

European youth exchange project with Serbia
“Youth in Action” Programme

WHAT'S UP EUROPE ? BREAKING THE WALL, AGAIN.



WHAT'S UP EUROPE ?

Youth exchange with Serbia

- ▶ *"What's up Europe? Breaking the wall, again" is an exchange project between 8 young French members of the Municipal Council of Youth (MCY) of the city of Epinay-sur-Seine (Seine-Saint-Denis, France) and 8 young Serbians who go to the Local Democracy Agency (LDA) in Niš.*
- ▶ *The exchange will take place from the **12 to 23 August 2013** in the city of Niš (Nisava District, Serbia), located just over 200 km south-east of Belgrade.*

WHO? WHAT?

- ▶ This project unites two groups of young people aged between 16 to 25 years old who come from different cultures; its purpose is to raise issues relating to inter-cultural aspects in order to confront the various conceptions of European citizenship, promote inter-cultural tolerance and dialogue.



Members of the Municipal Council of Youth in front of the European Parliament in Brussels on May 7, 2013

BREAKING THE WALL, AGAIN.

WHY ?

- ▶ In compliance with issues relating to **integrating Serbia in the European Union** “What’s up Europe? Breaking the wall, again” creates a parallel between the fall of the Berlin wall and **the second enlargement that the European Union is currently going through** with the break-up of former Yugoslavia. Furthermore, the project’s title reveals its theme and suggests the existence of physical, but also mental barriers for the young participants, connected to the representation of others and the issue of young people’s mobility.
- ▶ As **young people’s** participation is at the heart of the project development process, they were both a proposal and deciding force for the scheduled activities connected to the theme they selected: **fighting against discriminations and promoting tolerance.**
- ▶ The main target of the stay is that each participant questions his/her **representations, prejudices and stereotypes**, and leads them to discover a new culture in a topical and political context as this is an exchange with a so-called “neighbour” country which is acceding to the European Union. Accordingly, this exchange project between young people of **different cultures and religions** will lead to raising issues concerning the interaction of **cultural and political stakes.**

HOW?

Young people's participation : a priority

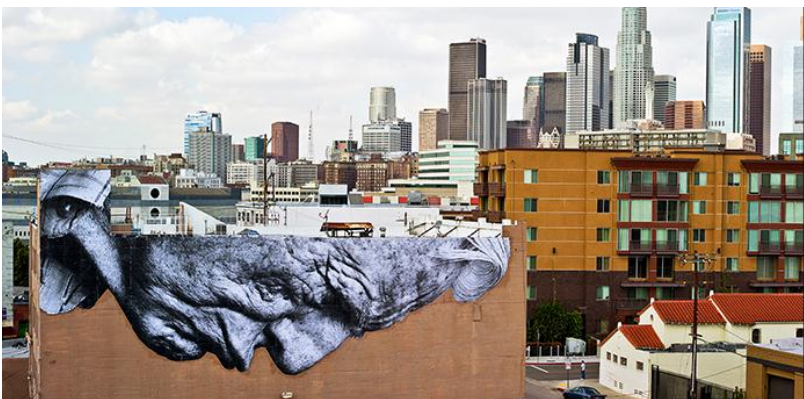
“Inside Out” a participatory project by the artist JR

Creation and posting outside of the usual setting of 16 portraits in the streets of Niš and then Epinay-sur-Seine

"What's up Europe? Breaking the wall, again" intends to draw up an inventory of young people's image of Europe and Europeans today. In the case of the exchange with Serbia, it is interesting to ascertain how both French and Serbian youth see European citizenship and Europe.

The choice of photography and above all the project of an exhibition outside of the usual setting, inspired by the participatory project “Inside Out” by the artist JR, provides each participant with the possibility of sharing his/her portrait with the rest of the world and sending a message via black and white photographs. The logistics required to achieve the portrait project will aim to confront them with working as a team which will be both educational and full of meaning.

- *Eight young members of the Municipal Council of Youth of the city of Epinay-sur-Seine are at the origin of this European exchange project with Serbian youth. Its particularity is related to the confidence entrusted to the young people as regards their capacity of setting up a project.*



HOW?

The workshop will be supervised by two visual emergent artists

Nicolas Jargić and H  l  na Bertaud : visual emergent artists who will supervise the artistic project

The topic of the youth exchange is to raise questions about intercultural dialogue and fight against stereotypes mainly through questioning representations. The photo project fits perfectly in this framework and can not be regarded as a leisure activity. For this reason it seemed important to regulate the practice of artistic young people, involving visual artists volunteers to give sense to youth participation.

The workshop will be introduced with the film "*Der Himmel   ber Berlin*". Masterpiece by Wim Wenders, the film fits perfectly with the theme of the fall of the Berlin Wall suggested in the title of the project as a historic event who is repeated since Serbia get the status of candidate for membership the European Union.

