

**Project description of the
Final Editorial Conference (FEC) of the youth magazine
“Das Haus - La Maison - The House”**

By the ACC International programme office, the Ryslinge Højskole (folk high school Ryslinge) and the main office of “Das Haus – La Maison – The House”.

Summary

The ACC International programme office is going to organize the Final Editorial Conference (FEC) of the youth magazine “Das Haus - La Maison - The House” winter edition 2000. Young Europeans from as many European countries as possible are going to be invited to be part of the editorial staff in the FEC. The Conference takes place at the Ryslinge Højskole, Denmark, from November 19th to 26th 2000. The winter issue of “Das Haus - La Maison - The House” youth magazine will have the theme “Schools for Europe”.

The aim of the conference and the issue is, in accordance with the general aims of the ACC, to stimulate a common European debate on questions and political problems shared by the Europeans.

Background

It has become tradition for the youth magazine “Das Haus - La Maison - The House” to be edited at different locations in Europe. Usually, a group of young people or an NGO then takes the enterprises of individual issues. The ACC has then made an agreement with the main office of “Das Haus - La Maison - The House” magazine, that if we can raise the money for supporting this issues editorial staff, we can take this winter enterprise and be responsible for the winter issue.

More members of the ACC board have taken part as individuals in earlier final editorial conferences and that was the background for the request posed to “Das Haus - La Maison - The House” main office with the proposal of taking care of this winters issue.

Every “Das Haus - La Maison - The House” magazine issue has its own theme. For example last summers issue was “10 years after the fall of the Berlin wall” (enclosed). The winter 2000 issue having the ACC as its organizer is going to have the theme “Schools for Europe”.

“The House” main office is taking care of the printing after the FEC, when the final edition has been sent to the Passauer-main-office.

The objects of the Final Editorial Conference (FEC)

The ACC is undertaking the editing of the winter issue of “Das Haus - La Maison - The House” magazine for more reasons.

In general the ACC is interested in stimulating a common European debate on issues common for the Europeans. The current political context of the EU and Europe in general is going to result in the discussion of a European common educational policy. The ACC would like to begin this discussion through the winter issue of “Das Haus - La Maison - The House” magazine 2000-2001. The political context, which defines common topics, which should be debated and which are almost inviting to discussing common educational tasks are for example the current elaborating of the EU charter, the preparation of the Nice-treaty (probably) and the EU-enlargement process in general.

The Final Editorial Conference (FEC) is going to be an excellent way for young NGO-members to create new contacts and to start working independent of borders. We are thinking of not only borders between states, but also the mental borders between the European populations, between language groups, between cultures and between nations. The main goal of the conference is to pay attention of the young people and the society on the development of the democracy, the political, economic and human rights situation, the youth problems, the mobility of the youth in Europe, the work of the non-governmental organizations and the future cooperation projects.

By organizing the FEC we hope to be part of a general tendency of promoting the idea of letting the citizens take initiative by themselves. In short, we would like to be a part of developing the civil society not only as distributed in states but also in Europe in general, even though we are representing only a small piece of a large context.

The utmost consequence of working for dialogue between the different identities of Europe in general and of stimulating contacts in particular would hopefully be a more peaceful 21st century compared with the catastrophes Europe has created for itself in the previous century.

Further we hope to involve the editorial staff members in the work done by the ACC, hopefully through membership and by enlarging the circle of Young Europeans working for an enlightened, non-chauvinist and common debate among European citizens.

Concerning the underlying debate on a philosophical level in these days Europe on an eventual common European ethics and on common sources of values, our ideology is clear cut: dialogue is the last source of rationality we have, since every other suggestion has lost credibility in the 20th century's catastrophes.

Target group.

It is crucial for us to find young representatives of many European identities to constitute the editorial staff of the magazines winter edition. There should be no dominating groups and we want the groups constituting the FEC to be an International one. The editorial staff should consist of young people between 18-25 years of age.

There should be a balanced representation of both genders, many nations, representation from north and south, as well as from east, west and central Europe.

