

ERYICANewsletter

european information for local youth information and counselling centres

ERYICA SEMINAR ON USE OF INTERNET IN HELSINKI

On 15-19 April an ERYICA Seminar has been organised in Helsinki by Allianssi on the theme "How to Use Internet to Inform Young People". This was the first "thematic" seminar of a kind which the Agency intends to organise each spring, and it proved very successful. The 25 participants came from member organisations and other partner structures in the following countries: Austria, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania and Slovenia.

A number of participants demonstrated the services which they had on Internet. A total of around 15 ERYICA national partners now have home-pages or other services on Websites, and the seminar showed that there was considerable diversity of approach in this area. The discussions focused on the content of services on Internet, and on how this form of distribution can complement printed material and be used to reach a wider public of young people.

Concerning the ERYICA site on Internet, the participants in the Seminar:

- emphasised that it should include a section with links to the sites of ERYICA national partners so that by accessing the ERYICA site, any user would have easy access to all the sites of ERYICA partners
- supported the decision to have the basic information about ERYICA and its activities (presented initially in English and French) on the ERYICA site managed by the ERYICA Secretariat; this information would later be made available on the site in other languages, and the web-sites of ERYICA partners (national and local) should include a link to the ERYICA site so that the same information about ERYICA would be available everywhere
- proposed that the ERYICA site include a "news group" where any ERYICA partner (national or local) could raise any question relating to youth information and counselling, and all users of the site would have access to the question and to the answers provided.

Allianssi will prepare a detailed report of the Seminar which will be sent to all national ERYICA partners

A list of Internet and E-mail addresses of national ERYICA partners can be obtained, on request, from the ERYICA Secretariat.

IRELAND DEVELOPS INFORMATION SKILLS PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

In recognition of the importance of information skills in empowering young people to take control of their own lives, an Information Studies Module has recently been developed by the Irish youth information network. Designed, initially, for last year students in secondary schools, but with potential for wider application in both the formal and non-formal education sectors, the module aims to create an awareness among young people about the importance of information and to equip them with the skills which will enable them to:

- Assess their information needs;
- Identify sources of information;
- Access information relevant to their needs;
- Tailor the information gathered to meet specific needs;
- Apply information in a practical manner;
- Develop interpersonal and communication skills.

The module will be introduced to the school curriculum in the Autumn of this year and Youth Information Centre Coordinators will collaborate with Transition Year teachers in its delivery.

The project, which was funded by the Department of Education & Science, was an initiative of Dun Laoghaire Youth Information Centre and the Department's Transition Year Support Team.

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A NEW START FOR THE ERYICA NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is designed to offer to local partners in the national networks affiliated to ERYICA practical information and news about the activities of the Agency and about European opportunities.

It is the successor of the four issues of "EURO-flash", which appeared in 1993 and 1994 but which ERYICA did not have the means to continue. We hope that, by using a simpler format, and by distributing it both on paper and by E-mail, it will be possible to develop the "ERYICA Newsletter" into a regular information and communication tool for those working in local youth information centres.

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ERYICA WORK PROGRAMME

EUROPEAN TRAINING COURSE

From 27 September to 3 October 1998, a European training course for persons with less than two years' experience of youth information work will be held at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, entitled "Different Approaches to Youth Information in Europe". Candidates for the course (no more than 2 per country) can be nominated by national ERYICA partners; the deadline for nominations is **26 June**. Directed by Jo Labens (Belgium) and Marta Milfait (Hungary), this will be the third course for beginners organised by ERYICA jointly with the Youth Directorate of the Council of Europe.

INFO MOBIL98

Following the success of the first version of INFOmobil in 1997, the European Commission has indicated that it would like youth mobility information from all European Union member states to be included in a new version which will be on Internet. If the necessary funding is obtained, this will mean that the new version, co-ordinated by Bernard Charbonnel (CIDJ, Paris) and scheduled to be ready by the end of 1998, will cover 18 countries: 15 in the European Union, plus Hungary, Romania and Slovenia.

TRAINING IN USE OF EURODESK

The European Commission has proposed that ERYICA organise, in cooperation with Eurodesk, a training project in the use of the Eurodesk service and other youth mobility information. The project will include four European training courses organised in different countries and hosted by national Eurodesk operators, and the preparation of a training manual. One of Eurodesk's current priorities is to decentralise its service in each country to new local

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN YOUTH MINISTERS

The 5th Conference of European Ministers responsible for Youth, organised by the Council of Europe, was held in Bucharest on 27-29 April 1998. A copy of the Final Declaration, in English or French, can be obtained on request from the ERYICA Secretariat.

partners which already have experience in youth information work. The main target-group for the four courses will be staff coming from these new partners.

ERYICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 9th ERYICA General Assembly will be held in Eskilstuna (Sweden) on 11-15 November 1998, hosted by UngInfo-Eskilstuna (Sine MacDonald) with the support of the Eskilstuna Municipality. 35-40 representatives of the Agency's member organisations are expected to attend, and the ERYICA Bureau has decided to invite the Director of the National Youth Information Centre in Tunis to participate as an observer and inform the Assembly about the youth information network in Tunisia. One of the main themes that will be discussed will be measures which can be taken to set standards and to evaluate and improve the quality of services offered by youth information centres.

NEWS FROM PARTNERS

Portugal

The Youth Information Department of the Portuguese Youth Institute (IPJ) has a new Director: Ms. Maria DE FATIMA LOPES.

Useful information can be found on:
<http://www.sejuventude.pt> .

Norway

The nine local youth information centres have grouped themselves in a national Youth Information Forum (an informal structure, without legal status). The Forum has recently decided to apply to become an ERYICA member organisation (replacing UngInfo, Oslo).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL

A World Youth Festival, involving more than 7,000 young people from all over the world, will be held near Lisbon on 1-10 August 1998. Information on its programme and on how to participate can be found on its web-site: <http://www.festival98-portugal.pt> .

MEETINGS IN AUSTRIA

Several events on youth-related themes are being organised this summer in Austria which is the current President of the European Union. They include a European Youth Participation Congress, which is being organised on 1-3 July 1998 in Graz, and an International Conference on "Peer-group Education with Young People as a Way of Preventing Addiction", which will be held on 16-17 July 1998 in Salzburg.

SUMMER UNIVERSITY IN FRANCE

Some 70 staff from the French youth information network will participate in the "youth information" section of a Summer University on "Communication" which is being organised near Bordeaux (Hourtin, 24-29 August). For two Round-Tables with European themes on 27 August, they will be joined by representatives from 12 ERYICA partners.

NEXT ISSUE

If you work on an innovative information service for young people or know about a new product which may interest colleagues in other countries, please send a short article about it before 31 August to the ERYICA Secretariat (preferably in a Word for Windows / PC file attached to an E-mail message), so that it can be considered for the next issue.