- *With inviting those two emergent artists to involve as volunteers in this project, the project participate to the promotion of emergent artists*



HOW?

Young people as project proponents

Informal education

Project for a French-Serbian “youth language” dictionary.

The purpose of this dictionary is to make both groups familiar with the everyday language used by each of them and to consider a joint “youth” culture which goes beyond linguistic barriers.

This experience will be materialised by publishing a small dictionary at the end of the stay; it will also be a souvenir for each one.

The Serbian and French participants will attempt to find out whether they have a joint culture which unites them. In order to try and answer this question, their idea was to create a “young language” French-Serbian, Serbian-French dictionary.

A flashmob

This recreational activity was initiated by young Serbians and French. The pertinence of a flashmob became obvious when one of the participants proposed that a morning be dedicated to learning a choreography made up of traditional Serbian dances and a dance proposed by the French group.

The flashmob is scheduled for Wednesday August 21 in Niš (time and location to be specified).



Exchanges and debates on the theme of fighting against discriminations and promoting tolerance

The purpose of the exchanges and debates organised during the stay will be to develop thought on **European citizenship, cultural diversity and relationships between boys and girls**. The issue of each group's prejudices as regards the other's culture will be "tested" by a game and a debate at the beginning and then at the end of the stay to ascertain what progress has been made.

Four debates will be organised during the stay:

- **"What's up Europe? #1 : sticking the clichés"**

Discussion and debate on the other group's prejudices and stereotypes.

- **"Breaking the wall #2 : relationships between girls and boys"**

Debate on boy-girl relationships.

- **"Breaking the wall #3 : cross-cultural relationships"**

Exchanges on intercultural and inter-religious issues.

- **"What's up Europe : breaking the clichés #4 "**

Looking back on the prejudices and stereotypes that existed at the beginning of the stay: comparisons and progress

In the framework of preparing these debates, the young people will be invited to attend several conferences which will take place in Paris between May and August 2013, on the following subjects: European citizenship, inter-cultural aspects, fighting against discriminations, promoting tolerance, and boy-girl relationships.

► *In the same way as for the other activities, each group will have a mentor in charge of proposing subjects for debates and exchanges.*

Conferences and debates

- Thursday May 16, 2013 “The Kosovo, a European challenge”
- In partnership with the Kosovo Embassy. At the Maison de l’Europe
- Saturday May 25, 2013 “Youth on the Move”: 7 years of European programme, young people and associations bear witness at the Cité des Sciences et de l’Industrie
- Monday May 27, 2013 “Informal mobility in Europe: a lever for young people’s routes” in the framework of the European Youth Week at the CIDJ
- Wednesday June 5, 2013 “Europe and the citizen” at the Maison de l’Europe
- The film "La Parade », followed by a debate

► *Conferences and debates which the young people are invited to attend will be an opportunity to increase their knowledge of European citizenship, inter-cultural aspects, fighting against discriminations, promoting tolerance, and boy-girl relationships.*

Intercultural aspects

Introduction to Serbian culture

« Serbia in Paris » day on Thursday, June 27

- 11h – 12h – Walking in the Serbian neighbourhoods in Paris
- 12h – 14h – Introduction to Serbian gastronomy at the restaurant called « La Victoire »
- 14h-17h : Visit of the exhibition « Outsiders » at the Cultural Center of Serbia in Paris

Understanding Serbia's geopolitical situation

- Cultural outing to the Vanves theatre to see the play “Belgrade”, based on a text by Angélica Liddele, and meet the director, Julien Fišera, with the Company *Espace Commun*
- Introduction to Serbia's geopolitical situation since the end of communism, by a student in political sciences

► *Before leaving, several inter-cultural outings are scheduled in Paris and the suburbs. Their purpose is to make young Spinsassiens aware of Serbian culture, its history and geopolitical situation and help them understand the stakes of French-Serbian relationships in order to measure the impact of the project they are promoting at European level.*

WHO?

City of Epinay-sur-Seine

Épinay-sur-Seine is a city in the Seine-Saint-Denis department ; it is part of the Plaine Commune metropolitan community. Its population exceeds 54 000.

The city is located in a difficulty territory (2 Sensitive Urban Areas where 65% of the population live) in the youngest department in France; in 2006 it launched a major urban rehabilitation project in order to improve Spinassiens' living surroundings and facilitate their social and economic integration, in particular for its youth.

In the capacity of citizens, Spinassiens are represented by elected representatives. They also have the possibility of expressing themselves and being involved in local life via participatory democracy organs: District Consultation Councils, Seniors' Council, Municipal Council of Youth and Municipal Council of Children.

