



# Information Kit





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Bennostr. 5

48155 Münster

Tel.: 0049 251 60 96 73

Fax: 0049 251 60 96 777

E-Mail: [geschaeftsfuehrung2@bennohaus.info](mailto:geschaeftsfuehrung2@bennohaus.info)

Web: [www.youth4media.eu](http://www.youth4media.eu), [www.europeanweb.tv](http://www.europeanweb.tv)



# Authors:

Helena Potthast

Defne Kadioglu

Cagdas Özbakan

Katarzyna Dudziak

Aleksandra Franczak

Miguel Cerrato de Prado

Anna Schlottbohm

Ines Fernandez Tuesta

Natalia Kostrikova

Elena Bogdanova

Magdalena Gnyp



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## What is Youth in Action?

Youth in Action is the youth programme of the European Union. It targets young people of the ages of 15 to 28 (in some cases 13 to 30). Its aim is to include young people's vision in shaping the future of the European Union and to promote intercultural dialogue, alternative ways of learning and knowledge exchange and the inclusion of all young people regardless of their social, educational or cultural background. The Youth in Action Programme contains five main actions which will be explained in this reader.



## What is in this reader?

In this reader you can find basic and clear information about the Youth in Action Programmes five actions. You can find out how to join and/or apply for a project and look at examples of projects that have been conducted so far. There is also some information on the Youth in Action TV project under which this booklet has been produced.



## What is a NGO?

### NGO

A NGO is a non-governmental organization that is independent from state institutions and any government. There are local, regional, national and international NGOs. Your local citizen's or youth center can qualify as NGO, as well as huge organizations such as Amnesty International. A lot of NGOs are non-profit organizations at the same time, that means that they do not keep any of the money they receive through project funds or donations but spent it wholly for the pursuation of their goals. A youth NGO for example that receives a grant from the European Union for a youth project must use all of the budget to realize the project in the best possible way. The easiest way to get involved in a Youth in Action project is through a NGO. You can either become a member of an NGO and participate in the projects or you can write a project yourself and apply in the name of the NGO you are a member of.

## Which are the programme countries?

The organizations that apply for Youth in Action funds must be resident in one of the program countries. These are: All EU member countries, the EFTA countries (Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland) and the pre-accession countries (Turkey). There are some limited opportunities for program countries to launch joint projects with neighboring partner countries (South-East Europe, Eastern Europe & Caucasus and the EuroMed countries around the Mediterranean Sea).



Member States of the European Union (EU) <sup>7</sup>		
Austria	Germany	Netherlands
Belgium	Greece	Poland
Bulgaria	Hungary	Portugal
Cyprus	Ireland	Romania
Czech Republic	Italy	Slovak Republic
Denmark	Latvia	Slovenia
Estonia	Lithuania	Spain
Finland	Luxembourg	Sweden
France	Malta	United Kingdom

Programme Countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) which are members of the European Economic Area (EEA)		
Iceland	Liechtenstein	Norway

Programme Countries which are candidates for accession to the European Union		
Turkey		

## Action 1 - Youth for Europe

Action 1 supports three main types of activities: Youth Exchanges, Youth Initiatives and Youth Democracy Projects. The aim is to promote a sense of 'Europeanness' among young people from all over Europe.

### Sub-Action 1.1 - Youth Exchanges

The aim of Youth Exchanges is to get groups of young people from different countries together so they can explore their social and cultural differences and similarities. They receive the unique opportunity to experience peer education situations and to strengthen their feeling of being Europeans.

Youth Exchanges are targeted at young people between the age of 13 and 25. In order to participate in Youth Exchanges you need to be a member of a youth NGO in your country.



Israeli and German Youngsters while shooting and editing.

### Example:

In August 2008, ten German Youngsters met with ten Israeli Youngsters. Next to a lot of freetime activities, they worked on creative short movies. During ten days they learned to deal with a video camera and an editing system. The topic of the movies they made was the common past in the time of the Holocaust. While working very close together the youngsters overcame prejudices and made friends. They visited historic places and a school where they made interviews trying to find out how big the fears of contact of Germans and Israelis still is. Two nice videos and a lot of friendships were the result of this Youth Exchange.

