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DIALOGUES FOR A EUROPEAN FUTURE

10 Years of the South Eastern Europe Initiative
of the Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO)

FRANCE

DEUTSCHLAND

2000

2010

Република Македонија

Ish Republika Jugoslave e Maqedonisë

Bosna i Hercegovina / Босна и Херцеговина

Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosovo

Република Србија
Republika Srbija

Republika Hrvatska



Deutsch-Französisches Jugendwerk
Office franco-allemand pour la Jeunesse

Dialogues for a European future

10 years of the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the Franco-German Youth Office

In 1999, following the violent conflicts which shook the territories of the former socialist Republic of Yugoslavia and with a war raging in Kosovo, the Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO) and its partners, under the auspices of UNICEF, mobilized their resources to organize the visit of a group of young circus artists from France, Germany and Slovakia to Kosovan refugee camps in Macedonia. Under the artistic direction of the famous mime artist, Milan Sládek, and in co-operation with the Children's Theater Center in Skopje, Macedonia, they set out to make the children and young refugees forget for a few moments the horrors of war.

At the 75th Franco-German summit in Mainz on 9th June 2000, the French and German governments commissioned the FGYO to "develop its activity in South Eastern Europe and to reinforce in future its trilateral exchange programmes in this region." This year the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO, funded by the French and German ministries of foreign affairs, celebrates its tenth year of existence.

Since the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO was taken in South Eastern Europe it has fostered dialogue and on-going co-operation between organisations representing civil society in France, Germany and countries of South Eastern Europe. The South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO has supported youth exchanges and tri-national training seminars, associating our two countries with a third country: with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro or Serbia.

Drawing on the lessons learned from Franco-German reconciliation and the tools developed from this co-operation, and taking account of the complexity of the situation in the Balkans, the projects undertaken have contributed to intercultural learning, to regional co-operation and to the development of an awareness of what it is to be a European citizen. They show at the same time

that Franco-German relations are not exclusive and that the example of their experience can be shared with other nations as a source of inspiration.

Besides the statistics, with more than 300 projects completed since the year 2000 involving nearly 6.000 participants, the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO has above all a political mission and represents a human adventure in the service of peace in Europe.

This publication gives an overview of the wealth of activities and the complexity of the experience gained so far. It expresses the FGYO's gratitude to all the actors involved in this Initiative in South Eastern Europe over the last ten years and to all those who continue to strive for shared democratic values. Finally this publication is meant to encourage new youth organisations to become involved in this Initiative.



Dr. Eva Sabine KUNTZ
Secretary General

Béatrice ANGRAND
Secretary General

This publication is also available in German and French at the FGYO.

At the 75th Franco-German Summit, held 9th June 2000 in Mainz, Germany and France asked the Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO) to augment its efforts in South Eastern Europe. For ten years, the German Federal Foreign Office and Quai d'Orsay have financed the tri-national exchange programme carried out by the FGYO in this region – and with great success. The model of Franco-German reconciliation, exchange and cultivation of contacts in a spirit of friendship at all levels of society is bearing fruit in South Eastern Europe.

Only if we build bridges between the countries of Europe and begin a dialogue with one another can we work together to make a useful contribution to a peaceful and free future for our continent. This is particularly true in a region such as the Balkans, marked as it is by social splintering and interethnic tensions.

The South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO strengthens civil society in South Eastern Europe, and in doing so promotes peace and democracy. "Conflict resolution", "intercultural youth work" and "the environment" are but a few of the topics addressed by these tri-national youth workshops. Only in 2009, nearly 700 participants came together to take part 25 programmes – this, I think, is an impressive number indeed.

I am pleased that with the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO the deep friendship between Germany and France – a friendship characterised by a spirit of mutual trust – has over the past ten years given rise to a new dimension of co-operation that recognises the challenges of cross-border dialogue as an opportunity and is successfully contributing to understanding among the peoples of Europe.

Dr. Guido Westerwelle
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs



By inviting the Franco-German Youth Office (the FGYO) in 2000 to promote youth exchanges in South Eastern Europe, Germany and France wished to express their support for the rapprochement of countries in this region with the European Union. After the conflicts of the nineties in the Western Balkans it was important to think of the future and to count on the new generations to resolve the conflicts of the past.

For more than four decades, the FGYO, more than any other institution, has symbolized Franco-German friendship and our determination to build a common destiny in a united and democratic Europe. It was normal, therefore, and even indispensable to ask it to become involved in this part of the Continent which had suffered so severely and where the scars are still visible both in the landscape of the countries concerned and in the minds of their people.

I should like to congratulate the FGYO for its action, as well as to applaud the participants in the programmes for their commitment to support the values of tolerance and solidarity that bind Europe together. I should also like to encourage the Franco-German Youth Office to continue with these tri-national exchanges. They benefit young people in the countries concerned as well as renew Franco-German relations. These relations stand for openness to others and form the basis of a stronger and more united Europe.

Bernard Kouchner
French Minister of Foreign and European Affairs





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RETROSPECTIVE



“Respect for one another’s culture...”

Strictly speaking, this year the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO turned not ten years of age but rather 11. In 1999, in the midst of the war in Kosovo, at the request of the Franco-German Youth Office, ten young artists from Germany, France and Slovakia under the artistic direction of internationally renowned pantomime, director and author Milan Sládek travelled to Macedonia. At the time, tens of thousands of refugees were streaming out of Kosovo into neighbouring Macedonia. For these refugees, this meant a humanitarian catastrophe; the situation also placed the country of Macedonia in jeopardy of collapse.

Under the patronage of and in close co-operation with UNICEF, and together with Dritero Kasapi and Refet Abazi of the Children’s Theater Center in Skopje, Milan Sládek and the artists developed a programme and concept of interactive work that would reach out to the children and young people in the refugee camps (70 percent of the refugees were under 25 years of age). With the tools of pantomime, theatre and music, the Franco-German-Slovakian group attempted to lighten the plight of these young refugees.

The admirable commitment and the practical human solidarity provided by these young artists in the heart of Europe – none of whom had ever experienced a war – laid the foundations for, and had a lasting impact upon, the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO. The cornerstone for many subsequent project partnerships was laid during these months in Macedonia; trust emerged, and the beginnings of a new dialogue were created.

The foundations of the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO

The foundations for the further development of the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO were then laid by the Franco-German summit held 9th June 2000 in Mainz, Germany. There, the German and French governments invited “the FGYO ... to develop its activity in South Eastern Europe and to reinforce in future its trilateral exchange programmes in this region as they have been successfully carried out in the past with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.... The FGYO can establish a long-term co-operation with its partners in South Eastern Europe in order to support their associations, educational facilities, as well as local youth organizations. This co-operation will contribute in our countries to the development of a better knowledge of each other and to a respectful dialogue between the different cultures, entirely in the European spirit of tolerance and fraternity.” (Excerpt from the declaration of the 75th Franco-German Summit in Mainz, Germany, on the topic of South Eastern Europe).

Aims of the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO

Building upon these foundations, the FGYO defined the aims of its Initiative. The South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO helps create and stabilize civil society, contributing to peaceful and democratic developments in South Eastern Europe and to dialogue and lasting co-operation among civil social structures in France, Germany and the countries of South Eastern Europe.

In particular, the exchange programmes promote a heightened awareness for intercultural learning processes, strengthen the effort to come to terms with different points of view, values and norms, and make it possible to see and learn to understand the world “through the eyes of another”. In this connection, the French-German experience of reconciliation and co-operation constitutes not a model but rather a “testing grounds” evolved from history and contemporary developments in Europe, offering an entire array of concrete instruments, experiences and methods of potential use to the process of reconciliation in South Eastern Europe. At the same time, the exchange programmes encourage participants to move forward to regional co-operation in South Eastern Europe and provide information about existing methods and valuable experiences of cross-border co-operation between Germany and France and in Europe.

Political framework conditions of the exchange programmes

The development of tri-national Franco-German exchange programmes with partner organisations in the Western Balkans is distinguishable in many ways from other tri-national exchange programmes, such as with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe or other EU Member States. A look at the political realities may make clear just how difficult the political circumstances are that our partner organisations must confront in their projects.

More than 20 years after the fall of the Wall, 15 years after the signature of the Dayton Accords and ten years after the end of the war in Kosovo, some of the countries in former Yugoslavia are still struggling to overcome the wars and the animosities in order to advance the establishment of democracy and civil society and improve prospects for their economies. While the overall trend gives reason for hope and individual countries have made progress on the difficult path to democratisation and needed constitutional and political reforms, the Western Balkan region is still far from a state of normalcy.

Much has been accomplished in the region during the past decade. Billions have been devoted to the enterprise known as nation-building to rebuild infrastructure, for education, to support civil society and to finance peacekeeping measures. The liberalization of visa requirements recently concluded for Macedonia and Serbia is a major improvement – the kind of improvement, however, for which young people from Kosovo and from Bosnia and Herzegovina will have to wait a while longer. Gradually, the first lasting structures are coming into place to create regional co-operation and permit cross-border reconciliation initiatives.

But what has become of the hope of the citizenry for a European future and, connected to this hope, of concrete personal prospects of shaping one’s own future in a peaceful, prosperous, stable and democratic country?

Despite unquestionable successes, for many citizens in the countries of the Western Balkans the process of integration is still agonizingly slow. Perceptions are coloured by a feeling of being left hanging by the EU. A high level of (youth) unemployment and a lack of career opportunities, internal (ethnic) divisions, ethnically divided schools, unresolved problems with the neighbours, a lack of recognition of suffering, injustice and expulsion, family members



who have gone missing, and a deep-rooted victimisation are just some of the examples of everyday life in a region that has since come to feel as if Europe had forgotten it once again. Even in the countries of the EU, it is increasingly difficult to maintain interest for the situation in the countries of the Western Balkans.

Democracy and civil society – for the most part still fragile entities – are growing at very different rates in the different countries of South Eastern Europe; oftentimes, this process is a difficult struggle between pro-European reformers and populist ethno-nationalists. Frequently, the population’s grasp of democracy, or of the overriding purpose of the European Union, is superficial and simplistic.

At the same time, the European Union’s Balkans policy is faced with a dilemma: too much speed in integrating the Balkan countries into the European Union, with hasty reforms and a lack of inner stability on the part of candidate countries, would damage the new Member States acceding to the Union and their parliaments. Indeed, the accession would be difficult to convey to the

citizenry of the EU as well. Stagnation in the integration process, on the other hand, could bring the strenuous process of democratization in the region to a standstill while strengthening already-powerful ethno-nationalistic forces in the region.

Sustainability and competence of partner organizations

More than anything else, the successful development of the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO owes to the lasting commitment of our partner organizations in South Eastern Europe, France and Germany. With an exemplary level of commitment, these organizations have – far above and beyond the demands of classic exchange programmes for young citizens – energetically devoted themselves to programmes that, given their political context, pose a considerable challenge for psychological but also methodological and oftentimes logistical considerations.

In all these years, our partner organisations have succeeded in developing mutual trust and a truly European partnership. The FGYO has accompanied this development, occasionally providing active support as well. The annual topic-based development seminars have contributed to the quality and sustainability of these efforts.

At the beginning of the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO, civil-societal structures on the ground were often characterised by a marked fluctuation in personnel and a subdued profile, but this has since changed noticeably. Many civil-societal organisations work at a high level, both in substantive terms and in terms of their professionalism.

A frequent hurdle to creating solid networks, however, is the precariousness of the financial circumstances of partner organisations in South Eastern Europe. The majority of FGYO partner organisations have no institutional funding whatsoever or are for the most part run by volunteers. If the FGYO has been able to finance such an impressively large number programmes in the Balkans during recent years, this was especially thanks to the special fund made available to it by the two Foreign Ministries since 2001, and to funding provided by the FGYO itself. Naturally, the participants also pay a fee for their participation in an exchange programme, but this is very limited. Where local support has been obtained, most often it takes the form of contributions in kind

and rarely involves financial assistance. Here, new solutions must be found so that the FGYO can work with partners to develop even more programmes in years to come while providing stability and continuity to the partnerships that have been established.

The EU perspective as an engine for civil society

At its meeting in Thessaloniki in 2003, the European Council promised to provide “unequivocal support” to the countries of the Western Balkans where the European perspective was concerned. This marked the birth of specific hope, on the part of citizens in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, for membership in the European Union.

