

Good Practices



SALTO-YOUTH  
EUROMED  
RESOURCE CENTRE



Education and Culture

Tools for Learning



# *Tool Fair-y Tale*

8 years of International Tool Fair

	Tool Fair 1	Tool Fair 2	Tool Fair 3	Tool Fair 4	Tool Fair 5	Tool Fair 6	Tool Fair 7	Tool Fair 8
Topics						Tool Fair theme: Youth and Culture	Tools for Changes Building bridge between formal and non formal education	Tool Fair theme: Creativity + Memory = Social Cohesion
Working days	3	3	3	4	4	3	3	4
Venue	Marly Le Roi France	Antalya Turkey	La Palma Canarias Spain	Evora Portugal	Venice Italie	Tallin Estonia	Pultusk Poland	Delphi Greece
N° participants	120	96	70	141	110	106	105	132
N° Tools	14	69	42	57	42	49	62	60
New Features	A Fair with practical technical workshops	Exhibition, lectures and partnership building		Adaptation to a historical site Partnership with the City of Evora and its University Increased visibility and participation of civil society Special role of young people in animating and developing several activities SALTO-YOUTH Centres workshops	Creation of a Tool Fair website where participants uploaded and evaluated their tools Creation and meeting of the European Tools for Learning Working Group	Reinforced role of the Tool Fair web site Increased role of the European Tools for Learning Working Group Introduction of 'critical friends' as support system for tools development Introduction of graphic visualization	3 specific spaces for sharing tools: the tools for learning Workshops, the Market of organisations' tools and the Open Space Tools Technology Structured system of 'critical friends' for reflecting and developing participants' tools Graphic visualization through comics	Introduction of structured inputs through graphic visualization/facilitation Inspiration by a unique historical site
	First partnership formalization with a University (Akdeniz University, Antalya)	Necessity to adapt the number of people to the place First time "Active discovery" of the Site	New activities: Young people animating the active discovery, photo contest... 1st time duration of 4 days			1st time to have a Topic	1st night of Invenfors The 1st use of a place as inspiration	

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## THE END IS THE BEGINNING

“Tool Fair, what is it?” it was my first question when I received an invitation to participate. It was 2006 and Tool Fair was an experiment under construction. Many Tool Fairs took place in different environments and now I can try to give an answer, even if it is just a part of the overall picture. In fact, Tool Fair appeared to be a complex event with many dimensions and multiple, also unpredictable, effects.

Tool Fair is about ‘growing’, as individuals, as non formal education practitioners, as learning community. It involves youth workers, trainers, representatives of institutions, youth policy makers, working in the field with diverse perspectives, in different continents of the world. Thanks to events like Tool Fair those people (we!) can connect, share, establish links, develop ideas and feel part of an active learning community. And it is possible to launch ahead the challenge of quality and impact in our daily work, in our mission.

During its short - and at the same time long - life, Tool Fair was developing year by year, adding each time new elements to increase and sustain the quality in the process:

- a Tool Fair website;
- general thematic items, to encompass the tools;
- a set of different complementary spaces for tool sharing;
- a Working Group, which is supporting the Tools for Learning strategy;
- "critical friends" for the tools for learning, a system to sustain the development of the tools;
- the graphic visualization/facilitation.

This year we have the last edition of the Tool Fair in the frame of the Youth in Action Programme, with a title “Memory + Creativity = Social cohesion”

Manuel Vazquez Montalbán, a Spanish writer, used to say that we humans are made by two constitutive elements that lead us to build our world: memory and desire. Memory meaning what we are, our values, our history and identity. Desire meaning the inner fire that moves us toward the unknown, the dreams and achievements of the future.

Therefore, exactly for these two purposes - celebrate the achievements of the past and get inspired for the future - this publication collects memories, witnesses and reflections of many of the actors that made possible, along the years, to reach the variety and the richness of dimensions of this unique event.

*Davide Tonon, the editor*

## TOOL FAIR: THE POWER OF IMAGINATION

The 8th edition of Tool Fair is about to be held in Greece, and it is time to look back to the successful story of a useful adaptable model. From the idea of the first Tool Fair, held in France in 2006, to the full inclusion of the Tool Fair as a pillar of the “tools for learning” strategy, seven years have been the theatre of the development of the model.

The Tool Fair is a place offering the opportunity to test and taste new tools, analyze, exchange and evaluate them, in order to valorise creativity in non-formal education pedagogical initiatives.

It is part of the Salto horizontal responsibility to support active and innovative answers to contribute to the quality development, recognition and visibility of the youth sector and non-formal education as a whole. For a long time, the main answer took the form of the online toolbox, which enabled youth workers to upload and discover tools. But what the online toolbox can't offer is the opportunity to share ideas and experiences within a "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" way.

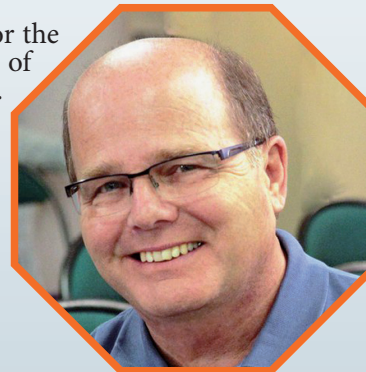
The Fair has been renewed every year, proving to be a flexible model to be adapted to the place and the needs of the moment.

The core concept of the Tool Fair lays in the opportunity it offers to test, analyze and improve the transferability of pedagogical tools. During three/four days the Tool Fair involves local actors and national agencies as well as guests from the formal education domain, and it offers different possibilities to share tools and experiences: tools workshops allows a deeper discussion about the tools presented; an open space enables participants to bring creatively other tools to light; a market give the chance to present organisations' tools and network freely.

During the tools workshops, the key idea is that every participant is active, or presenting or commenting, evaluating and feed backing who presented the workshop.

If the sharing spirit and structure has been similar for the past seven years, it is its permanent capacity of adaptation which has made the Tool Fair successful. Each place and Edition has its own characteristics, constraints, advantages, needs and requirements. The strength of the Tool Fair lies in its flexibility. Despite the common goals, targets, and structures, each Tool Fair was unique and brought its contribution to the pedagogical tools structure.

*Bernard Abrignani  
Coordinator of Salto-Youth EuroMed Resource Centre  
and designer of the Tool Fair*



## EIGHT (8!) EDITIONS OF TOOL FAIR

In this chapter you can find facts, figures and special features of each Tool Fair edition since 2006 till our days, with the comments of the Tool Fair coordinators and of the responsible persons of the National Agencies hosting it.

**TOOL FAIR 2006, 1ST EDITION - FRANCE  
1-5 NOVEMBER, MARLY LE ROI**



### FACTS, FIGURES AND SPECIAL FEATURES

2006 was the end of the YOUTH programme. The first edition of the Tool Fair wanted to take the opportunity to valorise what has been achieved during the previous 6 years in terms of creation of new tools for non-formal education.

The Tool Fair gathered 120 practitioners coming from 33 Programme and Partner Countries, including all the stakeholders of the YOUTH programme: young people, youth workers, trainers and National Agencies.

For 3 days the Tool Fair has been a "showroom" for the huge variety and richness of tools developed and used under the YOUTH programme, a place to experiment with methods and exercises used within the different actions (youth exchanges, EVS, youth initiatives, training) and based on different themes (cultural diversity, inclusion, cooperation with partner countries and others). 14 workshops have been run, presenting 14 tools.

The programme has been set up respecting the experiential dimension of learning.

Participants have been invited to organise active workshops where they could implement the tool they have created and propose it to the group. Then, after experimenting and observing what happened, participants of the workshop were invited to give a feedback on their sensation and their vision as youth workers and project leaders. For the first time the Tool Fair has invited participants to enable their tools to be used throughout the programme. "Savoir-faire" / "Know-how" gathered in order to create a "collective knowledge" to be used and developed.

**120 participants during 3 days**

**14 tools presented**

**A Fair with practical technical workshops**

### COORDINATING THE TOOL FAIR WAS

The first Tool Fair has been a great experience. It took us a lot of energy, but we really had the feeling, at the end, to succeed. For a few reasons:

- The profile of the participants was very diverse and the number of them was important!

- The team was little, and we gave 200% of what we could give. I would personally like to thank Stephanie Henry for her dedication, and the whole team.
- The informal feedbacks were very positive. People had the feeling they could meet easily others.

This experience made me reflect about the meaning of a tool: most of the time, it is seen as an answer. But this is not the case. A tool is nothing more than something used to reach an aim, depending on a specific environment (and especially the public concerned). At the time the tool becomes formatted, it has many chances to lose its interest.

The added value of a Tool Fair is to face and answer people's expectations and then move them to a new central reflection: how to use this tool? Then, the target group is in the centre of the reflection and the exchanges.