## Action 1 - Youth for Europe

### Sub-Action 1.2 - Youth Initiatives

Youth Initiatives are projects, made planned and implemented by young people at local, regional or national level. The goal of these projects is to stimulate young people's creativity, enterprise and initiative.

Youth Initiatives are aimed primarily at 18-30 year olds, but 15-18 year olds can take part if accompanied by a coach or youth worker. You can get involved in a Youth Initiative whenever a youth NGO implements local, regional or national activities such as seminars, debates, competitions, conferences, etc.

#### Example:

In 2008 the youth organization 'Next Media Group' from Latvia organized a video competition for young people against bad habits, as well as conducted a master class on making social advertisements for nine winners. Aims were to involve young people in a problem solving process and to fight their bad habits.



## Action 1 - Youth for Europe

### Sub-Action 1.3 - Youth Democracy Projects

Youth Democracy Projects aim at involving young people in the democratic process at local, regional and European level. The objective is to provide young people with ideas about and experiences of democracy.

Same as with national initiatives - you can get involved in a Youth Democracy Project whenever a youth NGO implements activities in collaboration with politicians or officials such as panel sessions, political debates, study visits to governmental institutions and more.



## ACTION 2 - European Voluntary Service

Are you between 18 and 30 and willing to spend from two up to 12 months abroad as an EVS volunteer? Then the European Voluntary Service could be your future plan:

### **What is European Voluntary Service?**

This is about to cooperate as a volunteer in an organization of an European country for three weeks minimum (short-term project) up to twelve months (long-term projects).

A successful EVS project requires close cooperation among at least three key players: a sending organisation, a host organisation and the volunteer. Organisations perform a number of roles: they identify volunteering opportunities and develop projects that benefit the local community. They also recruit and prepare the volunteers, host them, and ensure follow-up.

The international mobility programme allows young people to perform a volunteer project from 6 to 12 months in an NGO in any country of the European Union, member countries of the European Economic Area or Turkey, the current candidate. The areas of project development in NGO's are very diverse, from the social field with various groups, the arts, people at risk of exclusion, or European youth information, environment and culture and media. Through EVS you can live a unique personal experience outside your home and actively contribute to the development of a community very different from yours, as well as establish strong ties with other individuals and organisations.



## ACTION 2 - European Voluntary Service

### What is provided?

It covers **accommodation**, who seeks your host organisation-with the **cost of electricity, water and internet**. A **language course** of one month from the language spoken in the target country. **Health insurance**. **Transport costs** to and from the host organisation **pocket money** for your feed. Volunteering can not exceed 30 hours per week and includes two days free a week and a holiday period. They also pay transportation to work. It is forbidden to take another job or additional salary. During the year you'll take part in three **EVS trainings** together with more volunteers of different nationalities. The training includes travel expenses, meals and lodging.

### Youthpass

After completing the European Volunteer Service, you get a document called "Youthpass"<sup>1</sup>, indicating the tasks performed and knowledge gained during the EVS.

### Requirements:

To be between 18 and 30 years old. Reside in a EU state or associated. No need to speak the language of fate, but is valued, if not, English is used. This depends on the chosen project.



European Volunteers during an EVS Training Seminar



## ACTION 2 - European Voluntary Service

**Destinations:** [http://ec.europa.eu/youth/evs/aod/hei\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/evs/aod/hei_en.cfm)

This is the project directory, no need to fill in each box.

Search by country or by theme, indicating "**Host organisation**" in "Type of accreditation".

You'll see many types of organisations that offer EVS projects: environmental organizations, media, sports, cultural, social integration, etc.

### **Getting Started:**

Choose a project: Send your CV in English or the language spoken at your destination.

Send a **letter of motivation** explaining why you want to volunteer in this project. You can apply in several projects at once and have more chance of being accepted into one.

Once accepted into a project, search the directory what is your sending organization. Enter your city of residence and in "Type of accreditation" put "**Sending organization**". Send them your CV and details of the project that you have accepted (e-mail, website, etc).

**Tip:** Take your time to choose the project and ask all your questions to the host organization in order to enjoy your stay.

