

Pilot Project
Colored Glasses – Intercultural Learning and Understanding
Workshops on Tolerance for School Classes
Introduction to Bulgarian Secondary Schools
January 4 –June 30, 2010
Description of the Project

Aim of the project is the introduction of “colored glasses” to Bulgaria. “colored glasses” consists of a series of workshops concerning the topics like Stereotypes and Prejudices, Discrimination and Racism, Cultural Understanding and Culture and Ethnocentrism. The series of workshops, which last from 2 to 5 hours each, are designed to be as interactive as possible. They include role plays, groupwork, energizers and brainstorming – all aiming at making the workshop a lot of fun. The training of rhetoric skills and work with adolescents will also be of great importance. We would like to use “colored glasses” to advocate intercultural exchange and raise the interest in discovering foreign cultures. We want to arouse the participants’ curiosity for the new and the different. We want to offer a different perspective and to sensitise the participants for intercultural understanding and values like tolerance and acceptance.

“colored glasses “ workshops are originally the result of a multilateral EVS project in 2001 that has led to a follow up by YFU Germany, where “colored glasses” workshops have been offered to schools and youth clubs ever since 2003. More than 175 trained volunteers, seven regional coordinators and a logistics team are involved. So successfully, that in the last two years other YFU countries (the Netherlands, Belgium (Flanders), Finland, Sweden and soon Canada) have adopted the concept.

Being part of the YFU network the whole package of manuals, training modules and train-the-trainer sessions are available to YFU Bulgaria – in German. So initially the program will be offered to secondary schools with intensive German language learning. As there might be disinterest or even reluctance to fit in workshops on tolerance into an already packed curriculum the idea is to integrate “colored glasses” into regular language learning (Content and Language Integrated Learning- CLIL) – at least one of the trainers being a German native speaker.

The initial pilot project is to last 6 months. The first 6 to 8 weeks will take place in Sofia, at the YFU head office. During this initial phase the volunteer will participate in a Bulgarian language course and prepare the second part of her stay – which will take her to different towns all over Bulgaria. At the end of the preparatory phase there will be two ‘Train the Trainers’ seminars. During travelling time from March till May all secondary school offering intensive German language learning will be invited to participate. The aim is to visit as many cities and schools as possible and to reach as many young people as possible. The possible workload (workshops per week) will have to be decided together with the EVS volunteer and the changing volunteers of YFU Bulgaria when the project is about to start.

The final four weeks will once again take place in Sofia, where the volunteer will have the task to work on a documentation that will serve as the basis for the next year, to organize training materials and to develop a concept of training Bulgarian volunteers for the next program cycle starting the fall of 2010. She will be supported by YFU staff and volunteers at all times.

The long term goal of the introduction of the workshops “colored glasses” is to offer them in Bulgarian language to all schools – not only the “elite” language schools.