



SPEAKING TO ONE ANOTHER

LOCAL HISTORY WORKSHOPS in TURKEY and ARMENIA

The project “Speaking to One Another” invites young people from Armenia and Turkey to take part in local history workshops.

Local history is studying the [history](#) in a geographically local context and concentrates on the [local community](#). In the given project, the focus is on the history of a place with respect to Turkish-Armenian relations: a place in Turkey where Armenians were living until 1915 and in Armenia, where the current generation of Armenian refugees from Turkey currently reside. Twenty students from Turkey and Armenia will collect and work on/ with materials and information on the history of the specific settlements.

For this purpose, two-week residential workshops will take place in both countries. Participants of the first workshop that will happen in Turkey between 17th and 30th of October 2011, will also attend a second workshop in Armenia between 16th and 29th of April 2012.

Upon completion of the two workshops, the students will take an active role in compiling materials and writing contributions about the results of the workshops for a joint publication that will be printed in English, Turkish and Armenian by the end of 2012.

You can find below the detailed information about the project background, objectives, participation and selection criteria and the application form.

Background¹

In both Turkey and Armenia, though in different ways, the destruction of the Armenian communities of Anatolia in 1915 - continues to weigh heavily on the present. In recent times, the first signs of rapprochement have appeared with the political leadership on both sides making conciliatory gestures. For a normalization of relations to take place, however, it is essential to involve the populations on both sides into this process of rapprochement. After a century of conflict and lack of dialogue, both peoples have to learn about each other all over again and to understand each others' feelings as well as figure out possibilities for rebuilding friendship and neighborhood.

Speaking to One Another Project focuses on remembering the Turkish – Armenian past and uses innovative methodologies of oral history, photography and performance art. Given their interconnected history and the fact that the Governments of Turkey and Armenia seem to be in a deadlock in their reconciliation efforts, the sharing of the memories of individuals and local

¹ For more information please visit www.speakingtooneanother.org

communities through creative means are seen as valuable contributions to the process of reconciliation and democratization. We believe that remembering the past, accepting responsibility and achieving forgiveness are important means towards a peaceful future for the two neighboring societies.

Since August 2009, Speaking to One Another Project has been implemented by *dvv international* in close cooperation with its local partners in Turkey and Armenia, and funded by the German Federal Foreign Ministry. The main partners of the project are *Anadolu Kültür* from Turkey; *Armenian Centre for Ethnological Studies "Hazarashen"* and the *Armenian Actors Union* from Armenia.

Aim

Speaking to One Another Project aims to build bridges between Turkey and Armenia's populations through adult education, oral history research and art. It particularly addresses the young generation in both societies, as they will play a key role in shaping relations between the two neighboring countries in the near future. It aims at building up and strengthening relations between the youth in order to promote dialogue and bring about mutual understanding.

Objectives

- To strengthen the relations between students/young people and from Armenia and Turkey
- To trigger an in-depth dialogue among participants about the historical heritage and its impact on the present and future
- To diminish the prejudices and stereotypes of young people and local communities in both countries
- To remember common Turkish – Armenian past by focusing on individual and local stories in both countries
- To strengthen the civil society and civic initiatives on the local level
- To start a dialogue among the young people and the local communities from both countries

Expected Results

- Participants will deepen their knowledge about methods and approaches and instruments of history
- Participants will develop and use their artistic skills and express themselves in a creative way
- A functional network will be created among the students, tutors and experts
- Outcomes of the local history workshops (memories, individual and local stories, photographs, recordings of performance art etc.) will be made accessible to a broader public and the Diaspora
- People in both societies will learn about their perceptions towards each other through the project outcomes
- More feasible mechanisms for normalization of relations between two neighboring countries will be identified.

Activities' Concept and Timeline

Preparation

Selected participants will attend preparation meetings in their countries before the local history workshop starts. Organizers will contact the participants regarding the dates and venue of these meetings.

Local history workshops

The workshops will take place in towns/villages that will be chosen by the project team. The first workshop will take place between **17th and 30th of October 2011** in one of the territories of the following places: Diyarbakır, Muş, Van, Tunceli. The second workshop will take place in Armenia, between **16th and 29th of April 2012**. The participants will be informed about the venue at a later date.

Local history workshops will consist of 3 components: *Oral History*, *Photography* and *Performance Art* (theatre, dance, music etc.) The participants will be enrolled to only one of these components which will be run in parallel by experts.

Publication and documentary

By the end of the project, the participants from Armenia and Turkey will publish a joint book with the outcomes and results of the local history workshops. The aim of the book is to show various aspects of the local history by different means (oral history, arts etc) but also to document the interaction between the project participants and the local community during the local history workshop.

Supported by tutors and professional experts, students will be given the chance to bring in their own ideas and to work to a large degree on their own to express their experience, comments and interpretations, artwork and artistic productions, as well as material from the field.

A professional filmmaking team will be present at the local history workshops and will make shootings during the sessions and activities, and interview the participants. After finishing both workshops, a documentary will be produced.

Final meeting

In January 2013, the participants will attend a final meeting in Yerevan in order to share their experience among each other and to present the publication to a broader public.

Participants' Profile

- citizens of Armenia or Turkey
- second or third year university students (for oral history workshop students working towards their masters are also acceptable) and aged between 20 and 25 (exceptions may be made on the basis of justification);
- able to use English language fluently in both written and oral communication;
- available and fully committed to take part in local history workshops both in 2011 and 2012;
- able to attend preparation and complementary activities that will take place before and after the workshops;
- able to participate in the final meeting in Yerevan;
- ready to contribute and provide assistance to production of the publication and the documentary as explained above;
- motivated to learn about each others' communities and local realities;
- motivated to take part either in oral history, photography or performance art components of the workshops and preferably experienced in one of these three areas;
- committed to promote peace and dialogue between two societies;
- curious, open-minded and appreciative of difference and diversity.

Application and Selection of Participants

All candidates should fill in the application form that can be found at www.speakingtooneanother.org

Ten participants will be selected from each country. The selection will be made on the basis of the correspondence with the profile outlined above taking into account the balance between sexes, geographical regions, and different types of experience, academic, social and cultural backgrounds.

Candidates will be informed about whether their application has been shortlisted or rejected by **June 30th 2011**. A face-to-face interview in English will be made with the shortlisted candidates before the final selection.

The application form and a CV must be sent to apply@speakingtooneanother.org until **June 23rd 2011**.

Financial and Practical Conditions

Commitment

Selected participants should be able to attend workshops, preparation and post-workshop activities in Turkey and Armenia, and to the final meeting in Yerevan.

Working language

The common language of all activities will be English. Candidates must be able to use English language fluently in both written and oral communication.

Travel expenses

Travel expenses and visa costs are covered.

Board and accommodation

Board and lodging during the interviews (if necessary) and the local history workshops are provided and paid for by the project. Please note that simple accommodation will be provided only, either in local family houses or in youth hostels or in large dormitory rooms with other participants.

Participation fee

There is no participation fee.