



Young Innovations **Europe**

YOUNG

PEOPLE

BUILDING

EUROPE



Dear Readers,

change, change and even more change on the way!

Yes, Young Innovations Europe is already making waves thanks to you: thousands of readers and counting, ongoing exposure through consistent media coverage and - hopefully - countless young people inspired and empowered to make change happen.

A couple of months ago we decided to start offering young people like ourselves the chance to get involved and actively contribute to YIE. This resulted in a free, youth-run, online course on 'How to become a journalist', which attracted hundreds of applications. The participants are now ready to receive their certificates and have already started proposing ideas for articles soon to appear in this magazine.

A contest is also being planned for later this year, with a view to create even more opportunities to participate and help make YIE the instrument young people truly need and refer to in order to make change happen across Europe. Keep reading then, information will be available shortly on our website.

Last but not least: we believe that young people are the most untapped resource on Earth when it comes to contribute to real change, both locally and nationally. And why not, even internationally. We would thus love to hear from you. Let us know whether YIE has been of any help, whether it has inspired you to take action and how useful it has been so far.

CHANGE STARTS WITH YOU...AND WE HOPE THAT YIE MAY HELP TOO!

www.younginnovationseurope.org



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Muslim Youth Helpline, Slow Food



Young Innovations Europe is a project of Youth Action for Change (YAC), a global, youth-led organisation inspiring and empowering young people to become active agents of change in their own communities and the world at large



If you want to get involved, tell us about an innovation or for general enquiries, please send an email to: info@youthactionforchange.org

the YOUTH FOOD MOVEMENT

FOOD, JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABILITY

by Giusy Proietti

THE YOUTH FOOD MOVEMENT (YFM) IS A NETWORK OF YOUNG FARMERS, COOKS, ARTISANS AND ACTIVISTS ALL AIMING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE FOOD INDUSTRY.

Driven by the desire to protect and promote all so-called 'good', 'clean' and 'right' products, this diverse set of people has attached itself to the philosophy of Slow Food, the movement born in Paris in 1989 and now with over 83,000 members in 122 countries.

"The food should taste good; it should be produced in a clean way that does not harm the environment, animal welfare or our health; and food producers should receive fair compensation for their work" say the proponents of the movement.

YFM supports local and regional food systems based on the principles of justice and sustainability. Ultimately this leads

to the promotion of fair and sustainable agricultural systems for both the producer and the consumer, recovering traditional techniques and strengthening local economies.

But what does 'good, clean and right food' mean in practice?

Good food is all about ensuring that good food tastes are maintained by choosing raw materials and production methods that do not undermine the naturalness of food.

For the food to be clean, the environment must be respected. The whole cycle, including farming, animal husbandry, processing, marketing and consumption should be overhauled to produce a sustainable system. As an example, consumption should protect ecosystems and biodiversity while protecting the health of consumers and producers.

Right food – Pangea and Terra Madre

So what about 'right'? Well, social justice must be pursued through the creation of decent working conditions and the generation of adequate rewards, says YFM, and through the practice of solidarity and respect for diverse cultural traditions.

The YFM is a platform for its members to exchange national information, experiences and ideas, and YFM runs a number of important projects.

YFM organizes 'Pangea', a project offering mentorship in sustainable and traditional production and cultivation methods to help encourage young people create alternatives to the industrialization of the food system.

Enthusiastic students, young farmers, and cooks are placed in short-term apprenticeship positions with producers, chefs, fisherman, brewers, and winemakers who are skilled in sustainable, artisanal production and cultivation methods.

Producers enjoy the experience of



A YFM meeting

mentorship and receive help with their work. In return, apprentices learn rare and invaluable skills and have eye-opening experiences relating to food philosophy and cultural identity.

YFM is also in charge of the International Terra Madre Youth Network, made of a collection of mostly student-led antennas which consider the social and environmental impacts of the food industry. In 2008 over 1000 youth delegates, producers, cooks, and academics came together to create the greatest Terra Madre meeting yet.

These young people from around the world have pledged their commitment to drive change within their own communities.

The YFM needs you!

The YFM is open to all young people who



Terra Madre

want to make a change in the food sector. Membership is a symbolic commitment to take action in your community.

From organizing workshops where good, clean, and fair food is prepared and shared in public spaces, to changing school cafeteria sourcing practices, to local and sustainable products, YFM members have made a difference.

Many have confronted agribusiness to demand change to production methods and workplace standards; some have even adopted a chef for their school. The ideas and methods are diverse and plentiful.

Eating healthy food is great for the mind and body and can also become a social activity, bringing people together to discuss important topics.



Giusy Proietti

Giusy is 28 years old and Italian. She studied Law at University La Sapienza in Rome and is passionate about international dynamics, whether political, economic or cultural.