The prospects of an accession to the EU have become the most important catalyst for internal domestic reforms and regional co-operation in South Eastern Europe. These prospects are also the engine for the creation and strengthening of civil society. This makes it all the more regrettable that information relating to the idea of European unification, relating to the operation of European institutions and relating to current debates are frequently dealt with only superficially.

This is why considerably greater significance must attach to the topic of Europe in the exchange programmes as this is a topic that affects young Germans, French, Kosovans, Bosnians, Croatians, Macedonians or Serbians alike: What do we know about one another? What is it that shapes the views we have of one another, what is our notion of cohabitation in Europe, what expectations, fears and hopes do we attach to Europe – a Europe expanded by the addition of South Eastern Europe? As the exchange projects quickly make clear, political questions in South Eastern Europe – such as how minorities are to be treated, the question of the approach to take to history, intercultural competence or the important issue of regional co-operation – are always also issues that concern Europe as a whole.

For the young citizens in the countries of South Eastern Europe, it is critically important to be able to discuss these questions in dialogue with other young Europeans. And something else emerges quite clearly as well: this dialogue is no one-way street. For the youth of French and Germany, an encounter with the



people and cultures of South Eastern Europe provides an opportunity to discover a richly diverse region, one frequently known to our young citizens only as an area of crisis.

At the same time, an encounter with the realities of South Eastern Europe also helps young people see Franco-German relations, Europe and the European Union from a different point of view. One participant wrote: "This is a strange new European mirror that is held up – and it also changes the view we have of ourselves."

Involvement in the Franco-German dialogue in respect to Europe

The history of Franco-German relations, the long and difficult path – from wars and traditional enmity to close state and civil-societal co-operation and a shared commitment to Europe – is certainly not a model that could be transferred over to the conflicts in South Eastern Europe. The serious differences, in historical, geopolitical, economic and particularly in political terms, are obvious.

And yet it is no accident that the Franco-German Youth Office, of all entities, created in 1963 under the Elysée Treaty by French President De Gaulle and German Federal Chancellor Adenauer, has assumed a clear role and mission in rebuilding civil society and in the process of stabilizing democracy in the Balkans.

For this tri-national dialogue with young citizens from France, South Eastern Europe and Germany, the history and the experience of Franco-German relations offer a valuable basis and an inspiration. Nowhere else in Europe can two countries be found that are as culturally distinct as France and Germany are, countries that – despite, and as a consequence of, the stormy history they share – enjoy such a pronounced dialogue or such wide-ranging and profound co-operation in the area of civil society. It is not just politically a good idea but also historically imperative that the experience and the energy that underlie this Franco-German civil-societal co-operation be pressed into service on behalf of the effort to rebuild and strengthen democracy and civil society in South Eastern Europe – which is at the same time the effort to promote a peaceful European integration process.

Frank Morawietz
FGYO Special Commissioner for South Eastern Europe



Doris Pack, Member of the European Parliament
Chair of the Committee for Culture and Education, member of the
Delegation for Relations with the Countries of South Eastern Europe,
substitute member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

I congratulate the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO on the occasion of its 10-year anniversary and extend my best wishes for a continued abundance of interesting encounters and successes in the future, in keeping with the efforts of the Initiative. I have been familiar with the South Eastern Europe initiative since its inception and am proud that it has emerged as an important project partner in South Eastern Europe.

The countries of South Eastern Europe are on the way to membership in the European Union. With its projects, the South Eastern Europe Initiative helps the younger generations who will be living and working in the Europe of tomorrow to find ways to live together, point themselves with other cultures, and benefit from one another's experiences.

Thanks in part to the diligent work of the Initiative over the past decade, today there is an established network in place among young people from South Eastern Europe, Germany and France. More important still, today the countries of the Balkans are reflecting on the interests they hold in common.



“What was it like during the siege of Sarajevo?”

War and recollections of war as a challenge for the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO

In exchange programmes with participants from countries in the former Yugoslavia, war is an inevitable topic. The succeeding wars in Yugoslavia – in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo in the 1990s – have now been over for a little more than a decade, and the material, social and psychological aftermath of war still weighs heavily upon everyday life in the countries of the region. As the wounds of war are still quite present and frequently tied to difficult emotional experiences on the part of the individuals living there, oftentimes participants from South Eastern Europe have a difficult time discussing the events of wartime. At the same time, participants from Germany and France frequently are unaware of how to approach the topic of the war when discussing it in the presence of those affected by it, particularly as they themselves are two or three generations removed from the Second World War and have no wartime experience of their own. Even if the issue of war is not directly a seminar topic, it is still a recurrent subliminal factor during encounters, and sooner or later the question arises: What was the war like? And how present are the consequences of war today?

Germany and France have experience in discussing – or not discussing – difficult events of the past, both within their respective countries and with one another. It took a long time before exchange programmes of the FGYO dedicated themselves directly and self-critically to the memory work. It was only beginning in the 1990s that Franco-German encounter programmes have regularly been held that were devoted to exhaustive discussions of collaboration, resistance, the “Third Reich” and the Second World War.

When the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO was launched in the year 2000, this fact also presented a challenge in terms of the work of remembrance. The aim could not be simply to graft methods developed in Franco-German co-operation to the situation in the Balkans. For one, the wars between Germany and France were of a different character from those in former Yugoslavia; and for another, the temporal and emotional distance to these wars was entirely different for participants from Germany and France, on the one hand, and those from the Western Balkans on the other. Accordingly, the sponsors of the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO were determined to take a very cautious approach to this issue, to move forward step by step, and above all to attach importance to this sensitive question in the continuing training of its partners.

In 2004, the first training seminar was conducted dealing explicitly with the topic of “War, Recollections of War and Reconciliation” – albeit with a focus on the Franco-German example: the seminar was held in Alsace and featured, among other things, an excursion to the battlefields of Verdun. Still, by way of a detour through the Franco-German experience, participants were given an opportunity productively to address the question of experiences and recollections of war in the Balkans. Following this promising first stage, the sponsors of the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO decided to take a more direct approach to discussing “Recollections of War in the Balkans” as well, all the while continuing to accord a central role to comparisons with Germany and France.



In 2007, the first Franco-German-Bosnian seminar cycle was held, entitled "Between Remembering and Forgetting: How We Deal with Difficult History in Europe". Rather than discuss war and the recollection of war in the abstract, the organizers – which included the Jugendgästehaus Dachau, the Centre de la Mémoire Oradour-sur-Glane and the Centre André Malraux Sarajevo – decided to work on the basis of very specific examples in order to ascertain and analyse, in places in which crimes were committed, how the memory work is carried out, and the challenges this poses for commemoration and development in these places. The focus of interest for the seminar in France was Oradour-sur-Glane; in Germany it was the former concentration camp at Dachau, and for Bosnia-Herzegovina the focus was upon the cities of Tuzla, Srebrenica and Sarajevo.

This and other seminars revealed, for one, how much learning was still needed among participants – most of them students and young multipliers – in view of situations in other countries of which they often know very little, and for another how enriching and stimulating confrontations with different sites of memory can be for all those involved. At the same time, it could be seen how little co-operation there still is between memorials and remembrance initiatives in Western Europe, on the one hand, and in South Eastern Europe on the other. The following year, a similar project was carried out with Croatia and involving the same partners from Germany and France, entitled "Interface History: Towards a European Memory". In 2010 a cycle was begun with a Serbian partner from Novi Sad on the subject of "War and Propaganda – Towards History in Europe".

To promote and develop such co-operative efforts, in June 2010 the FGYO joined with the Centre André Malraux Sarajevo and the Youth Initiative for Human Rights BiH to organize a three-day workshop with 25 representatives of memorials – particularly from their educational-outreach arms – and history NGOs from Germany, France, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia. To begin with, this workshop served to facilitate mutual acquaintance, an exchange of experiences and a better grasp of each individual situation in the remembrance field. One difference emerged even as the group of workshop participants was being formed: most of the participants from Germany and France were representatives of memorial institutions, while those from the Western Balkans were for the most part representatives of NGOs conducting projects of remembrance and/or involved in the creation of memorials – of which there are still very few to date. Indeed, in Western Europe, 60 years after the Second World War, we have many recognized institutions dedicated to educational and scholarly outreach in relation to this era. In the Western Balkans, on the other hand, so soon after the wars of the 1990s we face a socio-political climate in which war crimes are largely denied, qualified or seen only from the other side's point of view. In this setting, initiatives that wish to deal constructively with this issue rather than polarize it have great difficulties gaining a foothold and making themselves heard. This workshop, which included an exploration of Sarajevo with an eye to the traces of war and war memorials, revealed the difficulties that exist in the Balkans, but also the diverse and courageous initiatives to be found there, and the creative and productive approaches often taken to the complex task of the remembrance of war.

The items on the agenda also served to stimulate reflection for the concluding step of the workshop: an "open space" in which participants worked in small groups addressing topics of importance and developing projects for the future. This approach turned out to be very productive indeed. In addition to various bi-national contacts, the road was paved for two projects for 2011: a second seminar as a follow-on project devoted to the question of how sites of memory should be preserved and enlisted for purposes of educational outreach; and a seminar project taking as its model the Franco-German ARTE broadcast

"Karambolage" dealing with a deconstruction of stereotypes within the Balkans.

In their evaluations, participants emphasized not only how much they had learned but also how motivated they now were to continue to work together in this area. As one participant from Bosnia and Herzegovina wrote: "I think this marks the first time that we have spoken in a serious, non-partisan and professional way about memorials in Bosnia-Herzegovina. What is important to me is that this is just the beginning of an important process through which we will contribute to improving the place of memorials and the memory work generally in our country."

The positive evaluations by participants encourage us to continue to pursue work in this area, to intensify it and to open it up to additional interested parties. This way, we can continue to help build bridges in this sensitive but important area of remembrance between the countries of the EU – Germany and France in particular – and the countries of the Western Balkans.

Dr. Nicolas Moll
Assistant Director, Centre André Malraux Sarajevo,
Former Deputy Manager in the FGYO



Intercultural learning in tri-national youth exchange

To bring about intercultural learning processes and mutual understanding, it is not enough to convene a group of young people at a single location. This is a finding that the FGYO has seen confirmed during the many years in which it has provided scientific monitoring for projects involving encounters between young people from France and Germany. The experience and intercultural methods that have arisen out of these Franco-German encounters have turned out to be valuable guides in the tri-national dialogue with young people from the Balkan countries. They should be viewed not as a model but rather as a kind of "testing grounds" from which to draw conclusions about the history of Europe.

Getting young people from this European region involved in the Franco-German dialogue about a peaceful future for Europe requires thorough preparation. Institutions or organizations wishing to arrange experiences where young people from different countries can meet, first need to communicate and work together to create viable ideas for youth encounters. In addition, the youth leaders or escorts must participate in training and development to help them understand their roles; they need to have experienced intercultural learning themselves before they can assist young people going through this learning process.

The role of the "Intercultural Training and Development" Department at the FGYO is largely to ensure the quality of encounters by initiating, co-ordinating, supporting and assisting with the educational processes involved. During

the past 10 years educational concepts have been developed in close co-operation with partner organizations in South Eastern Europe, France and Germany with the intention of heightening the awareness of young people from different countries to ways of discovering and understanding alternative points of view, values and norms "through someone else's eyes". This teamwork takes the form of institutional conferences, topic-oriented seminars for qualified personnel, fact-finding visits, project preparation and training organized each year by the FGYO and its partners. The circle of participating organizations is constantly growing, thanks to conferences and partnership exchanges.

Implementing the aims of the projects requires a great deal of commitment on the part of all those involved, in part because all of the training and development takes place in cycles of 3 phases held in all three countries.



All of the events, particularly the training and development sessions, were characterised by an active process of getting acquainted and dealing with the issues at hand. Networks were created and participants working together developed a wealth of substantive and educational suggestions. Experience, methods and instruments that had proven useful for intercultural learning, democratization and processes of rapprochement and reconciliation in South-Eastern Europe and for Franco-German relations were at the heart of work on a very wide variety of topics, such as: political education and participation, citizen involvement and civil society, environmental protection, the role of the press in a democracy, a Europe of nations, European identity, multiculturalism and interethnic dialogue, educational approaches to history, the memory work, right-wing extremism, aspects of intercultural learning, methods and techniques

for intercultural learning, school, university studies, vocational training, and the new media.

Questions of language and communication in general are raised at all of the encounters. The method of language encouragement developed by the FGYO is applied in most of the encounters. This method enables participants to develop an awareness of linguistic diversity while promoting mutual understanding.

