

10th Asia-Europe Young Volunteers Exchange

Fact Sheet

Background Information

In 2010, the 16th ASEF University (AU16) themed *Public Health and Vulnerable Groups: Access to Quality Health Care Services* was organised on 29 June – 10 July 2010 in Łódź, Poland under the framework of the ASEF Public Health Network and in collaboration with the People-to-People Exchange Department. Further to the outcome of AU16¹ and in continuation of its objective to improve general public awareness of Public Health issues the Network will seek to expand its target audience to wider local communities. This will be done by utilising Forum Theatre as a unique method for health promotion. This endeavour will be carried out in 2011 under one component of the Asia-Europe Cooperation in Voluntary Service (VolunAET) programme: the **10th Asia-Europe Young Volunteers Exchange (AEYVE)**.

The 9th AEYVE² which took place from 10 August – 7 September 2010, aimed to evaluate the impact of voluntary service on the volunteers at a personal level, and on the communities they have served at large. The impact assessment on International Voluntary Service (IVS) revealed similarities between the personal development of the volunteers and the development of the local community benefiting from the project activities. In light of the UN International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10)³ and the European Year of Volunteering⁴, this shared impact will be taken a step further in 2011 with *Health on Stage*.

The 4th *Connecting Civil Societies of Asia and Europe (CCS4)* recommendations⁵ refer to the intersection of Public Health, Youth Volunteerism and the Arts. They:

- Acknowledge that living and working in the ASEM⁶ area demands complex skills and competencies, while recommending how voluntary work can contribute to this;
- Recommend to empower and mobilise young people in Public Health promotion by connecting regional youth structures in both regions;
- Recommend a deeper role for art in education, highlighting that the arts have a relevant role in formal, informal and non-formal education as well as in lifelong learning, which includes experiential learning and the development of non-linear problem-solving skills.

Aims and Objectives

The 10th AEYVE aims to enhance cultural competencies and creative thinking of young volunteers to foster dialogue on Public Health. Specifically, the 10th AEYVE has the following objectives:

- To equip young representatives of IVS-organisations with the necessary competencies to understand and implement health promotion activities in different settings and environments in ASEM countries;

¹ The AU16 outcome mentioned here is in particular the policy recommendations developed by the participants

² The theme of the 9th AEYVE was Measuring voluntary service impact, from personal to community development

³ 2011 was proclaimed the International Year of Volunteers +10 through the UN General Assembly's A/Res/63/153 Resolution of 18 December 2008

⁴ European Commission Press Release IP/ 09/862, dated on 3 June 2009, states that 2011 will be the European Year of Volunteering

⁵ CCS4 took place in Brussels, 1-3 October 2010 and its recommendations were channelled through the ASEM8 Summit Meeting of Heads of State and Government of Asia and Europe

⁶ ASEM now brings together 46 member states (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam) plus the European Commission (EC) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat. www.aseminfoboard.org

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- To build on the 16th ASEF University's (AU16) recommendations: to reflect the role that young people play in promoting health and therefore to empower youth to positively influence perceptions and behaviours of their peers, local communities and organisations regarding the benefits of promoting a participative dialogue on Public Health issues;
- To encourage participants to create personal (and professional) action plans (follow-up initiatives).

Water-related diseases will be the central Public Health theme in the Forum Theatre performances.

Programme Phases

The 10th AEYVE has 5 phases:

- Phase 0 – Online preparation of the participants (10 July-20 August)
 - o Mapping of water in the country of residence: the way it takes from the source to the user
 - o Describe the possible conflict situations in this water journey
 - o Gather intangible examples (e.g. poems, songs, stories) on the cultural interpretation of water
- Phase 1 – Training (20 – 28 August, Bangalore, India)
 - o The training aims to develop young volunteers' Forum Theatre competencies to foster dialogue on Water-related Diseases
 - o Programme sessions contain a further elaboration on Intercultural Learning, Forum Theatre, Water-related Diseases, Social Mapping and Collecting Stories (programme details will be shared with the participants at a later stage)
- Phase 2 – Field activities (28 August – 26 September, Bangalore/Chennai/Mysore, India)
 - o Participants will spread into three groups and put into practice the competencies they have acquired during the first phase. Each group will perform a minimum of 8 Forum Theatre performances
 - o Participants will orientate in the local community, implement the Forum Theatre performances, organise workshops for the local community and afterwards perform with the local community
 - o Participants will collect stories from the local community on how they experience Forum Theatre
- Phase 3 - Evaluation meeting (26 September – 1 October, Bangalore, India)
 - o After sharing the challenges encountered and the lessons learnt the participants will analyse and recommend on the methodology employed when using performing arts to promote Public Health. Spin-off projects will be developed to create a multiplying effect of the learning
- Post-phase – Follow-up projects
 - o Participants will plan spin-off IVS-projects on Forum Theatre and Public Health in their own organisation and/or community
 - o A Publication will be developed based on used methods, participants' experiences, outcomes and collected stories from (inter-)national participants and the local community

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Information of the Organisers



The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) was established in February 1997 under the framework of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) process, which groups together 46 countries from Asia and Europe and the European Commission (EC) and the Association of Southeast Asian National (ASEAN) Secretariat. ASEM was launched at a summit meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, in March 1996 to inject greater impetus to efforts to strengthen relations and linkages between Asia and Europe at all levels - political, economic and social.

ASEF was set up pursuant to the third (social) pillar of ASEM, and has been mandated to create better mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through greater intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. (www.asef.org)



The Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service was founded in 1948. CCIVS is a co-ordinating body for international voluntary service organisations and it counts more than 250 member associations in 96 countries, including 5 international networks and several regional structures and platforms. It acts as a link to establish relations between the members and international institutions such as the EU, different UN agencies or foundations. CCIVS fosters the development of regional networks through the organisation of international projects and seminars and the production of publications and training tools. (www.ccivs.org)