

YOUTH IN ACTION: an European experience about participation

International seminary "Dialogue between young people and responsables for youth policies" took place in Amiens (Picardie, France) from 17 to 19 October 2008, as planned by the European Program "Youth in Action" (Action 5.1 Political Cooperation).

The program "Youth in action", established on November 15th, 2006 by European Parliament and Council for the period 2007-2013, is focused on general and specific aims.

Among general aims there are promotion of active citizenship for young people in Europe, growth of mutual solidarity, understanding and support to young people's activities and organisations. By this point of view the program has the aim to offer to young population in Europe the best chances of personal engagement and opportunities for promotion of solidarity.

Among specific aims of the program there are all the opportunities of participation available in local situations, development of belonging attitudes, mobility, intercultural learning, promotion of main values of European Union, encouragement to formal and informal learning chances.

The Program is divided in five specific actions:

- 1) Youth for Europe
- 2) European Volunteer Service
- 3) Youth in the world
- 4) Support to systems for youth
- 5) Support to European cooperation for youth.

Every cited action has the aim to support transnational programs for active young people involvement.

Especially Action 5.1, in whose context Amiens Seminary took place, intends to organize a positive dialogue among young people in Europe, by promoting meetings involving young people and political delegations. This kind of seminary helps expansion of political cooperation for a better knowledge of youth problems and subjects.

The invitation of Picardie Regional Council has been welcome by Tuscan Regional Council and by General Direction of Tuscan School Office (MIUR-USR), also a delegation of Regional Student Parliament of Tuscany has been involved.

In the delegation to Amiens, University Jules Verne were the CRT Vice-president, Alessandro Starnini; 7 young PRS_T Councilors (Madi Ferrucci, L.S. "Il Pontormo", Empoli, (FI); Giulia Paoli, L.C. "E.Fermi" Cecina (LI); Luca Manzin, L.S. "L.Da Vinci", Villafranca Lunigiana (MS); Lucrezia Cini, ITC "A.Pacinotti", Pisa; Andrea Gori Brugioni, L.S. "A.di Savoia Duca D'Aosta", Pistoia; Mattia Cavicchi, L.S. "N.Copernico", Prato; Ilaria Machetti, ITC "T.Sarrocchi", Siena), Daniela Succi and Davide Capperucci as experts of the Ministry of Education (MIUR).

With the Tuscan delegation has participated to the seminary a young representative of Picardie Regional Council, the Autonomous Region of Murcia (Spain), the Estonian Youth National Council, the City of Hampshire (UK), the City of Goteborg (Sweden) and the Student Council of Trencin (Slovaquie).

During the first day of Seminary young people, experts and political decision makers have discussed about the issue of participation and construction of European citizenship, by examining different procedures of participation in different countries.

During the second day various workshops debated the issue of European policies for youth about: education, training and occupation; durable development; health and social inclusion.

Students inside workshops have proposed clear and available solutions for short and medium period problems, answering such questions: *Which is the best training for young people to enter into the labour world? By which means is possible to enlarge young people's influence in the political decisions? How is it possible to promote social inclusion?*

At last, during the third day has been organized a visit to the Deportation Memorial of Compiègne and to Chantilly Castle.

Young members of Tuscan Regional Parliament experienced a very significant opportunity of intercultural exchange, together with an important language task, English language was the official language of the seminar. The Seminary has been also a precious moment for comparing different strategies for a better participation about local and global political decisions, using the rights of an active and democratic citizenship.

Our students have learned, thanks to the Amiens Seminary, a better awareness about democratic participation and about the role that young people can play inside the so called "knowledge society"

It is possible to consult all documents about the Seminary on USR Toscana website, at the "students" page, "Progetto Gioventù in azione".