



**AER Youth Team Working Session
Workshop on European Citizenship
Olomouc (CZ)
25-27 March 2009**

Agenda

I day, 25 March

Arrival of participants:
Dinner

II day, 26 March

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| 08.45 – 09.00 | Transfer to venue |
| 09.00 – 09.30 | Opening (venue: Olomouc Regional office Jeremenkova 40a) |
| 09.30 – 13.00 | Working Session I of the Youth Team
Presentation of the recent activities |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Assembly 2008• Working Programme 2009• Youth Regional Network: Wiesbaden Conference, Krzyzowa Meeting• Do you speak European? Grande Final, 2nd Edition of the project• Eurodyssey meeting in Brussels: how to integrate Youth with Eurodyssey Programme• Summer School Organising Committee Meeting in Valencia• Meeting in Turin and Meeting in Wachau• Youth Ambassadors Project• Regional Reporters• Most Youth Friendly European Region Award• Cooperation between Youth Team and Committees: where we are?• Strategic Programme of the Youth Regional Network and Youth Team |
| 13.00 – 14.00 | Lunch break |
| 14.00 – 15.00 | Meeting with regional representatives: Youth Team members, Mr. Radovan Rastak, vice-president of the region with responsibility culture and sport |

- presentation of the Youth Team and its activities by Youth Team member
- presentation of the AER youth policy by Malgorzata Kucinska
- presentation of the Olomouc Region and its youth policy (Mr. Rastak)
- (Interpreting would be done by Anton Kuzmin and Jitka Brabkova)

15.00 – 17.00 Working Session II Discussion about Youth Regional Network

- AER Youth Regional Network and the future of AER youth activity: how to integrate the projects to the Strategic Programme?

17.00 – 19.00 Visit of the city

19.00 Dinner

III day, 27 March

09.30 – 10.30 Meeting with Olomouc Youth Council representatives and presentation to the AER Youth activities: How can young people from Olomouc region be involved in the AER youth activities? Presentation by Malgorzata Kucinska

10.30 – 12.30 Workshop in the framework of the Citizens' Forum for the member of the Youth Council (see programme below)

13.00 Lunch
Departure

AER Citizens' Forum

Workshop on Europe for the youth from Olomouc Region at the time of Czech Presidency in the EU

Are you European Citizens?

Are you Czech or European ? Will be the main question of the forum.

Workshop will be organised for the Youth Council members on the topic concerning European Citizenship in the context of Czech Presidency in the EU. The objective will be to discuss with young people about what does Europe mean to them as well as to discover if Europe has an influence on life of young people from regions. Workshop will be in English. The number of participants should be between 20 and 30. Workshop will be moderated by Malgorzata Kucinska with support of AER Youth Team and it will be in a form of an open discussion and game/quiz.



European context and Czech presidency priorities

In the highly changeable world of the 21st century, it is becoming clear that the European Union's success depends upon it having the ability to flexibly respond to current problems, and to take full advantage of its economic, cultural and human potential. With this in mind, the AER citizens' forum aims at voicing the citizens' priorities, while assessing the most current European developments. For these reasons, particular attention will be given to the priorities set by the Czech Presidency of the EU, interpreted as the most significant elements of the current European action, on which citizens are entitled to be informed and express their views.

Thus, the AER citizens' Forum will firstly assess the motto chosen by the Czech Republic '**Europe without Barriers**'. In particular, attention will be given to the meanings of this motto, as concerns citizens' daily life and the internal economic, cultural and value barriers, still limiting the effective freedom of movement of individuals.

Secondly, the Forum will focus on the strategic and cultural alliance existing between the European Union and the Union States. In particular, the focus is intended to analyze the cultural and political change, represented by the election of the new President, Barack Obama and the effects of such election on European politics. The life story of President Obama and all that he embodies has boosted America's image in Europe. However, the old continent has not yet produced a similar figure and many are asking if it is indeed possible or necessary, in order to revitalize European politics.

Thirdly, the year 2009 will be a year of significant anniversaries – above all, the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Iron Curtain, and the fifth anniversary of the most extensive enlargement of the European Union – that will commemorate the successful project of the reunification of Europe. In this occasion, the AER forum aims at evaluating the impact of these years of full European membership on citizens' life. Voice will be directly given to citizens, as to let the express their further expectations about European membership.

1. Ice breaking

Small test about Europe and common check up
What does it mean "citizenship"?

2. About European and Czech citizenship

Participants will be divided into 2 groups:

- Czech citizenship
- European Citizens

Each group needs to write on paper: what is good and bad about being Czech or European citizen. Then, each of group will discuss about what rights they have as Czech or European citizens.



General discussion:

Each group presents its discussion and ideas. Then youngsters will be asked to give

their opinions on following questions:

- What is Europe and how does it affect my life?
- What are my rights as a young European citizen?
- What does being part of Europe means for you?
- What can you learn from other cultures?
- Do you think that being part of the EU is a positive thing for young people?

3. How would you like to change Europe?

Discussion about Czech Presidency: what it is, the missions, objective, how does it work in the EU? What young people know about Presidency? Then, young people will be divided again into two groups:

- Czech Presidency
- European “President” Obama

Group 1 - Europe without barriers: the main priority of Czech Presidency, what does it mean?

The key priorities are the three ‘E’s’: Economy, Energy and Europe in the world. The motto is a ‘Europe without barriers’.

The Czech Republic, as is customary for the presiding country, introduced the priorities and work programme when it took over the leading role in the EU for the following six months of the Presidency. The work programme of the Czech Presidency is introduced by a brief description of the priority areas which the Czech Republic wants to pay special attention to as presiding country. Then follows a detailed description of agendas that the Presidency will address within the framework of the internal and external politics of the EU.

The document is the result of two years of preparation. The Government based the definition of its priorities and programme on strategic documents from the EU and on conclusions of the EU Council and European Councils. In cooperation with France and Sweden – our partners in the Presidency Trio – the Government also prepared a joint eighteen-month programme that has become a virtual time-table of the EU for the next year and a half. The priorities and the programme of the Czech Presidency also address the challenges that the European Union has had to face in the last few months and weeks before the beginning of 2009.

Exercise: Imagine that you are the Czech Presidency. What kind of priorities would you propose to Europe? Prepare a list of priorities.

Group 2 - Lessons from the US: does Europe need its own Obama?

In this column, you will find basic information on EU institutions and bodies, such as the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council of the EU, the Court of Justice, the European Central Bank, the European Investment Bank, the European Court of Auditors, the Committee of the Regions, and the European Economic and Social Committee. You can also learn about the European Ombudsman and discover how the agencies of the Communities work.



Short description of the institutions.

Exercise: Does the Europe need a President? Prepare a list of arguments for and against this question. Than imagine that you are going to stand in the elections of president of the EU. What would be your programme for election campaign? How you will convince the European citizens to vote for you?

4. Conclusions

How young people from Olomouc Youth Council can shape their future?

