

NEWSLETTER







IMPORTANT TOPIC:

Youth unemployment in Europe

Our meetings and workshops

More about countries:

- Albania
- Serbia
- Ukraine

Time schedule 2016





The Art of Playing the Violin

by Ajahn Brahm



An uneducated old man was visiting a city for the first time in his life. He had grown up in a remote mountain village, worked hard raising his children, and was now enjoying his first visit to his children's modern homes.

One day, while being shown around the city, the old man heard a sound that stung his ears. He had never heard such an awful noise in his quiet mountain village and he

insisted on finding its cause. Following the grating sound back to its source, he came to a room in the back of a house where a small boy was practicing on a violin.

Screech! Scrape ! came the discordant notes from the groaning instrument.

When he was told by his son that that was called a "violin," he decided he never wanted to hear such a horrible thing again.

The next day, in a different part of the city, the old man heard a sound that seemed to caress his aged ears. He had never heard such an enchanting melody in his mountain valley, so he demanded to find its cause. Following the delightful sound back to its source, he came to a room in the front of a house where an old lady, a maestro, was performing a sonata on a violin.

At once, the old man realized his mistake. The terrible sound that he had heard the previous day was not the fault of the violin, nor even the boy. It was just the young man had yet to learn his instrument well.

With a wisdom reserved for the simple folk, the old man thought it was the same with religion. When we come across a religious enthusiast causing such a strife with his beliefs, it is incorrect to blame the religion. It is just that the novice has yet to learn his religion well. When we come across a saint, a maestro of her religion, it is such a sweet encounter that it inspires us for many years, whatever their beliefs.

...But that was not the end of the story of the old man and the violin.

The third day, in a different part of the city, the old man heard another sound that surpassed in its beauty and purity even that of the maestro on her violin. What do you think the sound was?

It was a sound more beautiful than the cascade of the mountain stream in spring, the autumn wind through forest groves, or the mountain birds singing after a heavy rain. It was even more beautiful than the silence in the mountain hollows on a still winter's night. What was that sound that moved the old man's heart more powerfully than anything before?

It was a large orchestra playing a symphony.

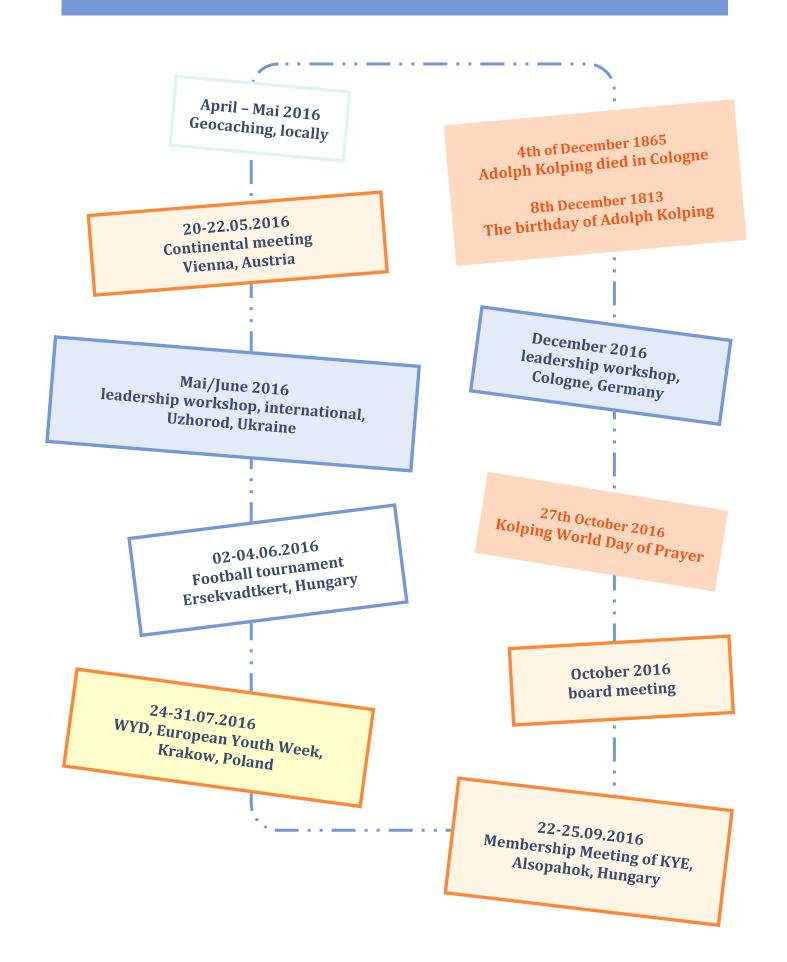
The reason that it was, for the old man, the most beautiful sound in the world was, firstly, that every member of that orchestra was a maestro of their own instrument; secondly, that they had further learned how to play together in harmony.