Elisabeth Berger
Deputy Manager, Intercultural Training Department,
Franco-German Youth Office





About improbable encounters which, even so, are full of laughter and politics Or linguistic activities in trilingual exchanges with countries of South Eastern Europe

These linguistic activities were originally developed for use in Franco-German meetings to familiarize participants with idiomatic French and German through the use of games. In the multilingual context of South Eastern Europe in the year 2000 these linguistic activities appeared on the face of it to be attempting the impossible.

Simply adding a third language to a tri-national cocktail could only be fanciful, when one considers the multi-ethnic and multi-lingual nature of the groups of participants from the Western Balkans. It is difficult to imagine for example an intercultural exchange with Macedonia without at least taking account of Macedonian and Albanian among the various languages represented. In a Franco-German, Kosovan seminar five languages could be present among participants: French, German, Albanian, Serbian and Romanian. It was also not beyond the bounds of probability to find representatives of the Ukrainian minority in a Croatian group or the Hungarian minority in a Franco-German, Serb encounter.

Moreover, from the very beginning the question of languages used at these tri-national seminars in general and in the language activities in particular took on a political character that would have been naive to ignore.

Following the deadly identity assertions of the 90s the principle of protecting minorities, required by international law, and the accompanying promotion of peaceful co-existence between different ethnic groups living in the same territory, through the recognition of their language and culture, found their full expression in activities which created a positive dynamic through laughter, a mutual self-confidence essential to the searching questioning and debates that followed and which highlighted the wealth and potential value of the languages used by the different groups taking part.

And so it is that with a great deal of imagination and conviction that my colleagues and I have attempted to adapt and to run language activities in intercultural exchanges set up within the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO, responding thereby to a tangible reality as well as to the need for equality. In the end is it not more than symbolic for Serb participants to say a few words in Albanian, for Kosovans to say "hello" in Romany or, in another register, for the French and Germans to try out the Cyrillic alphabet?

In any event the pedagogical relevance of the language activities has been proved yet again and has found its place in tri-national programmes involving France, Germany and countries of the Western Balkans.

Garance Thuvin
Trainer

Günther Petry (Germany)
Lord Mayor of the City of Kehl

Die Stadt Kehl lag vor 65 Jahren an einer Grenze, an der Deutsche und Franzosen aufeinander schossen. Heute pflegen wir mit unseren französischen Nachbarn nicht nur ein gutes Verhältnis, sondern sehen auch die Vorteile grenzüberschreitender Kooperation. Mit einem gemeinsamen Park und einer Brücke über den Rhein hinweg (Beginn der Planungen 2000, Fertigstellung 2004) haben wir ein erstes bauliches Zeichen gesetzt. Die Bebauung zweier ehemaliger Zollhöfe hüben und drüben und vor allem die Fortsetzung der Straßburger Tram nach Kehl sind große Projekte, die wir gemeinsam verwirklichen wollen.

In Kooperation mit dem Deutsch-Französischen Jugendwerk war es mir möglich, jungen Erwachsenen aus umkämpften Gebieten (z.B. Serbien/Kosovo/Kroatien oder Israel/Palästina) diese friedliche Erfolgsgeschichte in gemeinsamen Seminaren und durch Augenschein deutlich zu machen. Ich hoffe, dass ich damit die Erkenntnis vermitteln konnte, die meine Folgerung aus der Geschichte der Stadt Kehl darstellt: zur grenzüberschreitenden friedlichen Zusammenarbeit gibt es keine Alternative!

Tanja (Serbia)
Participant in the tri-national basic training programme for youth leaders among Germany, France and Serbia, 2009-2010

Trening koji sam prosla je bio odlicno iskustvo i jako koristan za moj dalji rad u Kancelariji za mlade. Interkulturalno ucenje i umrezavanje sa mladima iz Evrope je jedan od prvih koraka ka prevazilazenju predrasura i ostvarivanju dobre saradnje. Drago mi je da sam imala priliku da upoznam Francusku i Nemacku iz jednog drugog ugla, i da sam imala priliku da kolegama iz organizacija iz Francuske i Nemacke predstavim Srbiju i iz ugla omladinskog aktivizma.

Johanne (France)
Participant in 'Cultures and Borders', a tri-national training programme held in 2010 among Germany, France and Croatia

Quand nous avons demandé aux Croates pourquoi ils souhaitaient rentrer dans l'Union Européenne, ils nous ont immédiatement parlé d'une « garantie pour la paix ». J'ai alors reconstitué une sorte de puzzle. La Seconde guerre mondiale, l'amitié franco-allemande entre les présidents, puis la création de l'OFAJ et sa pérennité. Et aujourd'hui encore quand on ouvre les journaux, en particulier avec la crise grecque et donc la nécessité pour l'Europe de trouver une solution, le « couple franco-allemand » revient comme un leitmotiv.



Bernard VIALE, former Co-ordinator at the FGYO
Responsible for the South Eastern Europe Initiative from 2000 to 2008

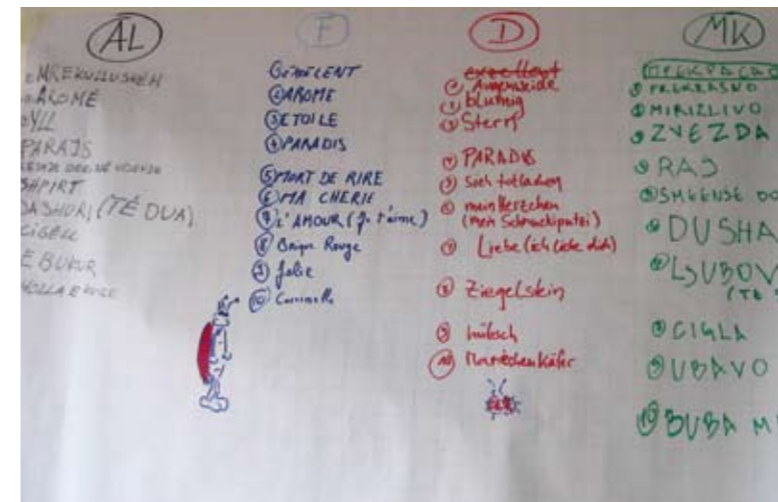
Grâce aux fonds spéciaux et à l'engagement des associations partenaires, des milliers de jeunes et de responsables d'activités de jeunesse ont pu se rencontrer, apprendre à se connaître, à échanger, à coopérer, à retrouver une espérance et une confiance dans l'avenir, à redonner un sens à la coopération franco-allemande.

Largeta (Macedonia)
Participant in 'Intercultural Europe in Pictures', a tri-national training programme held in 2010 among Germany, France and Macedonia

I benefited because it was my first time doing exchange with other people so I learnt a lot of things for other cultures and countries... also it will help me in the future to communicate with other people and feel more confidence and to be more free to say my opinion. Thank you for everything... Hope we will have other opportunities to work together...

Elsa (France)
Participant in the training programme among Germany, France, Macedonia and Kosovo entitled 'Europe: A Challenge? Visions and Realities', 2009

Ces échanges ont été très formateurs pour moi car j'ai pu saisir et apprendre plusieurs méthodes d'animations à mettre en place auprès de groupes interculturels. Cette expérience a été un puits d'informations, de rencontres et de beaux moments. Suite à cette aventure ma motivation à vouloir travailler dans l'élaboration de projets interculturels est grandissante.





10 YEARS AND 10 EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS



The ten projects described in the following pages represent a sample of programmes completed by the FGYO and its partners since the setting up of the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO. They give an overview of the themes covered over the past ten years and could well act as a source of inspiration for setting up new exercises in co-operation. The projects completed between 2000 and 2005 have been listed in "New Bridges for the Balkans", a documentation published by the FGYO.

The projects completed by partner organisations and the FGYO distinguish themselves by the diversity of the themes they tackle and by the fact that for the most part they are open to all. Over recent years priority has been given to training programmes on how to carry out exchanges and thematic seminars so as to establish qualified teams and develop a network of multipliers. Numerous young youth-organisation representatives and students have taken part in these seminars.

Several examples ongoing 2010 give an overview of the subjects currently proposed and of the audiences' enlargement.

SHPRESA - Theatre project for refugee children from Kosovo 1999
France - Germany - Slovakia - Macedonia

The first project with Macedonia took place before the setting up of the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO in 1999. During the war in Kosovo, young artists from France, Germany, Slovakia and Macedonia brought humanitarian aid to the Kosovan refugee camps in Macedonia. Under the direction of Milan Sládek and the auspices of UNICEF and in co-operation with the UNICEF schools set up in the camps, the young artists attempted to make the crowds of Albanian children and adolescents forget for a moment the sad reality of war and deportation with the help of mime and circus arts.

Organizers:
FGYO
Centre National des Arts du Cirque, Châlons-en-Champagne
Gustav-Stresemann-Institut - GSI, Bonn
Theater Arena, Bratislava
Children's Theater Center - CTC, Skopje



Study visits to Kosovo and Macedonia 2001
France - Germany - Kosovo - Macedonia
Prizren, Pristina

Study visits enabled leaders of youth organizations and multipliers from France and Germany to find out more about the situation in the Balkans and to make on-the-spot contact with youth organizations and representatives of the UNMIK and the OSCE. The FGYO hoped to sensitize participants to the realities of the Balkans and to encourage them to develop partnerships and set up projects with the region.

Organizers:
FGYO
United Nations Interim Administration Mission of Kosovo - UNMIK

Understanding the Balkans 2001-2002
France - Germany
Berlin, Marly-le-Roi, Belgrade

Based on the view that international meetings of young people contribute to the building of a common European space, participants were invited to understand what had brought about the conflicts in the Balkans so that they were able to better understand the intercultural conflicts that could arise in Europe. The seminar's programme was based on mediation as a means of conflict management, encouraging awareness of the intercultural differences among the countries involved and the application of techniques of intercultural learning to the running of meetings with one of the countries of South Eastern Europe.

Organizers:
Fédération Nationale des Foyers Ruraux - FNFR, Mittelwihr
Bund der deutschen Landjugend - BDL, Berlin
Belgrade Ecological Center

Training cycle for trainers of tri-national exchanges 2002-2003
France - Germany - Bosnia-Herzegovina - Croatia - Kosovo - Macedonia - Serbia
Berlin, Dubrovnik, Sète

In the course of the three phases of this series, tri-national youth workers and project coordinators from France, Germany, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo exchanged views on the political, historical, social and cultural complexities of the countries they represented. The young multipliers worked on themes concerning identity, intercultural learning and Europe and shared their ideas and methods for organizing future exchanges.

Organizers:
FGYO
Peuple et Culture - PEC, Paris
Interkulturelles Netzwerk e.V., Berlin
Centre for Balkan Cooperation "LOJA", Tetovo
Children's Theater Center - CTC, Skopje

"A question of point of view" – Intercultural theatre workshop 2003-2004
France - Germany - Macedonia
Skopje, Paris

Through the use of theatre and information-sharing on their country, participants in this training exercise learned how to get to know each other and to learn more about each other's culture. A play was prepared as a joint exercise. In Skopje, the play's performance on intercultural learning took place as part of the Franco-German week. In Paris, the play, taken from Ismail Kadare's work "Palace of dreams", was directed by Vladimir Milcin and performed in the famous Ecole Cours Florent, a theatre-training establishment, in the presence of the Macedonian Ambassador to France.

Organizers:
Peuple et Culture - PEC, Paris
Nationaltheater, Weimar
The University of Skopje
Children's Theater Center - CTC, Skopje

Radio squared 2004-2005
France - Germany - Bosnia-Herzegovina
Erfurt, Limoges, Sarajevo

Most of the participants in this project were students of various subjects involved in local radio projects. The following were the four angles of the "square" in which the project was set: historical considerations, the political dimension of the media and of radio, intercultural encounters, partnerships and networking. Discussions were held on common quality standards in journalism. The theme of war and of the guilt associated with conflicts occupied an important place in the seminar. For each phase, participants, working together in trilingual teams, produced a radio programme broadcast by the radio stations involved.

