



## **Viviamo! 2008 Solidarity Experience**

### Project Profile

#### **Viviamo - we live!**

Viviamo! - Italian for 'we live!' - is an annual summer project of World Youth Alliance with an aim to promote good practices effectively addressing local development concerns while highlighting human dignity. The objective is to provide young people with an experience of dignity of the person by sharing with them grassroots initiatives in different cultural and social conditions. Participation in Viviamo 2008 Summer Camp in Europe will be a unique experience which will allow participants to reflect on what it means to be truly human and enjoy life in solidarity with others. Viviamo! is coordinated by WYA's regional office in cooperation with a chosen local partner organization. The *Spring Foundation* from Cracow will join our project in 2008.

#### **The role of solidarity in building free and just societies**

The aim of Viviamo! 2008 Summer Camp is to help participants recognize how individual commitment to solidarity can lead to the establishment of free, just and peaceful societies. Learning from the encounter with the heritage of Polish history and culture, participants will discuss the notion of solidarity in its concrete dimensions of solidarity: as a foundation for authentic development, as a key value for society and individuals, and as a need in policy response to global challenges.

#### **Solidarity Experience - structure & substance**

The Summer Camp will be a dynamic combination of seminars and workshops with daily volunteer work with children from underprivileged backgrounds and elderly in need.

Each day participants will have a chance to:

- study the concepts of solidarity and dignity in philosophical and cultural perspectives with guest lecturers
- research the heritage of the Polish Solidarity Movement through direct contact with its witnesses
- discuss ideas which shape current social life and policy by working with the language of EU and UN documents
- share views on recent challenges of the development process in Europe, such as population and demography questions or advancement in biotechnology
- ask about the evolution of the family – a ground for solidarity
- experience solidarity among ourselves and other people in need.

Studies are to provide crucial knowledge and expertise on the most recently debated questions at the EU level and foster the understanding of various global problems to raise awareness among youth. Through the volunteer work participants will be able to enjoy the simplicity and depth of the self-gift to others by sharing their own talents and skills.

#### **Sharing the joy of life with children and elderly in need**

The most valuable experience of person is the altruistic, unconditional gift of self to other persons. Viviamo! participants will be working with children from underprivileged backgrounds by organizing summer holiday activities for them as well as helping with daily tasks for the elderly in need. In this way we wish to learn how to express our solidarity and highlight the value of life. Recognizing the need for a dialogue between generations we want to understand how to put it into practice and be able to build solidarity in a concrete, practical way in our local communities.