

Viviamo! – We live!

Participation in 2007 Viviamo! Summer School will be a unique experience which will allow us to reflect in a new way on what it means to live. Viviamo! has developed into a major global project of World Youth Alliance featuring summer camps and grassroots development projects, coordinated from different WYA Regional Offices in cooperation with chosen Partner Organisations. We encourage you to join the group of international participants at this year's European Summer School in Targu Mures, Transylvania. Our reflections on 'The Drama of Human Existence' will take a variety of forms, capturing something of the dynamism of human choices, emotions and discovery.

The role of experience in widening the horizon of human existence

The innovative approach of the Viviamo! Summer School combines the benefits of formal and non-formal education. Participants will profit from formal lectures and workshops led by outstanding academic figures. They will build solidarity through charitable work and team activities whilst gaining insights through personal interaction with other Viviamo participants, local hosting families and members of the local community. Moreover, the learning process will be enhanced through an intense encounter with literature and performing arts. Participants will be enriched by new experiences of artistic work and will be given the option of participating in special working groups dedicated to drama or poetry. A professional Shakespearean actor will guide some of the students in a venture to produce a public theatre performance of Karol Wojtyła's play, *The Jeweller's Shop*. A young British poet will lead another group in discovering the role of poetry as an expression of human experience – a valuable inspiration to reflection.

Structure & Substance

Every morning, all participants will gather together for a series of academic classes led by university professors, guest lecturers or WYA moderators. Professor Czesław Porębski - a world renowned scholar - will return to the Summer School to present lectures on 'The Philosophical Relevance of Literature' and on 'Persons, Communities and Values'. Morning classes will be followed by workshops and discussions; the local youth centre provides the ideal environment for academic learning as well as interaction and group work. All this is supplemented by first hand exposure to international perspectives on global policy issues which will be the focus of one of the four working groups as well as general sessions of the second week of the school. Film nights, cultural excursions, swimming evenings and literature reading sessions are intended to be fora in which human experiences and insights combine with ascetic work and reflection - generating an intensity of joy, laughter and drama which is unique to the Summer School.

Literary and Human Encounters as Junctions on life's Crossroads

"Viviamo!" was developed to commemorate the United Nations 2006 celebration of Habitat notion. Each year brings with it the opportunity to adopt a new leitmotif for the school's programme. Literature will guide us through this year's endeavour in a struggle to make sense of choices one faces on a daily basis. Crossroads - understood as 'a point at which a vital decision has to be made' – a choice of which way to go – is an idea which runs through the school's curriculum. We believe that literature is a story told by life's crossroads – points at which choices are made and decisions are taken. It is for us to make the most of this story and reflect upon other people's (true or fictional) experience in order to become more aware of ourselves and our social surroundings. We trust that literature can serve as a junction – a counterpoint – a chance to reflect. Our choices shape us – it is therefore good to know what we choose.

VIVIAMO!

place:
Targu Mures
(Romania)



dates:
6-17 August
2007



cost:
250 Euro
(included: housing,
meals, trips)



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VIVIAMO!

europa

The Drama of Human Existence

The Programme

The programme of this year's Viviamo! Summer School in Targu Mures, Transylvania, consists of four pillars: core Ideas; International Issues; working groups; cultural activities.

Participants will study the core Ideas every morning during the first week of the Summer School, deepening their understanding of the main Ideas of the World Youth Alliance. Participants will attend lectures delivered by invited guests and read together specially chosen philosophical and literary texts.

The second pillar is planned to take place during the second week. Participants will explore various International Issues and develop practical applications of the Ideas studied during the first week.

The third pillar involves four working groups focusing on four different projects. Participants will be able to choose a working group according to their interests. The first group, 'Drama' is to prepare and perform Karol Wojtyla's play, 'The Jeweller's Shop' under the expert direction of an experienced Shakespearean actor. The second working group - 'Poetry' will devote time to the study of chosen poetry and participants will be given an introduction to poetry writing. The third working group is to undertake charity work with our partner organisation 'Caritas'. The fourth working group will work on problems of International economics and development. The projects of the working groups are intended as forums in which young people can reflect on human experience and human action in a new and unique way.

The last pillar of the summer school involves a variety of cultural and social events. These include media work, public outreach and trips to some of Romania's most beautiful cities and places of cultural interest. The Summer School will be interspersed with various leisure activities, sports and film nights making it a memorable experience for all.



