



GPKT Phase II - Youth Council Report No. 27

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Four NGOs host GPKT Youth Interns from Across the Border



Following the success of the GPKT summer internships initiative in 2006, four cross-border internship placements were organised between mid June and late July 2007 for Youth Council members. Two Youth Council Members from Presevo and two from Kumanovo worked in the offices of EWI in Ohrid, Cultural Triangle of Prespes in Agios Germanos, Greece, Generator in Vranje, and Inter-ethnic Project Kumanovo. The internships aimed at cross-border relationship building and enhancement of the professional capacity of GPKT Youth Council members.

A total of sixteen applications were received for the summer internships this year; each candidate submitted an application for the position they were interested in and the host organisations made the selection in accordance with their specific needs. The interns received small stipends from EWI to cover board and lodging.

All four interns worked on the organisation of international youth camps and seminars implemented by the host organisations in the time of the internships, thus gaining experience not only from working in an office but from practical co-ordination and logistical support. This type of experience can be invaluable for the newly established Youth Councils for Cross-border Co-operation, which are planned to continue the work of the GPKT Youth Council.



The detailed evaluation questionnaires filled in by both supervisors and interns confirmed the positive results from 2006, stressing the high value and potential of the internship programme as a unique on-the-job training and inter-cultural learning experience. "The GPKT Summer Internships Programme is a very good idea and gives a lot of opportunities to the GPKT youth [...] - they get the chance to be more deeply involved in office work, in different regions, to become independent and ready for the future", one of the host organisations assessed. Host organisations and interns gave a recommendation to extend the internship period to provide for enough time for the interns to adjust, learn and be a real part of the organisation's team.

The summer internships were organised for a second time in 2007 responding to the positive feedback in 2006 and to the strong recommendations from host organisations and interns to continue the programme. As a direct follow-up to the 2006 summer internships a Youth Council member from Kumanovo was employed by her host organisation in Vranje, while the intern who worked with CTP in Greece implemented a partnership project between his Kumanovo-based NGO and the Greek organisation.