

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM

A common concern between seven European and neighbouring partner youth organizations lead to the decision to implement an international youth exchange project. This concern is based on the fact that young people today are pushed towards individualism, apathy and contempt of social and political life. This is also something that has troubled social and state stakeholders several times in the past and also consists a main social discourse of our times. Therefore the project will be held under the title: "Youth participation: from the recognition of the right, to its implementation" and our youth exchange under the slogan: "Be A.C.T.I.V.E. (Aware, Critical, Tolerant, Involved, Volunteer, Empowered)".

The Youth Exchange with partner countries, will take place in Larnaka, Cyprus, between 27th of June and 3rd of July. Seven different youth organizations, from six different countries, European and partner, will participate. More specifically, the participating organizations will be from Cyprus, Lebanon, Palestine, Russia, Belgium and Portugal, with 60 young people as participants in total. The participants will be members or connected to the participating organizations and therefore embrace or share the same interests and needs. Additionally, the young people involved in the exchange will be between 13-16 years old and the leaders will be young people over 18 years old.

The project and the activities are inspired by volunteers participating in the organizations and it will be implemented with the active participation, teamwork and direct or indirect involvement of all the participating organizations and several other volunteers. The working methods used during the exchange will be based mostly on non-formal, interactive and educational activities focused on the subject of the exchange. The programme activities are all aiming at meeting the project objectives. The activities are inspired by existing educational tools, good practices of the participating organizations, as well as good practices and suggestions from previous youth exchanges.

This project objectives are to raise awareness on the right of youth to participate, among the participants and other youth that will receive the project results. More specifically it will aim to raise awareness on the legally established right of the youth to participate; on the influences that affect, positively or negatively, the youth to participate, such as media, social media, school and family; the obstacles that youth face in participating based on discrimination or the social-political-economic situation in their countries, such as young refugees; the support, space or opportunities that are actually given to youth to participate, such as officially recognised youth bodies, participating in the decision making process; ways to empower the youth to participate, as well as to promote and enhance their right to participate.

At the same time this project will aim to practically promote active participation of the youth; cooperation between the participating youth organizations, European and partner; exchange good practices and experiences between the organizations in order to improve their capacity, their analysis and way of approaching important youth issues, such as the subject of this project; develop competences to channel all the knowledge and experience gathered to their own local communities, and even at national and international level, using their own network of national and international contacts leading to the desired impact of the project.

This youth exchange was designed to have a positive impact on both the participants and participating organizations. The fact alone that a project related with youth participation, is implemented and carried out by so many organizations, from different countries ensures that this project will have an impact on many levels. It is our aim through this impact to enhance respect and reinforce the active participation of youth in public life and in the decision making process. At the same time this learning process will empower the participants and participating organizations to reach to and have an impact on other young people from their organization or social context, as well as on stakeholders and decision makers on youth issues.



International Youth Exchange 2016



«Youth participation:  
from the recognition  
of the right,  
to its implementation»



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# INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORGANISATIONS

## 1. ENIEA DIMOKRATIKI ORGANOSI NEOLEAS (EDON)

Since 1959 EDON has been established as one of the largest youth organization in Cyprus. EDON has a rich history of struggles and activities for the youth and the Cypriot society. EDON is engaged in a variety of activities on a political, social and cultural level, both in urban and rural areas, as well as abroad, where young Cypriots live and work. One of the main aims and daily task of EDON is the involvement and the active participation of the Cypriot youth in the political and social life of Cyprus, as well as their voluntary participation in the daily life of the Organization. As a result, hundreds of young volunteers are involved in the everyday life and activities of the Organization and they are considered to be the cornerstone of our Organization.

One of the departments of EDON is the Children Movement of EDON. The Children Movement of EDON is organized all over Cyprus in Local Movements. The Local Movements meet on a weekly basis and engage in cultural, sports, environmental, voluntary and other activities of social interest at local, district, national and international level. Through the activities of the Children Movement EDON has established relations and is actively involved in several forums, with stakeholders and decision makers, on matters affecting the youth and children. The Children Movement of EDON involves children and young people from the age of 6 up to the age of 16 years old, along with the active involvement of volunteers-members of EDON, over 18 years old. Therefore the implementation of the project will be mainly a responsibility of this department.

The above-mentioned aims of EDON apply to all the youth of Cyprus, Greek-Cypriots, Turkish-Cypriots, Armenians, Maronites and Latins. Therefore EDON has established excellent relations and has developed bi-communal actions with several Turkish-Cypriot youth organizations, which share common aims and concerns.