The editorial staff members of the FEC will be selected in close cooperation with the local members of the ACC.

To participate English must be understood and spoken, but the articles can be written in English, German and/or French.

We aim to receive 20 persons of whom most should be members of NGO's throughout Europe. The editorial staff members are going to be invited by the ACC board.

The contents of the course

(i) Complete description of project

There will be different parts of the conference. The first part introduces to the educational situation in Europe seen in the context of the enlargement of the EU and of the general political integration process. The second part foresees a discussion in different working groups, for example on national and cross-national educational tasks -in order to understand better different opinions of the young people. The third part foresees practical work on the winter edition European Youth Magazine "Das Haus - La Maison - The House". This will guarantee that the results of the working groups will be available to the young people in the whole Europe.

The program of the conference will give an opportunity to live in an unknown environment and to understand it, to meet people with other opinions, to get new information and knowledge about the life in the neighboring countries and in the region in general and to understand the common and diverse features of Europe.

(ii) Background, context and reasons for project

The articles written during the conference for the non-profit European youth magazine "Das Haus - La Maison - The House" will give the readers in Europe an opportunity to get to know about the development of the continent and actualities of the young people. That will widen the knowledge of many young people on these subjects. The magazine gives an opportunity to get to know not only different opinions of the young people but also gives new experience. It also is a wonderful opportunity for the young people who are interested in the idea of the united continent.

(iii) Expected results of project

During the project young people from approximately 15 countries will be informed about the events and development processes in different European countries, about common and individual tendencies in the continent. There will be a bilateral information and education exchange about different issues. The project will give an opportunity to the young people to get to know one another. It is very important now, when so much has been talked about the European integration. The stereotypes about certain countries and nations in Europe will be broken. During the conference the editorial staff members will get to know why a more close relationship among the young people was not created during the previous years and how to create co-operation among youth organizations and individual persons and especially on how to develop better conditions for common educational tasks.

(iv) Follow-up and/or long-term benefits of project

In the result of a successful realization of the project a coordinated youth network will be created that will support the realization of different youth projects and the exchange of information. We hope to involve the editorial staff members' closer in the voluntary work done by the ACC. The conference will be an impulse to a more active youth co-operation and will create a feeling of responsibility about the future.

(v) Methodology:

The programme is prepared with lectures, excursions, socializing games (by the ACC) and editor's workshops. In accordance with the philosophy of the ACC, we are counting the boarding school format as one of the most important methodological details.

Timetable.

The conference is going to last for one week and will take place from November 19th to 26th in autumn 2000. The winter edition of the "Das Haus – La Maison – The House" magazine is probably to be printed during winter 2000-2001.

Organizational elements.

Ieva Astakovska (LV) is going to be the responsible coordinator of the conference. During the conference John Petersen (DK) will assist Ieva Astakovska in the carrying out and the supervision. Ieva Astakovska and John Petersen have earlier been taking part in final editorial conferences of the "Das Haus – La Maison - The House"-editions.

The course language will be English, but French and German languages are allowed as well for the articles written to the magazine.

Financing.

The project is to be co-financed by EU-commission, the Ryslinge Højskole and the ACC. We expect the Danish lottery funds (Tips/Lotto) to cover the printing of the magazine.

Location.

The conference is going to be carried out at the Ryslinge Højskole, Denmark.

Program:

Please confer the enclosed draft programme.

Co-operational partners

The course is carried through on ACC initiative. The ACC is a European organization. The secretariat of the ACC is situated at the IT-Folkehøjskolen Snoghøj, Denmark. The ACC is cooperating closely with the

Ryslinge Højskole and the bureau of “Das Haus – La Maison – The House” at the Universität Passau. The recruitment of the editorial staff will be carried out in close co-operation with the local branches of the ACC. We have representatives in more than 20 European countries.

Snoghøj (Denmark), March 2000
Revised in Pärnu (Estonia), August 2000

Linda Jakobsone (board-member)
John Petersen (chairperson) of the ACC