Assembly. A regular cooperation with the County Government has been established.

**Youth Coalition of Karlovac County** is preparing a public discussion on youth organizations networking in Karlovac County. Since the training the Coalition has regularly fulfilled the activities assigned by the action plan. After an informative meeting for youth organisations in order to join the Coalition, the same will include them in the process of preparation of The Founding Assembly scheduled for mid-January 2007.

The projects of founding county councils have been financially supported by Norwegian Peoples' Aid (NPA), World Bank (WB) and National Foundation for Civil Society Development.

## **YIC – Youth in Councils**

In 2004, **Centre for Peace Studies** in Zagreb, a member of CYN, started a project financed by Foundation Olaf – Palme '**YDA – Youth develops alternatives**'. One of the four segments of the project was '**participation of youth in decision-making**' with Croatian Youth Network as a partner. The project offered only the frame, while the content and the idea of the project connected to youth policy should have come from the local youth associations. At the project planning meeting in Zagreb a project 'YIC – Youth in Councils' was conceived and written.

YIC is actually a pilot-project of **involving secondary school students** in the processes of decision-making in **city councils**. Local partners have become the members of CYN, **KVARK from Križevci** and **Youth Peace Group Danube from Vukovar**, so the project was mainly realized in those two towns in the first half of 2005.

In Vukovar and Križevci, two out of five groups of interested high school students were selected. The groups worked in several workshops on

**democracy, civil society, youth activism** etc. After that teams of high school students started their participation in meetings in City Councils of Vukovar and Križevci. The students' task was to listen and note all the decisions in connection with youth and participate in discussion at certain circumstances during City Council and Town Hall meetings. The information and their observations from City Council meetings were obliged to be released on their web blog in order to make them accessible to other youth organizations, institutions dealing with youth and all interested young people. This blog can still be found on [www.udruga-kvark.hr/muv](http://www.udruga-kvark.hr/muv). High school students participating in City Council meetings got daily allowance for each meeting, similar to city councillors.

This model of involving high school students in the work of City Councils continued in Vukovar and Križevci every 6 months with the new groups and spread to other towns, like **Split** and **Omiš**.

### 3] Building the Capacities of Youth Organizations

#### Youth and Millennium Development Goals

'**Involvement of Youth in the Process of Millennium Development Goals**' is the name of the project aiming to introduce youth organizations to Millennium Development Goals, **Millennium Declaration** and the way of **engaging youth organizations** in order to realize the above mentioned goals.

Raising the conscious of youth in **fighting poverty, promoting of gender equality, protection of marginalized social groups, cutting down unemployment**, need for **computerization**, development of **entrepreneurship, preventing sexually transmitted diseases** and protection of **reproductive health** along with defining youth activities on this field, as well as motivating youth organizations for new initiatives that will contribute to realization of Millennial Development Goals, were the goals of this project..

The project included five regional workshops in Zagreb, Rijeka, Vukovar, Šibenik and Čakovec, covering all counties in the Republic of Croatia. 74 young people all together were involved in the process of

education on Millennium Development Goals.

Education on Millennium Development Goals, besides presentation for youth, had a practical purpose. Youth in Croatia are very active in social and economic development, but their activities are not recognized in the context of implementation of Millennium Development Goals. Programmes and projects conducted by youth organizations are very often directly connected to the sectors included in Millennium Development Goals. However, due to their insufficient presentation and possibilities of their achievements, many youth organizations are not aware of the fact that they help the realization of Croatian Millennium Development Goals.

This project was realized with the financial support of UNDP, United Nations Development Programme in the Republic of Croatia. It was conducted in cooperation with these organizations: **PRONI – Centre for social education**, **Youth Association Step Ahead**, **Action for civil transparency - ACT**, **Youth Club Šibenik** and **Croatian Association for HIV**.

More detailed description and the results of this education can be found in the report '**Youth and Millennium Development Goals**' published in September 2005.