RESOURCE BOX

Youth Food Movement

www.youthfoodmovement.org
info@slowfood.it

Slow Food

www.slowfood.com
The organisation behind the YFM, one of the best sources about food and sustainability

Tunza

www.unep.org/tunza/youth
Tunza is a program of UNEP aiming at engaging young people in environmental issues and activities

European Council of Young Farmers

www.ceja.org
CEJA is the voice of Europe's next generation of farmers to the European institutions

City Farmer Europe

www.cityfarmer.org
A host of information on urban agriculture in Europe

GOOD MOOD YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS SAVE LIVES

by Fizza Hasan

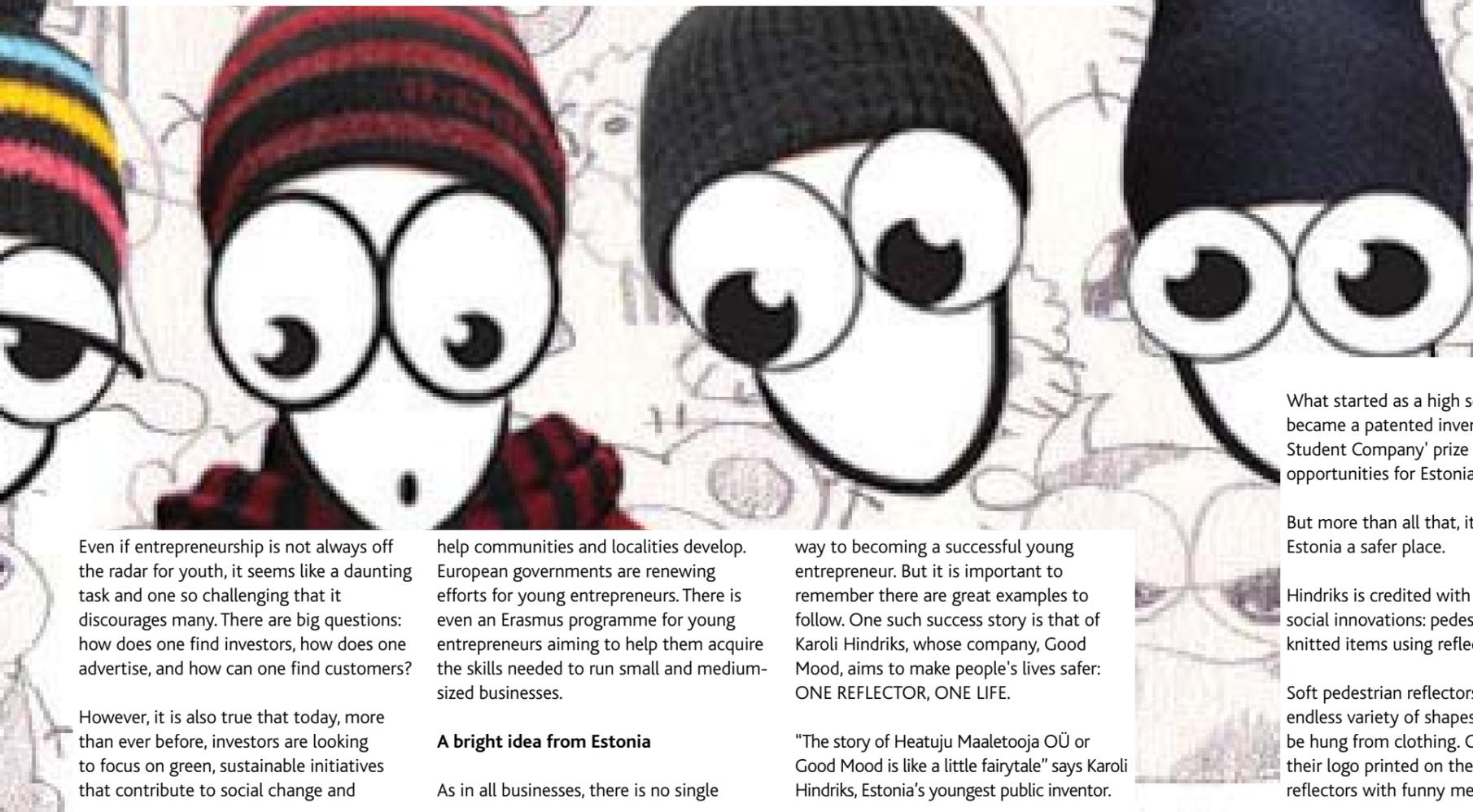


Fizza Hasan

Fizza has just completed her IB Diploma and is going to study International Relations and Politics at university. Actively involved in youth action and development projects, she loves to combine her academics with her passion for community service

Do you want to employ your creativity, challenge yourself, earn a living and change the world, all at the same time?