Organizers:
Direction Départementale du Ministère de la Jeunesse, des Sports et de la Cohésion Sociale
Haute-Vienne et Limousin - DRJSCS Haute-Vienne et Limousin, Limoges
Radio Trouble-Fête, Limoges
Arbeit und Leben Thüringen, Erfurt
Radio station Freier Rundfunk Erfurt International
Studentski Radio Education Frequent Modulation, Sarajevo

Identity, intercultural paradox 2006
France - Germany - Bosnia-Herzegovina
Carcassonne, Bochum, Sarajevo

Participants in this training exercise discussed and reflected on the following issues: How does one approach the question of collective identities? What tools are needed to tackle popular heritage, history, national myths and their legendary figures? How does one actively approach one's own identity as opposed to somebody else's? What use can be made of personal stories and patterns of life, and how can one use surveys and interviews carried out in an intercultural encounter?

Organizers:
Roudel, Ladern-sur-Lauquet
Transmedia e.V., Bochum
Omladinska Informativna Agencija - OIA, Sarajevo

Theatre and videos as work tools for youth activities 2007
France - Germany - Macedonia
Marseille, Berlin, Tetovo

The aim of this project was to reflect on the extent to which theatre and videos enable people of different languages and cultures to work together. It involved filming and playing games and above all discussing one another's personal choices. The final result from the work of the various work groups took the form of short films and sketches.

Organizers:
Une Terre Culturelle - UTC, Marseille
Berliner Arbeitskreis für politische Bildung e.V. - Bapob, Berlin
Centre for Balkan Cooperation "LOJA", Tetovo

Cultures and borders 2008
France - Germany - Croatia
Strasbourg, Blossin, Vukovar

This series of seminars targeted young multipliers from youth organizations and students of social work. Discovering three European regions enabled participants to work in depth on the subject of "Culture and frontiers" and to discover three different historical and political realities: Franco-German relations yesterday and today and, in particular, the process of Franco-German reconciliation and co-operation; the fall of the Wall and its consequences for Berlin, Germany and Europe; and the war in the territories of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, its causes and Europe's role in the process of rapprochement. In the course of the three phases of this seminar, a dialogue grew up across the cultures between the participants who became aware of their shared responsibilities and of the need to take part in creating a common peaceful future.

Organizers:
Peuple et Culture - PEC, Paris
Jugendbildungsstätte Blossin e.V.
Local Democracy Agency - LDA, Vukovar





"Karambolage – On the Trick of Dialogue between Two Cultures and Two Languages", 22nd January 2009
Germany - France - Macedonia
Skopje

How can one broach cultural differences in a differentiated manner, and encourage an open dialogue about these differences, without producing new stereotypes and prejudices? These and other questions were the focus of a discussion event with Claire Doutriaux, author of the ARTE show "Karambolage", hosted by the FGYO in conjunction with the German Embassy, the French Embassy and the "LOJA" Center for Balkan Cooperation in the Macedonian capital Skopje on the occasion of Franco-German Youth Day. In a country like Macedonia, where efforts are ongoing to overcome interethnic tensions at home step by step, these questions are forever topical.

Claire Doutriaux discussed with young people how to familiarize one's neighbours with the peculiarities of one's own culture affectionately, with a wink and a connoisseur's eye.

The German Ambassador, Ms Ulrike Knotz, and the French Ambassador, Mr Bernard Valero, opened up the discussion event. In their opening remarks, they recalled the signing of the Elysée Treaty in 1963, which constitutes the basis for the close co-operation between Germany and France. At the same time, 30 young people from Germany, France and Macedonia presented the results of their workshop on dialogue among the cultures. Previously, at the Children's Theater Center, they had worked together on topics such as the different aspects of dialogue between cultures, specific methods in intercultural encounters, the future of Macedonia in Europe, and the mutual perceptions they had of one another.

Organizers:
FGYO
German Embassy in Macedonia, Skopje
French Embassy in Macedonia, Skopje
Center for Balkan Cooperation "LOJA", Tetovo
Children's Theater Center, Skopje

Journalists' tour to Kosovo and Macedonia, 10th-18th September 2009
Germany - France - Kosovo - Macedonia
Prizren, Mitrovica, Pristina, Tetovo

To provide information to the public about the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO and as part of a training project for young multipliers on the topic of "Europe: A Challenge – Visions and Reality", the FGYO invited seven representatives of the news media from France and Germany – from TAZ, Frankfurter Rundschau, Deutschlandradio, La Croix and Radio France – accompanied by the Secretary General of the FGYO, Dr. Eva Sabine Kuntz, to a press tour to Kosovo and Macedonia.

The seminar for journalists included an examination of different political aspects of Kosovo and Macedonia that had been discussed in the youth seminar as well. These included, for instance, a visit to the Multinational Task Force South (MNTF S) in Prizren, devoted to an examination of the specific role of the KFOR in Kosovo, and to security-policy aspects of European co-operation, as well as a visit with individuals involved in civil society from northern and southern Mitrovica. In a discussion with representatives of civil society and political figures in the capital city of Pristina, participants had an opportunity to develop their impressions of the divided city of Mitrovica with publisher and politician Veton Surroi, with representatives of the "Youth Initiative for Human Rights" organizations, and with the anti-corruption NGO Çohu.

The journalists were impressed by the network of the South Eastern European Initiative of the FGYO, which benefits from the commitment of representatives in politics, civil society, and the university and business communities. This shared commitment could be seen in the podium discussion in Tetovo (Macedonia) on the interethnic situation in Macedonia. Discussion participants came from very different disciplines and included the special envoy of the European Union, the Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Ljubomir Frckovski, Professor for International Law at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje and Vladimir Milcin, Director of the "Open Society Institute" foundation in Macedonia and Professor on the Faculty of Dramatic Arts at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje.

Organizers:
FGYO
German Embassy in Macedonia, Skopje
French Embassy in Macedonia, Skopje
Center for Balkan Cooperation "LOJA", Tetovo

Currently, the FGYO and its partners want to make their activities accessible to other young people, especially within the larger vocational-training framework. During the year 2010, e.g., a project is taking place with Bosnia entitled "Interculturalism in Vocational Training"; the project is designed for educators and social workers in training (organizers: Hephata Schwalmstadt, CEMEA Montpellier, Pedagogoska Akademija Sarajevo).

With Macedonia, this year a dance project was begun for children between the ages of 11 and 15 (organizers: Jugend&Kunstschule Dresden, Déco-Danse Sète, Centre for Balkan Cooperation "LOJA" Tetovo).

Several projects on the topic of history are ongoing with Croatia, such as e.g. the development of a tri-lingual documentation of the seminar cycle, "A History in Common – A Future in Common" (organizers: Deutsch-französisches Kulturinstitut Aachen, Centre culturel européen Blaye, Europahaus Dubrovnik).

Seminars devoted to educational exchange, with topics such as "Right-Wing Extremism in Europe – Anti-Racist Educational Work in Comparison" are being held with Serbia (organizers: BDP Frankfurt am Main, PEC Tulle, Volunteers Center of Vojvodina Novi Sad).

Music and theatre are at the centre of an exchange with Kosovo for the benefit of disadvantaged young people, entitled "A Musical Tour of Theatres Across Europe" (organizers: Europa Direkt e.V. Dresden, CEFIR Dunkerque, Esperanza Skopje).



Tamara (Serbia)

Participant in the tri-national basic training programme for youth leaders among Germany, France and Serbia, 2009-2010

For me, this three module training was a deliberating experience. It helped me to get free of my interiorized prejudices. It helped me to become proud of my roots and culture. I love other cultures. I loved them always. But today, I love my own to. And for me, that's the biggest victory!!

Yannick (France)

Participant in the training programme among Germany, France and Macedonia: 'Intercultural Learning through Images and Modern Communications Technologies', 2006

La rencontre avec le groupe allemand et macédonien m'a permis de mieux appréhender la différence et de comprendre que cette différence était une force dans le monde actuel. Echanger, discuter et débattre, mais aussi partager avec des personnes d'horizons différents, ayant une vision propre du monde, a été un élément fort de cette semaine.



Sebastian Maass,

Pedagogical Representative of the FGYO, Interkulturelles Netzwerk e.V., Berlin (Germany)

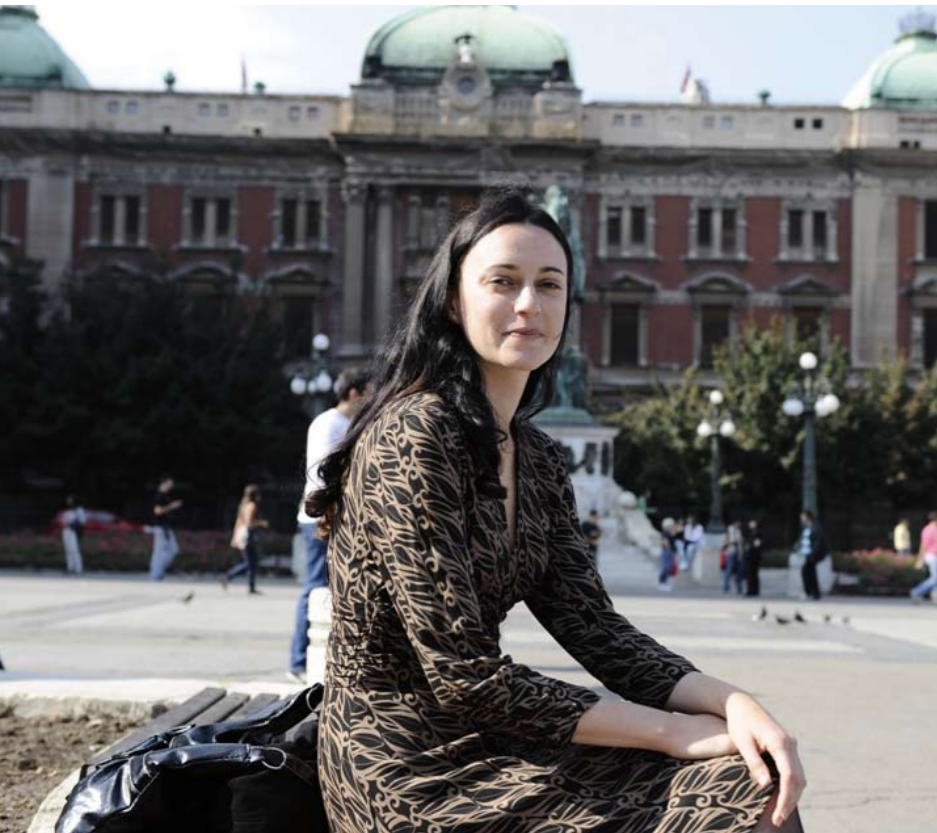
Was mich besonders bewegt hat bei meiner Arbeit mit Serbien ist die Professionalität, die Motivation und der hohe Mobilisierungsgrad der Partnerorganisationen. Ich erinnere mich genau an meinen ersten Besuch bei Volonterski centar Vojvodine in Novi Sad im Jahre 2006, um ein Workcamp vorzubereiten: Trotz der widrigen äußeren Bedingungen konnten wir mit vielen jungen Freiwilligen sprechen, die hohes Interesse an der interkulturellen Arbeit hatten. Schön war es zu sehen, dass wir uns auch streiten konnten (und noch immer können), denn nicht immer waren und sind wir politisch einer Meinung.





PORTRAITS





Tatjana JANKOVIĆ, economist, Belgrade (Serbia)
Tri-national Franco-German-Serbian basic training, 2009-2010

This training programme not only made it possible to acquire the skills of a teamer - it also broadened my horizons. I am more tolerant, more self-confident, more willing to learn - and I see the world through different eyes.

Tatjana JANKOVIĆ, ekonomista, Beograd (Srbija)
Trinacionalni osnovni nemačko-francusko-srpski trening, 2009-2010

Ovaj trening mi je omogućio ne samo sticanje kompetenci lidera omladinskih razmena već i proširio poglede na svet. Postala sam tolerantnija, samosvesnija, spremnija da učim i svet posmatram drugačijim očima.

Татјана ЈАНКОВИЋ, економиста, Београд (Србија)
Тринационални основни немачко-француско-српски тренинг, 2009-2010

Овај тренинг ми је омогућио не само стицање компетенци лидера омладинских размена већ и проширио погледе на свет. Постала сам толерантнија, самосвеснија, спремнија да учим и свет посматрам другачијим очима.

Bujar LUMA, trainer, Center for Balkan Cooperation "LOJA", Tetovo (Macedonia)

The moment that moved me most was a visit we made to Verdun where we visited the war memorial site. The group was a mix of different nationalities from the Balkans, France and Germany.

Understanding the Franco-German tragedy and witnessing the normal relations between French and German participants... was really something that I will remember forever. These images later became one of the strongest motivations for my work.