"May it be the same with religion," the old man thought. "let each one of us learn through the lessons of life the soft heart of our beliefs. Let us each be a maestro of the love within our religion. Then, having learned our religion well, let us go further and learn how to play, like members of an orchestra, with other religions in harmony together!"

Picture: en.wikipedia.org

KOLPING YOUTH 3

Invitations and terms



Serbia: European Youth Week 2015



Kolping Youth Week 2015 was organized by Kolping Society of Serbia and implemented from July 13 - 19 2015, in Novi Sad. The topic of this year's youth week was "Youth Cooperation Across the Borders".

There were 40 young participants coming from 12 European countries and all of them were engaged in an intensive educational process, learning about project management, in order to enable them to completely realize their ideas and contribute to the overall development of their local communities.

At the opening ceremony, all participants were welcomed by the president of Kolping Serbia, Ana Lendjel and president of Kolping Youth Europe, Gellért Szabo. Honorable guest at the ceremony, the first secretary of German Embassy in Belgrade, Mr. Jürgen Schmidt, has also greeted all the participants and wished them a fruitful working week.

BMZ 🚸



Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development



KOLPING YOUTH 5

From the first day, participants were involved in the combination of the theoretical and practical work, designed to help everyone to fully understand the complete project management cycle. Delivered by the experienced trainers, all participants were given the opportunity to acquire new knowledge and develop a certain set of skills needed to successfully turn ideas into project proposals. Besides educational, the whole learning process also had a competitive character, because all participants were divided into 5 groups which all had to work on the development of their ideas. In the end, a competitive jury consisting of Agnes Curcic Asodi, trainer and a project manager, Marina Illes, senior gender equality officer at the Provincial Secretariat for Economy, Employment and Gender Equality of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Magdalena Szczudlo, Project manager, free lance trainer and a Member of Kolping Society of Poland, and Melinda Tomic, Managing Director of Kolping Serbia, voted which of the project ideas was the best. This competition showed that young people are mainly interested in with dealing the topics of ecology, intergenerational cooperation and women empowerment. Members of the team behind the awarded project have chosen to deal with the topic: Intergenerational cooperation. Their idea has comprised activities that demand joint participation of youth and elderly citizens. The duration of the project would be six months, with reasonable budget costs, and the idea was assessed by the jury as very transferable, in a sense that it could be implemented in different countries, as a part of an international project.

Intercultural evenings

Besides the work, all participants had the task to present their countries during the intercultural evenings. The idea of these evenings was to present the culture, tradition, way of life, nature beauties and all of the specifics of 12 participating countries. All of the participants have prepared interesting and sometimes very interactive presentations, fully portraying the spirit of their countries. This was a great opportunity for

everyone to learn new things, but also to break down prejudice they might have had about certain countries, before coming to the Youth Week.

Leisure time

Since the Youth Week was organized in the middle of the summer, with very high temperatures in Serbia, one of the activities that was very positively evaluated was a visit to an aqua park near Novi Sad. This was an opportunity to relax and cool off from the hot weather, but also to further develop as a group and work on teambuilding. Besides a visit to the aqua park, since most of the participants were visiting Novi Sad and Serbia for the first time, Kolping Serbia has organized guided tours around Novi Sad, Belgrade as a capital of Serbia, and Sremski Karlovci, an extremely significant town for the history, culture and tradition of Serbia.

The tour through the underground tunnels of Petrovaradin fortress was something that is quite unique and the impressions of the participants were very positive.

In the end, Kolping Society of Serbia would like to thank all of the participants for their dedication and hard work they have put into making this an unforgettable and highly enjoyable week.