Have you ever considered starting a business of your own where you could do all this? Perhaps not, because according to a Eurostat report only 4% of European youth between the ages of 15 and 24 are self-employed.



Above, left and bottom: some innovative products by Good Mood

Even if entrepreneurship is not always off the radar for youth, it seems like a daunting task and one so challenging that it discourages many. There are big questions: how does one find investors, how does one advertise, and how can one find customers?

However, it is also true that today, more than ever before, investors are looking to focus on green, sustainable initiatives that contribute to social change and

help communities and localities develop. European governments are renewing efforts for young entrepreneurs. There is even an Erasmus programme for young entrepreneurs aiming to help them acquire the skills needed to run small and medium-sized businesses.

A bright idea from Estonia

As in all businesses, there is no single

way to becoming a successful young entrepreneur. But it is important to remember there are great examples to follow. One such success story is that of Karoli Hindriks, whose company, Good Mood, aims to make people's lives safer: ONE REFLECTOR, ONE LIFE.

"The story of Heatuju Maaletooja OÜ or Good Mood is like a little fairytale" says Karoli Hindriks, Estonia's youngest public inventor.

What started as a high school project became a patented invention, won the 'Best Student Company' prize and has created opportunities for Estonian needleworkers.

But more than all that, it is has helped make Estonia a safer place.

Hindriks is credited with two outstanding social innovations: pedestrian reflectors and knitted items using reflective thread.

Soft pedestrian reflectors come in an endless variety of shapes and sizes and can be hung from clothing. Companies can have their logo printed on them, friends can order reflectors with funny messages as gifts, or

you can have your own ideas turned into reality by the designers at Good Mood.

The knitting range includes hats, mittens, scarves and leg warmers, in an attempt to turn fashion into safety for those long winter nights.

When asked why one should invest in Good Mood, Karoli Hindriks replies:

"The idea of our product is to combine safety with fun – pedestrian reflectors are made to look cooler and trendier than what has been available up to now. It is a great business: with each product that we sell, we make the world a slightly safer place for somebody".

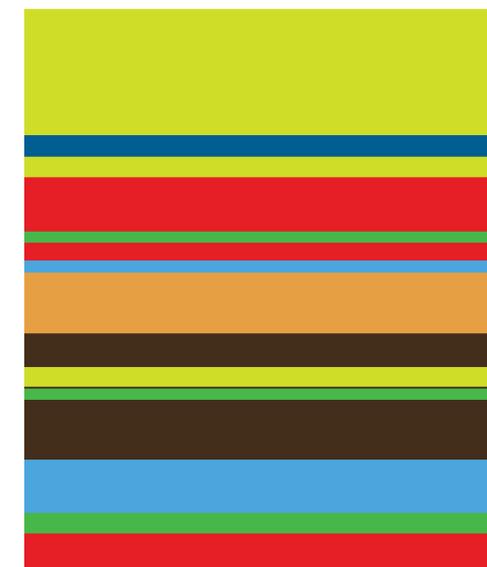
RESOURCE BOX

Good Mood
info@goodmood.ee
www.goodmood.ee

Young Inventors International
www.younginventors.org
YII helps university students develop skills and networks to bring new ideas to the market

European Patent Office
www.epo.org
Information to register your invention

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs
www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu
Offers many opportunities for young entrepreneurs





ConQuest

When practice makes perfect.

by Meryl Westlake

treatment on every project. Avoiding standardised solutions and treating each assignment on its own merit keeps student consultants on their toes and provides fresh challenges every day.

Teamwork, friendship, and promotion of a culture of entrepreneurship create an environment of idea-interchange, creative delegation and self-management. Dalek describes working with ConQuest as "experience in a pill".

International Recognition

ConQuest has won the 'eXcellence Award' from the European Confederation of Junior Enterprises (JADE) on three occasions. It can also boast of the International Project Standard which JADE awards to international projects that are of the very best quality.

Such widespread recognition has propelled student-run consulting to the front of the agenda in Poland and ConQuest now

finds itself amongst other student-led initiatives, including YPI and Consulex Law IT Consulting.



With Polish clients like Iglotech and Hanza's, and the endorsement of institutions like Business Network International, it is unsurprising that Microsoft, Shell and Johnson & Johnson now do business with ConQuest. The endorsement of ConQuest by Siemens as a 'partner worthy of trust' sums up just how far this student project has come.

With continuing recognition of ConQuest's innovation and professionalism the firm hopes to act as a beacon for young entrepreneurs willing to make a difference and attempt something new.

