



Youth exchange
in the frame of Erasmus+ programme

IDENTITY THROUGH HERITAGE

Date: October 3rd to 11th 2016 (arrival day October 2nd, departure day October 12th)

Place: Ed-Dahariyeh, city **to the South West of Hebron** – South Cisjordane
City that had its historic center (Ottoman period) recently restored, with a guesthouse and a cultural center, situated between the mountainous and urban region and the desert (Bedouin).

Participant organisations: AECHF, Solidarités Jeunesses, YAP Italy, Baladna

Hosting organization : Association d'Echanges Culturels Hébron-France (AECHF)

Participants : AECHF – 6 ; SJ – 5, YAP Italy – 5 ; Baladna – 5

All the groups should be composed by 4 participants + 1 leader ! The participants should be aged between 18 and 30 years with exception for the group leaders who may be older than 30 years.

Financial conditions: According to the Erasmus+ programme. Accommodation and food covered and partial travel reimbursement after submission of travel proofs to SJ. Please refer to the document Financial guide lines.

Topic : Multiple identities linked to the place and cultural heritage. How does the heritage influence cultural identities.

What is individual and collective identity? The identity crisis in the era of globalization. Heritage, identity and contemporary life. Individual and collective heritage, standardization or cultural diversity? Are we ourselves or recruited in collectivities? Heritage: a landmark in contemporary society (globalization, migrations, mass tourism, etc.) a stable and unchanging element from the past? What is the link between identity and heritage? Heritage: mark of identity? How do you define your identity? What is the Christian, Jewish, Muslim heritage for you? Is this is your heritage? Heritage: the construction of collective identities. Ownership of the territory? Double identity, double heritage? bi-national marriage or bi-religious: what heritage(s) and identity(ies) for children?

Who decides what is heritage ? Who controls the identity ? For example, in a conflict zone, heritage is exploited. Who controls the past, controls the future ; who controls the present, controls the past. George Orwell '1984'. Heritage that we keep for us (as reference) and heritage seen by others (tourism). From local to worldwide heritage : current critics about the lack of coherence and reflection about what should really be world heritage. Identity and transmission (message) : how each collectivity should present their heritage.

Palestinian context: Heritage and identity in a conflict zone since more than 60 years.

Different religions, multitude of social groups/entities. From a territorial division to a identity division? 48 Palestinians identity: Israeli nationality, Palestinian claims, education problems at schools (denial of « Nakba » in school books), military service, etc.

Political context: occupation and colonization. Impacts in identity as an exaggerated nationalism, a different definition of heritage, a denial of a part of History. Is there a place for the individual? Work on personal and collective reappropriation.

European context: Different religions and social groups as well. Secularism and identity: how to find your place regarding the inherited religion and culture from parents natives from other countries.

Minorities: young generations of foreign origins, Cities: identity issues and space appropriation. Double heritage, double identity? Regional identities and claims: desire of autonomy. The "heritage at all costs"! Why keep the past? Western world frenzy to keep everything, museums, malls, local and regional identity sites, etc, and the costs associated to it. A rich heritage means a strong identity? "Conservation Society". Negations of history: forget parts of our "embarrassing" History. A part of European heritage in the hands of foreigners: they buying old houses in typical villages as second homes but also pieces of art, castles, palaces, monasteries, etc. Loosing heritage means loosing identity?

Suggested activities:

- Discussions and sharing different visions and points of view on the topic. Each participant should bring with him/her an object that reflects his/her identity and heritage, and to make a presentation of it in front of all the participants;
- Cultural presentations, activities by group, participants his/her city and its heritage;
- Workshop about their definition of heritage and identity; discussion about the questions mentioned above;
- Exchanges with local guests from Hebron and the region to speak about identity from their points of view
- Discussions with experts from the *Institut français du Proche-Orient* (IFPO) : modern history, identity, etc;
- visits to archaeological and historic sites and exchanges with local people and experts as well as quiz to participants regarding the local heritage of Hebron region.
- Creat testimonials from foreigners or with people of foreign origins who live in a different place since a long period of time. Do they still feel foreigners? Do people always see them as foreigners?
- possible discussion with of "Route 60" film director to speak about Palestinian identity.