Monday, 6th:

Arrivals are planned over the weekend and into Monday morning. Transport from the airport will be arranged for participants flying into Targu Mures airport. After welcoming participants, there will be time for those who have settled in to get to know each other and to check out the open swimming pool facilities in Targu Mures.

In the late afternoon we will open the first session of the Summer School. Participants will discuss WYA's Core Ideas - a prior reading of WYA Track A Training is strongly recommended! Expect informal and lively discussions exploring the themes of Dignity, Solidarity & Life.

Tuesday, 7th:

In the morning we will meet for an academic session concerning the definition of freedom. We will discuss different understandings of the notion of freedom. How has freedom been understood in different periods of the history of human thought and what is the significance of these different conceptions of freedom?

After lunch in a local restaurant, four different Working Groups - Drama, Poetry, Caritas and International Issues - kick off their work.

Evening time is reserved for a film screening and leisure time for the participants.

Wednesday, 8th:

The morning will continue with working group projects. Our partner organisation, Caritas Targu Mures, will invite the Working Group III to join them in their work with young children. Later in the afternoon we will meet together to focus on the topic of art and human experience. We will discuss notions of beauty and literature as counterpoints to our social surroundings.

During the evening the participants will manage their time - balancing leisure activities with some careful personal preparation for the next day's lectures with Prof. Czeslaw Porebski.

Thursday, 9th:

Today the two day lecture series with Professor Porebski will commence! On Thursday morning we will follow a seminar on the Philosophical Relevance of Literature.

In the afternoon, the Working Groups will continue their work on assigned projects and start to plan methods of sharing their insights with other participants during the second week of the school.

The first evening is reserved for participants and their host families to dine together and share personal experiences.

Friday, 10th:

In the morning Professor Porebski will present Persons, Communities, and Values and guide us through their complex structures and the relationships between them. This seminar will be crucial to understanding the themes of the Summer School as a whole.

Depending on whether the morning lecture will extend through the afternoon we will sit together and simulate the United Nations environment in order to draft a WYA Declaration on Culture.

In the evening we will screen a film and host a discussion on the themes of the film.

Saturday, 11th:

Local media, organisations and public figures will join us on Saturday morning. After a workshop on media, some participants will have the opportunity to be interviewed by the local press. This will be a chance to put our advocacy skills into practice, in a real-life setting.

Later on that day we will pay our tribute to the local community by performing charitable work under the guidance of our third Working Group - 'Caritas'.

This hardworking day will be concluded by a barbecue.

Sunday, 12th:

After a relaxed morning, participants of the Summer School will meet in the afternoon and go out into the streets of Targu Mures to invite local inhabitants to our exclusive evening performance of the play, 'The Jeweller's Shop'.

The Sunday evening public performance in Targu Mures' open air theatre, will be the first, out of four projects, prepared by Working Groups and will take place under the direction of at least one experienced actor.

Monday, 13th & Tuesday 14th:

On Monday we will visit the beautiful city of Sibiu - nominated European Capital of Culture 2007. On Tuesday we will travel to the magnificent towns of Brasov and Sighisara. We will stop to visit Romania's Peles royal castle and also make a stop at the Salina Prad salt mines.

Wednesday, 15th:

During the morning we will start our two day examination of International perspectives. The first morning will be devoted to understanding the role that International Institutions play in today's world. We will primarily focus on the place of the human person in International relations. This will be followed by case studies on particular issues.

The afternoon time will be free for participants to experience the holiday festivities in the town. Participants will gather together during the evening for a barbecue. This will be another opportunity to share their experiences with the local media.

Thursday, 16th:

During the early hours we will pursue case studies on Maternal Health, HIV/AIDS and Development. We will pay particular attention to concerns regarding language, policy and issues of globalisation.

In the afternoon we will have a look at today's totalitarian systems and trace the history of dissident movements that struggle for a recognition of human dignity under oppressive regimes...



Viviamo!

...The evening is devoted to presentations put together by Working Groups. The presentations facilitate an exchange of experiences from different learning encounters. We will follow up with a final party!

Friday, 17th:

The morning of the last day will end with discussions on the role of youth at all levels of public engagement. Why should we get involved? What should we do and where can we make a difference? The further plans of the World Youth Alliance will be discussed and participants will set their own targets for the forthcoming year.

After lunch and initial departures, those participants who are able to stay into the weekend will have time to organise more cultural excursions!