RESOURCE BOX

ConQuest Consulting
Martyna Wilk
martyna.wilk@jadepoland.org
www.conquest.pl

JADE
www.jadenet.org
The European confederation of junior enterprises

Young Business Net
www.youngbusiness.net
An online system that supports sustainable youth enterprise programs and develops and promotes good practice across Europe.

European Confederation of Young Entrepreneurs
www.yes.be
The association of young entrepreneurs throughout Europe; representing 40,000 members and focusing on the economic and social performance of young entrepreneurship in Europe.

YES Youth Entrepreneurship and Sustainability
www.yesweb.org
The YES Campaign strives to build the individual capacity of youth in order to create sustainable livelihoods and establish an entrepreneurial culture among young people.

Youth Business International
www.youthbusiness.org
A not-for-profit organisation that leads a global network of independent country initiatives helping young people start their own business.

Social Enterprise Europe Ltd.
www.socialenterpriseurope.co.uk
Social Enterprise Europe Ltd. provides services to develop and support Social Enterprise working with partners across Europe.

CONQUEST - THE FIRST LONG-STANDING POLISH CONSULTING ORGANISATION RUN BY STUDENTS - IS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLE OF WHY STUDENTS NEED NOT BE RESTLESS OR HOPELESS WHILST THEY STUDY.

Testing the maxim that practice is as useful an educative method as theoretical learning, the now widely respected and established agency brought together a group of entrepreneurial spirits determined to turn ideas into reality whilst strengthening their career prospects.

Before, volunteer placements gave students the opportunity to gain experience, but as the economic downturn reduces opportunities and unpaid internships become unrealistic, so the prospects for initiatives like ConQuest are strengthened.

ConQuest is first of all a channel for theory to be put into practice, and an opportunity to become actively involved in the working environments of the consulting industry. Perhaps it represents the model for the future as youth embrace entrepreneurship to wrestle back control.

One Step Ahead of the Game

Since 1998 ConQuest has set out to achieve its objective of providing an international service of the highest quality, while being run by students. It has been assisted by the Warsaw School of Economics combining youth with experience to ensure there is no doubt over its ability to deliver this objective.

Students are naturally inventive and use creative approaches to tackle solutions according to ConQuest's PR Manager, Mateusz Dalek, who attributes their success to "working with passion."

"And [the] fact that we are open for new ideas gives us power" he says, alluding to the potent idea that the company flourishes by employing youth fresh from university armed with cutting-edge academic information, but without the

indoctrination of business protocols that can sometimes reduce innovative thought.

ConQuest has consulted on over 300 wide-ranging national and international projects in 11 years - ranging from food-market analysis to foreign-investment guidance. And because ConQuest remains 'not for profit', it attracts big name firms looking for high quality service with social business commitments.

Where students – and their ideas - shine

What is so unique and appealing about ConQuest from a student's perspective is the values by which it is underpinned.

ConQuest's own internal mission is to place respect on student consulting and quality service.

It does this by ensuring individual



Top left: ConQuest at work
Bottom left: the ConQuest team at the JADE Excellence Awards 2010
Above: Mateusz Ogonowski, ConQuest president



Meryl Westlake

An undergraduate degree in Literature steered Meryl towards an MSc in International Relations and thereby finding a practical way to consolidate two passions- communication and international affairs. Growing up in an international household gave birth to an obsession with travelling, adventure and eating the weirdest food on the menu. Working for the Aegis Trust has sparked her interest in conflict journalism and in cultural relations of all types. She currently lives in Nottingham, England.

EUROPEAN DISASTER VOLUNTEERS

by Emma Taylor

CHANGING THE LIVES OF DISASTER SURVIVORS AND VOLUNTEERS WORLDWIDE

MANY OF US HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT VOLUNTEERING OVERSEAS. WE ALL LIKE TO GET OUR HANDS DIRTY HELPING THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST. IT SEEMS LIKE SUCH A SIMPLE GOAL, YET FINDING OVERSEAS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES CAN BE A DAUNTING PROCESS.

MOST OPENINGS ARE AVAILABLE ONLY TO THOSE WITH SPECIAL SKILLS AND REQUIRE YOU TO VOLUNTEER FOR MONTHS AT A TIME. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE SPECIAL SKILLS AND CANNOT GIVE MUCH TIME, SHORT TERM PROGRAMMES CAN COST HUNDREDS OF EURO A WEEK. ALTHOUGH YOU REALLY WANT TO HELP YOU CANNOT AFFORD THOSE KINDS OF COSTS. IN THE END YOU ARE FORCED TO DISMISS THE IDEA OF VOLUNTEERING OVERSEAS AS UNREALISTIC.