During the realization of this project CYN has cooperated with **UNDP** which enabled its participation in European meeting of young leaders working on the realization of Millennium Development Goals called **European Youth Leadership Summit** held in Vienna, Austria in June this year. CYN delegates were **Dražen Puljić** and Emina Bužinkić. A few months later, in October 2006 to be more exact, **Emina Bužinkić**, CYN representative and the Croatian delegate (in cooperation with Governmental Office for Cooperation with Non-governmental Organizations and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration) participated in the first **Global Youth Leadership Summit** at the United Nations in New York. During the Summit Emina Bužinkić was appointed **spokesperson for Millennium Development Goals for the Republic of Croatia until 2015**.

## Non-formal Education

Through the programme for building youth organization capacities, using methodology of non-formal education, we have developed

**education models** usable in facilitation of youth organizations' development in the Republic of Croatia. Different consultations, field support, facilitation of workshops and moderation of public stands and discussions, CYN has profiled topic areas with intensive **support to youth organizations**.

For example, through the programme 'Founding of County Youth Councils' CYN has developed a standardized education module for organizations oriented towards networking and long-term cooperation. Work programme is divided into following topics: **Communication and Team Work, National Youth Policy, Local Youth Policy, Creation of Youth Coalition** (networking – youth council statute), **Coalition action planning**. The before mentioned manual '**Steps to successful local youth policy**' is the result of different educational experiences with numerous organizations and youth coalitions.

CYN field team offers support on several topic areas:

- **National Youth Policy**
- **Local Youth Policy**
- **Strengthening and Development of Youth Organizations**
- **Advocating Public Youth Policy**
- **Networking and Cooperation of Youth Organizations**
- **Action and Strategic Planning for Youth Organizations**
- **Youth and Activism**

as well as facilitation and responsible communication skills in **processes of strengthening of youth organizations**.

## **Consultations and Support for Organizations**

During 2005 and 2006 CYN has held consultations and given support to organizations, CYN members, and many other youth organizations in Croatia. Topics were connected to local policies towards youth (**local youth councils, youth centres, local programmes of action for youth, cooperation with local government** etc.) and building youth organizations' capacities (implementing activities of non-formal education). Therefore, CYN representatives visited **Split, Šibenik, Zadar, Pula, Rijeka, Karlovac, Sisak, Kutina, Križevci, Varaždin, Čakovec, Zabok, Lepoglava, Pregrada, Hum na Sutli, Koprivnica, Osijek, Vukovar, Gospić** etc. and cooperated with more than 50 youth

organizations. Most activities were connected to local programmes of action for youth (town and county level), so we gave continuous support in **Zadar County, Sisak and Moslavina County, Varaždin County, Krapina and Zagorje County** and **Međimurje County**.

## 4] International cooperation

### Cooperation with European Youth Forum

CYN strategic goal was to become a member of European Youth Forum (**Youth Forum Jeunesse**, YFJ) – European umbrella of all national youth councils in Europe and international youth non-governmental organizations. During the realization of this goal, CYN has been continuously communicating with the YFJ leaders, which resulted with the official visit of the highest leading people, preceded by YFJ President, **Renaldas Vaisbrodas**, on CYN invitation.

Moreover, **members of YFJ Working Group for Youth Work Development**, came to the official visit and held from 28 February to 6 March 2006 a working meeting in Croatia for the first time. While in Croatia, YFJ representatives met with The CYN Management Board members, representatives of other **CYN members' organizations**, as well as with representatives of organizations which are not CYN members. Together with CYN representatives, YFJ leaders went to Kutina to meet the representatives of **Kutina Youth Coalition** at the time, who introduced them with local youth policy in Kutina. In addition, a meeting with **youth branches of parliamentary political parties** was held. Since this visit of YFJ delegation is very strategically important for CYN, several meetings with the representatives of the **Ministry of Science, Education and Sports** and the **Ministry of Family, War Veterans and Intergenerational Solidarity** were held. There was a meeting at the Croatian Parliament with the representatives of the **Parliamentary Committee on Family, Youth and Sport**, led by the Committee president Mr. Davorko Vidović. At the City of Zagreb Assembly, there was a meeting with the members of Youth Committee in City Council of Zagreb.