It took me more than one week to recover. Especially the last evening, with a great party and a great band.

It has been one of the best tools to learn about how to organise an event: learning by doing...

I've pushed my personal limits because I wanted so much this first experience to be a success and continue. This aim has been reached. Youhou!

I'll remember a long time the inspiring post-its Paavo (the one, the only one! from the Finnish National Agency) left all over the place. When I woke up and arrived at the central room, it gave me so much energy. Informal tools came from the participants and brought lightness.

*Clément Dupuis, coordinator of Tool Fair I*

## THE HOSTING NATIONAL AGENCY CORNER

2006 was the end of the YOUTH programme. The French National Agency and SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed and Good Practices (resource centre of the European YOUTH programme based in the French National Agency) - with the support of the National Agencies of Belgium FR, United Kingdom, Hungary, the European Youth Forum and the other SALTO-YOUTH resource centres of the YOUTH programme - wanted to valorise what has been achieved during these years in terms of creation of new tools for non formal education.

So a "Tool Fair" was organised in the Youth and Community Education National Institute (INJEP) in Marly-le-Roi, France. From 2 to 4 November 2006, more than one hundred participants and visitors, young people, youth workers, trainers, etc. coming from both programme and partner countries have experimented and shared learning tools.

The motto of this event has been respected during the whole event: "In the tool Fair, you get what you give". Participants gave a lot... and they did get a lot!

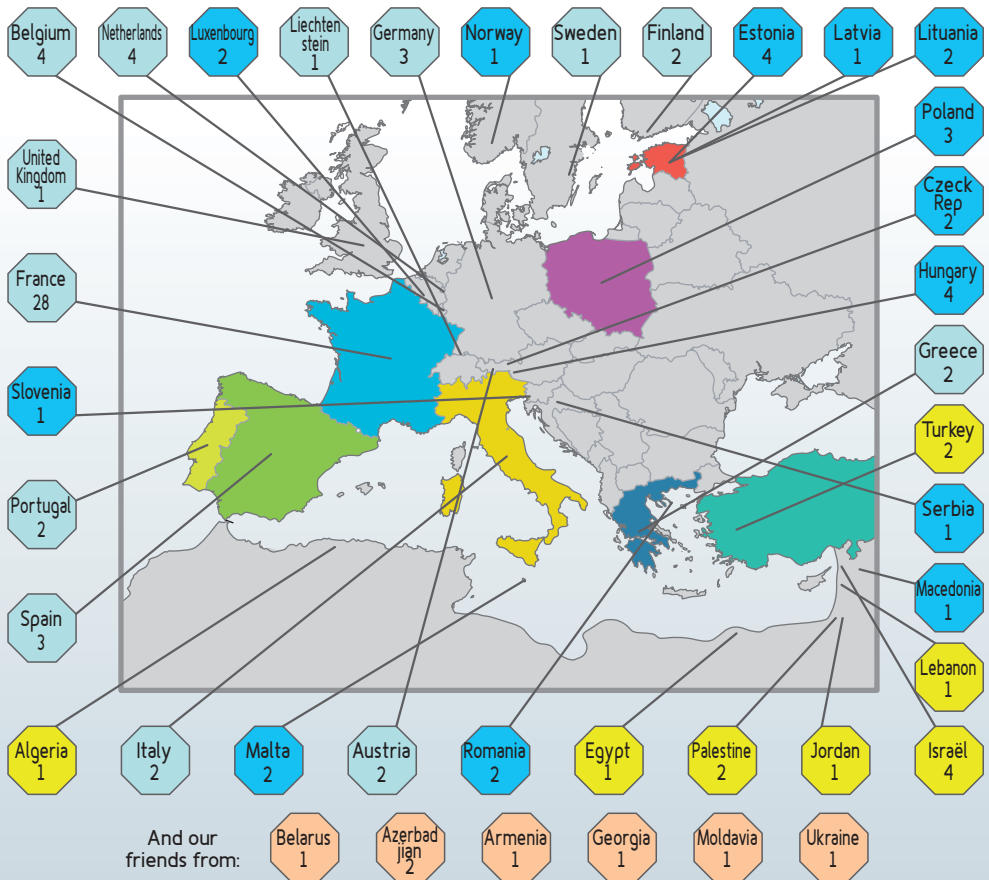
Personally, I have two memories of this seminar: as I was the Training and Cooperation Officer of the French National Agency since only 2 months, it was

for me a big challenge to manage the logistic aspect of such an event. And a nice anecdote: the French Consulate in a Neighbouring Country called me since a participant applied for the visa to come in France, and they asked me “Are you sure such a young person will have enough money to buy any tool during your fair?” So I had to explain them what we meant by “learning tool” in non formal education!

At this time, how could we guess this Tool Fair would be the first of a series of 8, each year in a different Youth in Action programme country? And what will be the future?

*Gilles Baccala,  
French National Agency for the Youth in Action Programme*

## PARTICIPANTS IN TOOL FAIR FRANCE





## TOOL FAIR 2007, 2ND EDITION - TURKEY 12-16 DECEMBER, ANTALYA



### FACTS, FIGURES AND SPECIAL FEATURES

Following the success of the Tool Fair in France in 2006, the Salto-Youth EuroMed Resource Centre in cooperation with the Turkish National Agency for the Youth in Action programme organised the second edition of the Tool Fair.

Three partners joined to prepare the event: SALTO South East Europe, SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus and the Akdeniz University of Antalya.

96 participants and around 20 local observers met during 3 days. 29 workshops were implemented (21 different tools presented in workshops, 3 workshops on technical tools, 5 workshops on tools for cooperation). Around 40 tools were presented in the exhibition. There were 3 lectures with experts. Around 50 project ideas have been discussed in the partnership building activity.

In the frame of the Youth in Action Programme, it has been an unique event as it has gathered non-formal education and formal education practitioners together.

96 participants and 20 local observers during 3 days

29 workshops implemented and – in total – 69 tools presented

A Fair with practical technical workshops, exhibition, lectures and partnership building

Formalization of the partnership with the Akdeniz University of Antalya

### COORDINATING THE TOOL FAIR WAS

The Tool Fair in Antalya brought a lot of work for us as organisers, a lot of positive energies and professional skills around, a bit of chaos in dealing with so many people and so different needs, including crazy logistic linked to large numbers and many different institutions and power spheres involved.

#### Key achievements were:

- Tool Fair kept going on; after the first it was not clear whether it would continue or not. The interest and support of the Turkish National Agency made it possible. We are honoured to see that now there we will be the 8th edition...

Turkish Tool Fair was the 2nd. We're working in a new promised land of educational tools, not very defined yet, and with many mechanisms to test and still to improve.

- Formal education and the non formal education fields met.
- Long term cooperation was established with Akadeniz University in the youth field.

- Trainers had the chance to share and establish new cooperation not only among them, but also with National Agencies and SALTOs.

We felt carrying a heavy responsibility on our shoulders. It was the first time that Tool Fair started to be known by trainers and that non formal education was welcomed by a University.

What was special? Turkish trainers organizing an unforgettable Turkish evening, using creative and interactive methods appreciated as a tool; the amazing professional skills of many participants and the exciting tools discovered (e.g. after all these years we still remember some educational card games); the trust and support of the Turkish National Agency, which meant a lot for us; last but not the least, it was not just an international event but it had a spirit and a huge multiplying effect.

We thought “if we manage this Tool Fair there will be space for other editions, otherwise this will be the last”. And it was a great success of participation, tools presented and cooperations established. It was worth taking the risk as coordinators, we wish you the best for the future Tool Fairs.

*Saro Rossi and Tugce Ciftcibasi, coordinators of Tool Fair II*

## THE HOSTING NATIONAL AGENCY CORNER

Wonderful story of Tool Fair had started in 2006 in France, and the excitement began soon after to prepare for the second Edition in Antalya, sunny and warm place of warm people in the South of Turkey, on the Mediterranean coast. It was



a challenge in the beginning to carry the Tool Fair spirit and the success one step further. The Turkish National Agency, SALTO EuroMed, and all other members of the prep team worked hard to organize a perfect second episode. Finally the little anxiety faded away and turned into a big pleasure together with the arrival of 97 youth workers/professionals from Programme and MEDA countries to the venue on the 12th of December 2007. The rest was full of learning, friendship and happy faces.

The event included many creative workshops. "The cross cultural discovery of the Louvre", "Religion trivial pursuit", the "EuroMed game", "The light house", "Blindman", and "Houston we have a problem" were among the quite interesting ones. Participants enjoyed the Turkish night.

Turkish National Agency felt the pleasure and honour to contribute to the development of Tool Fair, which has been one of the most creative and collective products of Youth in Action and EuroMed Programmes, would never be possible without the professional atmosphere of SALTO EuroMed.