European Disaster Volunteers (EDV) does not think that volunteering is a naive dream reserved for a select few. EDV is a volunteer-driven registered charity that aids disaster affected communities by providing relief and helping them achieve sustainable recovery.

There are no special skills required to volunteer with EDV. If you are over 18, have a solid work ethic and are willing to learn, you are qualified to work with us and led by skilled volunteer leaders, you can affect profound positive change in communities worldwide.

There is no fee of any kind to volunteer with EDV because no one should have to pay for the privilege of helping those affected by disasters. Volunteers working overseas will only be asked to pay their own travel and living expenses so that EDV can use donor money exclusively for projects. Living costs are kept as low as possible.

Empowering communities at home and abroad

EDV focuses on community-based, long term disaster recovery. Volunteers work on projects ranging from rebuilding permanent homes to removing the mud from floods, to arts programmes to ease the stress of children. These programmes engage volunteers and meet the needs of the affected communities.

While strengthening the communities EDV partners with, these projects also change the volunteers who make them possible. They challenge volunteers to test the boundaries of what they are capable of achieving and remind us that the limits to our abilities tend to be self imposed.

On deployment volunteers live in a community of international volunteers and work alongside affected communities, gaining first hand insight into issues affecting the developing world. While volunteers might give up some creature comforts (hot showers and a private

room, for example), the opportunity to be accepted into a new culture and live with people from all over the world is an invaluable opportunity to learn and grow.

Acknowledging our global impact

Volunteers working with EDV gain unique insights into the issues at work every day in the developing world. The end goal is that volunteers will take that social awareness home with them when they leave their projects and become agents of positive social change in their own communities.

Special emphasis is placed on the link between climate change and disaster. There is mounting evidence that climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of weather related disasters. The effects of climate change also weaken communities, making them less able to resist and recover from disaster.

The sad irony of climate change is that the communities who have contributed the least to the problem stand to suffer the worst from its effects. Developing nations have emitted few greenhouse gases, yet they are already suffering droughts, floods, water shortages and increasing food insecurity as a result of climate change.

It is up to us to recognise that climate change has its roots in our hometowns and that what we do at home resonates worldwide. We all need to make a

commitment to becoming better global citizens by curbing emissions and living responsible, sustainable lifestyles. Together, we can reduce climate change's impact on communities half a world away.

Take action

EDV is a relatively new organisation, but it is run by long term volunteer leaders who have years of experience in Thailand following the 2004 tsunami and Peru after an 8.0 earthquake in the city of Pisco. In both of these disaster zones, EDV founding members donated thousands of man hours as volunteer leaders, and each has a unique story about how volunteering changed their lives.

The executive director, Andrew Chaggar, is a survivor of the 2004 Asia tsunami. The disaster nearly took his life and it took him seven months to recover from his injuries. As soon as he was able he returned to Thailand, eventually leading a team of volunteers who constructed 37 permanent homes for tsunami survivors.

The rest of the founding members have built schools for children who had been spending their school days in tents, cleared rubble to provide safe spaces for temporary houses, and constructed homes for families who lost loved ones in the 2008 Peru earthquake. The experience as volunteer leaders is what motivated each of them to found EDV, being continually inspired by what volunteers can achieve.

Volunteers do not just drive projects overseas, they drive the organization as a whole. EDV volunteers run EDV's fundraising events and are currently redesigning the organization's website, among other jobs. So if you're interested in working with EDV but cannot leave home, there is still a lot you can contribute to.



1. Executive Director Andrew Chaggar renders a wall of a house in Thailand.
2. Surveying typhoon damage in central Vietnam
3. Digging the foundations of a house in Pisco, Peru
4. Building hope in Peru



Emma Taylor

EDV's Media and Marketing Director, Emma Taylor, started her volunteer journey straight out of university. She planned to volunteer for about two weeks and wound up staying for nine months and leading the construction of a house, bathroom, and school. She now puts her writing degree and volunteer leadership experience to work as a director and founding member of EDV.

RESOURCE BOX

European Disaster Volunteers

Emma Taylor
Media@europeandisastervolunteers.org
www.EDVolunteers.org.

Oxfam

www.oxfam.org.uk
Oxfam is a great source of information on the humanitarian impacts of climate change worldwide

UNFCCC

www.unfccc.int
An excellent source of information on climate change prepared by the UN

University Masters on Disaster Management

www.mdma.ku.dk
The Master of Disaster Management program is aimed at providing the appropriate skills for disaster management at a national and international level.

Unite for Climate

www.uniteforclimate.org
Unite for Climate is your entry point into the world of youth action on climate change. On this site, you can learn more, join the community, participate in global campaigns, and work to extend the impact of the COP 15.