Through EVS you can live a unique personal experience outside your home country and actively contribute to the development of a community very different from yours, as well as establish strong ties with other individuals and organizations.

### **Quotation:**

One of the most fun aspects of the EVS is the three trainings. First I went to one in Spain, before the year EVS, where I met other Spanish Volunteers. After that, I went in two trainings in Germany during a week with other volunteers from many countries. Here we receive information about our rights as an european volunteer, but the best was meeting young people across Europe. Now I have friends in a lot of countries. ***Ines Fernandez***



## Action 3 - Youth in the World

Action 3 of Youth in Action programme gives opportunity to exchange between European Union and neighbours. This action is similar to Action 1. (Youth in Europe) but differs in some aspects. Especially that non- EU countries can join the programme.

'Youth in the World' action helps to make strong relation between different nations and cultures. It gives opportunity to take part in exchanges which include non-formal education activities.

**There are two Sub-Actions in 'Youth in the World' programme.**

**3.1 - Co-operating with EU neighbours:** is open to partner countries which are not part of EU. The aim is to empower young people to play an active role in their societies and to develop democracy.

**3.2 - Co-operating with other Partner Countries** of the world is open to all Partner Countries around the world that have signed a youth-related agreement with the EU. The aim is to develop partnership and network between youth organisations from all over the world.

### **Attending rules:**

age: 13 to 25 (in special cases from 13 to 30)

number of participants: 16 to 60 (plus leaders of the groups)

length of the exchange: from 6 to 21 days (including trip)

length of the project ( preparation, realization, evaluation and promotions): up to 15 months

### **Types of projects:**

exchange between two/three/four and more countries

At least one group from an EU Member State must be involved in a project.

## Action 3 - Youth in the World

### How to join?

You can join Action 3 projects if you are legally resident in one of the programme countries. You cannot apply individually for an Action 3 project but must be affiliated with a non-governmental/non-profit organization or a local or regional public body.

You can get more information about Action 3 at :

[http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc86\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc86_en.htm)

Projects should reflect the priorities of the Youth in Action Programme. Examples of possible themes that could be include: strengthening civil society; tackling racism and xenophobia; improving understanding between different ethnic and religious groups; women in society; minority rights; regional cooperation; heritage and the environment, etc.

The main Youth Exchange's aim is build tolerance and overcome prejudices. Youth Exchanges can have various character. It can be more or less formal.

### Example:

Theatre projects:

If your're interested in theatre and you want to meet people from the other countries with the same issue as you, you can organise this kind of project.



This picture shows „Happy Sad” project where poeple from five countries met to create a performance.



## **Action 4 - Youth Support System**

Young people are certainly the main target group of Youth in Action, but the Programme does not overlook all those people and bodies that make it possible for young people to participate in certain programmes.

The aim is to prepare youth workers and organisations to conduct good, international cooperation in projects.

Therefore several activities take place, such as:

trainings/ seminars/ workshops/ promotion of the Programme/ non- formal education/partnership building/study visit/Job Shadowing etc.

This will support the project- development under the Youth in Action Programme.

### **Action 4 includes Sub-Actions such as:**

4.1 - Support for bodies active at European level in the youth field

4.2 - Support for the European Youth Forum

4.3 - Training and Networking of those active in youth work and youth organisations

4.4 - Projects encouraging innovation and quality

4.5 - Information activities for young people and those active in youth work and youth organisations

4.6 - Partnerships

4.7 - Support for the structure of the Programme

4.8 - Adding to the value of the Programme

## Action 4 - Youth Support System

### Who can join?

All people belonging to a NGO and interested in non-formal education and youth issues. People who live in Programme Countries: youth leaders, trainers, youth project's coordinator, mentors, coaches.

You can get more information about Action 4 at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc90\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc90_en.htm)

### Example:

#### **EU Trainer for ICT and Media Competences** (Sub-Action 4.3 Training and Networking)

This Project was developed by the European Youth4Media Network. A Network that gathers 32 Organisations from all over Europe. Together they developed Europe-wide modular trainings in the field of New Media and ICT. These trainings include an interactive online learning tool and face-to-face training courses with non-formal learning methods. If you participate it will help you to develop your skills in effective use of ICT and new media. **You can become a web-TV reporter, new media journalist or even a media trainer yourself.**

The training course consists of three Modules.

