

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

international seminar ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM!

Doing Things Differently Might Lead to Something Exceptional!
Serbia 15-22 June 2013

Venue: Vrsac, Serbia

Host/applicant: Young Researchers of Serbia

Countries involved: Serbia, Italy, Turkey, Greece, Czech Republic and Bosnia&Herzegovina

Networks involved: Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations, South East European Youth Network

Number of participants: 5 for each organization

Age of participants: 18+

The seminar is going to happen in Serbia, in a very beautiful town of Vrsac, close to the Romanian border, **from the 15th (arrival day) till the 22nd (departure day) of June 2013.**

THEMES: intercultural dialogue, culture and identity, environment, sustainability

PROJECT SUMMARY: “The elephant in the room” is an English idiom for a question or problem that very obviously stands, but which is ignored for the convenience of one or other party. It derives its symbolic meaning from the fact that an elephant would indeed be conspicuous and remarkable in a small room; thus the idiom also implies a value judgement that the issue should be discussed openly.

Today's facts are rather depressing but they lead us to a one way street. The present course is unsustainable and postponing action is no longer an option. Most of the planet's resources are pretty close to exhaustion. Earth's biodiversity is in a critical point with many species having been extinct, depleted or endangered. The average temperature is the highest recorded in the last 40 years. As the global community struggles with the issues of poverty, over population, increasing energy demands, loss of bio-diversity and the wide-ranging impacts of climate change, the sustainability issue is now a priority across boundaries; political, cultural and professional.

With this seminar we would like to bring together 20-30 participants from different European countries that they reflect on the issue of sustainability, its cultural dimension and possible individual and collective actions.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES: Participants will reflect on the topic of Sustainability with a view to its Cultural Dimension. Some questions to reflect on:

How far is our culture sustainable?

Does a global environmental culture exist?

What is the role of an active global citizen?

What is the role of the voluntary world?

Young Researchers of Serbia is a Serbian non-profit, non-governmental organization founded in 1976, whose vision is to be the driving force for all those whose aim is to make our planet a more peaceful, just and healthy place.

Driven by science and education, their mission is to contribute:

- to environmental protection and nature conservation,
- to development of voluntarism and its values,
- to scientific creativity and active participation of the youth

www.mis.org.rs

Citizens in Action is a Greek non-profit, non-governmental organization whose aims are

- to support and promote the idea of active citizenship to the young people, through new forms of social commitment and participation, for a democratic, interdependent and open society.
- To encourage the circulation of people and ideas though international exchanges, with the aim of the enhancement of knowledge, mutual understanding and peace.
- To contribute to community and local development through the participation of local and foreign volunteers in projects of benefit to all, with an emphasis on rural areas.
- To promote people's participation to defend and define their quality of life, aiming at the protection of the human person and the environment.
- To achieve its aims, C.i.A invites its members to practical action, with emphasis on youth voluntary work, youth mobility and communication, international exchanges and non-formal education.

www.citizensinaction.gr

GENERAL INFORMATIONS

Please, **before booking any tickets**, send the application forms by contacting your local association and the estimated travel dates and budget and **wait for our confirmation**.

Food and accommodation are covered for the dates of the seminar. The countries and organizations involved and the travel budget allowed for each group (We will reimburse only 70% once we get the original tickets back by post):

Promoter	Country	Number of participants	100% for both participants	70% for both participants
Lunaria	Italy	5	€ 350 each participants	€ 245 each participants