Looking back over six years that have passed since the 2nd Tool Fair in Antalya, it is even more rewarding to follow the positive development year by year. The Tool Fair has become an astonishing intellectual product; a meta-tool over tools, a fairy fair, a steady instrument for non-formal learning. Congratulations to all who contributed to its development, they must feel happy, we do.

*Handan Boyar and Zuhul Akdag,  
Turkish National Agency of the Youth in Action Programme*





## TOOL FAIR 2008, 3RD EDITION - SPAIN 5-9 NOVEMBER, LA PALMA, CANARY ISLANDS

### FACTS, FIGURES AND SPECIAL FEATURES

In Santa Cruz de La Palma, Canary Islands, for 3 days 70 participants from 29 countries, including Meda, Eastern Europe and Caucasus, South East Europe and Programme Countries of Youth in Action, participated in the third edition of the Tool Fair.

Dealing with non formal learning, educational tools and Lifelong Learning, participants had the chance to learn more about the EuroMed cooperation, the e-learning community, the EuroMed game and experienced, shared, reflected and developed 42 tools classified and distributed in the following categories: thematic tools, generic tools, innovation in tools, tools for specific target groups, tools for EVS and for Youthpass.

In the space for partnership building, 44 proposals for further cooperation have been presented.

70 participants during 3 days

42 tools presented

A Fair with practical technical workshops and partnership building

### COORDINATING THE TOOL FAIR WAS...

The Tool Fair 3rd edition was held in La Palma, a nice environment and context to develop it.

My previous experience with the host organization, the Canary Islands Government, was helping me a lot to have a full support to develop the activity.

One of the positive outcomes of this Tool Fair was the clear need of distributing the task between a logistic team and a training team. It happened and it allowed the training team and the experts to facilitate the process of learning and participation without worries about logistic matters. Furthermore, we had the full support from the Spanish National Agency.

An unexpected and very positive situation was the emotional climate generated between the participants and the technical assistance team supporting the Tool Fair. They went beyond the contractual duties, involving themselves in supporting and resolving participants and team needs.

The major development made by this Tool Fair has been the distribution of educational tools in different types. During the previous Tool Fairs were established the basis for such classification, permitting a better management of the rounds for workshops, the timing and other aspects.

*Andrés Abad Pacheco, coordinator of Tool Fair III*

## THE HOSTING NATIONAL AGENCY CORNER

The venue to celebrate the third edition of Tool Fair, organized by the Spanish National Agency and the Government of Canary Islands, was the small island of La Palma in the Canary Islands Community. The activity was a major event on the island, with great media coverage, giving great visibility to the activity and to non formal education in the island and in whole Canary Islands Community.

The key element of this edition was youth participation and the tools and elements for building a society through social participation of youth.

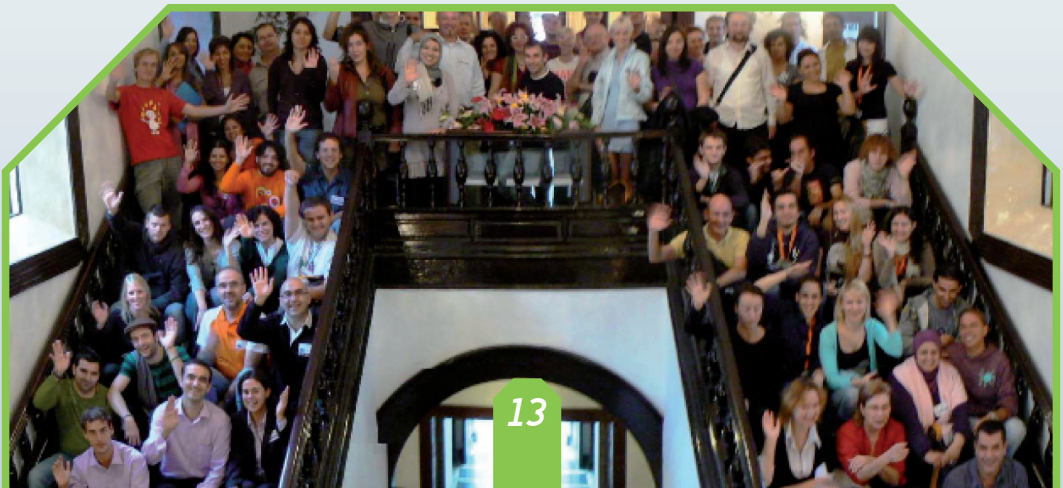
The Inaugural Conference, led by the professor of the University of La Laguna, was focused on the importance of non-formal education and the concept of “Educating society”. After she highlighted a project developed by the Canary Islands Government on all islands called “Participating we build society”, focused on encouraging participation from a transversal and holistic perspective in partnership with all the actors in the community. This concept was then reinforced by different competencies, experiences and tools presented throughout the Tool Fair.

Some aspects that characterized the development of the activity were: the rural identity of the island, the hosting way of the local community and especially the “Teatro Chico”, a 80-seat theatre like a “doll house” which conferred a special and welcoming environment to the Tool Fair plenary.

This Tool Fair also contributed to bring the current trends in the field of non formal education in Europe to some islands and outermost regions of the European Union: due precisely to that insular character and the ‘border’ represented by the sea, it is sometimes very difficult for the technical staff, youth workers and youth responsible of the islands to maintain links with what is moving on the continent.

**It was an unforgettable Tool Fair!**

*Juan Carlos Rojas Guadalupe,  
Spanish National Agency for the Youth in Action Programme*



## TOOL FAIR 2009, 4TH EDITION - PORTUGAL 10-15 NOVEMBER, EVORA



### FACTS, FIGURES AND SPECIAL FEATURES

During the fourth edition of the Tool Fair were involved a total of 141 persons from 34 countries, with representatives of 9 National Agencies (France, Turkey, Portugal, Estonia, Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, Lithuania, and Malta) and the SALTO Network (Inclusion, Cultural Diversity, Participation, Training & Cooperation, EECA).

57 tools for learning were presented through the workshops implemented.

The activity has evolved from a showroom to a new concept where young people played a main role:

a) the format, youth oriented, opened some activities to the local youngster's participation (a total of 17 NGO'S local associations from Alentejo Region), with an added value in terms of local impact and visibility of the Youth in Action Programme and the SALTO Resource Centre Network;

b) local young people involved developed several activities like the "Active discovery of Évora" and the "Photo contest" (with 452 pictures received, useful for the visibility of Tool Fair in the international framework).

The local partnership, supporting the activities in different levels (logistics, information, dissemination and publicity), became a pillar of this edition.

The live stream session by internet all along the 4 days brought a real innovation in the Tool Fair in terms of visibility.

141 participants during 4 days

57 tools for learning presented

Adaptation to a historical site

Partnership with the City of Évora and its University

Increased visibility and participation of civil society

Special role of young people in animating  
and developing several activities

### COORDINATING THE TOOL FAIR WAS...

Evora, a magic town which ambience and atmosphere touched the participants since the first minute they were in the streets, the squares, the walls...

It was quite difficult to coordinate due to the large number of local and regional partners involved: not only the Portuguese National Agency, which sent the whole team for supporting the activity (unforgettable to see all of them with

netbooks working in the reception room), but local authorities, a vocational training centre (which provides with an incredible number of volunteers to support the Tool Fair) and the local NGOs...

It was difficult too because the communications between the Portuguese National Agency and SALTO EuroMed Team were not so constant as desired, due to the activities developed by both entities in the previous months, requesting dedication and immediate attention to resolve the daily work...

The biggest result of this Tool Fair was the preparatory work with participants. They were actively involved in preparing the booklet of tools for make the selection of which workshop they would like to participate or to be involved before arriving to Evora. The strong support of a local partner, the Vocational School for Tourism and Restoration supposed and added value and a great help, because they resolved immediately any kind of problem or need and they supported the Tool Fair with a large number of students as volunteers.

*Andrés Abad Pacheco, coordinator of Tool Fair IV*

## THE HOSTING NATIONAL AGENCY CORNER

The 4th Edition of Tool Fair took place in a Palace in Évora, one of the ancient European cities, World Heritage by UNESCO, with a big representation of youth, in schools, university and youth organizations.

The Portuguese National Agency felt a sense of great responsibility for the impact of the event itself held in Portugal, and above all the synergies created with the stakeholders and especially among youth organizations.

The proposal was well received by public institutions and decision-makers, at local, Regional and National level. So the partnership created to support the hosting of this event resulted in an added value for the success of Tool Fair.

We engaged a young professional school and 40 young people, future professionals, were responsible for organize tool presentations spaces, cooking, serving daily meals and guide the participants into Tool Fair arena.