#### **Module A Video journalism**

This course aims to prepare and equip you with the skills required to produce your own video film. By the end of video journalism course you will be able to make video reports for web-TV within your own community.



## Action 4 - Youth Support System

### Module B On-line journalism

This module will give you skills in the field of new media, in particular in the creative use of digital audio-visual media and the internet. The main aim of this module is to learn how to use on-line tools to get a message across.



### Module C Trainer competences

In this module you will acquire knowledge about methodologies for teaching media skills to children, young people, social workers, community media workers, NGO leaders, migrants and senior citizens.



Now it is available for everyone working in the youth field.

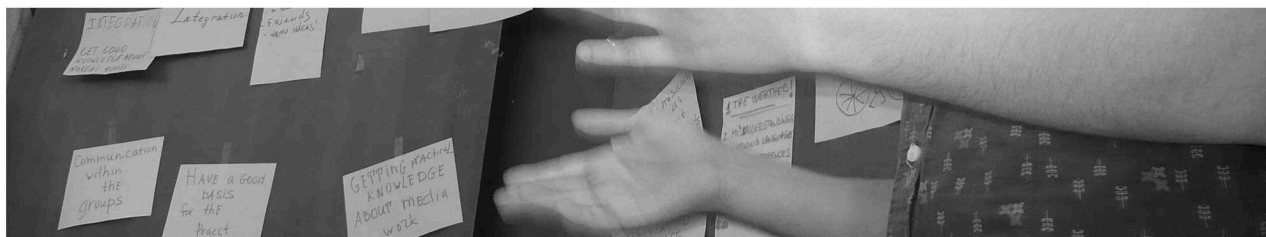
Check for available training courses "Media Trainer" on [www.youth4media.eu](http://www.youth4media.eu)

## Action 5 - Support for European cooperation in the youth field

Action 5 includes the following subactions:

### 5.1- Meetings of young people and those responsible for youth policy

Under this Sub-Action national and international meetings of young people and policy-makers are made possible. On the national level organisations can initiate national and regional youth meetings that encourage an open debate and knowledge exchange among youth themselves, but also among young people and European policy-makers and representatives of relevant institutions. Another goal of national youth meetings is to plan and prepare European youth events and strengthening cooperation between formal education areas (e.g. universities) and non-formal ones (e.g. NGO's). At least 15 people must participate in national youth meetings.



With the participation of at least five countries, of which at least one must be an EU member country, **international youth meetings** may be organized. Similar to the national meetings the aim is to encourage the exchange of information and ideas among youth and policy-makers. In addition to the national meetings the purpose of these transnational exchanges is to strengthen intercultural dialogue and understanding as well as contributing to the cooperation with international organizations active in the field of youth. At least 30 young people must join a transnational youth meeting.



## **Action 5 - Support for European Cooperation in the Youth Field**

### **5.2 - Support for activities to bring about better knowledge of the youth field:**

This Sub-Action is concerned with creating better methods for the implementation of youth work. Youth organizations, policy-makers and young people themselves come together to debate new ways of conducting youth related work and exchanging experiences and information on this field or any related

### **5.3 - Cooperation with international organizations**

This Sub-Action promotes European Union's cooperation with other international and inter-governmental organisations such as the Council of Europe. The purpose is to create a common plan for the field of youth work and policies through the organization of conferences, workshops, meetings, seminars and publications in fields like European Citizenship, the quality and recognition of youth work, the better understanding and knowledge of youth, cultural diversity or youth policy development.

### **How to join?**

You can either join Action 5 as participant or you can write a project on your own. If you want to participate individually you can join Action 5 projects if you are between the ages of 15 and 30 and legally resident in one of the programme countries. For this you should find an organisation that implements Action 5 projects and to which you can apply for participation. If you want to create a project yourself you should submit your project proposal through a non-governmental/non-profit organization or a local or regional public body. You can get more information on Action 5 at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc247\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc247_en.htm).