On the occasion of this study visit, YFJ has published a **report on the situation in Croatia** which analyses the condition and problems in

youth policy. The report concludes with recommendations and analyses that CYN position and role in Croatian youth sector and development of youth policy was extremely important and positive. The entire report in English is available on YFJ web pages [www.youthforum.org](http://www.youthforum.org).

After the report, the CYN Management Board members have met with the YFJ representatives on several occasions in Croatia and abroad, as well as with numerous representatives of different national youth networks and international non-governmental organizations, YFJ members. Next step is applying for membership in YFJ.

## **Focal point for YOUTH Programme of European Union in Croatia**

Youth programme is one of numerous European Union programmes created in the year 2000 and implemented by **European Commission**. In order to help implementing YOUTH Programme in priority areas, European Commission is founding the so called SALTO centres all over Europe. One of eight such centres was founded in Ljubljana for the area of South-East Europe. **SALTO SEE** has the mission to help youth organizations in South-Eastern Europe to participate in YOUTH Programme, and the role of this Centre is even more important, when we bear in mind that not even one country in this area has its own National Agency that could handle implementation of YOUTH Programme in each country.

In April 2005, due to the non-existence of national agencies, SALTO SEE has invited on public tender youth organizations to serve as contact points for YOUTH Programme in their countries. Croatian Youth Network and CYN member **Volunteers' Centre Zagreb** in partnership applied, and in May 2005, together with **ZUM Association in Pula** (also CYN member) became focal points for YOUTH Programme in Croatia.

CYN activities as the focal point for YOUTH Programme from May 2005 until December 2006 firstly include lobbying state institutions for **entering of Republic of Croatia into YOUTH Programme** which would make Croatia a partner state, and which would completely open the Programme for Croatian youth organizations.

The following activities include informing youth organizations about YOUTH Programme which CYN conducted through info-services and distribution of promotional material about the Programme. Together with Volunteers' Centre Zagreb, CYN organized education on YOUTH Programme for youth organizations on a one-day seminar in Zadar in May 2006. As the last activity, CYN realized projects in YOUTH Programme, which was another way of the Programme promotion amongst youth organizations. YOUTH Programme ends in 2006 and a new programme called **YOUTH IN ACTION** starts in 2007, increasing the age limit of the Programme users, which is more suitable to the definition of youth in Croatia. The frame of activities was also broadened to projects for development of youth policy, which are more interesting for CYN and its members.

## European Voluntary Service – EVS Project

According to YOUTH Programme terminology, the Republic of Croatia is a part of 'South-Eastern Europe', which means that it still does not have the National Agency for YOUTH Programme and it can not participate in the Programme in the equal manner with the partner states, including the members of the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey. Youth organizations from Croatia can participate in YOUTH Programme only as partners to youth organizations from above mentioned countries which are the project holders.

However, European Commission started an experiment for the 1st November 2005 tender that opened YOUTH Programme tender for youth organizations from South-Eastern European countries as project holders and gave them the possibility to apply their projects directly to Brussels. Croatian Youth Network in cooperation with **IAL-SCI from Sweden** applied a project for Action 2, known as EVS (European Voluntary Service). The project was approved by the European Commission in April 2006 and CYN, as far as we know, became the first organization from Croatia that became a holder of an approved YOUTH Programme project. The project was in fact a volunteer exchange involving a young Swedish volunteer – **Josefine Lunden**. Josefine came to volunteer in CYN for the period of 6 months via IAL organization from Sweden.