The thing I asked myself was: if the French and Germans after all these wars and the use of such deadly weapons could establish a partnership, can we from Balkans not do the same? This image of Verdun showed me that we can and the memory of Verdun is a compass bearing for my work and commitment.

The FGYO in SEE has taken the first steps towards a common world space of European values for tomorrow. But it has to make sure it continues along the same course.

Bujar LUMA, Trajnues, Qendra për bashkëpunim ballkanik LOJA (Maqedoni)

Momenti që më ka ngacmuar më së shumti ka qenë vizita në kompleksin e muzeumeve të luftës në Verdun. Aty ishia pjesë e një grupi të përzier nga Ballkani, Franca e Gjermania.

Të shihje dëshmitë e kësaj krahure Franko-Gjermane dhe njëkohësisht po mu aty të vështroje mardhëniet e pandikuara nga kjo të pjesëmarrësve Gjerman e Francez...kjo ishte dicka që do ta kujtojë përgjithmonë. Këto imazhe më vonë u bënë një nga motivimet më të forta në punën time.

Aty pyete veten time: nëse Gjermanët e Francezët arritën te vendosin partneritet pas gjithë këtyre luftrave dhe kësaj makinerie urejtjeje, a mundet që dhe ne nga Ballkani ta arrijmë të njejtën? Imazhet nga Verduni më treguan se kjo është e mundu, e kujtimet nga Verduni më rriten përkushtimin tim dhe u shëndruan në një nga pikët orientuese në punën time.

ZFGJR në EJM e ka bërë hapin e parë drejt të se nesërme së përbashkët dhe vlerave europiane por duhet që të sigurohet që mund të mbajë hapin.





Nina GUILLERME, Berlin (Germany)

*Participant in the Franco-German -Kosovan- Macedonian tri-national training session in 2009
“Europe, a challenge? Visions and realities”*

Before the division into two parts of the town of Mitrovica becomes tangible you have to see the famous bridge with your own eyes. Separate worlds still exist, such as the Serbs and Albanians in Kosovo, a little bit like the time of the Berlin Wall. The commitment of NGOs, such as LOJA in Tetova, ÇOHU or the Youth Initiative in Pristina, is quite remarkable. These meetings made me aware of what commitment really is. In spite of all the difficulties of these post-conflict situations, I believe that meetings of this kind bring hope, especially in terms of co-operation and integration in the European Union. I should like to continue to take part in these meetings which help to bring about a Europe united in diversity and to share this with other young people from France, Germany and elsewhere.

Nina GUILLERME, Berlin (Allemagne)

Participante à la Formation trinationale franco-germano-kosovare-macédonienne 2009, « Europe, un défi ? Visions et réalités »

La séparation de la ville de Mitrovica en deux, n'est palpable que si l'on voit de ses propres yeux le fameux pont. Il existe encore des mondes séparés, comme celui des Serbes et des Albanais du Kosovo, un peu comme au temps du Mur de Berlin.

L'engagement des ONG, comme LOJA à Tetovo, ÇOHU ou le Youth Initiative à Pristina, est remarquable ; ces rencontres m'ont fait prendre conscience de ce qu'était réellement l'engagement. Malgré toute la difficulté des situations post-conflituelles, je crois que les rencontres de ce genre sont porteuses d'espoir, notamment en termes de coopération et d'intégration dans l'Union Européenne. Je souhaiterais continuer à prendre part à ces rencontres, qui vont vers une Europe unie dans la diversité, et partager cela avec d'autres jeunes de France, d'Allemagne et d'ailleurs.

Frank MORAWIETZ, FGYO-Special Commissioner for South Eastern Europe, Berlin (Germany)

In the ten years in which I have now been working in programmes with South Eastern Europe, in the process learning a great deal about the Balkans and, through encounters with the region, about Europe as well, there are two things that have made a particularly lasting impression on me: meeting people in the Balkans who have, despite their overwhelming experiences, not lost their hope for a democratic future in Europe and who in specific situations dedicate themselves time and time again to reaching reconciliation and dialogue.

And the lasting commitment of our partner organisations from South Eastern Europe, France and Germany, for exchange programmes that present a challenge in their political context as well as from a psychological,

methodological and oftentimes even a logistic standpoint, and who in the course of ten years of Franco-German co-operation have managed to build mutual trust and genuine European partnership

Frank MORAWIETZ, Sonderbeauftragter des DFJW für Südosteuropa, Berlin (Deutschland)

In den zehn Jahren, in denen ich jetzt in Programmen mit Südosteuropa arbeite und viel über den Balkan und in der Begegnung mit der Region auch viel über Europa gelernt habe, haben mich zwei Dinge nachhaltig beeindruckt: die Begegnungen mit Menschen auf dem Balkan, die trotz der erdrückenden Erfahrungen die Hoffnung auf eine demokratische Zukunft in Europa nicht verlieren und sich wieder und wieder konkret um Versöhnung und Dialog bemühen.

Und das nachhaltige Engagement unserer Partnerorganisationen aus Südosteuropa, Frankreich und Deutschland für Austauschprogramme, die in ihrem politischen Kontext, aber auch in psychologischer, methodischer und oft auch logistischer Hinsicht eine Herausforderung darstellen und denen es in zehn Jahren deutsch-französisch-südosteuropäischer Zusammenarbeit gelungen ist, gegenseitiges Vertrauen und wirkliche europäische Partnerschaft zu entwickeln.



Kristina BABIĆ, trainer, Local Democracy Agency, Osijek (Croatia)

The concept of the project that FGYO offered Croatian NGO's in 2003 was completely new and unique. The same group of eight persons would visit three locations - in France, Germany and Croatia - and, based on their own experience and interactions with hosts and other groups, would have the opportunity to gain new knowledge and skills.

Apart from all the facts that I've learned, and all the information and knowledge that has had such a strong influence on my thinking and way of life, as well as changing attitudes in my private life, the very important personal moment in our projects was finding the great coordinators from other countries who helped to smooth over the running of difficult projects, and who even became our friends.

Koncept projekta koji je ponudio OFAJ drugama u Hrvatskoj 2003. godine bio je posve novi. Ista skupina od osam mladih obilazila je tri lokacije - u Francuskoj, Hrvatskoj i Njemačkoj, te je na temelju osobnog iskustva i interakcije s gostima, ali i drugim sudionicima dobila, mogućnost stjecanja novih znanja i vještina.

Uz sve činjenice koje sam naučila, sve informacije i znanja koja su snažno utjecala na moj način ramišljanja i života, te su utjecala na stavove i u moje privatnom životu, jedan od najvažnijih privatnih trenutaka u ovom projektu bio je upoznavanje izvrsnih koordinatora iz drugih država koji su pomogli u glatkoj provedbi teških projekata, te su postali moji dragi prijatelji.



Milovan SAVIĆ, trainer and programme coordinator of the Volunteers' center of Vojvodina, Novi Sad (Serbia)

For me, the most motivating factor for working in this field is the feedback I receive from participants as well as the obvious satisfaction they gained from the exchange experience. Most participants in exchange programmes have never had an opportunity to travel abroad before nor to meet with their peers and to discuss their work together.

The unique nature of FGYO exchanges is reflected in their approach to linguistic diversity which is very inclusive towards young people who are not linguistically skilled and who would probably be excluded in other exchange programmes.

Milovan SAVIĆ, Trener i programski koordinator Volonterskog centra Vojvodine, Novi Sad (Srbija)

Za angažman u ovom polju najbolji motivišući faktor, za mene, jeste povratna informacija koju dobijam od učesnika programa kao i njihovo očigledno zadovoljstvo iskustvom stečenim kroz razmene. Većina učesnika u našim programima omladinskih razmena nikada ranije nije imala priliku da putuje u inostranstvo niti da sretno svoje vršnjake iz drugih zemalja, da ih upozna, da sa njima diskutuje, da rade zajedno.

Specifičnost trilateralnih razmena, u okviru programa Nemačko-Francuske kancelarije za mlade, se ogleda u njihovom pristupu jezičkim različitostima. Ovaj pristup je veoma inkluzivan prema mladim ljudima koji ne vladaju znanjem stranih jezika i najverovatnije bi ostali isključeni iz drugih programa razmena mladih.

Милован САВИЋ, Тренер и програмски координатор Волонтерског центра Војводине, Нови Сад (Србија)

За ангажман у овом пољу најбољи мотивишући фактор, за мене, јесте повратна информација коју добијам од учесника програма као и њихово очигледно задовољство искуством стеченим кроз размене. Већина учесника у нашим програмима оmladinskiх размена никада раније није имала прилику да путује у иностранство нити да сретне своје вршњаке из других земаља, да их упозна, да са њима дискутује, да раде заједно.

Специфичност трилатералних размена, у оквиру програма Немачко-Француске канцеларије за младе, се огледа у њиховом приступу језичким различитостима. Овај приступ је веома инклузиван према младим људима који не владaju знањем страних језика и највероватније би остали искључени из других програма размена младих.



Franziska KINDMANN, student at Friedrich Schiller University of Jena with concentrations in political science, public law and intercultural business communication (Germany)
Participant in the tri-national training programme in 2008:
“Culture and Borders” with Germany, France and Kosovo

The conflicts you hear so much about on the radio or on television are suddenly palpable, and anonymous television images become the fates and the stories of real individuals. Even though, as a student, I may not have any direct or decisive influence over specific conflicts, the encounters I had with people from different cultures still gave me the feeling I had gained more openness to and understanding of our mutual needs – needs for freedom, protection and acceptance of ethnic, religious or language groups, along with the needs for self-determination; but most of all a need for a peaceful and respectful co-existence in our Europe.

For me, the days I spent in the programme were a unique and formative experience that offered me the opportunity to question the familiar and the new, and to discover things the two had in common.

Franziska KINDMANN, Studentin an der Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena in den Fächern Politikwissenschaft, öffentliches Recht und interkulturelle Wirtschaftskommunikation (Deutschland)
Teilnehmerin an der trinationalen Ausbildung 2008 „Kultur und Grenzen“ zwischen Deutschland, Frankreich und dem Kosovo

Konflikte, von denen man so häufig in Radio und Fernsehen hört, werden auf einmal greifbar, und aus anonymen Fernsehbildern werden Schicksale und Geschichten. Auch wenn ich als Studentin in konkreten Konflikten keinen direkten und entscheidenden Einfluss haben mag, so gaben mir die Begegnungen mit Menschen aus verschiedenen Kulturen doch das Gefühl, selbst mehr Offenheit und Verständnis für unsere gegenseitigen Bedürfnisse gewonnen zu haben –nach Freiheit, Schutz und Akzeptanz von ethnischen, religiösen oder sprachlichen Gruppen sowie nach Selbstbestimmung; vor allem aber nach einem friedlichen und achtsamen Miteinander in unserem Europa. Für mich waren die Tage ein einmaliges und prägendes Erlebnis, das mir die Gelegenheit bot, Eigenes und Fremdes zu hinterfragen sowie Gemeinsames zu entdecken.

Jelena GAKOVIĆ, MA, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy and Sociology Faculty of Philosophy, Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

I hold the FGYO tri-lateral training programmes I have attended in 2002, 2003 and 2004 in high regard, for they have provided me with a great learning opportunity and a unique way to meet with young people from other countries in the region at a time when memories of war were still fresh and travelling in the region difficult.

I have continued to be in regular contact with some of the trainees ever since. The training seminars have also been an invaluable opportunity for me as a student to familiarize myself with EU affairs and learn more about the political and cultural background of participants from Germany and France.



Programi Njemačko-francuskog ureda za mlade u kojima sam učestvovala 2002, 2003 i 2004 godine za mene su bili izuzetna prilika za učenje i jedinstveno mjesto susreta sa mladim ljudima iz regiona u vrijeme kada su uspomene na rat jos bile svježije, a putovanje u regionu otežano.

S nekim od polaznika sam od tada u redovnom kontaktu. Takođe, treninzi su mi kao studentu bili neprocjenjiva prilika da se upoznam sa EU pitanjima i saznam više o političkom i kulturnoj pozadini učesnika iz Njemačke i Francuske.

Mario MAROLIN, law student at the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University in Osijek, President of the Association for Projects and Co-operation and President of the Youth Council of Osijek-Baranja County (Croatia)

After returning from the exchange “Cultures and Borders“, I continued to promote the project to other colleagues and students at the university. After I joined the Youth Council of Osijek-Baranja County we succeeded in getting funding for the project and so for two years now the Youth Council of Osijek-Baranja County has been co-financing the project within its own possibilities.