What to do in case of disaster

www.redcross.org
This site provides excellent tips on preparing for disasters



PUTTING GREEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP FIRST

by Arnaud Houdmont



DESPITE THE EFFORTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY TO ADDRESS THE WORLD'S MOST PRESSING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT RELATED ISSUES, IT IS CLEAR THAT TOMORROW'S LEADERS WILL INHERIT HUGE CHALLENGES.

ACTORS SUCH AS GOVERNMENTS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND NGOS CANNOT TACKLE THESE CHALLENGES ALONE. AND ALTHOUGH THE LAST FEW DECADES HAVE SEEN AN EVOLUTION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR TOWARDS MORE ACCOUNTABILITY, CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY POLICIES IMPLEMENTED BY LARGE COMPANIES DON'T GO FAR ENOUGH. TIME HAS COME FOR INDIVIDUALS, ENTREPRENEURS, COMMUNITIES AND GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS TO SHOW THE WAY.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Copenhagen in December 2009 illustrated a lack of

political will. To put it mildly, last year ended on a rather sour note in terms of ecology. Some might be claiming victory, but in the end – whether you believe climate change is a real issue or an elaborate scam – leaders in Copenhagen agreed on a compromise that will do nothing to meaningfully address the issue. It does nothing to please the sceptics either.

Nevertheless, we're in 2010 now and regardless of our lacklustre leaders, some individuals and companies are pushing the boat out and going full steam ahead with green initiatives... These entrepreneurs are not limiting themselves to addressing only ecological issues, but instead are joining forces to turn environmental and social challenges into business opportunities.

In light of the inability of governments and large corporations to meaningfully address the present social and environmental challenges, Generation Europe Foundation

believes that today's entrepreneurs and tomorrow's decision-makers will pave the way for a more sustainable future. As these entrepreneurs are indispensable for the development of a more sustainable and equitable economy, and because they constitute a primary source for progress and innovation, it is imperative to take measures to empower them.

This is exactly what GEF intends to do.

Generation Europe Foundation...

Since 1995 Generation Europe Foundation (GEF) has been educating and empowering young people to be better informed about their rights and responsibilities as European citizens in a fast-changing world. GEF is committed to helping young Europeans shape their future and to facilitating mutual understanding among policy makers, decision-makers and tomorrow's leaders. Young people are invited to join the GEF community which functions as a two-

way communication platform where young people can interact, discuss and promote their ideas with each other and with public and corporate policy & decision makers. By communicating their views to the relevant stakeholders GEF ensures that their opinions are heard and taken into account so as to have a positive impact in society.

...and the Summit

By bringing together young people, entrepreneurs, policy-makers, non-profit organisations, the private sector and academia, the 2010 GEF Youth Summit on Green Entrepreneurship will facilitate dialogue and provide a platform for concrete support and orientation for today's and tomorrow's green entrepreneurs.

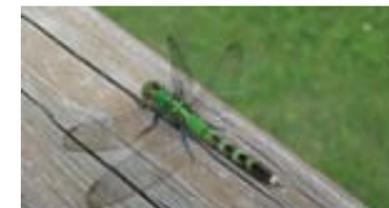
The Summit will take place under the Belgian Presidency of the European Union, with support from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry. At the Summit and during the pre-Summit activities - including online research, workshops, discussions, a business competition and a cyber election - stakeholders will look specifically at how green entrepreneurship can contribute to tackling some of the most pressing problems of employment and sustainable development in Europe and beyond.

From the overarching perspective of young people, the Summit will focus on exploring the structures and mechanisms in place to help today's green entrepreneurs flourish and prepare tomorrow's green business leaders. In this respect, the aim is to come up with a vision of where we should be in 20 years and what concrete steps need to be taken now to reach that objective.

This will be done through in-depth exploration of two strands:

Enhancing youth employability through the spirit of entrepreneurship: this strand of the event will focus on whether education today is equipping young people with adequate skills and training to become successful green entrepreneurs, inspirational leaders and change makers.

Fostering an enabling environment for green enterprises: here, the focus will be on supporting existing entrepreneurs: how suited and supportive are policies at local, national and EU level, to the creation and development of enterprise, in particular green enterprise? What other structures and mechanisms are available to support the



incubation and growth of such initiatives?

By building on existing initiatives and finding synergies between different actors in the field of green entrepreneurship, the summit aims to broker partnerships between green entrepreneurs, provide a platform for young people to express their views and present policy makers with the opportunity to engage with as many stakeholders as possible, with a view to promoting green entrepreneurship through improved policies.

The Process

Based on their participation in a series of online activities that will be organised in the months leading up to the Summit, 80 young people will be invited to Brussels on 8-10 December for the final event. Their selection will be based on points earned from their pre-Summit participation as well as a cyber election.

