



REPORT OF THE MEETING IN TURKEY, from 2nd to 5th March 2012

From 2nd to 5th March 2012, the meeting took place in Edremit, Balıkesir, Turkey, between the Associazione per la Pace and Turkish partners Karagözoğlu İ.Ö.O. GSK and GESOGED in the European Youth in Action 1.3. Democracy Project "Young Promoters of Participation".

The following people were present:

- Francesca Pasquato and Deepa Bracchiof the Association For Peace, the project coordinator.
- Ayşe Bilgiç, project coordinator for Turkey and represented by Edremit town National Education Directorate.
- Ayşe Pınar Karüzüm, ICT teacher and Youth Leader.
- Ayşe Yeliz Aldemir, English Teacher and Youth Leader.
- Mete Misir, Chairman of Karagözoğlu Youth Sports Club, project partner.
- Erhan Adılay, youth worker and representative of Eurodesk, the President of GESOGED, NGO in Balıkesir.
- Tuncay Püsküllüoğlu, President of Edremit town Youth Services and Sport Directorate.
- Ragıp Dülker, English Teacher represented by Balıkesir city National Education Directorate Research and Development Office (Balıkesir Ar-Ge).

Meeting:

-First there was a visit to the Sports Club, the primary and secondary schools of Edremit (that is attended by the young people who will take part in the project) and the sports center. The President of the Club has given the Italian partners information materials about the region and some projects in which the Sports Centre is involved as well as presenting the Games useful for developing a sense of team and cooperation and to reflect on the dynamics of leadership.

-Then there was the meeting between all present. After taking some photos with the partners' flags, there was a presentation of the Peace Association, Italy, and the delivery of some handbags as gift. Then the project was presented in its different phases and deadlines.

-During the discussion, the partners agreed with the contents of the local trainings that will take place both in Italy and in Turkey with the young participants, through interactive tools: brainstorming on key concepts of participation, active citizenship, mechanisms of decision making, various forms of democracy, the consensus method, the power, dynamics of conflicts related to decision-making processes and the listening.

-The objectives of local trainings defined by all partners were: 1)to prepare the youth to interview local institutions representatives, allowing them to reflect about the obstacles and opportunities of current democratic systems and 2) to collect the first questions to make during the interviews on which the young people will discuss together during the International Meeting.



-The Turkish partners explained also that the young people involved will consist of 10 youth: 4 from the primary class and 6 from the secondary class and will be half boys and half girls. They will be selected, choosing among participants with a little knowledge of English. Despite the initial doubt of Turkish partners to work on the issues identified, with boys who are 13/14 years old, it was decided to address this issue using an interactive methodology, through games, simulation exercises and theater. For this purpose some examples have been presented from the "Theatre of the Oppressed".

-During the meeting there was also a comparison on the issues faced by young Italians and Turks people about participation. Some problems revealed are for example:

- lack of NGO managed only by young people ,
- lack of sufficient platforms in which Young people can be to discuss their problems
- Youth who express their ideas / aspirations, criticisms are often politicized,
- the difficulty to communicate that means difficulty to create organizations
- young people who belong to political groups usually act for the party and not for their needs

It was however pointed out (by the Directorate for Youth Policies) that there is an opportunity for young people to meet each other at national meetings twice/three times a year to discuss social, cultural problems and other aspects, but it is probably not enough to encourage youth participation in social life.

-The Turkish partners explained that the young people will be able to interview the Directorate for Youth Policies, the Directorate for Education, the School Councils and, if it is possible, other institutions. There were also some arrangements for the preparation of the project website and facebook group by the Turkish partners and it was decided to upgrade the website, as soon as possible, with English presentations and photos of all young people involved in the project. The partners will also prepare a press release about the project for the local media in Turkey and Italy.

-The meeting was also an opportunity to address among partners some financial and logistic questions relative to the next trip to Italy, at the International Meeting for example the aspects of bureaucratic preparation for the travel, accommodation in Pisa and organization of the International week, the possibility of a trip to Florence or Lucca with young people.

-To facilitate communication and relationships between the Peace Association and the Turkish partners, some partner data were requested (Logo, bank account and curriculum personnel involved) and prepared a monitoring form in order to assess the progress of all activities realized.

