



STEPANAVAN YOUTH CENTER

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Photo exhibition Stepanavan, Armenia August 6-8, 2010

Stepanavan Youth Center (SYC) organized a photo exhibition in Stepanavan. The exhibition was a follow up activity of the European Youth Exchange "Smile! You are in Europe!", which was hosted by Stepanavan Youth Center in Armenia, July 18- July 25, 2010. The twenty-nine young people from Armenia, Georgia, Belgium and France who took part in the project represented over 15 cultures of the world. The project aimed to connect youngsters from the European Union and Caucasian countries, from privileged and disadvantaged backgrounds to share their social and cultural situation, to discuss the challenges and issues in Europe and Caucasus and to share their views and vision with the larger public using



photography as the main tool. This photo exhibition included pictures taken by the participants of the project in their countries and in Armenia.



The exhibition in Stepanavan was initiated and organized by 6 participants of SYC who

took part in the youth exchange.

The exhibition lasted three days and included different activities for the local community. The main aim of the exhibition was to involve the local community in spreading the results of Youth Exchange.

The exhibition opened on Friday, 6th of August. It aimed to encourage people from the local community to engage themselves in cultural activities and to show them cultural diversity. Additionally after a lot of questions from local people the volunteers also informed the visitors of the exhibition about the European Volunteer Service and SYC.



On Saturday, 7th of August - the second day of the exhibition, some activities that aimed to make the local community sensitive to cultural differences and to open their consciousness, were organized. The exhibition was accompanied by the airing of national and



local music originating from countries of volunteers. The activities of the day were concluded by showing the film “The Kid” by Charlie Chaplin. People were very interested in this movie projection and after the end of the movie they approached the SYC members to congratulate them with the event and to ask when the next film performance will be organized.



On the third and last day of the exhibition the main target audience was children and youngsters. On this day there were three different workshops where the children could take part. All workshops were organized in different parts of park near the exhibition place. So when the children took part in the workshops their parent could go around, look at the pictures in the exhibition and also leave feedback in the guest book about the ongoing event. Without taking part in one of the

workshops children, and also adults, could get various drawing on the face.

One of the workshops was origami - the traditional Japanese folk art of paper folding. The goal of origami is to transform a flat sheet of material into a finished sculpture through folding and sculpting techniques. The important thing was that children with all levels of experience could participate. Children liked to fold different animals from paper and afterwards personalize them with drawings. Some of them even asked if there were more models of origami to make.



Besides the origami workshop the kids could also participate in a dough modeling workshop.



In the beginning of the workshop the dough was prepared from salt, flour and water and after it was hand-molded into animals, flowers and other objects. Some of the older participants even created a little sculpture which they gave as a present to the volunteers who organized the exhibition and workshops. Besides molding and extruding, the children simply enjoyed squashing, mashing and rolling the dough.

In the third workshop children could participate in making paper ears and crowns. They could choose from six different templates and a lot of different colors to make animal ears or crowns. Children were creative - they mixed and





matched different combinations of templates in order to obtain an original result in the end. The children didn't only make the ears or crowns, they also decorated them with different shapes and geometrical forms (heart, triangle, circle, etc.) or drawings. A lot of kids liked this workshop so much, that they were making ears and crowns not only for themselves but also for other people present in the park and also for the staff members. By doing this the children also involved the people who were passing-by the place of the workshop and in the end the park became a more colorful and joyful place than on other days.