As part of the online activities, a business plan competition will be launched in the summer, which will reward excellent ideas and business plans of young people.

Shortlisted projects will be presented to a panel of business 'angels', investors and experts, giving these young entrepreneurs the opportunity to secure funding for their projects. During the process, all contestants will have access to mentoring and business coaching.

Young people from across the world aged 29 and under are invited to participate in the online activities, contribute to the research and hand in their plan for a green business!



The GE community

Green leaders of the future



Arnaud Houdmont

Arnaud rejoined the GEF team in August 2009 following a sabbatical in South America. His work experience is built on a background in international issues and human rights, and he has a very good knowledge of the European institutions and European media. Belgian by birth, Arnaud grew up in Spain and was educated in the United Kingdom; he now lives in Brussels with his wife, Marie.

RESOURCE BOX

Generation Europe Foundation
info@generation-europe.eu
www.generation-europe.eu

2010 Youth Summit
www.generation-europe.eu/summit/
 Official website of the event

Sprouter
www.sprouter.com
 Sprouter enables collaboration and networking between entrepreneurs globally

Alaveo
www.alaveo.com
 Alaveo is an Ideas Sharing Platform - a place where students' ideas reach companies, and can get awards and recommendations

Net Impact
www.netimpact.org
 Net Impact is an international global network that equip individuals to use the power of business to create a more sustainable world

Books to get you started as a Green Entrepreneur
www.i-netpreneur.com
 A good source of information



B · E · Y · O · N · D E · U · R · O · P · E

C O N N E C T I N G T H E D O T S A N D G O I N G B E Y O N D

by Christian Eichenmüller

THE EUROPEAN STUDENTS' FORUM, AEGEE-EUROPE, HAS A RECORD OF INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP INITIATIVES. AS AN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDENT ASSOCIATION IT ENCOMPASSES 15,000 STUDENTS FROM MORE THAN 40 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND REGULARLY ASSEMBLES YOUNG PEOPLE EVERYWHERE FROM THE CAUCASUS TO IRELAND AND FROM RUSSIA TO PORTUGAL. BUT IN FEBRUARY 2009 A GROUP OF AEGEE MEMBERS DECIDED TO GO FURTHER. THEY TOOK UP THE CHALLENGE OF DESIGNING A PROJECT REACHING OUT TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN VERY DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD.

Why going beyond Europe?

Today's world is plagued by multiple crises, all interconnected in a way or another: a billion people without access to clean drinkable water, gradual depletion of natural resources owing to a growing population of seven billion people, climate change knowing no geographical boundaries.

Even if the consequences of these events are already visible, it goes without saying that the real bill will be paid by future generations.

'What needs to be done?'

This was the question on which a group of committed enthusiasts focussed while drafting the project. Their answer was ostensibly simple: empower young people as future stakeholders and decision-makers in an increasingly interconnected world. Simultaneously an understanding grew that global challenges required global action. The project subsequently became known as 'Beyond Europe - perspectives for tomorrow's world'.

In order to empower young people to

tackle global challenges the project follows four major objectives:

- raising awareness
- stimulating participation
- encouraging multiplication
- cherishing diversity and a truly intercultural work environment

The way ahead

Current efforts underway are manifold. At the heart of an ambitious agenda is the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Case Study



Trips to India in June, South Africa in September and a conference in the Netherlands in November will assemble European, Indian and South African students to take up global challenges and focus on the MDGs.

At the same time, global challenges such as climate change and energy will be addressed in so-called 'One World Conventions' in Europe, drawing together students for discussion and action. Youth exchanges with partners from Egypt and Palestine will address the issues of migration and inter-faith dialogue.

Furthermore, sustainability and new conflicts will be at the heart of conferences assembling European and US students. In more than a dozen events

the project will bring together students from very different backgrounds and world regions to discuss, understand and develop further initiatives in light of global challenges.



ON THE PROJECT

BEYOND EUROPE IS THE FLAGSHIP PROJECT OF AEGEE-EUROPE IN THE YEARS 2010/11.

ITS AIM IS TO EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE IN AND OUTSIDE EUROPE TO TACKLE GLOBAL CHALLENGES.

THE PROJECT WEBSITE: WWW.BEYONDEUROPE.EU



The team meets up



Christian Eichenmüller

Christian Eichenmüller is Project Manager of 'Beyond Europe - Perspectives for Tomorrow's World'. He studies Geography, Political Science and Media Studies at the University of Mainz and, after spending two exchange semesters in Istanbul, he is now writing his thesis. As a youth activist he was previously Liaison Officer of AEGEE-Europe towards the United Nations and Board Member of the International Politics Working Group for two consecutive terms. Together with some friends he is currently also in the process of founding a new non-profit organisation called 'Impetus - Sharing Global Perspectives'.