We wanted to give the opportunity to young participants in the Youth in Action programme to multiply their work through a “Picture contest” were pictures were sent to the Portuguese National Agency and the best 10 were chosen by a jury and became part of the Tool Fair Pictures exhibition.

Key elements of the Tool Fair in Portugal were: multiplicity of tools available,



## TOOL FAIR 2010, 5TH EDITION - ITALY 16-21 NOVEMBER, VENICE



### FACTS, FIGURES AND SPECIAL FEATURES

#### Facts, figures and special features

The fifth edition of the Tool Fair has been a combination of "laboratory" and "market" that has allowed participants to discover and experience educational tools developed under the Youth in Action and EuroMed Youth IV programmes.

The accent has been put on quality and feedback on educational tools, trying to renew the format of the Tool Fair and to increase its professional attraction. The idea was to motivate trainers and professional youth workers to consider Tool Fair a crossroads for challenging and fine-tuning learning tools.

It has been set a space for 110 participants from 35 different countries to share, to experiment, to discuss and further develop educational tools used within the different actions (youth exchanges, EVS, youth initiatives, seminars and training).

42 learning opportunities have been offered: 15 tools workshops, 10 laboratories, 8 SALTO workshops and 9 Agora activities.

A very important feature of this Edition was the creation of the Tool Fair website: it was used by participants during preparation and the Tool Fair to upload information, tools, make their own agenda and also to evaluate the presented tools.

Tool Fair in Venice meant also a step forward for the Tools for Learning strategy: for the first time was meeting the Working Group.

110 participants during 4 days

42 learning opportunities have been offered

Creation of a Tool Fair website where participants uploaded and evaluated their tools

Creation and meeting of the European Tools for Learning Working Group





## COORDINATING THE TOOL FAIR WAS...

“Why are you not considering the opportunity to be present at Tool Fair IV these years in Evora, in Portugal?” When someone from SALTO EuroMed is approaching you with such a kind proposal, pay attention, it might mean a long-lasting engagement! Once upon a time... everything started like this.

After being a participant in Evora, I received the proposal to be the coordinator of the Tool Fair V in Venice, in my country. And again... surprise... an entire island dedicated to the event, San Servolo. Believe me, a great chance to manage a tool fair right during the 10th anniversary of SALTO network: people can only expect fireworks, when you are simply starting with a candle. When you jump in such a huge and challenging situation, only two words come in to your mind: NO WAY!

The advantages to be part of a network is that you are not alone finally, and SALTO is able to welcome you in a warm hug of support: a general preparation meeting in Groix Island in France, a tool coach, the hosting NA contact point, a multifunctional website, a preparation meeting in Venice, a very efficient and equipped venue, the presence of representatives (officers or trainers) form almost all SALTOS, the possibility to involve extra logistic staff with specific competences and to invite some experienced trainers to contribute with theoretical inputs and tools laboratories. Such a wicked experience!

Now, seriously, the Tool Fair 5 has been characterized by a high level of investment in terms of preparation. Timing and organisation have been strong aspects in the process leading to the event. Cohesion in task sharing and a support process addressed to participants during all the year before the event have been possible thanks to an extraordinary effort in terms of coordination, between the different actors. The coordination was not pointed at a unique person, but it was a function clearly conceived and shared at different levels and moments, creating a common understanding among the entire working group.

The idea behind TF5 concept was to motivate trainers and professional youth workers to consider the Tool Fair as a crossroad for challenging and fine-tuning learning tools. A yearly opportunity to meet a specialized community interested to take part to a learning event, where it is possible to choose, on the base of our needs and interests as professionals, where to invest time and energies. A living exposition where to catch ideas that can be adapted to our working reality and where to meet potential colleagues for further cooperation in the training field.

In Tool Fair 5 we succeeded in settling the elements characterizing the tool fair nowadays. Creativity and innovation spirit are still offering a different tool fair every year.

Evora, Venice, Tallin, Pułtusk and now Delphi... 5 years have passed, I'm still in. Pay attention, you can be the next one!

*Andrea Messori, coordinator of Tool Fair V*

## THE HOSTING NATIONAL AGENCY CORNER

The Italian National Agency hosted the 5th edition of the international “Tool Fair” in San Servolo in Venice from the 15th to the 21st November 2010.

Around one hundred participants coming from all over Europe, South East Europe and Caucasus regions and from the Mediterranean area took part in 33 activities, laboratories and workshops while 44 tools were presented all over the process. In addition to the staff of Salto Resource Centres who managed lot of activities, ten non formal education experts participated to the event, fifteen trainers coming from Italy, Great Britain, Greece, Bulgaria, Spain, France, Germany, Hungary, Estonia, Belarus, Turkey, Armenia, Morocco, Switzerland and Israel. They shared educational tools aiming at enhancing the pedagogical quality of non formal education promoted by the Youth in Action Programme.

At the final evaluation it was expressed that “learning” was the keyword of the Italian Tool Fair. Indeed, for the first time, it was introduced the role of the “learning coach” who was able to support participants before their tool presentation.

Alessio Surian was the Italian expert to be invited to give inputs/challenges/food for thought for the discussion of the following days. Since many years committed to the non formal and intercultural learning and professor at University of Padua asked the participants some interesting and useful questions: What is a pedagogical tool? What are learning and practice communities? How do we move from learning to practice communities?

It was interesting to share these concepts among the Youth in Action communities as input to improve quality.

The Tool Fair has been a great opportunity for all to go further in the reflection about the quality in tools for learning and provide opportunities for sharing the working practices and discover new methods and to get inspired by new people.

*Adele Tinaburri, Italian National Agency of the Youth in Action Programme*



## TOOL FAIR 2011, 6TH EDITION - ESTONIA 16-20 NOVEMBER, TALLINN



### FACTS, FIGURES AND SPECIAL FEATURES

The Tool Fair has been hosted in Tallinn (at the Tallinn Song Festival Ground), European Capital of Culture in 2011, and this inspired the choice of a theme for it: Youth and Culture.

106 participants came together to explore some of the intersections of educational tools and culture. 49 learning opportunities have been offered: 25 tools workshops, 4 SALTO workshops, 4 Working Group workshops and 16 workshops in the Open Market.

Cultural awareness and intercultural learning are essential elements of European youth programmes and international co-operation in the youth field. What changes there have been in the concepts and practice of intercultural learning? What about cultural activities as tools in youth work and youth projects? Where are the potentials to use culture to foster cross-sector approach when addressing youth related issues? Youth sub-cultures - where are these heading to and what does it mean for youth work and its tools? What about some shared values, expectations and norms that govern the youth workers approach their work and interact with colleagues - the organisational culture? And after all, does something like a 'culture of tools' exist?

What about some shared values, aims, attitudes and practices related to educational tools in European youth field? Similarly to different cultural groups, there are groups of practitioners sharing the similar ideas or styles about educational tools...

And, seeing all this in wider context, how to understand the role of educational tools in developing the quality of youth work?

This edition of the Tool Fair aimed to contribute not only to the learning of each participant but also to the quality of educational tools and learning process on European level, complementing the SALTO-YOUTH Toolbox for Training and Youth Work and various publications on educational tools, in coherence with the European Training Strategy.

106 participants during 3 days

49 learning opportunities offered

Tool Fair theme: Youth and Culture

Reinforced role of the Tool Fair web site

Increased role of the European Tools for Learning Working Group

Introduction of 'critical friends' as support system for tools development

Introduction of graphic visualization



## COORDINATING THE TOOL FAIR WAS

I think I have been extraordinarily lucky to accept such a big responsibility to organize the Tool Fair in Estonia, after I have had the chance to participate in earlier editions in Turkey, Spain, Portugal and Italy. So, one of the core ideas was to try to fine-tune those elements that I believed could bring even more value to the event, while keeping all for what Tool Fair was already famous and useful for! BUT, even based on all that, I must confess that I could have never imagined it would be so awesome in reality! ✓

It was a truly inspiring but also challenging experience to work in such diverse and big co-ordination team of the event on international level, to co-ordinate the programme in all of its diversity and to see in reality all those funny little aspects we included in the programme to bring some specific “Estonian” touch to the event. Like, for example, a common singing event where approximately 100 participants were guided by a 19-year-old conductor to sing a famous song in Estonian. And surprisingly they managed in a very short time to become a choir, even coping with Estonian language. So, I planned the event as everything would be possible (and you might be surprised to realise at one point that it indeed is! ✓ )

