

A French association "The Regional Federation of Maisons Familiales Rurales" in Lower Normandy (France) is searching partners to take place in a youth in action seminar (4.3) about "the mobility of young people" :

"Off we go! The mobility of young people: from local to European citizenship"
Experiences sharing, good practices, reflection

Please find below a presentation of the organization, about the partners, their project and the profile of partner we are looking for.

The leader : Regional Federation of Maisons Familiales Rurales" in Lower Normandy (France)

Who are we ?

- General Presentation and values of Maisons Familiales Rurales

The "Maisons Familiales rurales" are associations (non governmental organizations) which are private and training schools in France and in some parts of the world (Africa, Quebec, South and Central America, Asia, Spain, Portugal, Italy...)

The MFR are involved in Education. MFR are professional training centers.

These associations organize trainings in different professional fields like : agriculture, personal services, horticulture, rural tourism, projects in rural areas... Each school works on technical courses with the students like how choose a professional orientation, how to launch projects of pet shops, how to build projects of dog grooming show, how to advice to students on which courses to follow...

The schools receive young people from 14 to 22 years old. Young people follow sandwich courses : one week at school, one week in the professional placement.

The Maisons Familiales Rurales (MFR) are particular because these associations are :

- A Human-sized place. The number of pupils is always limited about 100-150 people.
- A place where you can find an educational family atmosphere. The exchanges and the follow-up are facilitated between young people and adults.
- A place where the families take part in the education of their children and have a major role in the running of the association (they can be board of director, administration members...)
- A place where the teachers can either be trainers, youth workers and facilitators at the same time for young people. They have to be good listeners.
- A place where the apprenticeship of the citizenship is very important. The young people prepare a diploma and they also have to learn to live together and to feel responsible. The MFR are places of life, where young people learn about themselves, about the community life and where young people develop apprenticeship of the citizenship.
- A place where the boarding school is recommended for young people from 14 to 18 years old, but is not a necessity. The boarding school is a place of the apprenticeship of the autonomy and the responsibility.

- A nearness place : mostly, the schools are situated in rural areas, in a green place. The associations are integrated in the territory and most of these schools work with some local partners (local authorities, town-twinning, organizations of farmers, small and medium enterprises, NGOS...)

- A place of non-formal education : young people are involved in projects during the evening (after the courses) and they also are encouraged to develop projects in small groups which can take place during the day and during the week-end such as the creation of a theater play, organization of a beef festival, a pet show or a sport tournament...

► Regional Federation of Maisons Familiales Rurales (MFR) in Lower Normandy

In Lower Normandy, there are 26 Maisons Familiales Rurales.

In each school, a trainer is in charge to develop “European mobility” in the association during formal and informal education timetable. Young people are encouraged to develop a mobility project in autonomy with their training project or in informal groups such as study visit abroad, forum, festival, project of general interest...

The Regional Federation of Maisons Familiales Rurales in Lower Normandy coordinates the network of “European Mobility trainers”. 6 trainers from 6 different MFR work together to realize this project :

Aline (MFR La Ferté Macé) : She is very interested in non formal education practices because she participated in a training organized by the Council of Europe some years ago. She would like to use more these pedagogical practices with young people and encourage her colleagues to use them in order to teach democracy or encourage European active citizenship. She would like to find new partners abroad to develop European projects.

Bérénice (MFR Balleroy) : She wants to develop European projects in their association. She is interested in Comenius partnerships and youth exchanges. She would like to find new partners abroad.

Fabienne (MFR Maltot) : She organizes some study visits abroad with young people and she would like to encourage them to take more initiative, to be more responsible. She would like to help them to feel more European. She would like to find new partners abroad to develop European projects.

Fabrice (MFR Saint Sauveur Lendelin) : He organises Comenius partnership projects in his association and he is interested in youth in action program (Evs, youth exchanges...). He coordinates the regional network of “European Mobility trainers” in the Regional Federation of Maisons Familiales Rurales in Lower Normandy. He would like to find new partners abroad to develop European projects.

Henri (MFR Mortagne au Perche) : He organizes some study visits abroad with young people and support youth local projects. He would like to work more in cooperation (Europe, International...) and to be helped to motivate young people to take part in projects. He would like to find new partners abroad to develop European projects.

Sébastien (MFR Granville) : He helps young people to find training placements abroad, and he helps young people during their mobility. He would like to encourage young people to participate more actively and to find new partners abroad.

The Regional Federation of Maisons Familiales Rurales in Lower Normandy works with a regional NGO about the topic of European citizenship : Le Carrefour Rural Européen des Acteurs Normands (CREAN). This organization is an information center about European Union in Lower Normandy and a local relay of “Youth in Action” program. CREAN is member of the European network “Europe Direct” : http://europa.eu/europedirect/index_en.htm
This organization will take place in the project.

What do we want ?

Most young people in these associations are from rural areas and they are almost in the professional life. They rarely go abroad and some of them even have difficulties to “move” in their own territory. That’s why it can be hard for trainers, in charge of promoting “mobility”, to help them to develop a mobility project and to involve them in a personal or in collective project.

Trainers and youth workers need to support young people before, during and after their mobility abroad in order to allow young people to take more advantages on their mobility experience for themselves and for their territory.

Title of the project :

"Off we go ! The mobility of young people : from local to European citizenship"
Experiences sharing, good practices, reflection

This seminar is for youth workers (people who work in leisure’s organizations, in sport clubs...), social workers and trainers who work with young people from 14 to 25 years old, who support youth actions (trainings, personal initiatives, social inclusion, citizenship...) and who help young people to be more committed in their territory thanks to their mobility experience. The partners who work both on non formal education and formal education are very welcome !

Objectives ?

- Create a special “tool box” to support young people to live plainly their “mobility” before going abroad to motivate them to take place in a mobility project;
- Exchanging good practices;
- From mobility to motility (capacity to use mobility to develop personal benefits and skills) : exchanges and reflections about European and International tools like Youth pass, Europass mobility, Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, knowing different national and European tools on “mobility skills”.
- The seminar has to be an opportunity to create new local and European partnerships particularly with others MFR of Lower Normandy. It will enhance for favoring projects with European dimensions (youth exchanges, EVS, Youth initiatives projects, Comenius partnerships, Grundtvig partnerships, Leonardo Da Vinci projects...)

When ?

Dates of seminar : from 3 to 9 of December 2012 in Lower Normandy

Partnership ?

Number of participants : 17-20 pers

From 6 countries with maximum 2 participants per country from an organization which are motivated by the objectives of the seminar and which want to create new partnerships.

Costs (to define)

30% of travel cost (city of departure has to be definite)

50 euros / participants for activity costs

Food and accommodation taking in charge

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