Kolping Serbia



Croatia: Creative leader-motivated group



From October 8th until October 11th 2015, all Kolping roads were leading to the "centrum mundi", to Ludbreg, Croatia. Catholic apprentices of Kolping society from Zagreb Archdiocese, Kolping society of Varaždin diocese and Kolping Youth Europe were organizers and hosts of the workshop meeting "Creative leader-motivated group".

The young Croatian organisation team of the Kolping family Saint Joseph (Zagreb) was preparing everything for half a year to make this meeting possible. For the first time in the history of Croatian Kolping work, a European Kolping youth meeting was held in Croatia. Thirty European young Kolping members gathered in Ludbreg. Twenty-two of them were from seven countries: Ukraine, Poland, Serbia, Romania, Hungary, The Czech Republic, Slovakia and eight of them from Croatia. After the arrival of the participants and the greeting words from Ms. Anita Petričević, the president of the

Catholic apprentices Kolping society from Zagreb Archdiocese and Mr. Stjepan Vincek, president of the board of the same society, guests participated at the Croatian cultural evening. Videos, photos, food and drink, dance and music as the "tour de Croatia" welcomed all participants.

The second day of meeting was mostly a workshop day. Petra Pervan, young psychologist and expert in working with young leaders, was leading participants through all workshops. Some workshop points were the main leaders' characteristics, how to understand certain group processes etc. Petra gave to the

Creative leader-motivated group

participants also opportunities to experience some games and ways of working with youngsters and a lot more. Afternoon sightseeing in Varaždin, in a "town of baroque, music and flowers" near Ludbreg, started with a visit to the cathedral of Varaždin. The priest of Kolping society of Varaždin diocese, Antun Perčić, welcomed the group. Powerful masterpieces played by Mr. Višeslav Jaklin made this visit more interesting. After the free time in Varaždin, the group ended the day with a nice dinner in a restaurant called "Kneginečka hiža", in Kneginec near Varaždin. The third day was reserved for the continuation of the workshop and for sightseeing in Ludbreq. Priest Silvijo Košćak was the tour guide through the town. After visiting the parish church, the "centrum mundi point" and the castle Battchany, a group had one special assignment. Organizers prepared a game through a part of the town for them. In five smaller groups they had to find five spots and papers with notes at each spot, which were leading to the final spot and to the "treasure", of course. Seeing a group running through the town centre, asking local people and laughing a lot, one local man commented: "A running around and trying to find a "treasure" like this was not present here in Ludbreg since Roman times." Later that day the Holy Mass was held together with older Kolping members from Zagreb and Varaždin. It was served by Kolping priest Zdenko Perija. Youth choir "Agape" was leading the singing during the Holy Mass. After the dinner, young guests presented their countries and the

Kolping work in their countries through singing, dancing, acting, showing the beauties of the country etc. The intercultural evening was very interesting to the older Kolping members but also to all participants. The second part of the intercultural evening consisted only of meeting participants who presented their countries and the traditional food.

The last meeting day was reserved for information about Kolping Youth activities on the European level, which were shared by Patrycja Kwapik. Also, the evaluation and thanksgiving part made this last day special.

The idea of this meeting is very modern: to train and prepare young people for leadership so that they can be better leaders and so that they can lead other youngsters to be responsable participants of their society, responsable participants of the Church.

Creativity and motivation are important for every group. There is no unique answer how to become creative or motivated, everything we are and our characteristics lead us to the point where we can try to do something for our society. Every good step is a right step and makes a difference, it makes our surroundings better and more human. So the idea of the meeting was to awake some positive energy in the participants and motivate them so that they would like to become more active and more creative and motivated participants of their society, of their Kolping families and also to share with them some ideas

how to make it.

According to the positive feedback and nice experience, this meeting is the beginning of nice friendships and - who knows - maybe also of some future projects.

May the life and work of blessed Adolph Kolping help all to continue their motivated work in Kolping society.

Kolping Croatia



Membership meeting in Cologne



From 17th till 20th September 2015 the Kolping Youth Europe organized in Cologne, Germany, the Membership Meeting, which was connected with the celebration of the Kolping Day 2015.