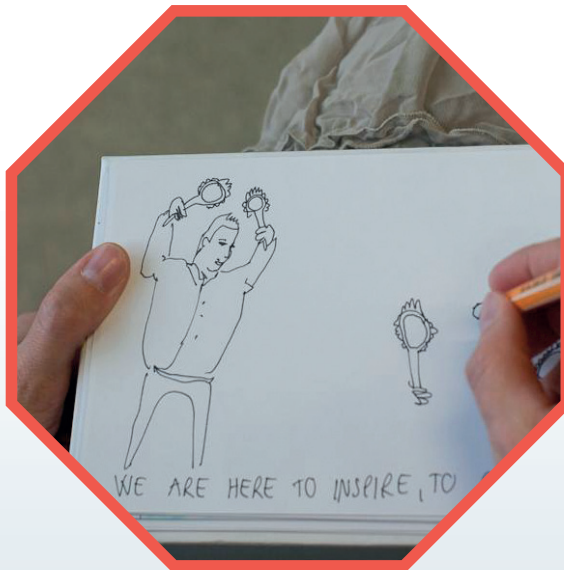
Coherency in its holistic approach, where small details made a big event: during the presentation done for the Youth In Action Information Officers Staff Training Awards, the Tool Fair in Estonia was considered as outstanding example of DEOR. We are happy that participants have appreciated it a lot and confirmed that it supported their participation well. Also, it was first time in Tool Fair in Estonia where we brought in the graphical visualisation approach as a new tool to enhance learning reflections from the process of Tool Fair, in co-operation with two young artists from Joonmeedia ([joonmeedia.blogspot.com](http://joonmeedia.blogspot.com)). I am very happy to see this approach now getting more widely used in international youth work.

I think Tool Fair is based on SO special concept and brings a great added value

to conceptualising educational impact of European youth field by opening so varied and intense learning opportunities for such diverse target group in a very short time.

And in a way it is surprising, that Tool Fair module is going through constant development and organisers do not just simply stuck in a comfort zone. Thanks to the diverse co-operation (engagement of “old” and new partners) and flexibility in adaptation of certain components typical for each Tool Fair, it is a really enriching learning experience – in both process and product (not to forget highlighting again incredibly enthusiastic people involved).

*Ülly Enn, coordinator of Tool Fair VI*



## THE HOSTING NATIONAL AGENCY CORNER

Hosting such a big-scale international event as Tool Fair in Estonia was a big privilege and a challenging learning experience at the same time. It was a demanding project that fitted our ambition very well.

In Tool Fair 2011 several “experimental” elements were introduced and tried out:

- exploring the potential of cross-sector cooperation: youth work and culture; youth work, non formal learning and formal education;
- involving youth in international event management, using power & competences of young people: i.e. youth work students from Tallinn Pedagogic

College worked as volunteers and got this accredited internship period as part of their studies; all meals in have been prepared and served by students of the Estonian School of Hotel and Tourism Management; 5 participants of the EVS short-term project “Jump start” helped in the construction of the venue; youth bands and young DJs took care of the entertainment parts of the programme;

- applying “Culture” as a special feature throughout the whole programme. A part linking the Tool Fair with “Tallinn, European Capital of Culture in 2011”, in the programme there were continuous references to the hosting culture, reflections on “the tool culture” and on culture of youth work as such (i.e. introducing innovative trends such as a research environment for drawing and learning visualization with Joonmeedia);

- fostering support for the learning process, with the appearance of the “critical friends” for workshop facilitators and the simplification of the e-evaluation;

- adding to the quality of implementation of the Tool Fair more attention to group dynamics and atmosphere, by adding daily elements supported by a facilitator (i.e. plenary setting like café-tables, common start and end of the day in plenary);

- introducing a unique visual identity (also the interior design for the venue) and tailor-made supportive tools for participation, i.e. Tool Fair booklets for participants.

The benefit for the National Agency was that we were able to realize our potential and having succeeded in this demanding task made us proud of our own achievement. At the same time the National Agency became more visible and recognized at national and international level.

Tool Fair 2011 has been awarded as the most successful event at IOST 2012 (Information Officer’s Staff Training in Youth in Action) awards. Inspired by the Tool Fair, a similar event has been realized at national level by the Estonian National Agency also in the frame of European Social Fund programme for youth field trainers. This event became well recognized learning event among trainers community in Estonia (and also inspired school teachers to implement a similar fair).

*Reet Kost,  
Estonian National Agency for the  
Youth in Action Programme*



## TOOL FAIR 2012, 7TH EDITION - POLAND 19-23 NOVEMBER, PUŁTUSK



### TOOLS FOR CHANGES

#### FACTS, FIGURES AND SPECIAL FEATURES

This edition of the Tool Fair, hosted in Pułtusk in a 16th century renaissance castle, put a special focus on the changes in our societies, in Education paradigms and in the European programmes which invite us to foster and renew our tools for learning.

The seventh edition of the Tool Fair gathered 105 participants from 35 different nationalities: trainers, youth workers, youth leaders and National Agencies, which shared and run around 62 tools for learning in 3 different and complementary spaces of the programme: tools for learning workshops, market of organisations' tools and Open Space Tools Technology.

The development of the tools for learning quality was fostered through a more structured system of the feedback and evaluation of peers and of the support of the 'critical friends'. These were the members of the Tools for Learning Working Group who supported the tools presenters – before and after their workshop - for reflecting on tools potentialities, possible improvements and transferability.

The consolidated Tool Fair website was a key tool for communication within the Tool Fair and beyond.

The Tool Fair VII received support by the cooperation of the Youth in Action programme National Agencies of Greece, France, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Romania and Turkey, as well as by the Tools for Learning Working Group, which back up the SALTO-YOUTH Resource Centres Network in the development and co-ordination of horizontal strategy on educational tools.

105 participants during 3 days

24 workshops implemented and, in total,  
62 tools for learning presented

3 specific spaces for sharing tools:  
the tools for learning Workshops,  
the Market of organisations' tools  
and the Open Space Tools Technology

Structured system of 'critical friends' for  
reflecting and developing participants' tools

Graphic visualization through comics

## COORDINATING THE TOOL FAIR WAS

The first image of last year Tool Fair that comes to my mind is a Polish renaissance castle, in which some participants were moving from a workshop held in a room with fireplace, crossing the long hall with a view on the river and ending up in a concert room. Yes, I think it is very important to prepare a special environment in order to create the atmosphere for a special tool for learning itself: the Tool Fair.



Recalling the time when our team was preparing it, I imagined Tool Fair could have been a chaotic mess with interesting inputs. At the end it was an organized chaos, the starting point for a creative process.

Tool Fair 7th edition made profit of - and at the same time consolidated - some features introduced previously: the web site, useful for a consistent preparation, for the setting of individual participants' agendas of the event and to follow everything in real time; the support system of 'critical friends' for the development of the tools for learning, with reflection-coaching-feedback of tools/workshops' presenters; and finally, the graphic visualization, this time through a comics' format.

The key point was the clear setting of different complementary spaces to work on the tools:

- Workshops: where many inspiring tools for learning were presented and the basis for further tools development were created, with peer revision and 'critical friends' support;

- Market: an open learning environment for sharing organisational tools and experiences;

- Open Space Tools Technology: a space for inspirational brainstorm and discussion about ideas and tools.

The whole event had for me the taste of a balanced recipe: tools, strategy (with inputs of the Tools for Learning Working Group) and spices (with activities combining local atmosphere and culture with participants' energy).

The interest and commitment of participants made the rest: people were 'plugged in' all the time, participating, contributing, feedbacking, running from one activity to





another, almost restless. The energy, interest and support from all the actors involved was rewarding and motivating at the same time. What could we ask more?

*Davide Tonon, coordinator of Tool Fair VII*

## THE HOSTING NATIONAL AGENCY CORNER

The 7th edition of Tool Fair, hosted in October 2012 in Poland, was a great experience and a huge work for the Polish National Agency Team. Preparation started a year in advance during the 6th edition in Estonia. I job-shadowed the Estonian colleagues in order to get into not only the spirit but what's more important for the organizers to feel the flow from technical and administrative point of view. Despite difficulties we met, the preparation and the event itself went smoothly thanks to active and cooperative team work and shared competences.

The most important thing is the networking. The Tool Fair wouldn't be as it was without its creators, working and expert groups as well as cooperation with other National Agencies. It is crucial to involve all those actors from the very beginning. It helps a lot to understand the needs, create great atmosphere and spread the spirit to the participants.

For sure it was a great pleasure to host this unique event in Poland and it was also a great experience for us as organizers. We are happy that so many people of the non-formal education sector had the chance to "touch" Poland and our culture. Also thanks to the power we gave Polish National Agency was indicated as one of the best Tool Fair organizers.

The key elements of Tool Fair 7 were connected with the title of this edition: "Tools for changes". The participants had the opportunity to meet a great team of experts on education and learning methods. We, as organisers, tried also to give them some spirit of "tools for learning" through a little festival of board and non-board games. Many workshops were also divided in different, alternative ways of teaching and learning.