Josefine came to Croatia at the beginning of May 2006, and left in October 2006. During that time she volunteered mainly on Programme of Development of Local Youth Policies and International Cooperation Programme. However, since Josefine was the entire Network volunteer, she also volunteered on certain projects in 4 CYN members associations. Josefine volunteered as the **camp leader for Volunteers' Centre (Zagreb) on Pelješac**, as the **leader of an international camp for Youth Culture Centre (Kutina) in Kutina**, as the **leader of an international activist camp for Green Action (Zagreb) on Šolta** and was involved in **organization of a multi-medial camp and festival for Association Domaći (Karlovac) in Labin**. Josefine helped in the process of writing a project for international cooperation between Network and 10 national youth councils in Europe, which will be applied to YOUTH Programme tender at the beginning of next year. This project is not important only for Croatian Youth Network, for its gain of experience in working with international volunteers, or building Network capacities and help in work to CYN members, but also for the entire youth sector, because CYN has passed the test created by the European Commission when it opened the direct tender for South-Eastern European youth organizations. We hope that this will also serve as a proof to Croatian state institutions that Croatian youth sector is more than ready for the Republic of Croatia to finally become a **partner state** in the new YOUTH IN ACTION Programme in 2007.

## Athens Youth Conference

Athens Youth Conference was held in Athens, from 2nd to 5th November, organized by **Hellenic Youth Council** with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Greece and the Government Youth Secretary General of the Republic of Greece. At the conference, there were about 50 representatives from national youth councils and international youth non-governmental organizations from Europe, with the expert help and facilitation of **Youth Forum Jeunesse**. The Conference topic was the development of youth cooperation amongst different European regions and the development of **cooperation amongst European youth organizations** on global level. A SWOT analysis was made for both kinds of cooperation, and some recommendations were given and new ideas developed for the specific projects.

## CEI Youth Seminar ‘Youth Participation at Local Level’

From 20th to 23rd October 2006 in Slovakia there was a seminar entitled **Central European Initiative Youth Seminar**, with the motive to enable Slovakia to preside at this initiative. This Seminar gathered about 50 representatives of national youth councils and representatives of local governments from Central European countries. The goals of this seminar were: exchange youth experiences in connection of youth participation, involve youth leaders and local government in mutual cooperation in the decision-making processes and exchange of good practice on how cooperation between youth and local government can function. The topics of the seminar were: importance of youth participation in different countries, challenges of youth participation on local level, possibilities of implementation of **European Charter on Youth Participation in Local and Regional Life**, strategy of youth participation for different target groups, possibilities of youth participation on local level, cooperation amongst NVO, councils and local administration.

## ‘Youth policy in Bosnia and Hercegovina, Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro – better cooperation for youth policy improvement’

Regional conference on youth policy was held in Sarajevo on 8th and 9th March 2005. The content of this conference referred to the presentation of youth policy in Croatia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and to the subsequent dialogue on the presented **national youth policies**. Workshops focused on the situation diagnostics of certain policies as well as on the evaluation of implemented activities. The priority of discussions was creation of **cooperation in the region** and defining steps to connect young participants. CYN had a very active role in the presentation of youth policy in the Republic of Croatia and in facilitation of workshops.

## World Youth Forum

**World Youth Forum** was held in Bucharest, Romania, in the period between 10 and 15 August 2006. World Youth Forum is a regular

international conference held once a year on 12th August, on the occasion of **The International Youth Day**. There were about 130 representatives from about 40 countries, and Croatian Youth Network represented Croatia.

There were 35 lectures altogether on World Youth Forum on different segments of youth policy, and a number of workshops and trainings and some of them were facilitated by CYN.

The conference finished with a plenary ceremony, in the presence of the representatives from UN, EU and other associations, ending in adoption of a number of documents – WYF Declaration, Youth message to all world governments. Youth of the World should become an organization that would advocate all youth interests, on national and international level, and enable in due time exchange of information and experiences amongst individuals and youth organizations in the entire world.

## CYN membership in SEEYN

**South East European Youth Network** (SEEYN) is the largest network gathering youth associations in the region. Its work started in 1999, at the moment, it **gathers about 20 youth associations from 7 South-East European** countries dealing with informing youth, volunteer work, work camps, youth policy, human rights, environment protection etc.

