



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are you doing?

World Youth Alliance Europe is inviting young people to attend **Viviamo -The Art of Living**, its first ever Summer School. This will take place in Targu Mures, central Romania, from 17th – 28th July 2006.

What is Viviamo?

'Viviamo!', Italian for 'We live!', is a World Youth Alliance (WYA) project focused on improving local habitats around the globe. Around the world we can see people living in situations that are not of their own creation and which limit or repress their ability to develop themselves and contribute to society. Slums, child labour and the exploitation of workers are particularly grave examples of this.

Development of societies cannot be separated from the development of each human person. Development takes place when the talents and creativity of everyone are employed and mobilized to find solutions and to build society. Our Habitat projects are an opportunity for us to look at some of the ways in which the ingenuity of each person is being harnessed to find unique and creative new solutions to large scale problems.

What is Viviamo-the Art of Living?

World Youth Alliance Europe's Summer School *Viviamo-the Art of Living* is part of the World Youth Alliance *Viviamo* global project.

We must also learn the *art of living* in peace and solidarity so as to build a better future for our families, our continent and for the world. By building up networks of friendship and solidarity centred on a common recognition of human dignity, we are creating a movement of young people who understand the conditions needed for the formation of free and just societies which foster the integral development of the person.

The concept of integral development implies that we need to develop a policy proposal for habitat and development which goes beyond technical and economic considerations. In order to succeed, we need to develop proposals which reflect fully the real needs and capacities of the human person. This year's UN theme of Habitat is an example of a policy area within which an understanding of the dignity of the human person is crucial in order to construct a concrete policy proposal which is worthy of the human person. Through highlighting the concrete work and achievements of agents of integral development such as *Caritas-Targu Mures*, we are developing a compelling proposal for the international community's approach to habitat and development.

Why a Summer School?

Reflecting the United Nations theme of 'Habitat' for 2006, World Youth Alliance Europe is launching its **Viviamo** Summer School programme that will respond to the challenges of habitat and development. Our partner in the project is *Caritas-Targu Mures* – an organisation which exemplifies consistent, effective and people-orientated work on the grassroots level.

Viviamo provides an opportunity to bring young people to live, work and study together. We recognise that the key to shaping societies and policies worthy of the human person is the training of young people in an understanding of human dignity. Through building networks of friendship and solidarity around a common objective, young people learn the *art of living* in a manner commensurate with their dignity. In addition, they gain a vibrant understanding and experience of the importance of affirming human dignity at all levels of culture and policy.

What are the main objectives?

1. To promote the principles underpinning successful projects in the field of habitat or development.
2. To train young people in an understanding of human dignity and the need to reflect this dignity in our culture and policy at a local, national and international level.
3. To build solidarity amongst European youth through intercultural dialogue.



How will you reach your objectives?

Through a morning programme consisting of **training and discussion**, participants will learn to understand and articulate the dignity of the human person. They will apply this understanding in the context of policy discussions through workshops on human rights language and development issues. They will examine together how this dignity should be affirmed in our approach to bioethical issues, family policy and global health challenges such as HIV / AIDS. Participants will also examine together the nature of human freedom and the impact of ideologies such as communism upon the human person. They will gain a living understanding of the cultural conditions which best facilitate the integral development of the human person.

Afternoon and weekend **cultural visits** throughout the two-week programme will show participants the importance of culture, art and architecture in affirming human dignity. The cultural trips and discussions, organised in cooperation with Caritas-Targu Mures, will provide a living experience of the power of culture, art, architecture and beauty in affirming an authentic vision of human dignity, creativity, freedom and possibility. Furthermore, the working example of our partner organisation will provide a concrete framework within which to test this vision of human dignity which grounds all of the activities of the Summer School.

Whom are we targeting?

Young people from ages 18 – 30 are invited to apply for the Summer School. **Viviamo** will provide the training, structure and support that these young people need to be effective agents of cultural change. Through experiencing the *art of living* in a way that fully affirms the joy, dignity, freedom and creativity of the human person, these young people will develop a true solidarity and sense of purpose. We hope that upon leaving the Summer School, these young people will feel inspired to shape and form their countries and communities.

How will the Summer School form its participants for the future?

The young people will gain an understanding of the need to affirm human dignity at all levels of personal and public life. The Summer School programme will encourage them to live the different aspects of their intrinsic dignity: freedom, joy, solidarity, self-gift, work and contemplation. Through the daily living of these ideas, young people will inject a new hope and vision into the culture. Through recognising the necessity of reflecting human dignity within the environments in which they live, young people will start to develop an understanding of the human person that will help shape many areas of culture and policy.

How are you going to select participants?

We will reach many young people through the networks we have established over the last five years of engagement in Europe and identify outstanding candidates by way of personal recommendations from cultural and youth leaders. We will also extend our Summer School invitation to European youth organisations and partner initiatives. World Youth Alliance Europe invites young people to send in applications for the Summer School by 20th June 2006. Applications are available on our website.

Why Romania?

Romania is a beautiful country of great cultural diversity as yet unknown to many European youth. It is a country where the living environment has been seriously affected by the communist ideology. We wish to highlight the link between living environments and human dignity in response to United Nations 2006 Celebration of the Year of Habitat. That link is made apparent when we study systems that denied dignity and their effects upon the living environment, art and architecture of a nation.

Why Targu Mures?

World Youth Alliance has developed strong friendships with the local people of Targu Mures through our 2004 Project, *Europe4Family*. This star-shaped bike ride brought young people to Brussels by bicycle from the four corners of Europe. One of the routes began in Targu-Mures. Participants from all over Europe were hosted by local families and in addition, greeted by the mayor and local press. We are delighted to go back two years later and work together with our partner organisation *Caritas-Targu Mures* to host the Summer School at a newly built youth centre in the town. We are also glad to partner again with the volunteers who helped make *Europe4Family* such a great success.