What was also important was the playful character of the event: apart from the workshops, participants had the chance to participate in the castle game, cook together Polish recipes, enjoy a music concert and therefore, get to know the country and the venue (a renaissance castle) a bit better.

We were positively surprised that our idea to have the cook workshop was such a success! It seems that cooking gave tons of joy to international teams which under the instructions of Polish professional chefs created our traditional dishes and then... ate it with pleasure!

*Dominika Jagiełło, Polish National Agency of the Youth in Action Programme,  
Foundation for the Development of the Education System*

## TOOL FAIR 2013, 8TH EDITION - GREECE 4-9 NOVEMBER, DELPHI



### CREATIVITY + MEMORY = SOCIAL COHESION

#### FACTS, FIGURES AND SPECIAL FEATURES

The eight edition of Tool Fair, the last of the Youth in Action programme, takes place at the European Cultural Centre in Delphi, a unique historical environment. It will offer to participants the usual combination of “laboratory” and “market” experience of tools for learning.

Around 100 participants will have the chance to:

- share, experiment, discuss and further develop tools for learning with colleagues from international level;
- shape own educational and experiential pathways, by facilitating and attending workshops;
- have a space to reflect on tools, give and receive feedback and pave the way for their transferability and further development;
- celebrate and assess the process of the Tool Fairs and of the Learning Strategy;
- experience graphic reporting in order to strengthen the awareness of learning experiences.

This year the Tool Fair has chosen as inspiring theme: creativity + memory = social cohesion! It is expected to bring reflection on some crucial issues:

- Creativity and social changes are essential elements of European youth programmes and international cooperation in the youth field. What about tools to reinforce all this?
- What about creativity and social changes as crosscutting topic and approach in the youth work and youth projects?
- Where are the potentials to use creativity to foster cross-sector approach when addressing youth related issues?

**Around 132 participants expected during 4 days**

**Around 60 tools for learning expected to be presented**

**Introduction of structured inputs through graphic visualization/facilitation**

**Tool Fair theme: Creativity + Memory = Social Cohesion**

**Inspiration by a unique historical site**

## COORDINATING THE TOOL FAIR IS

Paris, 2006, Tool Fair 1st edition. The feeling is strange, different. I'm about to do 'The Flower of Identity', but this people are not participants of a Training; this people are trainers, as me, who came here to learn, to share, to discuss, to enrich themselves.

We begin, fascinating, I have to be both a trainer, as well as sharing-the-tool. I find myself debriefing myself ; I implement the tool in the typical way, for them to understand what is going on. Many questions, curiosity, approaches. ICL at power... During the next years, each time I did the Flower, the feeling from that moment in the room come to my mind.

March 5 2013. Via Whatsapp, Federica send pictures from the venue, description of the meeting she and Bernard had, I feel excitement in the air, a new activity is beginning.

May 27, Delphi. Tool Fair VIII – Preparation Meeting: 11 people around the table, the gained experience of 7 editions, and yet, a new setting. Delphi, history, Ancient Greece. How to put everything together? Key Words which pump up: Creativity / Culture / Arts / Performing Arts, From past to future, Continuing Integration – here and then.

We found the theme: Memory + Creativity = Social change, a revision of the whole process, applying creativity, from past to future, understanding that our different actions can bring to social change.

July, Washington. I'm in Washington the whole month; messages from Delphi, Malta, Italy, France, Belgium, you name it...the team is from all over and are all over; time is running, we have to upload the website, program, info for pax, logistics...I knew, but I really realize, this is not 'another activity' this is a Tool Fair...

October, Tel Aviv (on the beach ). Yes, we open the Iphone everywhere. As usual, visa issues...how to help? How to make everyone coming? More logistics, selection of tools, touching base with former coordinators, changes in the team, so many many details going on...excitement.

I'm looking forward – to be surprised, to be challenged, to charge my batteries, to share, to laugh, to learn, to be inspired and to inspire others, to see new approaches / methods / tools, to be creative, to experience creativity, to implement...

**Memory + Creativity = Social cohesion.**

*Claudio Kogon, coordinator of Tool Fair VIII*

## THE HOSTING NATIONAL AGENCY CORNER

We feel honored that the Hellenic National Agency for the European Union Programmes Youth in Action & Eurodesk, operating within the Youth and Life Long Learning Foundation, is hosting the 8th edition of Tool Fair. It is a unique opportunity to host such an international event that will be attended by 150 young people, trainers, and youth workers active in the field of youth and more specifically within the Youth in Action Programme.

During this even, participants will have the opportunity to shape their own educational and experiential path way, to share tools for learning with colleagues from international level as well as to participate in workshops run by others. However, the Tool Fair aims to provide a space to reflect on tools, give and receive feedback and pave the way for their transferability and further development. This way, the Tool Fair VIII aims to contribute not only to the learning outcomes of each individual participant but also to the quality of tools for learning and learning process on the European level.

This year we will celebrate the tools developed in the youth field in the most “creative “ and “memorable “ Tool Fair which will take place at Delphi, a unique historical venue in the Navel of the Earth!

*Anastasia Filini,  
Hellenic National Agency for the EU Programmes  
Youth in Action & Eurodesk*

## Tools for Learning key points

In this chapter are dealt some of the issues connected with Tools for Learning, which can be considered as core issues: what is a Tool for Learning? Which is the strategy on Tools for Learning? Who is supporting this strategy? Which are the points of contact between creativity and training tools?

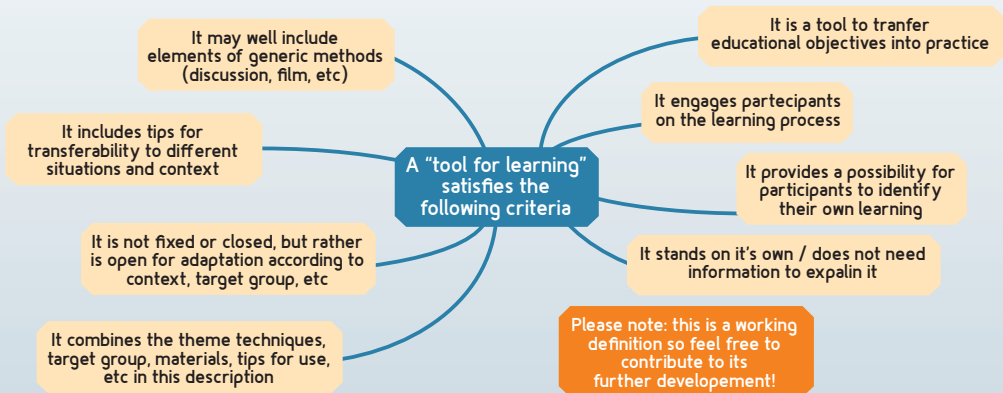
What is a Tool for Learning?

The starting point is Miguel Angel Garcia Lopez's working definition of "educational tools", which had been used in the recent Tool Fairs:

'An educational tool could be defined as an instrument to transfer and implement educational objectives into a practice, which engages participants in the learning process. An educational tool should "stay on its own". This means that it should shape a, might be short, but complete learning process with its theme, techniques, target group, materials, timing, evaluation, tips for use... It can be a simulation exercise, a creative workshop, a role play, an outdoor activity etc... A tool "staying on its own" does not mean that it should be something fixed or closed. When using it in another context it should be adapted, further developed, combined... Transferability is indeed one of the inherent characteristics and ultimate aim of any educational tool.

Experience tells us that punctual activities like a video, a booklet, a facilitation or a discussion technique are normally part of a tool and just in some cases a tool, an educational process with its own "personality".

From this definition the Working Group constructed agreed criteria for what they defined "tools for learning", in order to emphasise the context within which we work, namely non-formal youth education. They are used in order to evaluate tools in the current SALTO Tool Box and those which participants wish to present at the next Tool Fair. These criteria have been put into a mind map in order to emphasise that they are also part of a work-in-progress.



**Feedback and suggestions for further improvement of these criteria are welcome!**

## The Tools for Learning strategy

The Tools for Learning Strategy has three pillars: the Tools Publications, the online Tool Box and the Tool Fair annual event. Together these three enable Educational Tools to be presented, promoted, reviewed and developed. The intention of the overall strategy is to make Tools for Learning accessible and to engage users in discussion about quality and development.

**The Publications** such as the Practical Guides, Studies and Research and Newsletter are used as an educational background for engaging discussions, but also creating pedagogical reference to the strategy in the Non formal learning framework:

<https://www.salto-youth.net/rc/euromed/EMlibrary/emeducpub/>

**The Tool Box** is an online library where people can search for, review and contribute to the development of Tools for learning. The Tool Box relies on trainers uploading their ideas and on their peers to use them and provide feedback.