## About us: The Youth in Action TV Team

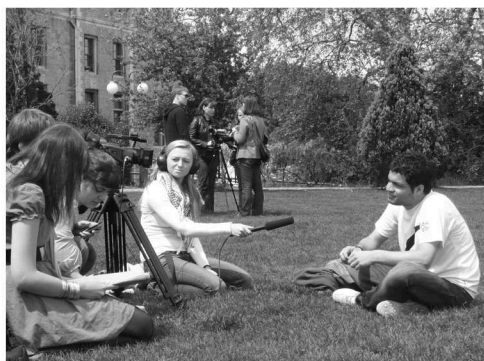
### ★ Project Information

Also this information kit was created during an Youth in Action Project, under Action 4.5

**"Youth in Action TV" crossmedial, political education and filmproduction with the Youth** – is a youth informational initiative that promotes the Youth in Action programme, intercultural dialogue and political education with the help of visual media.

**The project has four priorities:**

1. Building a network of youth reporters in Europe,
2. Creating international web-TV magazines,
3. Producing a media kit
4. Launching a Europe-wide information campaign about the Youth in Action



The Project has lasted two years. During that time a lot of young people were able to participate in different activities within the Project. In most of the activities we were learning how to become a Youth Reporter. From camera basics up to editing with a professional programme. But also we were planning and writing this reader. We made researches and discussed how to bring the Youth in Action Programme to interested Youngsters in Europe.

The films we produced had one aim: to give You an insight into the Actions and into the variety of Europe.

You can find all the videos in the DVD wich is inlaid in this reader.

## About us: The Youth in Action TV Team

### ★Project Information

We are young reporters from five countries –France, Germany, Turkey, Latvia and Poland- that were involved in creating media reports about youth initiatives conducted in their countries through the production of internet TV magazines promoting the Youth in Action programme. Five editions of the magazine were developed and produced by our team of international youth reporters. Each magazine highlights different aspects of the Youth in Action Programme.

We focused on issues such as minority rights, university life and youth initiatives in their respective countries.

**You can view the videos on [www.europeanweb.tv](http://www.europeanweb.tv)**



**The authors of this reader      Febuary 2010 in Orleans**

## About us: The Youth in Action TV Team

### ★ Project Information

#### Quotations:

"I am very happy to be part of such a project. I learned a lot while creating the web TV reports: Besides the technical knowledge I learned a lot about people from other cultures and gained new friends. I wish that there will be more opportunities for young people to joins such projects."

**Emrah (24)**

***Project Participant from Turkey***



"We shot a short film about the Alevi – a minority group in Turkey. It was very interesting to discover how the Alewives live and what their problems are. During the shooting I experienced new ways of living and hospitality. I am very pleased to have gained this opportunity."

**Elise (27)**

***Project Participant/Group Leader from France***



"At the beginning I was not sure whether the project would work out as we wanted it to but as the time passed I saw that the participants were all very motivated and became friends during the project period. We all personally grew with the experiences we made throughout the project. For me it is very fulfilling to see how interesting and new things are created through such a project."

**Helena (24)**

***Project Coordinator from Germany***







## Useful Links

**<http://www.justlanded.com/>**

During your first days abroad, this website will offer you helpful information about living, working and studying in your selected country. You will also find interesting advices on health, money, language.

**<http://www.eurodesk.org/edesk/EUToolbox.do?go=1>**

The focus of this website is on the variety of links with lots of details about European associations working in the youth

**[http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-policies/doc23\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-policies/doc23_en.htm)**

For all those interested in the development of Youth policy at EU level, this website offers detailed information on all these areas and its political consequences.

**<http://europa.eu/youth>**

Just select the country that you are interested in and this portal will give you a well structured overview concerning studies, work, volunteering and european rights.

**<http://www.salto-youth.net/find-a-training/>**

The European training calendar is a search engine which shows current training activities in whole Europe depending on the Subject, Group, Activity date and type..

**[http://europa.eu/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/index_en.htm)**

A perfect and well illustrated website to provide you with the basic knowledge of themes concerning Europe and the Europeans like you.

**<http://www.salto-youth.net/home/>**

SALTO-YOUTH supports cooperation between Youth in Action Programme and Neighbouring Partner Countries from Eastern Europe & Caucasus, as well as South East Europe and EuroMed (Euro-Mediterranean countries).