Nakon povratka sa seminara „Kulture i granice“ nastavio sam promovirati ovaj program drugim studentima iz moje generacije, a nakon što sam se pridružio Savjetu mladih Osječko-baranjske županije postigli smo da Savjet dvije godine, u skladu sa svojim mogućnostima, financijski podržava projekt „Kulture i granice“.





Valdete IDRIZI, Director CMB - Community Building, Mitrovica (Kosovo)

This co-operative exercise will contribute to strengthening co-operation and enhancing a common understanding of how important it is for young people to work together and design a common future, a brighter future without hate and divisions.

It was great to see Serbs and Albanians speaking from two different perspectives, North and South and still managing to listen attentively and to respect the feelings of the other side. In addition to this the observations and questions from their German, French and Macedonian peers concerning Mitrovica helped create a safe place for dialogue on sensitive issues such as history and war.

Ky bashkepunim do te kontribuojne ne forcimin e bashkepunimit dhe mirekuptimit te perbashket ne ate se sa e rendesishme eshte per te rinjte qe te punojne se bashku dhe te projektojne ardhmerine se bashku, nje ardhmeri te ndritur pa urrejtje e ndarje.

Ka qene shume mire mire ti shohesh serbet dhe shqiptaret duke folur prej dy kendveshtrimeve, nga Veriu dhe Jugu, dhe ne te njejten kohe duke me kujdes duke degjuar dhe respektuar ndjenjat per njeri tjetrin. Ne anen tjetere, verejtjet dhe pyetjet nga moshataret e tyre nga Gjermania, Franca dhe Maqedonia qe ata kishin per Mitrovicen kane ndihmu ne krijimin e nje ambienti te sigurte per dialog per ceshtje te ndieshme si historia dhe lufta.

Alain GUÉRAUD, Trainer, Regional and Departmental Directorate for Youth, Sport and Social Cohesion - DRJSCS Limousin, Limoges (France)

Franco-German Youth exchanges have always appeared to me to be a spectacular expression of a reconciliation which never seemed possible. Thousand years were needed to get to this point. In a geographical sense the Balkans are European and historically they have always asked to be considered in this way. But how do you undertake a task shared between France, Germany and the countries of the former Yugoslavia against a background where the Franco-German example appears to be a landmark reference rather than a model? Such is the fascinating task we have set ourselves.

Alain GUÉRAUD, Formateur, Direction Régionale de la Jeunesse, des Sports et de la Cohésion Sociale- DRJSCS Limousin, Limoges (France)

Les échanges franco-allemands de jeunes m'ont toujours paru être la manifestation la plus éclatante d'une réconciliation qui semblait impossible. C'est que plus de mille ans avaient été nécessaires pour en arriver là. Les Balkans sont européens au plan géographique et ont toujours demandé à l'être dans l'Histoire. Comment entreprendre un travail partagé, entre France, Allemagne et pays de l'ancienne Yougoslavie, dans un paysage où le franco-allemand apparaît comme un repère et non comme un modèle ? Telle est la tâche passionnante que nous nous sommes fixés.



Artan SADIKU, Tetovo (Macedonia)

Participant in the tri-national Franco-German, Kosovan, Macedonian training seminar 2009, "Europe, a challenge? Visions and realities"

The seminars have offered me and many other young people, a forum for discussing ideas and a medium for free intercultural communication. Each of them represents a genuine event after which I have been able to reflect on my social values, my approach to human strengths and weaknesses and my attitudes towards history.

The reconciliation process in the Balkans needs to be challenged at a regional level by taking advantage of the benefits gained by individuals from working with FGYO exchanges. I feel that we have a historic responsibility to take up this opportunity in our region and the support of the FGYO, which has been such a sincere and willing partner, will continue to be very welcome in the future.

Jean-Luc MENU, Pedagogical Representative,
Union Peuple et Culture, Paris (France)

As a FGYO pedagogical representative at the Union Peuple et Culture I have been committed to the development of exchanges with South-East Europe for the FGYO over the last ten years.

This commitment is inspired by the founders of Peuple et Culture, by their political convictions, their desire to contribute thereby to the prevention of fresh conflicts and to create better understanding between peoples and cultures and to encourage dialogue between young people.

Jean-Luc MENU, Permanent Pédagogique, Union Peuple et Culture, Paris (France)

En tant que permanent pédagogique de l'OFAJ à l'Union Peuple et Culture, je m'engage depuis maintenant dix ans pour le développement des échanges avec le Sud-Est de l'Europe.

Cette volonté d'engagement est née de l'histoire des fondateurs de Peuple et Culture, de leurs convictions politiques, de leur ambition de contribuer ainsi à la prévention de nouveaux conflits, à une meilleure compréhension entre les peuples et les cultures, à favoriser le dialogue entre les jeunes.





DIALOGUES FOR A EUROPEAN FUTURE



For the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO, the ten-year jubilee also constitutes a responsibility and a challenge to continue to build upon the quantity and quality of the South Eastern Europe Initiative while at the same time strengthening the civil-social network and, with it, the implementation of exchange programmes for young citizens of Germany, France and South Eastern Europe. The consistent involvement of young people in South Eastern Europe in particular in a peaceful European dialogue is one of the prerequisites for democratization, development in a spirit of pluralism and, not least, a strengthening of civil-social structures within the societies of South Eastern Europe. This dialogue helps counteract the isolation of young people in South Eastern Europe while strengthening the process of European integration.

In late November/early December 2009 in Berlin, the FGYO joined partner organisations in Germany, France and South Eastern Europe in hosting an evaluation conference dedicated to a discussion of necessary substantive and structural developments. Participants in the partner's fair that followed the conference included not only experienced and longstanding partners of the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO but also new potential partner organisations from Germany, France and South Eastern Europe. Particular attention was also paid to those NGOs from South Eastern Europe that are already involved in efforts to promote regional co-operation in the Balkans. The results of this conference essentially chart the profile and challenges for the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO in the years to come:

A broadening of programmatic offerings

Political developments in the Balkans also have consequences for the profile of those requirements the exchange programmes offered must fulfil. Aside from the question of increased contacts between the region and the European Union and a specific need for information about the history, operation, institutions and political perspectives of the EU, the focus of interest is also increasingly upon topics such as cross-border co-operation, possible approaches to history, the competencies required for intercultural action and questions of training for young people.



A strengthening of exchange measures on questions of vocational training and development

Particularly in the area of meetings programmes dedicated to questions of vocational training and development, the FGYO and its partner organizations have a great deal of competence and experience valuable and useful in South Eastern Europe. For this reason, from this year forward, particular attention is being devoted to encounters with a vocational and career component. Already this year, encounters have been held among young social workers-in-training and among young drama students of acting. Similar encounters are planned for other professional groups as well (careers in nursing services and in tourism). These include a training and development project for young journalists from Germany, France and South Eastern Europe entitled "Balkan Multimedia"; the project will be carried out in 2011 in co-operation with several schools of journalism: Electronic Media School Potsdam, the Centre de Formation des Journalistes, Paris and the Media Centar Sarajevo. The aim of the project is twofold: to strengthen media competence in South Eastern Europe, and to promote a deeper grasp of South Eastern Europe among young journalists from Germany and France, supplemental to their ordinary course of studies. Following completion of this development programme, the young journalists in training will work in tri-national production teams in Germany, France and South Eastern Europe to produce media coverage for broadcast or upload via a media platform (Internet, TV and other media partners).

A strengthening of regional co-operation

Given its guideline framework, the FGYO can contribute only indirectly to the needed strengthening of regional co-operation in this area. For the most part, the work of developing and strengthening the co-operation efforts needed in this area falls to the citizens and the civil-social structures in South Eastern Europe.



To move this process forward, in its teamwork with new partners in South Eastern Europe the FGYO appeals to organizations that are already active in regional exchange programmes or networks. In the exchange programmes of the FGYO, and particularly in professional-development programmes for multipliers in youth work, explicit attention is devoted to the topic of "cross-border co-operation in Europe", with case studies drawn from Franco-German co-operation in border areas (e.g. Strasbourg/Kehl).

Programmes focus differently according to the countries of South Eastern Europe

There really is no such thing as "The Balkans". This being the case, the FGYO works together with the different countries and regions of South Eastern Europe to place the emphasis on substantive areas of interest oriented around the political conditions specific to each case.

In Croatia, the work of the FGYO and its partner organisations centres on the Slavonia region (Vukovar and Osijek), where the aftermath of

the war is still particularly evident. The objective is to further assist in efforts to re-establish civil society in this region, providing added emphasis with regard to topics of European policy, and in future to encourage strengthened cross-border civil-social co-operation with neighbouring Serbia.

In Kosovo, the aim is – particularly following the legal findings of the International Criminal Tribunal in July 2010 – to redouble efforts to encourage dialogue between Serbian and Albanian Kosovans and to help promote dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo. The FGYO also intends to step up its efforts to encourage representatives of minorities in Kosovo to participate in these programmes.

Serbia, and in this respect particularly Vojvodina and Southern Serbia, have been a focus of the programmes of the South Eastern European Initiative of the FGYO since 2009. In September 2010 the FGYO joined with partner organisations in Serbia and the Embassies of Germany and France to host a conference in Belgrade targeted at informing Serbian governmental offices and NGOs of the programmes and to further develop the profile of activities with partner organisations in Serbia in order to urge them to enlarge upon the



initiative. The FGYO's general secretary, Mrs Béatrice Angrand, took part in the conference.

In Macedonia, the focus of our activities is upon inter-ethnic dialogue, particularly with young people in the region that surrounds Tetovo and Skopje. Working in conjunction with partner organisations from Macedonia, the FGYO is also developing pilot projects to strengthen regional co-operation and networks.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, in future greater emphasis will be given to projects in rural areas, and to programmatic efforts designed to strengthen civil society and the participation of young people in civil-social and political developments. This is also accompanied by a new initiative in the area of programmes in vocational training.

Frank Morawietz
FGYO Special Commissioner for South Eastern Europe



Ardiana (Kosovo)
Participant in the training programme among Germany, France, Macedonia and Kosovo entitled 'Europe: A Challenge? Visions and Realities', 2009

Kur takohesh me nje person per here te pare gjeja e pare te cilen duhet ta shohesh ne te eshte ta shohesh ate si qenje njerezore pastaj cka eshte ailajo apo cfare lloj personi eshte ailajo... Ishte kenaqesi e vertete t'ju takoja te gjithë juve!



Adeline (France)
Participant in the tri-national seminar among Germany, France and Bosnia: 'What Can I Do? Young People in Society, 2010

Ces séminaires m'ont ouvert l'esprit sur des cultures et des pays que je ne connaissais pas ou peu. Ils m'ont permis d'abolir des préjugés et de revoir ma manière de penser. On a souvent l'impression d'être ouvert d'esprit et en fait quand on est confronté à une autre culture parfois nos propres réactions nous surprennent, on se rend compte que l'on a encore un long chemin à parcourir pour comprendre «l'autre».