<https://www.salto-youth.net/rc/euromed/educmat/>

**The Tool Fair** is an annual event held in different European countries to showcase Tools for Learning and bring different stakeholders together to experience and discuss them. The Tool Fair also promotes the process of peer review and offers the insights of 'critical friends' for those who present a tool.

<https://www.salto-youth.net/about/events/saltotoolfair/>

The Tool Fair, Tool Box and the Educational Tools newsletter are already recognised as three effective tools and occasion the share ideas and good practices among the learning community about non formal education and youth.

Furthermore, SALTO identified the need to develop a working group about Tools for Learning with the aim of developing the overall strategy about quality and Dissemination and Exploitation of Results.

For this purpose, a 'Tools for Learning Working Group' has been set up to guide the progress of this strategy. The Working Group is made up of representatives of National Agencies of the Youth in Action Programme plus experienced trainers, coaches and facilitators. In addition to providing opportunities for the presentation and development of Tools for Learning, the Working Group also contributes to the wider dissemination of Tools for Learning beyond the youth programmes and into other areas such as Formal and Life Long Learning.

The Tools for Learning strategy is the responsibility of the SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed Resource Centre as a horizontal task on behalf of the Network of SALTO Resource Centres.

Benefiting from its decennial experience and human capital, SALTO EuroMed on behalf of the whole SALTO network would like:

- To take stock of achievements of the results obtained so far, particularly concerning the Tool Fair and the Tool Box;
- To improve the average quality of the educational tools developed and adopted during SALTO's training activities;
- To boost to role of non formal education at large, in particular to make of the Tool Fair and Tool Box venues and occasions for sharing good practices and ideas also with educators external to Youth in Actions programme.

## The role of the Working Group

### Interview to Jonathan Bowyer

#### *How came the idea to support the TFL strategy with a Working Group?*

The Tools for Learning Working Group was set up by Salto-Youth EuroMed Resource Centre as part of its horizontal tasks in the SALTO network to support. The first meeting was held in Venice in 2010 just after the Tool Fair but we really got to work in April 2011. At that time we were getting close to the end of the Youth in Action Programme but at that time had very little idea of what would be coming next. Never the less, we set out to provide opportunities for people to

- Present Learning Tools
- Interact about Learning Tools
- Develop Learning Tools

We also wanted contribute to the dissemination of Tools for Learning. Of course this was already happening in different forms but we had the task of promoting more opportunities and to think long term.

#### *Who is part of it?*

The working group is made up of a mixture of SALTO staff along with several independent people with a wide range of interests and experience - including training, writing, researching and youth worker education and youth policy.

#### **The team at the moment is:**

Coordinators: Federica Demicheli and Bernard Abrignani  
 Representative of SALTO-YOUTH Network: Karolina Suchecka  
 Experts: Miriam Teuma, Miguel Angel Garcia Lopez, Mark Taylor and Jonathan Bowyer

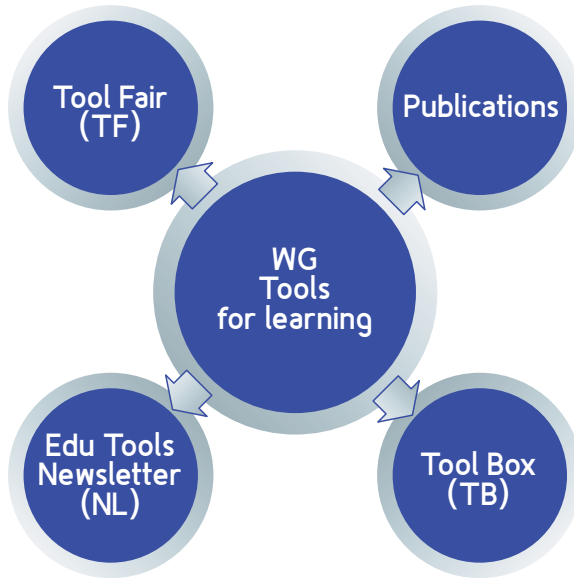
#### *Which are the main achievements of the Working Group?*

The Working Group is responsible for overseeing three activities, which are integrated together. The three “pillars” are

- The Tools Newsletter – which can be used as an appetiser or introduction and also a stimulus for discussion. We have published three editions of this now -
- The Tool Box – a searchable, interactive, growing library of Tools. This is a great place to look for ideas and inspiration but we also have a vision for it to become a place where the community of Tools for Learning users can contribute to the development of tools for learning – and to feedback on their experience of using them in real training situations
- The Tool Fair – a place to exchange ideas, a shop window and a place for peer development of tools for learning. If you have never been then I strongly recommend it to everyone who wants to develop as a trainer. It’s a great place to spend time reflecting and sharing experiences with other trainers in the field – and to contribute to the development of Tools for Learning.

#### *Which are the future challenges of the Working Group?*

Well it’s hard to know where the new European Programme for Youth will take us. Maybe we will need more versatile Tools for Learning that will be applicable in a variety of learning environments. Perhaps we can look to other sectors – like formal and vocational learning - for ideas to compliment our non-formal tools for learning. Within the youth field there is still a lot of work to be done to encourage the development of new and existing Tools for Learning.



*By Andrea Messori*

(abstract from Tools for Learning Magazine, October 2013,  
[http://www.toolfair.eu/files/INJEP\\_tools\\_for\\_learning\\_151013.pdf](http://www.toolfair.eu/files/INJEP_tools_for_learning_151013.pdf))

SALTO Toolbox was set up in 2003. During the introductory phase, all SALTO centres published the tools used by their trainers during their institutional activities. This practice has been dropped in the last 4-5 years in favour of a more hands-on role by the trainers, youth workers and social workers in uploading tools they consider worth sharing. Interestingly, one of the interesting effects of this change has been a decrease in the number of uploads and activated tools per year.

The Tool Fair, together with the European strategy on Tools for Learning, has become an official and regular meeting focused on tools, which is beginning to influence the quality of the uploaded tools. The decreased number of uploads per year corresponds to a more structured format for those that are inserted, nearer to the definition of a tool as elaborated by the working group on Tools for Learning.

In 2010, the first meeting of the working group of experts reflecting on Tools for Learning took place during Tool Fair V in Venice (Italy). Coordinating the



experiences, knowledge and skills of experts, trainers and national agencies is the most effective way of capitalising on shared experiences and defining a common strategy to realise SALTO's aims. The working group is composed of experts who act as a consultative group and scientific committee, setting up the strategy to meet the identified needs of National Agencies and SALTO Network. Benefiting from its decade of experience and its human capital, SALTO EuroMed would like to meet the following objectives on behalf of the whole SALTO network:

- Take stock of the outcomes achieved so far, particularly with regard to the Tool Fair and the Toolbox;
- Improve the overall quality of the educational tools developed and adopted during SALTO training activities;
- Boost the role of non formal education in general, more particularly by also making the Tool Fair and Toolbox venues and occasions for sharing good practices and ideas with educators external to Youth in Action programmes.
- This led in 2012 to the start of a process of transformation of the Toolbox from an online database to a learning community, aimed at establishing links between researchers, trainers and practitioners, stimulating their professional relationships based on mutuality and on the development of common content tools for the educational field in general. Attention was focused on the wider humanisation of the Toolbox and on the reinforcement of tool ownership as a common resource developed by groups of researchers, officers, trainers, youth workers and social workers. Multilingualism was also included as a fundamental condition for easier accessibility and facilitating the spread of non formal education practices at national levels.

### Creation and Training: meeting points

Article by Claudio Kogon, from Tools for Learning Magazine, November 2012, <http://www.toolfair.eu/tf7/?q=tools-learning>

Many trainers refer to creativity as an outcome of art forms, and when coming to speak about creativity, the fear of facing an activity in which “they have to draw their feelings” or “they have to move their bodies in the space according to...” just freezes them on the spot. But is creation only linked to the arts?

There are evident differences in how creativity is defined or understood. In some cases it is linked specifically to the arts, occasionally exclusively so. (...) In other formulations, creativity is seen as a more general human capacity that can be engaged in all, or many, fields of individual and social actions. (Robinson, 1997)

Creation is an intrinsic part of our life. To be creative is a state-of-mind, is challenging yourself at any moment to face the reality from a different point of view, in search for another angle, different, not usually comfortable...because only when we put ourselves out of the comfort zone we will be able to develop ourselves and grow. Yes, fear again, with driving forces.

Everyone can be creative, in every role in the society, in every job, in every profession. What is needed is to identify in ourselves the need to live life differently - every day in a new way, discovering, being active with all our senses, and not a passive spectator of life.