SEEYN **finances and encourages its members on activities** such as public campaigns, advocating youth needs, work camps, volunteer exchanges, youth organizations trainings etc. In the following period SEEYN will focus on topics very close to CYN priorities: **youth policy, development of volunteer work and employment of young people**. Therefore, CYN Management Board has decided to candidate for membership, and **CYN became an associated member of SEEYN member by the unanimous vote of its members**, on SEEYN assembly in November 2006 in Montenegro. If we manage to prove through our work that we deserve to become valid SEEYN member, we will be able to become one in a year's time. The only other SEEYN member from Croatia is Volunteers' Centre Zagreb, which is a CYN member as well, while in the past those were Youth Peace Group Danube and Green Action, also CYN members.

## 5] Info-service and publishing

### Info-service of CYN

CYN information policy refers to the informing of youth sector via electronic mail. Since the very beginning, CYN, in partnership with Croatian Esperanto Association (HES), has been running an electronic info service for youth associations. This information system, along with a web portal [www.ukljucise.org](http://www.ukljucise.org), is the foundation of youth information policy in the Republic of Croatia, as well as the basis for youth sectors networking in Croatia. Free prescription for information about the youth sector is carried out through e-mail [infoservis@mmh.hr](mailto:infoservis@mmh.hr) or [hes@zg.t-com.hr](mailto:hes@zg.t-com.hr).

On **FTP server** CYN members can search for and download photographs, graphics, presentations, address books and other documents. If a member wants to upload a document/file, it should contact out administrator on [teo@mmh.hr](mailto:teo@mmh.hr). FTP server is on the following address: <http://mmh.hr/privatno/clanice>.

A Code of Conduct for e-communication in Croatian Youth Network has been made and it can be found on CYN Internet page on the following address: [www.mmh.hr](http://www.mmh.hr).

#### **CYN mailing lists:**

Committee for Culture and Leisure time mailing list:

[cool@lista.mmh.hr](mailto:cool@lista.mmh.hr)

Committee for Youth and Economy mailing list:

[gospodarstvo@lista.mmh.hr](mailto:gospodarstvo@lista.mmh.hr)

Committee for Youth Informing, Communication and Media mailing list:

[infokom@lista.mmh.hr](mailto:infokom@lista.mmh.hr)

Committee for Resolving Conflicts, Violence and Discrimination amongst

Youth mailing list: [dnk@lista.mmh.hr](mailto:dnk@lista.mmh.hr)

Committee for Youth Mobility mailing list:

[mobilnost@lista.mmh.hr](mailto:mobilnost@lista.mmh.hr)

Committee for Education mailing list:

[obrazovanje@.mmh.hr](mailto:obrazovanje@.mmh.hr)

Committee for Youth Participation in Society mailing list:

[sudjelovanje@lista.mmh.hr](mailto:sudjelovanje@lista.mmh.hr)

Work group for International Cooperation mailing list:

[internacionalno@lista.mmh.hr](mailto:internacionalno@lista.mmh.hr)

Work group for Building Youth Organization Capacities mailing list:

[edukacija@lista.mmh.hr](mailto:edukacija@lista.mmh.hr)

Work group for Development of Local Youth Policy mailing list:

lokalno@lista.mmh.hr

Work group for Development of National Youth Policy mailing list:

nacionalna\_politika@lista.mmh.hr

Work group for Info-service and Publishing mailing list:

infoservis@lista.mmh.hr

Coordination of the youth branches of political party mailing list:

mladi-stranke@lista.mmh.hr

CYN membership mailing list:

svi-mi@lista.mmh.hr

CYN volunteers mailing list:

volonteri@lista.mmh.hr

Although modest, **publishing activity** is very important for CYN development, as an organization recognized in the area of youth policy.