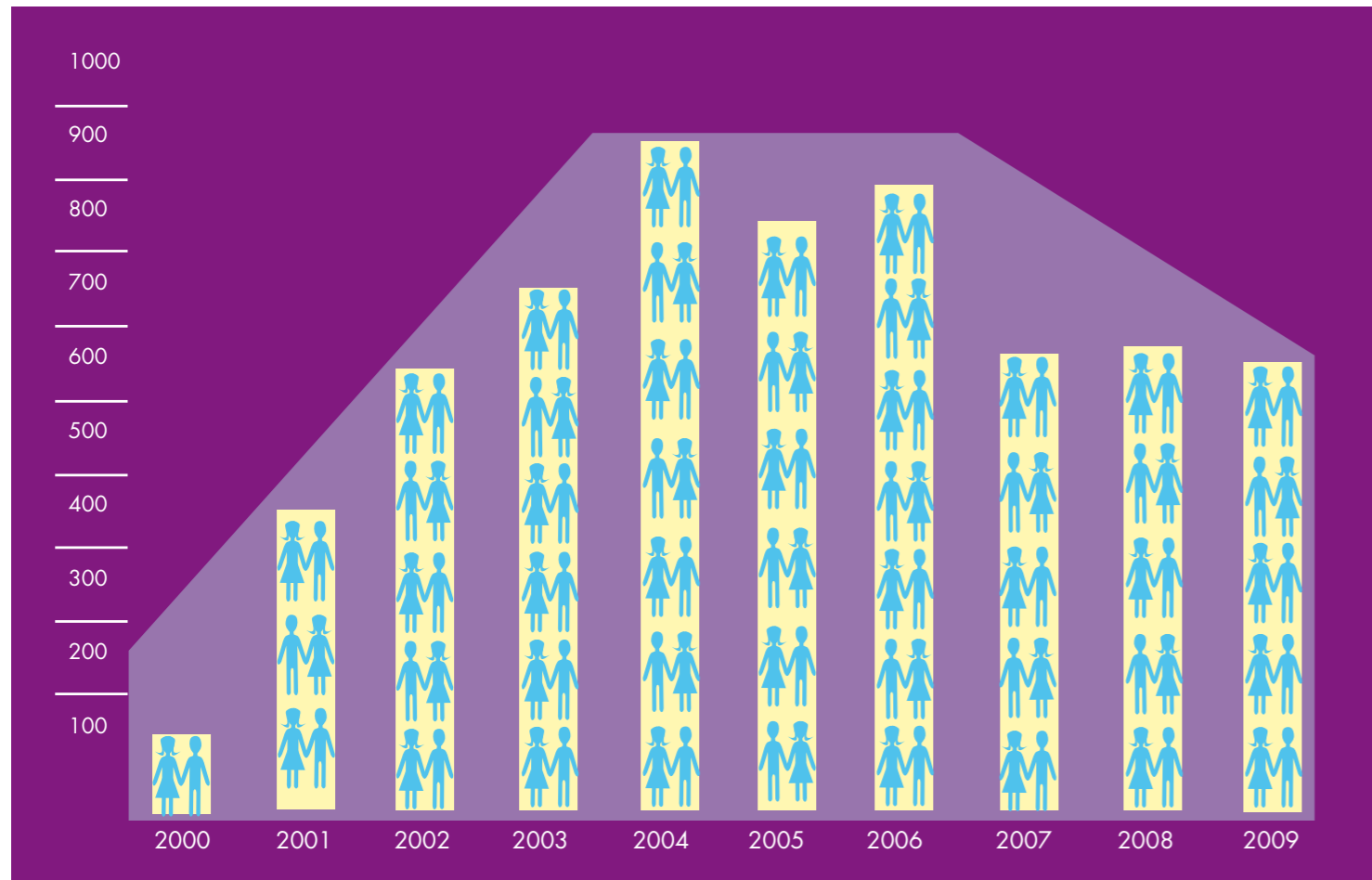




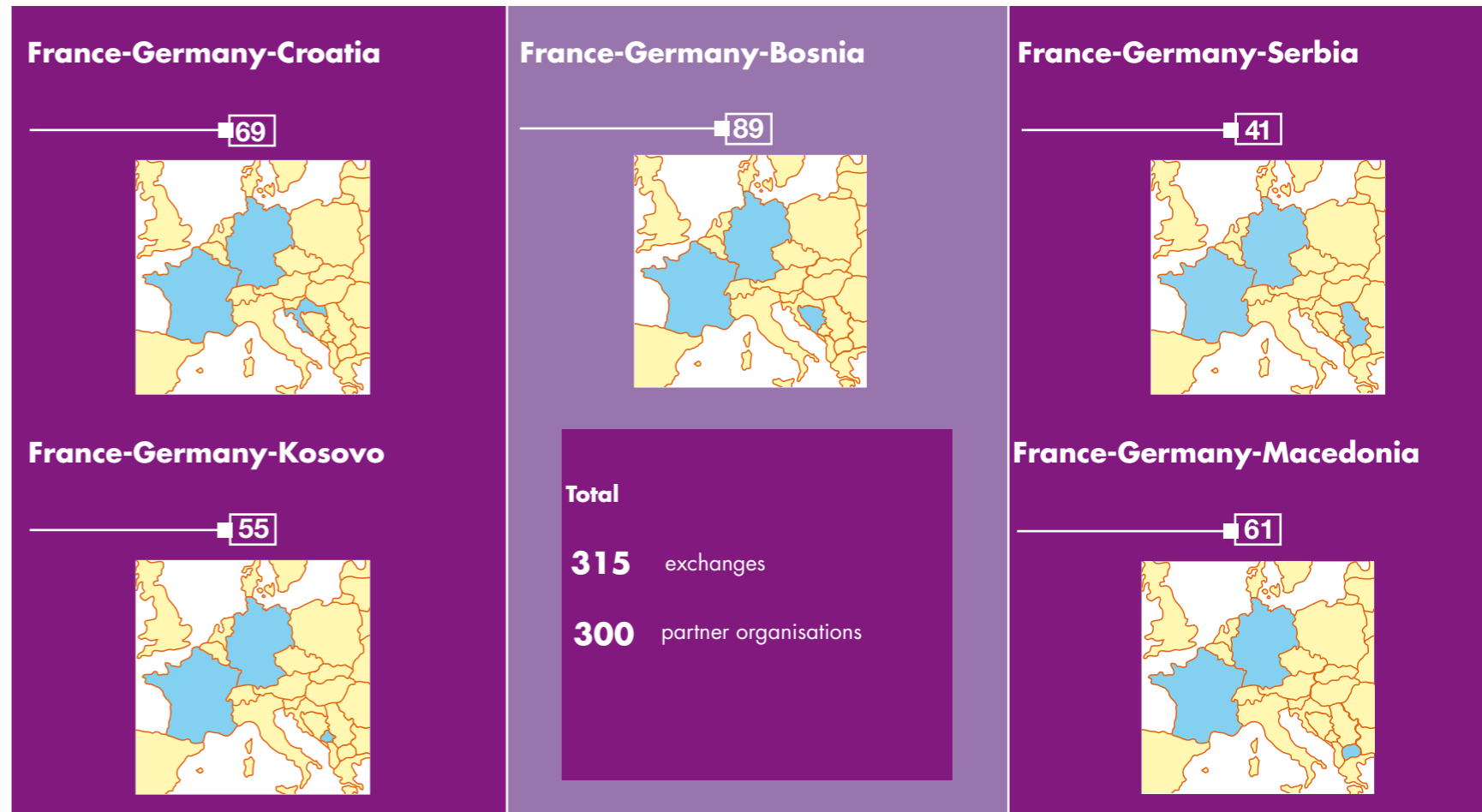
STATISTICS



Total number of participants since 2000 : 5.750



Number of exchanges since 2000





LIST OF PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



The Franco-German Youth Office expresses its sincere thanks to all the partner organizations involved in the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO, as well as to all those whose commitment and skills have made it possible to carry out a number of high-quality projects:

A AEJ - Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend, Hannover (Germany), www.evangelische-jugend.de • Agence pour la démocratie locale, Osijek / Vukovar (Croatia), www.lda-osijek.hr • Alliance Nationale des UCJG, Paris (France), www.ucjg.fr • Arbeit und Leben Thüringen, Erfurt (Germany), www.arbeitundleben-thueringen.de • ARTE TV (Germany / France), www.arte.tv/de/70.html • Auswärtiges Amt, Berlin (Germany), www.auswaertiges-amt.de
B Balkan Sunflower, Pristina (Kosovo), www.balkansunflowers.org • Bapob – Berliner Arbeitskreis für Politische Bildung e.V., Berlin (Germany), www.bapob.de • BDL – Bund der deutschen Landjugend, Berlin (Germany), www.landjugend.de • BDP – Bund Deutscher PfadfinderInnen, Frankfurt-am-Main (Germany), www.bdp.org • Beogradski Ekoloski Centar - Belgrade Ecological Center, Belgrade (Serbia), www.bec.org.rs • Berufsakademie Fachhochschule Hephata, Schwalmstadt (Germany), www.hephata.de • BIRO, Belgrade (Serbia), www.birobeograd.info
C CASF - Centre d'Action Sociale et Familiale, Marcq-en-Baroeul (France) • CEFIR, Dunkerque (France), www.cefir.fr • CEMEA - Centres d'entraînement aux méthodes de pédagogie active Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand (France), www.cemea.asso.fr/auvergne/index.html • CEMEA - Centres d'entraînement aux méthodes de pédagogie active Languedoc-Roussillon, Montpellier (France), www.cemea-languedoc-roussillon.org • Center for Balkan Cooperation "LOJA", Tetovo (Macedonia), www.cbclloja.mk • Center for Public Participation, Tetovo (Macedonia), www.cpp.org.za • Centre culturel européen, Blaye (France), www.cce-nantes.eu • Centre de Mémoire d'Oradour-sur-Glane (France), www.oradour.org • Centre for Children's Theatre Development, Pristina (Kosovo) • Centre André Malraux, Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), www.malraux.ba • Children's Theater Center, Skopje

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D Déco Danse, Sète (France), www.sete.fr/DECO-DANSE.html • Deutsch-französisches Kulturinstitut, Aachen (France), www.institut-francais.fr/-aachen- • DRJSCS - Direction régionale de la Jeunesse, des Sports et de la Cohésion Sociale, Limoges (France), www.limousin.drjscs.gouv.fr
E EKO-PLAN, Belgrade (Serbia), www.ekoplan.gov.rs/en • ENACT - Ecole nationale d'Application des Cadres Territoriaux, Nancy (France), www.enact-nancy.cnfpt.fr • Entraide Allemande, Paris (France), www.entraide-allemande.org • Esperanza, Skopje (Macedonia) • Europa-Direkt e.V., Dresden (Germany), www.europa-direkt.com • Europäische Jugendbildungsstätte, Weimar (Germany), www.ejbweimar.de • Europski dom Dubrovnik, Dubrovnik (Croatia), www.edd.hr
F Fachhochschule Kehl (Germany), www.hs-kehl.de • FNFR – Fédération Nationale des Foyers Ruraux, Paris (France), www.fnfr.org • Fondacija Obrazovanje Gradi BiH, Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), www.ogbh.com.ba • Förderverein Jugendkunst, Stralsund (Germany), www.jugendkunst.de • Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst, Bonn (Germany), www.forumzfd.de • Foyer Laïque de Saint-Marc, Brest (France), www.flsm.infini.fr • French Embassy, Belgrade (Serbia), www.ambafrance-srb.org • French Embassy, Pristina (Kosovo), www.ambafrance-kosovo.org • French Embassy, Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), www.ambafrance-ba.org • French Embassy, Skopje (Macedonia), www.ambafrance-mk.org • French Embassy, Zagreb (Croatia), www.ambafrance.hr • Future System, Gracanica (Kosovo)
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H Hambarine, Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
I Interkulturelles Netzwerk, Berlin (Germany), www.interkulturelles-netzwerk.de • IB - Internationaler Bund, Pirmasens (Germany), www.internationaler-bund.de