On international level EDON has also developed excellent relations with various youth organizations all over the world. During the last few decades EDON has participated or implemented a great number of international events. It is only necessary to note that EDON has contacts with over 50 youth organizations all over the world. Most importantly, since 2011 EDON was elected at the presidency of World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFTY), establishing our organization, internationally, as a well-known and well-respected youth organization.

## 2. Palestinian Peoples Party-Youth (PPP-Y)

The Palestinian Youth Organization PPPY, is active in all Palestinian territories and among all Palestinians. Aiming to involve young Palestinians in various activities on youth issues, such as culture, sports, campaigning etc., in order to promote social thinking and active participation. PPPY is also active in matters concerning children and implements activities to promote children issues and concerns. Palestinian Peoples Party-Youth Organization is also active on international level and has contacts with other youth organizations. In addition to that PPPY is a member of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY).

## 3. Leninist Communist Youth Union (LCYU)

Leninist Communist Youth Union focuses on teaching tolerance, solidarity and international friendship and active participation at all levels to the young people, volunteers-members of the organizations and youth of Russia, in general. LCYU is also involved in the organization of festivals and events dedicated to the different cultures of the world. It also aims at the physical education and development of creative qualities of Russian young people, such as music, dance theatre etc. The organization also focuses on activities for children and has local action on issues concerning the children. The organization is a member of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY).

## 4. Associação "Os Pioneiros de Portugal"

"Os Pioneiros de Portugal" is a non-profit youth association that organizes free-time occupation activities for children and young people. The organization was born after the 25th of April of 1974 spontaneously and not defined as one by then. Everywhere groups of children and young people appeared and activities were developed for them.

The activities of the organization contribute to a personal upbringing that favours the children and young people's development in a harmonious way, encompassing their active participation in every aspect of social life, as well as their physical, psychological, social and cultural skills. The biggest activities of the organizations are the spring and summer Camps, but throughout the year the organization also prepares children's book-fairs, child's rights assemblies, and many workshops, sports, visits, discussions, on many different issues affecting the youth and children, in the level of local organizations.

For example, the monitoring and incentive to the application of the convention on Child's Rights is one of our main goals. The organizations is also a member of the National Confederation against Child Labour.

## 5. Palestinian Democratic Youth Union (P.D.Y.U)

The Democratic Palestinian Youth Union (PDYU) is one of the largest Palestinian youth organizations, active in Palestine and in countries where Palestinian live. It has been established in 1977 aiming to support the rights of the youth and people of Palestine. The organization is active on national and international level with the involvement of volunteers. The main headquarter of PDYU is based in Ramallah city with branches in several Palestinian cities and villages and all refugees camps, alongside with several students forums in the universities and colleges. Within the voluntary work department the organizations has a wide group of youth volunteers (males and females) through over West Bank, Jerusalem, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan who are active with various activities. Among the activities of the organizations is to develop the status of children and youth and encourage their participation in the public life; supports youth participation in cultural, academic and art fields; enhance the role of girls in the community and promote the principles of gender equality in Palestinian community and promote the independence of youth organizations and bodies and lobby towards a modern legal system.

## 6. Union of Lebanese Democratic Youth (ULDY)

ULDY is a Lebanese secular democratic youth organization. It is also a member-organization in many regional youth organizations and is a member of the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

ULDY works with volunteers- members of the organization for the empowerment of the Lebanese youth to be part of the social process and gain their rights in freedom, social justice and secular society.

ULDY also works with children and pioneers to involve them at a young age in activities that develop their personalities and consciousness about their society, locally and globally.

## 7. LES PIONNIERS

LES PIONNIERS is a Belgian youth organization that has been active since the beginning of the 1980ies. The organization has strong connections with COMAC- a sister organization for youth between 14 and 30 years old- which is a member organization of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFTY).

LES PIONNIERS engages in a variety of activities on a social, cultural and political level. The main preoccupation of the organization is to work with children and to work with youth to actively encourage them to work with children and participate in general for the promotion of youth and children rights. The organization rests entirely on the work of its volunteers. LES PIONNIERS is active in all regions of the land: The Flemish region, the region of Brussels Capital and the Walloon region. It is one of few organizations for children that reunites children over the language borders. One of the main aims of the organization is the international fraternization with other pioneer movements all over Europe and the world.