

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

*Mesagne (Brindisi), Italy
12-19 January 2014*

The “**Tolerance in Youth Sport - TOYS**” project, approved by the European Commission in the framework of the “**Youth in Action Programme**”, is a joint initiative of 13 organisations from nine different countries in wider-Europe strongly active in the field of youth. The hosting organisation will be the Euro Mediterranean Scientific and Biomedical Institute and the activities foreseen will be coordinated by the Association of Local Democracy Agencies - ALDA (France) in partnership with the Intelligent Citizen Enlightenment Center Public Union - ICEC (Azerbaijan); the Local Democracy Agency of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina); the International Platform for Citizen Participation - IPCP and the Union of the Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities - UBBSLA (Bulgaria); the Vejle Kommune (Denmark); the Local Democracy Agency Georgia; the Province of Gorizia; the ASD Mesagne Volley and the Università delle LiberEtà del Fvg – ULE (Italy); the Local Democracy Agency Kosovo and the Terra – 1530 (Moldova).

The aim of the project is to promote the key principles of the “Youth in Action Programme”, namely to inspire a sense of active European citizenship, solidarity and tolerance among young Europeans and to involve them in shaping the Union's future. It



promotes mobility within and beyond the EU's borders, non-formal learning and intercultural dialogue, and encourages the inclusion of all young people, regardless of their educational, social and cultural background.

The project is addressed to all those working with young people in wide terms. As many as **40 youth workers from the 9 different countries** will be directly involved. The final objective of the project is to **tackle racism and discrimination in sport** by promoting social inclusion and integration, volunteering and active citizenship. The topic



is particularly relevant due to the recent prevalence of high profile cases of racism and discrimination in the sport world. Participants will be encouraged, through **debates, discussions, workshops and in field visits** to share best practices, views and ideas, bring in their own expertise and offer proposals on how to tackle racism in sport.

If you work with or support young people, either individually or in groups, in order to address social, behavioural, welfare, developmental and protection needs; if sport is part of your job or your daily life or simply a passion and you see yourself as a sensitive person to the objective of this project, if you are interested in acquiring new skills and making new experiences or are simply attracted from meeting up people working in the same field as yours coming from different countries or from the opportunity of being part of an international group, you are strongly invited to apply and get on board!



The event will be held in **Mesagne, near Brindisi (Italy)** and will take place from **12th to 19th January 2014**. Mesagne sits in the inland part of the province of Brindisi. Its name means “**city in the middle**” due to its position halfway between Brindisi and Oria, along the Via Appia. You will have the opportunity to visit a city with unique treasures such as the **Castle**, Mesagne’s most representative sight, originally built as a fortified camp dating back to the 11th century, **Chiesa Matrice** dedicated to All Saints, built between 1649 and 1660 and then continued even in the subsequent century: the Church represents one of the best expressions of Baroque architecture in the area of Brindisi. History and archaeology lovers will also visit the **Museo Granafei**, which contains artefacts, traces and remains from the municipality and all of Apulia. The Messapico section is very interesting, its pavilion has been expanded with findings discovered by accident when excavation work was done to enlarge the town.



A whole week of group activities will undoubtedly lead you back home with a rich experience to remind. Besides the opportunity of discovering new experiences and ideas from the other participants, you will also acquire new linguistic skills and become a real international youth worker!



As far as the logistical information is concerned, **you are required to arrive in Mesagne on 12th January and to leave the country on 19th January.** A transport service will bring each group from the arrival point (airport or bus station) to the hosting structure. More technical information will be delivered as soon as you will submit further details on your journey.

If you are not a EU Citizen, visa might be required to access the country. As soon as you confirm your attendance in the event, the Association of Local Democracy Agencies and the Euro Mediterranean Scientific and Biomedical Institute will provide you with a proper invitation letter defining your stay in Mesagne as part of the project.

All costs linked to the events of the programme are covered by the organisers. As a general rule of the “Youth in Action Programme”, international travel expenses are reimbursed at 70% of the actual travel costs (**please liaise with us to find out more about this**). Participants are therefore required to contribute with a co-fund of 30% of their sole international travel expenses. Such a measure, in accordance with the above-mentioned regulations, is aimed at short-listing applications only to those who are interested fully in the goals and objectives of the projects funded by the Programme. All other expenses related to the activity, such as board, lodging and transportation will be borne by the organisers.

However, all participants’ personal costs (like telephone calls, gifts and souvenirs, free exists, etc.) and/or any other cost not linked to programme’s events will be responsibility of the participants and will be settled directly by them on the spot.

A first draft agenda is attached to the present information package. Please, note that parts of this programme may still change. Find out more about TOYS by clicking on the following link: www.toysproject.wordpress.com

To apply for this activity please send us your CV by the 15th December 2013. The selection will be on “**first come, first served basis**”. Therefore, we strongly suggest that you do so as soon as possible

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Mesagne and get this common project started!