



Youth vs. Crisis

From Maya Angelova GE Ambassador in Bulgaria

November 2009

On November 14th in Varna, Bulgaria a youth debate – “Youth vs. Crisis” - was organized by NGO IDEA and Bulgarian GE ambassador Maya Angelova. The debate was attended by 35 people, 5 guest speakers and media representatives. The public audience were mainly high school and university students aged 14-23 (mainly 14-18). They were invited through the mailing list with invitation from the local Youth Centre. The 5 guests speakers were- Krisi Petrova, student, from the club Young Entrepreneurs Club, Tanya Jekova (from the National Office of Employment in Varna), Nora Stefanova, HR specialist in AIMS- Bulgaria, Viktor Chudinov future psychologist (last year in university studying psychology). Media representatives from Bulgarian National TV- Kanal 1, BBT- private TV channel, national radio- BNR, Private radio Darik, ORV- youth media, and two local newspapers- Chernomore and Narodno delo.

The meeting was divided in the following parts:

- Maya Angelova presenting GE and the idea of organizing youth debates and meetings on hot topics every two months.
- Krisi Petrova presenting the crisis from the economic point of view, reasons for the crisis to occur
- Discussion
- Tanya Jekova- presenting the situation with unemployment in Varna Region and in the country in general and giving info on programs for youth employment
- Discussion
- Nora Stefanova- presenting the problem from professional point of view, which professionals are most likely to be needed in the future, which sectors suffer the most damage due to the crisis?
- Discussion
- Viktor Chudinov- is the crisis just economics problems? Does it affects us and cause stress?
- Discussion

The second big part was to focus on some recommendation for the Bulgarian parliament and to the European Commission as a result of the meeting. There was a focus-group created and what they focused on is:

1. Law for volunteerism and recognition of non-formal education from business (since it is economically "cheap" to have volunteers during crisis)
2. Secure and helpful system for students' bank credits
3. Interns to have clear and equal rights all over Europe
4. Development of rural areas in order to have some young people living in villages
5. Bonuses for companies who hire non-experienced youth
6. Making popular programs for euro-funds outside the big cities
7. Preparing young people for jobs as project consultant in order to help people who want to write projects for example for farms and etc (it is way not popular in Bulgaria)
8. Help for families who have lost their jobs (during crisis sometimes both parents work in the same factory and when it is closed they both loose their jobs)
9. Do not focus always on the capital when it comes to projects, good practices and etc. go out of the capital form time to time?
10. STOP CORRUPTION, PLEASE!