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 • IPAK, Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina), www.ipak-mgb.ba • IRA - Institut régional d'administration, Villeurbanne (France), www.ira-lyon.gouv.fr • ISC - Institute for Sustainable Communities, Skopje (Macedonia), www.iscvt.org
J JET - Jeunesse Echanges Transnationaux, Marseille (France) • Jugendbildungsstätte Kaubstraße e.V., Berlin (Germany), www.kaubstrasse.de • Jugendbildungszentrum, Blossin (Germany), www.blossin.de • Jugendgästehaus Dachau (Germany), www.jgh-dachau.de • Jugendwerkstatt Felsberg e.V., Felsberg (Germany), www.jugendwerkstatt-felsberg.de • Jugend&KunstSchule, Dresden (Germany), www.dresden.de/jks
K KONI, Prizren (Kosovo) • Kontrapunkt, Skopje (Macedonia), www.kontrapunkt-mk.org • Kulturkreis Hallenbad e. V., Wolfsburg (Germany), www.hallenbad.de
L Landesjugendwerk Saarland (Germany), www.jugendwerk-saar.de • LDA - Local Democracy Agency, Nis (Serbia), www.ldacs.org • LDA - Local Democracy Agency, Osijek (Croatia), www.lda-osijek.hr/web • Lycée européen Charles de Gaulle, Dijon (France), www.lycee-europeencdg.eu
M Ministère des Affaires étrangères, Paris (France), www.diplomatie.gouv.fr • Multimedia Center, Pristina (Kosovo), www.qendra.org • Municipal Youth Theatre, Split (Croatia)
N Nationaltheater Weimar (Germany), www.nationaltheater-weimar.de
O OIA - Omladinska Informativna Agencija, Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), www.oia.mladi.info • ONO, Novi Sad (Serbia), www.ono.org.rs • Orhedeja, Stolac (Bosnia and Herzegovina) • OSCE Mission Kosovo, www.osce.org/kosovo • OSCE Mission to Croatia, www.osce.org/zagreb • OXO, Skopje (Macedonia), www.oxo.org.mk
P Parc naturel régional d'Armorique, Le Faou (France), www.pnr-armorique.fr • Parlement Européen, Strasbourg (France), www.europarl.fr • Peuple et Culture - Puy de Dôme, Clermont-Ferrand (France), www.peuple-et-culture.org • Peuple et Culture, Corrèze (France), www.peuple-et-culture.org • Peuple et Culture, Paris (France), www.peuple-et-culture.org • Plateforme, Lyon (France), www.la-plateforme.fr • Primary school Sutjeska, Modrica (Bosnia and Herzegovina), www.djeca.rs.ba • Proni, Osijek (Croatia), www.proni.hr
R Radio 100 plus, Novi Pazar (Serbia), www.radiostoplus.com • Radio F.R.E.I. Freier Rundfunk Erfurt International e.V., Erfurt (Germany), www.radio-frei.de • ROUDEL, Ladern-sur-Lauquet (France), www.roudel.org • RTF 95.4 - Radio Trouble Fête, Limoges (France), www.rtf954.com • Rythme de Lune, Saint-Vincent-de-Barrès (France), www.creamime.com
S S.N.O.W. Projekt e.V., Berlin (Germany), www.snowprojekt.de • Save the Children

of Macedonia, Skopje (Macedonia), www.savethechildren.org.uk • Say Yes Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) • Schüler helfen leben, Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), www.schueler-helfen-leben.de • SCI - Service Civil International, Deutscher Zweig, Bonn (Germany), www.sci-d.de • SCI - Service Civil International, Paris (France), www.sci-france.org • SCI - Service Civil International, Berlin (Germany), www.sci-d.de • Sonnenberg Hrvatska, Zagreb (Croatia), www.sonnenberg.hr • Srednja Medicinska skola, Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), www.sms.edu.ba • Stadt Kehl (Germany), www.kehl.de • Stadt Winnenden (Germany), www.winnenden.de • Studentski Radio Education FM, Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) • Südost Europa Kultur e.V., Berlin (Germany), www.suedost-ev.de
T Trait d'Union, Hazebrouck (France), www.trait-d-union.coop • TransMedia e.V., Bochum (Germany)
U UCJG - Union Chrétienne de Jeunes Gens de la Loire, Roanne (France), <http://www.ucjg.fr> • University of Sarajevo / Political Science Department, Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), www.unsa.ba • University of Skopje, Art department, Skopje (Macedonia), www.ukim.edu.mk • UNMIK - Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, www.unmikonline.org • UTC - Une Terre Culturelle, Marseille (France), www.uneterreculturelle.org
V Verein für Jugendheime, Recklinghausen (Germany), www.vfj-re.de • V.I.A. - Verband für Interkulturelle Arbeit - Regionalverband Berlin/Brandenburg, Berlin (Germany), www.via-in-berlin.de • VIMIO, Vukovar (Croatia), www.vimio.hr • Volunteers Center of Voivodine, Novi Sad (Serbia), www.volontiraj.rs
X XVIII Gimnazija, Zagreb (Croatia), www.gimnazija-osamnaesta-zg.skole.hr
Y YMCA Kosovo, www.ymcaks.com • Youth Center Zoom, Peja (Kosovo)
 • Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), www.yihr.org

and to all those we may have forgotten.





APPENDIX





Declaration of the 75th Franco-German summit meeting on South Eastern Europe in Mainz on 9th June 2000

During the Franco-German Summit in Mainz, President Chirac, Prime Minister Jospin and Chancellor Schröder discussed the current situation in the Balkans. They agreed that Germany and France would continue and intensify their common efforts towards safeguarding peace and stability in this region and towards the reconciliation of their inhabitants.

Peacekeeping in South Eastern Europe is still a main task of the European Union, which is already making decisive contributions to the peace missions of the United Nations, NATO and the OSCE as well as to the reconstruction of former Yugoslavia. France and Germany wish to see the European Union assume its leadership role in the framework of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe.

France and Germany are of the opinion that the European Union must adapt a more coherent and powerful policy, accompanied by a firmer strategy for the Balkans. This will be one of the important aims of France during its EU Presidency.

The pursuit of the democratisation of the Western Balkan countries cannot come primarily from outside, but must instead be developed and fortified from within. Germany supports the idea of a summit meeting suggested by France between the European Union and the countries of this region, which are, on different levels, the most advanced in their democratic development. Germany and France will work together on the preparations for this summit. It will be an opportunity to assure the countries of this region of European solidarity and to consult with them to ascertain how they can accelerate the process of their democratic and economic reforms.

Germany and France are aware of the lesson they have learned from their history and of the exemplary value of their reconciliation. They are convinced that their model of exchange and friendly contacts on all levels of society can be applied fruitfully to South Eastern Europe.

In consequence, they have agreed to undertake jointly – within the framework of European Union policy and with the support of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe – the projects enclosed in the appendix, which focus on further democratisation, economic development and regional co-operation and therefore on the approach towards the European Union.

APPENDIX: Franco-German initiatives in South Eastern Europe

1 - Youth Exchanges

The Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO) has been invited to develop its activity in South Eastern Europe and to reinforce in future its trilateral exchange programmes in this region as it has been successfully carried out in the past with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The current co-operation with Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia deserves to be developed and applied to the other countries of the region.

This new approach can begin in the weeks to come. The first project entitled "A year of peace – Bosnia 2000" will begin already in July 2000 in Bosnia and Herzegovina: 500 young people from France, Germany and all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina will participate in 15 different meetings throughout the country. Further projects should follow in Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo. The FGYO must establish a long-term co-operation with its partners in South Eastern Europe in order to support their associations, educational facilities and local youth organisations. This co-operation will contribute in all our countries to the development of a better knowledge of each other and to a respectful dialogue between the different cultures, in the European spirit of tolerance and fraternity.

2 - Co-operation at the university level

Germany and France want to make the instruments of Franco-German co-operation available to university-level institutions, professors, researchers and students from South Eastern Europe. The modalities for accomplishing this remain to be determined by the relevant higher-education authorities:

- The Franco-German PROCOPÉ Programme for the exchange of scholars working on joint research projects could also be to the advantage of participants from South Eastern Europe. This would initially involve incorporating participants from the region as part of training and research residencies that could subsequently be developed into a genuine tri-national cooperation.



- The recently opened Franco-German University [Deutsch-Französische Hochschule (DFH)] in Saarbrücken could ask its member universities to accept students from South Eastern Europe for training of up to two years, particularly in engineering.

3 - Co-operation in vocational education

The Franco-German institutions engaged in exchange in the vocational-education area, particularly the Franco-German Secretariat for Exchange in Vocational Education [Deutsch-Französische Sekretariat für den Austausch in der beruflichen Bildung (DFS)] and the FGYO, are called upon to open their programmes up to young workers and trainees from South Eastern Europe, particularly in the areas of agriculture, the crafts and small and medium-sized businesses.

4 - Administrative cooperation and administrative education

Franco-German administrative co-operation should also dedicate itself to the training future leadership of the countries of South Eastern Europe, with particular emphasis on the education of judges, public prosecutors and leaders among the administrative authorities and at the community level. The appropriate French and German institutions should investigate the creation of suitable educational capacities.

5 - Initiatives by partner cities – decentralised co-operation

French and German partner cities are invited to develop and realise joint co-operation projects with partner cities in Serbia and with communities in Montenegro and Kosovo. The purpose of this is to provide immediate support for the citizenry of these communities while at the same time sending out a visible signal of solidarity. The German and French governments will provide financial support for these projects. To this end, both countries' foreign ministries will co-ordinate with the German and French cities' and communities' associations and organisations.

6 - Aid for independent media – co-operation in the audiovisual area

Co-operation with the independent media in South Eastern Europe must be reinforced. The Franco-German television station ARTE has agreed to take in a few young journalists from South Eastern Europe as guest students in Strasbourg and Baden-Baden. The radio networks Radio France Internationale (RFI) and Deutsche Welle have been asked to co-ordinate with one another in joint technical and journalistic support of independent media. They have also been invited to examine the development of joint programming offerings for South Eastern Europe. Eventually, both stations could become active in a consulting capacity to assist in developing the requisite national media legislation in the countries of the region.

7 - Berlin-Brandenburg Institute for Franco-German Co-operation in Europe – Genshagen Foundation [Berlin-Brandenburgisches Institut für deutsch-französische Zusammenarbeit in Europa – Stiftung Genshagen]

The initiative of the Berlin-Brandenburg Institute for Franco-German Co-operation in Europe – Genshagen Foundation for a tri-national programme open to influential figures from France, Germany and the countries of South Eastern Europe (particularly journalists, political and business leaders, artists and scholars) is a welcome contribution. The aim of the initiative is a mutual acquaintance with the history of the Other, particularly through meetings at "places of memory" in the Balkans.

8 - Initiative in the environmental area

Environmental protection is an important concern of ours. For this reason, in this area, too, Germany and France want to review the avenues for co-operative arrangements in South Eastern Europe, particularly in water and air pollution control.

This is why they attach great importance to the pilot project at Lake Skodar between Albania and Montenegro. If these two countries so desire, France and Germany want to work with them to improve water quality there while protecting the lake's surroundings.

9 - Arms control

France and Germany want to continue their co-operation in the area of arms control in South Eastern Europe, especially within the Dayton/Paris and Stability Pact frameworks. They welcome the joint measures for weapons destruction already carried out by the two countries in Bosnia-Herzegovina and want these to continue. Their partners are invited to support the two projects introduced by Germany and France to the Stability Pact Security Working Table. These projects entail, first, the establishment of a "Regional Centre for the Verification of Arms Control Agreements" in Croatia and, second, the creation of a "Regional Aerial Observation Regime" in South Eastern Europe.

Charta of the South Eastern Europe Initiative of the FGYO

elaborated by the FGYO and its partner organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Germany, Kosovo-1244, Macedonia and Serbia-Montenegro

The French-German relationship, characterised by the experience of overcoming war and of mutual reconciliation and co-operation, does not constitute a model but rather represents a rich field of experience and learning.

In the spirit of the European idea based on recognition of human rights, democracy and international co-operation in the service of peace,

out of an awareness of the painful consequences of armed conflicts for societies and their citizenry, especially for the younger generations, in South Eastern Europe,

convinced that democracy and peace are never to be taken for granted but instead constitute a permanent challenge for us all,

in the context of the mission entrusted to the FGYO by the French and German governments at the summit in Mainz, Germany, on 9th June 2000 to expand its tri-national activities into South Eastern Europe,

beginning in autumn 2000, the FGYO has begun to initiate and support exchange projects for young people and multipliers of youth work, in co-operation with its partner organisations in civil society in France, Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo-1244, Macedonia and Serbia-Montenegro.

These exchanges, through the experience of living together and of common action, a commitment to the practise of democratic participation, the confrontation with other values, norms and practices and the experience of mobility within Europe, pursue the realisation of the following aims:

- supporting mutual familiarity and comprehension of the plurality of our common European heritage,
- developing an awareness of the complexity of our societies on the one hand, and of the differences and common points between and within the various countries and regions on the other,
- promoting intercultural skills in order to promote a positive relationship with others in contexts of all sorts,
- prompting and reinforcing a commitment on the part of young people to become active members of society at the local, national and international levels.

In the context of the establishment of stable partnerships between actors in civil societies of the aforementioned countries and regions, we would like to contribute:

- to the construction and reinforcement of civil societies and of democratic structures in South Eastern Europe,
- to the consolidation of civil societies and democratic structures in France and in Germany,
- to rapprochement between and reconciliation among France, Germany, the countries and regions of South Eastern Europe, and to their regional co-operation,
- to the process of European integration and to the development of a Europe of citizens.

Berlin, 6th December 2003



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- and other photos taken by participants of trinational programmes (South Eastern Europe).

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Revision: Antje Kirsten, Steve Britt

Graphic design: www.imagedeboite.com

Print : IMP Graphic - Cosnes-sur-Loire

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This publication is published in three linguistic versions:

English : ISBN 978-3-9812076-2-0

French : ISBN 978-3-9812076-0-6

German : ISBN 978-3-9812076-1-3

Deutsch-Französisches Jugendwerk (DFJW)
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ISBN 978-3-9812076-2-0