Publication **'Youth and Millennium Development Goals'** is the result of education of youth organizations on Millennium Declaration and realization of Millennium Development Goals (MDG), on global plan and in the Republic of Croatia. The basic goal of this publication is to raise the **awareness of young activists** and their organizations about the improvement of **economic, social, health and political surroundings**. The publication reports on MDG's implementation in the Republic of Croatia, leaning on the situation in high youth unemployment areas, inadequate life conditions, insufficient education system, risk of sexually transmitted diseases, low level of environment care and viable development and unequal gender relations in the Republic of Croatia. The publication especially discusses **youth organizations recommendations** for development of Millennium Development Goals directed towards the Government of the Republic of Croatia and international organizations. The authors of the publication are **Tomislav Tomašević, Dražen Puljić** and **Vlatka Matković** from Croatian Association for HIV (CAHIV).

Text-book **'Steps to successful local youth policy'** was created through project 'Founding County Youth Councils' as a practical guide for youth organizations for cooperation and networking processes and mutual action and advocating of implementation of **local youth policy**. This text-book contains basic steps of youth participation in the life of local community, through presentation of **national/local institutional**

**frame for youth policy**, which was used for the presentation of the idea of founding county youth councils as autonomous representative bodies advocating youth interests. The text-book offers models for **youth organizations networking** and their **cooperation with the local government**, firstly in making local programme of action for youth.

The authors of this publication are **Emina Bužinkić**, **Dražen Puljić** and **Tomislav Tomašević**. It was created in cooperation with the association **Domaći** from Karlovac.

Through programme of international cooperation CYN participated in the creation of two web portals. In cooperation with **Centre for Peace Studies** from Zagreb, **Human Rights Office** from Tuzla and **Group 484** from Beograd, a **Summer tolerance school** was held on Zlatibor, Serbia, attended by high school students from Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia and Hercegovina. The result of this school is a web page <http://ljubis2006.grupa484.org.yu> which is an open space for the exchange of experience and information on life of young people in regional countries.

For a large number of years Croatian Youth Network has been cooperating with **Youth Information Agency**, which is one of the pioneers in youth informing process in South-Eastern Europe. Together with other organizations involved in youth informing process in South-Eastern Europe we have created a regional portal concept **www.mladi.info**. We have also created a part of this portal involving Croatia. The information exchange is continuing, not only via info-portal but also via **electronic info-services** presenting daily news on happenings in youth sector in certain South-East European countries.

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EVENTS**  
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## focus: youth

Considering youth topics extremely important and realizing the need for its positioning in the centre of public interest, we have organized a series of public debates named focus: youth. The topic of youth in media is very rare, the general public mentions it only in certain contexts where youth is perceived as too subversive element, burden of society or a group favouring socially unacceptable behaviour. Youth is approached as a group which often deviating from social standards and values.

Public debates planned to rescue youth from the 'yaws' of social care. Youth does not need other people's care. More than 20% of the population in the Republic of Croatia are young people between 15 and 29 years of age, more than capable of being active and relative subjects in social development.

In 2005 two public debates were organized, entitled **'Youth in politics'** and **'How active is youth in Croatia?'**. The first dealt with the questions of youth in politics from different views. Therefore, parts of discussions were focused on important questions like youth as pre-election topic, which the politicians do not deal with after the elections, youth as the priority of national politics and youth active in political parties and their new generations. The discussion of youth participation in government bodies could not have been omitted, as well as the topic of youth going to elections and the importance of youth as electoral body. Vlasta Ilišin, BSc from the Institute for Social Research, Martina Stažnik from Democratic Youth Initiative and Marijana Grbeša, BSc from the Faculty of Political Science spoke at the public stand. Marking the World Youth Activism Day another public stand was organized. Benjamin Perasović, BSc from The Croatian Studies of The University of Zagreb, Lidija Burić from Volunteers Centre Zagreb, Martina Globočnik from FADE IN and Tomislav Tomašević from Croatian Youth Network participated in the discussion. This discussion had a goal to pay attention to active youth who develop this society through volunteer engagement. However, seeing the bigger picture, we were interested in the cause of a large number of passive youth. Accordingly, it was very important for us to initiate topics on youth and youth organization public visibility and adequately learn about how the general public perceives youth. In order to perceive this problem in a broader context



and include all important aspects, the discussion was broadened on the following questions: how much does the state politics encourage activity of young people, what is the media image of youth and youth activism in the Republic of Croatia like?

