

PRESS INFORMATION

Vienna, 7 May 2008

**300 YOUNG PEOPLE FROM 24 COUNTRIES PRESENT THEIR IDEAS ON
INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE OVER 4 DAYS IN STYRIA**

*** Final event of CREATIVE THINKING: 4-day Dialoguing Youth Event in
Graz/Seggau and in Maribor**

*** 26 May 2008: Long Night of Intercultural Dialogue in the Joanneum Museum in
Graz**

On 25 - 26 May 2008, 300 pupils and teachers from 24 European countries will present the results of their work and put them forward for discussion in workshops which they have designed themselves and at a Market of Ideas. The working groups of the school partners from Luxembourg and Oberwart, Maribor and Gozo, Vilnius and Kosice and 17 further teams will meet in Seggau and will bring the results of their cooperation on intercultural dialogue with them from their home countries: stories, poems, works of art, home-made dictionaries, games, films, podcasts, dances and performances.

This is followed by the evening programme: the Long Night of Intercultural Dialogue in Graz from 18.00 onwards. Four museums in Graz will open their doors especially for the participants for the participants of CREATIVE THINKING and offer special guided tours on our main focus of intercultural dialogue. On 27 May 2008, the participants will get to know the city of Maribor from the perspective of Slovenian pupils who will guide them through their city. At the closing event in the Narodni dom in Maribor, experts will take part in a panel discussion on the topic of cross-border cooperation with the title *Living together, learning, working*.

From the Market of Ideas to the Long Night of Intercultural Dialogue

The young people will present their themes and projects in workshops, report on their experiences and discuss and evaluate their results with other participants. At the Market of Ideas, these project results will be presented to an interested public at exhibition stands.

Long Night of Intercultural Dialogue in Graz

The evening of 26 May is dedicated to the motto of CREATIVE THINKING 'for the innovative management of cultural diversity': at the Long Night of Intercultural Dialogue in the Joanneum Museum of the province of Styria in Graz, all of the participants of the Dialoguing Youth Event can enjoy special guided tours, workshops and discussions organised just for

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them. The following locations will be opened from 18.00 to 22.00: the State Armoury of Styria, the Old Gallery and the Coin Cabinet in Schloss Eggenberg, the Kunsthaus Graz and the Museum of Ethnology.

School partnerships which overcome distances of 2,500 km: innovative methods of cultural communication

At the opening of CREATIVE THINKING in January 2008, the schools entered into partnerships with each other and formed cross-border teams which worked on a wide range of projects up until the major event in Styria.

For example, the 2nd Gimnazija Maribor / Slovenia and the Sir M. A. Refalo Centre from Gozo / Malta worked together on the project Crossing East-West-North South. The pupils of the two schools reported on the view of art in their countries in monthly podcast series. In the project "How I see myself in a tolerant world", pupils from Austria, Russia and Finland exchanged so-called *Moodboxes* with everyday items belonging to them. This led to the creation of a joint art project in the style of popular children's books: in a book of photographs, the heads, torsos and legs of Russian, Austrian or Finnish young people can be combined at will.

The European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008

The objective of the European Year is to raise awareness among a broad public – particularly young people – for the significance of intercultural dialogue and to make it possible for people to experience cultural diversity as enrichment and a chance. The Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, the Arts and Culture has taken this opportunity to invite young people and adults from all over Europe to CREATIVE THINKING. The project was organised and implemented by KulturKontakt Austria.

Innovative approaches to cultural diversity in all areas of life.

CREATIVE THINKING is intended to make people want to explore the issue of cultural diversity; it aims to provide impulses for creative forms of interaction and to highlight the potential and resources which this diversity holds. 'Creative Thinking together' is the motto. CREATIVE THINKING provides a space for innovation and creativity. Experts, artists and cultural educators make their know-how available and support the creative process and the joint work with innovative methods and exciting content.

Event locations:

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KulturKontakt Austria arbeitet mit Unterstützung durch das

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Seggau Castle, Monday 26 May 10.00 – 17.00

Seggauberg 1, 8430 Leibnitz

www.seggau.com

How to get there: http://www.seggau.com/site/lang_de/330/default.aspx

Long Night of Intercultural Dialogue in the Joanneum Museum

Monday 26 May 18.00 - 22.00

In the Styrian State Armoury (*From Graz to Istanbul!*), the Old Gallery and the Coin Cabinet in Schloss Eggenberg, *Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary. The Collection as Aleph* in the Kunsthaus Graz, and the special exhibition *Blood, Sweat and Tears* in the Museum of Ethnology.

Press contact / appointments:

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For further information see: www.projekt-querdenken.eu

The first results of the young people's work can be viewed in the [Projektschaufenster](#) of the website.



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