RESOURCE BOX

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www.aegee.org



Beyond Europe
www.beyondeurope.eu
Website of the Beyond Europe project

Millennium Development Goals
www.un.org/millenniumgoals
Official website of the UN Millennium Development Goals

Youth in Action
www.ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.htm
A portal presenting funding and other opportunities for young people

Youth Action Net
www.youthactionnet.org
Fellowship program selecting the best youth-led initiatives from all over the world

World Aware Education Award
www.coe.int
Annual award for the best education-related projects

MUSLIM YOUTH HELPLINE

by Egle Buitvydaite



WHEN A CALL FOR HELP SAVES LIVES

There is a Muslim population of approximately 2 million in the United Kingdom, out of which roughly a quarter are young people. The hardships that the minority group's young people deal with in everyday life may not seem apparent at first glance.

However, Mohammed Mamdani, who experienced alienation and isolation during his adolescence in the UK, was the first to raise awareness of the issue and take action in founding Muslim Youth Helpline (MYH).



A volunteer answering phone calls

Early in August 2001, with just a couple of pencils and sheets of paper, his father's material support in the form of a telephone line and a great passion to make a difference and help his Muslim peers, 18-year-old Mohammed Mamdani launched MYH in the UK. The first year of MYH's existence was named as a pilot year, during which Mamdani trained fourteen new peer counselors and made a strong foundation for the charity's further development. Subsequently, after more than a year, in December 2002, MYH started functioning as an official service and was moved from Mohammed's bedroom to its first office in Wembley Park. After one more year Mohammed extended MYH's working hours, established a toll-free phone line and started paying its employees.

The story so far

In order to involve and support youth even more constructively, in October 2004 the new sister-website muslimyouth.net was created, the first Britain's guidance for Muslim youngsters in the country. The site is run entirely by young people in order to promote direct cultural communication, cooperation and support. This MYH branch project lets young people learn more about various Muslims communities and their issues within the country.

The unique idea and a huge youth involvement in MYH did not go unnoticed. MYH has received several awards, including: the AOL Innovation in the Community Award 2003, National Council for Voluntary Youth Services Young Partners Award 2003, Phillip Lawrence Award 2003, Muslim News Community Development Award 2003, Muslim News Award for Excellence in Community, Investors in People Award, 2005, Community Care Award 2005, to name but a few.

Today MYH is a successful registered charity that provides sensitive services to Muslim youth living in the UK. It has dozens of trained male and female volunteers, who are well prepared to actively respond to clients' inquiries via telephone, internet and regular mail. In order to avoid a generation gap or unfair judgment, all youth volunteers are 18-30 years old. "In all our work we aim to work to the highest standards of professionalism and integrity and employ the Islamic etiquettes of tolerance and non-judgment in dealing with all issues faced by young people", says one of the volunteers.

Lending a hand

MYH is funded by various charities, private sponsors, government departments and donations from individuals. Every single intervention is of great importance since MYH is able to help over 30% of all those Muslims in need. Anyone who would like to make a donation is welcome to visit MYH's website and do so.

Another way for young people to support MYH is to become a volunteer worker, or in other words, a helping hand for those who, in the challenging years of youth, are most in need of moral support through a compassionate conversation. MYH operators can save a life by convincing a fellow peer that suicide is not the answer to overcoming their misfortunes and helping them to see that life is very precious and beautiful in spite of the lows. In this way, MYH is a perfect place for young motivated people to grow and develop themselves. "We work to promote peer support and provide young people with training and skills that will stay with them throughout their lives and have an impact on the wider community and society around them. We also hope to nurture the leadership skills of young people by putting them in positions of responsibility and decision making", a representative of MYH declares.



The MYH team



Egle Buitvydaite

Originally from Lithuania, Egle has been studying Finance and Economics in USA and simultaneously running the global media project called "Heroes of Our Times" initiated by GlobalFOCUS organization in Sweden. Egle is a fervent tennis player and cannot imagine her life without solo singing classes. She is also a journalism devotee and believes that her contributions to Young Innovations Europe will help to raise awareness of various European organizations amongst the continent's young people.

RESOURCE BOX

Muslim Youth Helpline
www.myh.org.uk
info@myh.org.uk

and

www.muslimyouth.net
 Muslim Youth, MYH sister project's website

Create your own helpline
www.childhelplineinternational.org
 Despite having a children's focus, these guidelines can help create any helpline

Get Funded
www.unaocoyouth.org
 Grants and support for youth-led dialogue activities from the UN Alliance of Civilizations

www.younginnovationseurope.org

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