



Assembly of European Regions

“Youth on the Move”

**Contribution by young people from European regions:
Participants of the AER Youth Summer School on Mobility and Members of the
AER Youth Regional Network**

1. Introduction

Established in 1985, the **Assembly of European Regions (AER)** is Europe's largest independent network of regional authorities. By bringing together over 270 regions from 33 countries and 16 interregional organisations, AER facilitates interregional cooperation across wider Europe and beyond. Moreover, as a platform for youth actively involved in their regions, AER has established a number of initiatives facilitating and promoting youth mobility, such as **Eurodissey**¹ and **AER Youth Regional Network**² (YRN), Europe's first and only platform on regional youth councils, parliaments and organisations.

2. Context

Organised jointly by AER and the regions of St. Gallen and Thurgau (CH), AER Summer School and AER Youth Summer School on Rural, Urban and Interregional Mobility³ took place between 22 and 27 August 2010. During the AER Summer Schools regional and European decision-makers, regional officers and young people had the chance to discuss the important topic of interregional and rural mobility.

It was during the youth session organised by members of the AER Youth Regional Network that young participants of the AER Youth Summer School 2010 gathered to discuss mobility in its broader context. Therefore, they focused on learning mobility, being regarded as an important aspect for an increasing number of young Europeans.

As a result members of the AER Youth Regional Network together with participants of the AER Youth Summer School on Mobility would like to present the results of discussions and their joint contribution to the EC flagship initiative “Youth on the Move”.

¹ More information about Eurodissey is available at: <http://www.eurodissee.eu/>

² More information about YRN is available at: <http://www.aer.eu/main-issues/youth/aer-youth-regional-network.html>

³ For a detailed programme please go to: <http://www.aer.eu/events/summer-school/2000-2009/aer2010.html>

3. Comments:

“We, young participants of the AER Summer Schools 2010 and members of the AER Youth Regional Network agree that learning mobility, is an omnipresent factor in the contemporary life, becoming one of the greatest opportunities for young people, allowing them to practice their language skills, to gain professional experience thus broadening their professional horizons. Moreover, as young people active in our regions, we are also aware of the challenges related to learning mobility. Therefore, we welcome the “Youth on the Move” initiative with an exceeding interest to disseminate the information about the programme, moreover to participate directly in future objectives as seen by the Commission on Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth.

Learning mobility goes far beyond the possibility to move and learn freely and easily. As such it has become a main factor in:

- Facilitating the school-to-work transition and getting the first job opportunities;
- Increasing the opportunity to move freely between different levels in society and on the labour market.
- Promoting and developing the idea of “flexicurity” as a new model of labour flexibility and security all over Europe.

Additionally, as young people active in European regions, we would like to stress that learning mobility is an omnipresent phenomenon in the European learning environment and shall be considered a factor enabling youth to gain experience that may later assist in fostering the development of local communities.

Moreover, we agree that given the economic and social discrepancies among young Europeans as well as the efforts by the European Commission to increase social cohesion among all citizens of the European community, the “Youth on the Move” initiative shall:

- Ensure the equal access to learning mobility to all young Europeans, including the disadvantaged youth;
- Call for enhanced interregional cooperation in order to increase the accessibility of learning mobility;
- Stress the role of national and regional actors in ensuring that the learning experience gained abroad is acknowledged within local labour markets;
- Sensitize local and regional actors with regards to their role in providing incentives for young European to travel abroad;
- Create a genuine platform of dialogue for young people and European decision-makers in order to ensure that concerns and needs of young Europeans are taken into account.

We therefore express our genuine interest in providing the feedback in the future and look forward to hearing about the initiative as well as next steps.”

24 August 2010, Rorschach (CH)

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