On Friday, the 18th, the President of Kolping Youth Europe, Gellért Szabo, chaired the Membership Meeting for 20 young persons representing 10 countries (Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland and Ukraine). The realized meetings was evaluated and the schedule for the year 2016 was discussed.

The main topic was the preparing for the World Youth Day in Krakow and the next Membership Meeting in Alsopahok connected with the election of the new board.

On Saturday and Sunday, the delegates participated in the Kolping Day — an event organized by Kolping Germany for more than 15 000 Kolping Members.

Funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union



Kolping Society founds the 46th National Association in Ukraine

In August of 2015, three representatives of the board of KYE visited Chernivtsi in Ukraine and took part in the celebration of the founding of the National Association there.

The Catholic social association has been carrying out activities in the south-west of the country since 1997. On 15th August, the National Association was officially founded in Chernivtsi in the presence of General Praeses Msgr. Ottmar Dillenburg.

"People wait for us Christians and can expect that we stand up for them", Dillenburg said in his homily during the Holy Mass, "That is our mission today as the Church, our mission in the Kolping Society. We must give our salt and our light, and our possibilities to create a fairer world".

The Kolping Society in Ukraine has almost 600 members. Their aim is to create structures relevant for civil society and to stand up for those people who are marginalized in a society that is still characterized by a Communist view on human beings.

Kolping International



Above: Gellert Szabo, President of Kolping Youth Europe congratulates Julia Wonsowych - leader of the Kolping Youth Ukraine.

Below: Meeting with the youth leaders from Ukrainian Kolping Families



Board meeting and strategy planning for 2016



From 27th till 29th November 2015, the board members and the engaged youth leaders from 5 countries met in Stiavnicke Bane, Slovakia.

The main goal of the meeting was to prepare the strategy of the youth work and the time schedule for the year 2016. The participants also discussed the possible statutory amendment.

in Krakow/Poland (24-31.07.2016) MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF KYE in Alsopahok/Hungary (22-25.09. 2016) Tasks for the next period

meetings are:

- Improve the international work we have more and more participants from many countries
- Strengthen international activities
- Exchange our experiences

The most important planned

WORLD YOUTH DAY (WYD)

Other topics

- Geocaching explaining of the action
- Job shadowing offered by Erasmus+, discussion and big interest among the members

Information about additional international meetings prepared with the cooperation with single countries comes soon!

Funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union





During this meeting, the Skype conference with Kolping Youth Serbia was held, who at the same time organized the team building seminar on the 14th anniversary of the founding of Kolping in Serbia.

KOLPING YOUTH 11

Kolping Day in Ukraine

The traditional Kolping Youth Day in Ukraine took place on the 24th of October 2015 in Chernivtsy. It is a big event which takes place every year on the last Saturday of October and is organized by the Kolping Youth Ukraine. Each Youth Day has its special theme and style. This time it was "Pirate Party".

In the first part of the day, all the youth groups made their reports and presentations about the activities of the whole year. It is usually very substantial work because the young people share their experience and discuss a lot about future plans.

The next step was that each group presented something very creative like games, dances,

theatrical performances.

The youth leaders prepared this time also a very interesting quest – an adventure game with creative tasks connected with pirate symbols, the biography of Adolf Kolping and the history of Kolping in Ukraine. Three teams named after three famous ships, «Barracuda», «Flying Dutchman» and «Black Pearl», had to be very smart but also quick to come to the final destination first and to find a treasure – a big pirate cake!

Kolping Ukraine



Photography competition in Albania

Kolping Youth Albania has continuously organised professional courses and is involved in various social projects, focused on assistance to the elderly, support to blood feud victims and poor families.

The main event is the photo competition "Colors-Colors", which is the sixth edition of the "Shkodra through the Lenses" photographic expo series, organised by the Kolping youth. The event was followed by an auction where the best photos were sold and the profits have been donated to the Mission of the Sisters of Mother Theresa in Albania.

source material: http://kolping.al/



Youth unemployment in Europe



The alarming rise of youth unemployment rates following the recent economic turmoil has challenged national as well as European labour market policies.

With more than 5.5 million young people in the EU struggling to find jobs, there is an urgent need to develop strategies for combatting youth unemployment, in order to avoid a lost generation of European youths threatened by lasting disadvantages in terms of labour market and social position.

