



The Assembly of European Regions

AER Regional Reporters

Competition for youth from European regions

Background information

One year ago, in April 2009, the Assembly of European Regions (AER) offered young people the chance of becoming one of AER's Regional Reporters for the first time. Thanks to this initiative young people could be heard on radio stations across Europe – all due to the radio programme “Europe and you”, which is aired on several French-speaking local radio stations in Europe and on the website (<http://www.europeandyou.eu>). It allowed 18 young people from 11 European countries to share with other young Europeans their thoughts on what Europe means to them.

Now AER and “Europe and you” radio are inviting young people from the European regions to prepare short voice-recordings on the following topic:

Move on, Europe! From mobility to diversity.

Recordings will next be broadcast on radio and website during the “Europe and you” programme in June 2010.¹ This time, all of the submitted recordings will take part in **the competition!**

What's the prize?

Following broadcast online, a professional jury team will select the best recording. The author will be invited to take part in **AER Youth Summer School on Mobility** (22-27 August 2010, St.Gallen, Thurgau, Switzerland) to join AER Press and Communication team and support their press work during this particular event.

How do I choose a topic?

The contemporary Europe goes far beyond Robert Schuman's expectations! It was 60 years ago that Schuman's Declaration marked the beginning of the reunited Europe. The document was a starting point for the European Union, bringing together the ideas of moving forward and respecting the diversity.

The growth of the European Union over the last decades has coincided with an increase in

¹ Please note that the recordings of poor quality will not be broadcast online.

mobility among its citizens. The European Union without borders and barriers to move is the greatest achievement of more than 50 year-long process of integration. Many people look for a better life in foreign regions. Many of European regions are now experiencing the influx of migrants themselves. Mobility became an omnipresent factor in the contemporary life – it affects especially lives of young Europeans by providing numerous employment and education opportunities. In the united Europe, we are exposed to various opportunities stemming from mobility. Thanks to it, many of us have a chance to move and to change the cultural environment. The learning mobility strengthens our future employability and helps to level the skills shortages. Increasingly, multinational societies provide great opportunities and potential to Europe, since diversity is the basis for creativity and innovation. But multinational societies also pose a new set of challenges, such as xenophobia and parallel societies. It seems that successful integration is the key to overcome these challenges and to tap the full potential of migration.

Mobility projects are still confronted by many legal, practical, financial and cultural obstacles. In spite of European Union's efforts made to involve the biggest possible number of young people in the mobility programs, the physical, virtual, or mental mobility is still a matter of exclusion. Social inequalities and different access to the "advantage of being mobile" are not going to move forward Europe.

Against this background, the AER Regional Reporters focuses on the topic of mobility and diversity. Now you have a chance to say out loud what do you think about these amazing phenomena or express your hopes and predictions about this.

- › Learning foreign languages – a factor of better integration?
- › Is moving in Europe an opportunity for all?
- › How to make simple "Moving in Europe"- create for example an European, accommodation system...?
- › The stimulating desire for mobility: does it deepen the sense of European identity and citizenship among young people?
- › The contemporary Europe – a melting pot of cultures, languages and nationalities?

This is your opportunity to share with others your opinions on the topic!

How do I prepare my recording?

Once you choose a topic you should prepare the 4-minute long voice presentation following the following criteria:

- the first sentence in your regional language, where you introduce yourself and your region
- the presentation of your topic in English or in French

In addition to your voice-recording, feel free to include other voices and sounds to make your report more dynamic and interesting.

Be creative and release your imagination! Remember that you should make your public interested in your topic and win the competition.

Recording your voice:

To record your presentation you should have a computer and microphone (simple microphone, such as the ones used for Skype). You should use one of the free open-source programmes, which are available on the Internet and can be downloaded for free. Here are some of the programmes that you might find helpful when recording your presentation:

- Audacity® is free, open-source software for recording and editing sounds. It is available for Mac OS X, Microsoft Windows, GNU/Linux, and other operating systems. For more information please see: <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/about/>

Once you install the programme, you are ready to record your voice presentation. Then save your recording in Wave or MP3 format and send it to us.

It will take only a few minutes to record your report and send it to us by email!

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| How does it work? |
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It is really simple:

- You should send the registration form and photo that we can put on the Website of the Radio to the AER Secretariat by **30 April 2010**.
- In the registration form you will be asked to specify the topic of your recording, which should be delivered before the 30 May 2010:

| What to do? | When? |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Sending a registration form | 30 April 2010 |
| Sending a recording | 30 May 2010 |
| Broadcasting recordings on line | June 2010 |
| Evaluation of the recordings | July 2010 |
| Results | 15 July 2010 |

You are welcome to send us more than one recording. Your presentation will be broadcast on European radio and, along with your photo, on the “Europe and you” website broadcast.

Contact person

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