## Useful Links

[http://ec.europa.eu/youth/evs/aod/hei\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/evs/aod/hei_en.cfm)

This database contains information on all the organisations that are accredited for EVS (European Voluntary Service). Here you will find a short description of each organisation including information about the project activities and volunteer profiles.

If these links are not enough for you and you prefer to have personal contact to somebody explaining all issues of Youth mobility and Youth in Action Programmes, you can contact your nearest Eurodesk Office. They can provide you all the information you need.



## What is Eurodesk?

Eurodesk is an International Network. It has more than 900 local service points in more than 30 countries in Europe. These service points are your starting point for all about EU information in the fields of funding, education, training, youth mobility, study, work, volunteering, leisure...all in one place.

**[www.eurodesk.eu](http://www.eurodesk.eu)**

For all those looking for financial support for projects / activities involving young people and all professionals in the Youth field.

**eurodesk**

**your starting point!**

**Do not hesitate to contact your local Eurodesk!**



## Partner:

**Bürgerhaus Bennohaus**

Münster, Germany

[www.bennohaus.info](http://www.bennohaus.info)



**Association Labomedia**

Orleans, France

[www.labomedia.net](http://www.labomedia.net)



**European Meeting Center -**

**Nowy Staw Foundation**

Lublin, Poland

[www.eds-fundacja.pl](http://www.eds-fundacja.pl)



**Next Media Group**

Riga, Latvia

[www.tvweb.lv](http://www.tvweb.lv)



**ARI Movement**

Istanbul, Turkey

[www.ari.org.tr](http://www.ari.org.tr)





## Films we produced:

Introduction Movie about the Youth in Action Programme

### Action 1 - Youth for Europe

What means Youth for Europe?

Youth exchange example: Peace Camp in Turkey

### Action 2 - European Voluntary Service

EVS in France - a Portrait about a young Latvian in Orleans

EVS in Poland - a Report about 3 European Volunteers in Lublin

### Action 3 - Youth in the World

Youth exchange - how a Youth Exchange between three Countries of Europe can be realized

### Action 4 - Youth Support Systems

Project example: Filmacademy in Istanbul

Project example: Informing about elections in Latvia

Project example: Media Training course

### Action 5 - Support for European Cooperation in the youth field

Project example: Train the Trainers in Münster

How to prepare a Project?

### Minorities

Minority in Turkey - Alevi community

Minority in Germany - Turkish community

Minority in Latvia - Ukrainian community

Minority in Poland - Jewish community

### University Life - The situation of students - problems, pleasure or perspective

in France

in Germany

in Turkey

in Poland

in Latvia

watch on: [europeanweb.tv](http://europeanweb.tv)



# Contact us:

Y4M is sustainable growing and forming an active cross-border network of NGO's, culture- and community media centers as places for communication and civic engagement of the youth. New technologies (Internet, video, audio) are implanted with the Youth as tools for intercultural and political education. Our youth-encounter activities are characterized by the involvement of young people in a democratic civil society, facilitating the transparency of democracy on European level. The network boosts co-determination, participation, communication, media 1competence of the Youth ([www.youth4media.eu](http://www.youth4media.eu)). 1500 youngsters are active ( in 22 member NGO's in 15 EU-countries, 8 NGO's in 4 non EU and in 4 member NGO's in AR, GE, IS, JO). The network activities is supported by 10 (EVS) and 280 young volunteers, who are busy (6-12 months) in the 34 member NGO's of Y4M. They are involved in the decision processes and are working predominantly self-organised and self-responsible. Due to the working processes being structured by arranged methods, guidelines and controlling the youngsters have scope for development and an independent work.

If you like to cooperate with us, and participate in training courses of video journalism and crossmedial journalism on european level  
please contact:

**European Youth4Media Network e.V**

Benedikt Althoff 0049 609 67 55

[benalthoff@bennohaus.info](mailto:benalthoff@bennohaus.info)



## developed by:

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Association Labomedia, France  
European Meeting Centre - Nowy Staw, Poland  
Next Media Group, Latvia  
ARI Movement, Turkey

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