A...misconception is that creativity only happens in particular sorts of activities, and especially the arts. (...) Creativity is not exclusive to particular activities; it's possible wherever human intelligence is actively engaged. It is not a specific type of activity but a quality of intelligence. (Robinson, 2001)

This approach in daily life is intended to create new results, original ones (at least for us). Results which will serve us to live in a better way and to enrich and facilitate it. To identify and pursue our goals, to develop ourselves as human beings and develop the community and the society at large.

Society has to acknowledge creativity as the driving force of it; creative individuals will foster the society, bringing it to more developed stages.

Industry and commerce want those entering employment to show powers of innovation, initiative and application in solving problems and pursuing opportunities. (...) Creative thought and action should be fostered in all areas of education: in the arts they are central. (Robinson, 1999)

How can we fight unemployment without creativity? Young people have to be exposed to creativity and grow into it. Creativity has to be developed from an early age as an approach. Definitely, arts education could be one of the main vehicles, but not the main and only one.

## SO, WHY TO BE CREATIVE?

it is fun

it keeps us with all our senses "on"

it is challenging

provides new perspectives

allows to create new realities

develops self-expression

develops ourselves and the society

helps to solve problems

develops communication skills

facilitates employment

develops the capacity of adaptability and flexibility

...add your own reasons...

### **Can we be creative as trainers?**

Yes it is a matter of decision, but is intrinsically connected to our way of life. As far as we will live our life in a creative way, our work as a trainer will be creative - a matter of coherence. But if we don't live our lives in a creative way, we fear changes,

#### **Begin to be creative:**

Nurture yourself: do you read books? Do you listen to music? Do you walk in the nature? Do you watch your neighbourhood with other eyes? Do you speak to people? Find ways to nurture yourself from the different art forms (fine arts, performing arts) not only as a passive spectator but as an active person: write, dance, act. Allow yourself, don't fear. Walk in the nature, is the best creation ever, and be an active explorer.

Find sources of inspiration: identify your sources of inspiration and use them as a departing point when coming to create an activity.

Imagine: it is not only a famous song, but an act of human beings which allows them to create and experience realities, each person according to their own cultural background, personal characteristic and social context. It will bring you to a fantastic journey.

Dare: go ahead, try to find your own way, in personal as well as in professional life, there are no failures, just learning experiences.

Create: begin from little things, set the table in a different way, try a new sandwich, walk your city in a different way, with the lenses of 'creativity'. And then, bring it into your training work.

**Begin, it is much easier than you think...**

## Participants' point of view

### Anders Stenumgaard Lind, Denmark

Tool Fair has for me been a huge eye-opener to the enormous amount of innovation and creativity that takes place in NGOs, public youth centres and organisations working with non formal and informal education through out European Union, its neighbouring countries and the MEDA countries.

There is so much a positive energy in Tool Fair, so many new tools, so many great new or further developed ideas and variety of projects going on everywhere in the field of youth work. Tool Fair for me is a "status picture" of what is actually going on, right now, within the youth programmes. It's an open possibility to actually see and test the quality of the projects within the programmes with your own eyes..... and its happening LIVE!

I have had the honour to be selected for Tool Fair a couple of times and have also been selected to present tools and projects from my organisation e.g. "The Anholt Project".

To present a tool at Tool Fair always generates lots of feedback from other participants and even suggestions how to improve your tool or project. Tool Fair is organic ;- ) its alive and vibrating and definitely not static.

I always came back from Tool Fair with lots of new ideas for new projects in my organisation. I always make new friends and always find new project partners for future corporations.

Tool Fair is also the perfect platform to show the world of more formal education the power and impact of non formal educational tools and methods in real life. It's a huge opportunity to pass on this big bowl of knowledge and tools on to decision- and policy makers in the field of formal education.

Finally in terms of formation or creating self motivation among young people with no formal educational background, Tool Fair and non formal education in general, provides fantastic tools and pedagogical approaches that has already made amazing results, and I'm pretty sure they will continue to do so, in the future to come.

Thanks to all of you for letting me to be a part of this.

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### Maruša Naglič, Slovenia

Picturesque scenery of Pułusk Castle, around 80 trainers, youth workers and youth leaders from all over the world, ideas bubbling up and evolving ...

Tool Fair was a wonderful spark of inspiration, resulting in new friendships, new ideas and new tools starting their journey around the world. One of it's major advantages was definitely diversity in all possible ways – in approaches used as well as in the group

of participants coming from different cultures, different backgrounds and having various interests.

Our days were filled with working with tools in different ways, having some workshops and tools market. But you know how in every conference people get most from coffee breaks?:) Well, our wise organizers were well aware of that so they also gave us an opportunity to share things we feel passionate about in a non-formal, non-binding way, using Open Space Technology. This was the part where I participated most actively, by suggesting a topic very dear to me - Use of Non-formal Learning Methods in Formal Education. To my excitement, the topic raised quite some interest and evolved in a nice discussion, tackling situation in different countries, identifying problems and ideas how to approach them. I was really happy to have found people, who share my passion for this topic and exchanged contacts with them.

But this was not the end yet. The evening programme was rich as well, varying from masquerade ball to many board games and at one point we even found ourselves cooking traditional Polish Pierogi and other delights, supervised by top chefs.

What I took home from Tool Fair were some new tools I could use in my work, contacts of cool people I met, memories of fun and crazy moments and lots of inspiration for my work as a trainer.

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### **Abbas Sibai, Lebanon**

I have participated at the Tool Fair VII in Poland as youth worker, trainer and youth leader. I was able to represent my organization "Aie Serve" which is working on youth empowerment and promoting new tools for volunteering.

It provided me with the possibility to experience a unique combination to my fellow trainers and to discover tools for learning to be used in my trainings in EuroMed Youth field.

During the Tool Fair I was exposed to new education paradigm between formal and non-formal education and also be aware of young people experiences interacting with their communities.

I was able to share tools that I have developed in the field of professional development for youth works, marketing and sustainability for youth organizations, and new tools to outreach for young people.

This experience allowed me to interact with fellow colleagues and to provide me with a constructive criticism that allowed me to enhance my tools and make it transferable to others.

Also, as participant of TOTEM II, I was able to engage and consult other trainer on the trainer's charter which was developed by the participants of EuroMed future trainers in October 2012.

## Eike Totter, Germany

The Tool Fair is a remarkable and maybe even unique event where professionals of (international) youth work (and also beyond) can share their experience and good practise in a highly condensed, well structured, carefully hosted and diversely casted framework.

The Tool Fair's most valuable resource are its around 100 actively contributing participants and this resource is made accessible in a well-balanced program that fulfils a variety of different needs and approaches of learning from and with each other. This strategy ensures a creative and supportive atmosphere that allows sustainable impact – and sometimes even for deep impact.

Being able to relate to so many stakeholders is an incomparable instrument of quality assurance. Not that it is possible to collect new tools for my own work, also is the Tool Fair an appropriate frame to discuss urgent issues in training, to develop new tools or to check back old ones.

Being able to present “my” own tool was a great opportunity! I introduced the already well-elaborated method of language animation to a new public – and witnessed how both changed in a beautiful way! I needed to adopt it and got rewarded by comments and propositions that were totally new to me – a win-win situation for all. This public will make any tool more appropriate for different situations, for special needs and aims. Priceless: the Tool Fair is a think tank!

Briefly, taking part in this adventure is highly inspiring, motivating and enabling – let alone the great opportunity to get to know a large number of colleagues in “real life” situations – which means also to extend the own network with people that “fit” into it. Okay, one little flaw remains: It will always be a day too short to finish that last thought, to start that next discussion and to get to know that other person that was smiling all the time from afar. So what?

Congratulations, and long may you run, Tool Fair!

### Resources for this publication

- Interviews/contributions of: Tool Fair coordinators, representatives of hosting National Agencies of the Youth in Action Programme, coordinators/representatives/experts of the Tool for Learning Working Group
- Contributions/questionnaires of Tool Fair coordinators compiled by Mark Taylor for the article "A great adventure! Organising the Tool Fair over the years", Tools for Learning Magazine, October 2013
- Tools for Learning Magazine, November 2012
- Tools for Learning in non formal education, November 2012
- Tools practical guide, 2012
- SALTO-YOUTH web pages about Tool Fairs

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Reference web links

SALTO-YOUTH Tool Box:

<http://www.salto-youth.net/tools/toolbox>

European Training Strategy:

<http://www.salto-youth.net/rc/training-and-cooperation/trainingstrategy>

Good Practices



SALTO-YOUTH  
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Education and Culture

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## "National Agencies of Youth in Action Programme"

PORTUGAL



FRANCE



ESTONIA



POLAND



SPAIN



ITALY



GREECE



TURKEY

Participants in 8 years of Tool Fair: 900 / Tools presented: 395