In 2006 a public stand marking the **International Youth Day** was organized in cooperation with UNDP. In 1999 United Nations General Assembly, through the recommendation of World conference of the ministers responsible for youth development, declared the 12th August International Youth Day. After the topics youth and intergenerational society, unemployment, youth health, viable development, the motto of marking the Youth Day in 2006 is **'Tackling poverty together'**. Tackling poverty is the focus of this year's activities because of the devastating facts of youth life in conditions of great poverty, lack of quality food, education and stagnating or falling quality of life in general, as mentioned in the **World Youth Report 2005**. During the public stand a short documentary on youth activism was shown. It was created during **'Research on social development 2004'** and Croatian Youth Network participated in its creation.

## Global Youth Service Day

Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) is marked once a year in over 150 countries in order to promote activism and engagement of millions of young people around the world in their effort to improve their communities and change the world. It was initiated and coordinated by **Global Youth Action Network**, located in New York.

In 2005 GYSD was marked for the fourth time, from 15th to 17th April. CYN took over the coordination of local partners' activities on national level and included about fifty youth associations. The goal was to increase the visibility of youth associations in the country, point out the need of implementation of National Programme of Action for Youth and reinstate youth in the centre of public space and interest. GYSD was marked in Čakovec – associations **ACT, CeZaM, Kneja, Nobilis, EOL**, primary and secondary schools, in Karlovac – **Domaći, Križevci – KVARK, UKE, PIONT, SafeHouse, Prijatelji životinja**, Lepoglava – **NUM**, Petrinja – **IKS**, Pula – **Monte Paradiso, Metamedij**, Split – **Youth Association Coalition**, Vrbovec – **Youth Association Vrbovec**, Zagreb – **MMH**, Kutina – **KCM** and **NMK**, etc.

## Fair of Youth Associations

A well-known Fair of Youth Associations was held from 11th to 13th May 2005 at the Student Centre in Zagreb. The Fair was organized in partnership with the organization **CARE International**. The fourth Fair of Youth Associations was an excellent opportunity for youth activists to **exchange their experiences on work with youth**. Moreover, youth had a chance to represent their associations and initiatives to the public, mostly through their promotional materials on stands, short oral presentations etc.

There was an interesting programme going on during the three-day fair. After the appearance of the group Urban chaos live act and music numbers by DJ Marin (Pula), DJ Ben (Zagreb), DJ Kuđo (Knin) and VJ Multimedia team, more than 40 youth organizations presented their work in their local communities. The following organizations introduced their work: **Croatian Association for HIV, Youth Centre Belišće, BEST, ZUM, UKE, Prijatelji životinja, Spirit, Croatian Youth, UMS Agram, MOST, Udruga mladih informatičara, Cycling Club from Valpovština, Volunteers Centre Zagreb, Olive, Orlando, Youth Peace Group Danube, VETO!, Metamedia Association** and independent initiative **Brain Protest** etc.

Presented activities included whole or partial programmes, projects, O4 Magazine presentation, association brochures, presentations of portals [www.ukljucise.org](http://www.ukljucise.org) and <http://ssla.oneworld.net>, book presentations, film, reportage and photography presentations, table strategic games presentations, reports on youth and volunteering, presentation of local music scenes. Furthermore, a round table named '**Youth Policy**' was held.

Number of performers made the off programme extremely entertaining: ETUI ETUI SONICZOIL (Bjelovar), Tomislav Rabadžija a.k.a. ELEKTROLOG (Klick/acis/deep/psycho/house), THY 1138 (minimal house), Robert Radamant and visitor Q. (Križevci) and Experimental VJ UKE team. Programme was finished with the presentation of **UNDP National Human Development Report 2004 – Youth**.