Set up in March 2010, the Municipal Council of Youth of Épinay-sur-Seine allowed young people aged from 16 to 25 years old to commit to and take part in the life of their city. It provides young Spinassiens with the possibility of taking part in debates of general interest, receiving training in the exercise of democracy, making proposals, playing a genuine role in social, cultural and sports life, being listened to and heard by public authorities, accompanying the apprenticeship of citizenship, knowing its codes (listening, dialogue, respecting the other person, decision-making organisation) and institutional tools (City Hall, Department and Regional Councils, National Assembly, Senate, Council of Europe and European Parliament).

Coordination team :

Edina Džogović – *Coordinator of European youth exchange with Serbia*

Manuel Chambrouy – *Coordinator of the Municipal Youth Council*

Brice Philippon – *Director of the service « Urban policy and participatory democracy »*

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LDA of Niš (Local Democracy Agency)

LDAs were set up by the Council of Europe Congress of local and regional authorities. They were originally designed to provide assistance to municipalities laid to waste by the war in former Yugoslavia through partnerships with Western European towns and cities. At the end of the Balkan war, LDAA action was no longer focused on assistance in a crisis situation, but on democratic reforms, with emphasis on promoting inter-community relationships based on confidence and tolerance.

From the start, the LDAA method was to set up partnerships between local and regional authorities, NGOs in former Yugoslavia and their counterparts in Western Europe.

LDAs work independently so that their response to local needs is more efficient; they support initiatives by the civil society and communities by proposing training courses and information.

They develop projects in the following fields: Cross-Border Cooperation, Equality between Men and Women, Handicapped persons, Sustainable Development, Local Economic development, European integration, Inter-Ethnic Dialogue, Communication and Medias, Development of civil society and community competences, Youth, Minorities and Refugees.

Coordination team :

Marion Poullain – *Volunteer on an EVS project in LDA Niš*

Milena Celić – *coordinator of LDA Niš youth program*

Sasa Marinkov – *Director of LDA Niš*

Ana Nikolić – *Youth office of City Municipality « Medijana » Niš*

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LDA (Local Democracy Agency)
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18000 Niš
Serbia

<http://ldacss.tumblr.com>



WHO?

Nicolas Jargić

Born in Lyons in 1986 of a French mother and Serbian father, Nicolas Jargić grew up in a singular cultural blend. Fascinated since his younger age by conjuring, in its capacity to produce a "reality effect", he joins in 2006 the ENSBA school of Lyons that he attends until his graduation in 2011. Confronted to the "world of images" and to their "frame" – the artistic frame –, his interest for magic then becomes inherent to his work process. At the junction between art and conjuring, his current work takes shape in a dynamic of deconstruction and re-presentation and interferes in our relationship to the real world as well as to the artwork. The real world, confronted to its "image" and perceptual context, thus finds itself brought into play.

"By dealing with the frontiers of reality, the plausibility of images gained during the various "pictorial turns" disrupts our relationship with reality. Having studied and practiced the art of illusionism, more than that of representation, it is the power of images, their ability to produce an effect of reality or a belief, that interests me now."

Nicolas Jargić

2011 : DNSEP (Postgraduate Diploma in Plastic Arts) at the Lyons' ENSBA school

(National School of Fine Arts)

2009 : DNAP (National Diploma in Plastic Arts) passed with high honors at the Lyons' ENSBA school (National School of Fine Arts)



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Hélène Bertaud

Born in France in 1986, HB grew up in south west France, surrounded by immense landscapes of mountains and sea, she was rapidly interested by the effects of movement of territories, mater and surfaces. Intrigued by the questioning of all matter in relation In Situ, her work slowly grew to find various anchor points such as archeology and the idea of phenomena whether it be physical, cultural or ever geopolitical. After five years at "Ecole Nationale Supérieures des Beaux Arts" in Lyon, the young woman decided to return to Biarritz in order to settle in a workshop and be always closer to the wide spaces of freedom that fascinated her so much. This is how in 2013, she began the first step of her research program specializing in areas classified "desert".

Helena Bertaud's artistic practice could be defined as a research based on the sensory experience of reality. By various types of devices such as installation, projection, photography or event.

Her works tend toward a certain minimalism, underscoring the fleeting nature, ephemeral or fragile of proposals which she invites us.

2012: *Les joueuses*, installation / performance with Feriot Adelaide, Contemporary art space The BF15, Lyon France.

2011: National Higher Diploma in Plastic Expression The ENSBA Lyon.

"Committed to the concept of landscape whether physical or mental, I'm interested in its contingencies and conditions (flow, temperature, light, architecture, etc ...) I plan spaces or territory as areas of research and interaction where perception and body are put in. I experimented with the instability of our perception and our changing time and space relationships."



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