Following the financial and debt crisis, youth unemployment sharply increased in all EU member states Germany and reached alarmingly high levels in the southern European countries. Nevertheless, youth unemployment is not a recent phenomenon that can be ascribed only to the Great Recession. Most European countries have faced difficulties in integrating youths in the labour market for many years, and vouth unemployment rates generally higher than adult unemployment rates. A particularly alarming feature of some youth labour markets are the high rates of young people that are not occupied, as they are neither in education, employment nor training. In Italy, the proportion of such disconnected youths has ranged between 15 - 20 % since 2000, and Greece and Spain have reached this level in recent years, too. Another alarming feature is that in some countries, especially in Southern Europe, a huge proportion of young workers are employed on temporary contracts that are not related to apprenticeships and require very long periods to make the transition to permanent positions. Thus, youths are highly at risk to bear most of the adjustment to cyclical fluctuations and to be excluded from long-term investment into training.

As in the times of Father Kolping, young people are on the road today, in search of a good education and leave their hometown. In many countries, Kolping has given them a place to call home and accompanies them in manifold ways for many years. Kolping supports those who leave their homes for the first time and find themselves in a new work-related and social environment, because they are especially in need of advice and support.

Text and picture: http://www.kolpingwerk-europa.net/

Situation of young people in Europe: Between hope and resignation



Patrycja Kwapik, the coordinator of the "Kolping Youth Europe", in conversation with *domradio* about the situation of young people in Central and Eastern Europe.

"The Kolping Youth in Europe unites young people from 20 countries", Patrycja Kwapik said in the interview. "The situation of young people is different from country to country. In Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovenia which have been member states of the European Union for a long time, everyday life of young people is different compared to everyday life for example in Albania, Serbia, Kosovo or Moldova which is much more difficult."

The Kolping Youth tries to encourage young people in these countries to get involved to have

more influence on societal life on site. Transnational meetings, youth exchanges, holiday camps, and workshops on international and political topics unite the young people and help them to articulate their thoughts. "Our international orientation helps us to strengthen the relations between young people and raise their awareness of different cultures", said Kwapik.

By means of regular meetings and exchange of ideas, the Kolping Youth Europe strengthens the relations between Kolping youths from Albania, Kosovo, Croatia and Serbia.

The situation was particularly hard for young people in Ukraine as a result of the war, said Patrycja Kwapik. Young people there wanted to learn more about democracy and often attended political events.

source material: http://www.kolpingwerk-europa.net/

Kolping Europe: Board meeting in Brussels

From 16th till 18th of November 2015, the board meeting of Kolping Europe was held in the COMECE building in Brussels.

Kolping Youth Europe was represented by Patrycja Kwapik. The board discussed about finances, a new draft of the constitution for the Kolping Society of Europe and the preparation of the continental convention that will take place from 20th to 22nd of May 2016 in Vienna.

During the event, the board members met the Secretary General of COMECE, Mr. Patrik Daly, the editor-in-chief of "europainfos" Mrs. Johanna Touzel and the EU delegates Dr. Peter Liese and Mr. Thomas Mann.





Kolpingjugend Europa e.V.

Kolpingplatz 5-1 I 50667 Köln / Cologne Deutschland / Germany

Daniela Stehlik

Europareferentin

Tel. +49 (0)221 / 77 88 0 - 16 E-Mail: <u>danielastehlik@kolping.net</u>

Youth office in Cracow / Poland:

Związek Centralny Dzieła Kolpinga w Polsce Ul. Żułowska 51, 31-436 Kraków / Polen

Patrycja Kwapik

Youth cooperation specialist for Europe tel. +48 12 418 77 62 e-mail: pkwapik@kolping.pl



The **Kolping Youth Europe** has its own juridical person, the Kolping youth Europe e.V.

Like the European Kolping Society, the youth has the task to coordinate networking on the

European level, to distribute relevant European information and to support national and regional

Kolping youth groups. Every year, a summer camp is organized and formation events are

conducted. The general assembly that is supposed to take place every year deals with various youth

topics and offers training for the work with youth groups.

The Kolping Youth Europe is represented through one elected person in the board of the European Kolping Society.