## CYN assemblies

Besides the **Election Assembly** in December 2004, CYN held two more thematic assemblies. In May 2005 the Annual Thematic Assembly was held in Zagreb with more than 60 representatives of membership organizations and foreign partner organizations.

At this assembly youth associations have prepared for the participation in the national conference, dividing into 4 working groups and discussing the following topics:

- 1] Defining terms 'youth association', 'national youth association', 'umbrella youth organization' and 'youth club'; administrative and financial criteria
- 2] Implementation of National Programme of Action for Youth; difficulties, progress, redefining concepts in order to make it more efficient, monitoring and evaluation
- 3] Info-centres and multi-functional-macro-regional youth centres
- 4] Draft of Law on Local Youth Councils

There was a short presentation of the terminology youth policy and the following terminology was accepted by consensus: youth policy, umbrella youth organization or national youth council, youth club, youth branches of political parties and youth organizations.

**11 new youth associations** entered into membership: Attack – Zagreb, Democratic Youth Initiative (in the meantime changed its name into Association for Civil Education and Social Development) – Zagreb, Fade-IN – Zagreb, Hrvatska glazbena mladež – Zagreb, URK – Zagreb, Volunteers Centre Zagreb – Zagreb, Domaći – Karlovac, Youth Association Koprivnica – Koprivnica, Most – Split, Youth Club Šibenik – Šibenik and Youth Culture Centre – Kutina.

This year's Thematic Assembly was held in April in Zadar, gathering more than 100 representatives of membership organizations, ministries, Governmental Office for Non-governmental Organizations and donors (AED, USAID). A one-day seminar preceded this assembly with the topic YOUTH Programme of the European Commission, organized in partnership with VCZ which gathered numerous youth organizations. During the assembly 5 working groups for 5 CYN programs were created as well as thematic policy committees as independent bodies systematically working on the development of positions for certain sectors of youth policy, and development of advocating mechanisms, in cooperation with CYN.

Nine new organizations became members of Network: Youth Club Osijek (changed their name into Informal Education Centre – Creators not Consumers – CNC), Zefra – Pregrada, Ambidekster – Zagreb, Migra – Donji Miholjac, Youth Association Olive – Krk, Association Zamisli – Zagreb, Youth Centre – Čakovec, Independent Youth from Kutina – Kutina and Independent Youth Association – Lepoglava. Since then CYN numbers 48 membership organizations.

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### **Management Board members 2004-2006**

**Tomislav Tomašević**, president – Green Action

**Emina Bužinkić**, vice-president – Center for Peace Studies

**Saša Lončarić**, vice-president – K.V.A.R.K.

**Teo Petričević**, MB member – Action for Civil Transparency - ACT

**Dražen Puljić**, MB member – DIM - Association for Civic Education and Social Development

**Emina Višnić**, MB member – Clubture Association Alliance

**Siniša Mitrović**, MB member – Youth Peace Group Danube

### **Supervisory Board members 2004-2006**

**Kristina Bulešić**, ZUM

**Tomislav Bulić**, European House

**Josipa Franjčić**, Catholic Scouts Association

**Zrnka Kušen**, Croatian Youth Hostel Association

**Gabrijela Ratkajec**, Blue Telephone

### **Operation team (employees):**

**Sandra Begović**, administrative coordinator

**Emina Bužinkić**, 'Creating County Youth Councils' project leader

**Igor Roginek**, 'Creating County Youth Councils' project leader

**Dražen Puljić**, 'Creating County Youth Councils' project leader

**Tomislav Tomašević**, EVS project and capacity development projects leader

and other MB members with programme duties: **Emina Višnić** (cooperation with the youth branches of political parties, Advisory Council for Youth, MFVVIS) and **Teo Petričević** (web & print activities).

### **Volunteers:**

**Marija Belošević**, **Nada Kaurin**, **Kristina Kosor**, **Tina Kovačić**, **Luka Tomac**