

Meet me in Solidarity 2010

International conference

25 - 28 October

Maribor, Slovenia

**STOP
POVERTY
NOW**

Invitation

Europe Direct Maribor would like to invite you to participate in the international conference **Meet me in Solidarity**. The conference aims to bring together young journalists from all EU Member States and by doing so creating yet another stepping stone for the future.

Registration deadline

If you like to meet new people, like to share your ideas and would like to learn something new, send us your **motivation letter** to the following e-mail address europedirect@zavodpip.si till the **30th September 2010**.

Participation fee

There is **no** participation fee. The organizer will provide you with accommodation, warm meals, lectures and social activities. Travel expenses are **not** covered.

Working language

The working language will be **English**.



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Frame of reference

As an **Information relay of the European Commission**, we try to bring **the European Union** closer to the local population. The EU is based on multicultural cooperation and diversity and our conference incorporates just that. It is a way to bring together youth from different EU Member States, thus giving the participants a diverse playground of ideas and viewpoints.

This will be our third conference, following **Meet me in Diversity** in 2008 and **Meet me in Creativity** in 2009, dedicated to the theme of the European year. The 2010 conference will therefore be dedicated to the **European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion**.

Join forces to fight poverty and social exclusion

Almost 84 million Europeans live at risk of poverty, which means they face insecurity, and go without what most people often take for granted.

Living in poverty may result in a variety of problems, from not having enough money to spend on food and clothes to suffering poor housing conditions and even homelessness. Poverty also means having to cope with limited lifestyle choices that may lead to social exclusion.

The key objectives of the 2010 Year are to **raise public awareness** about these issues and renew the political commitment of the EU and its Member States **to combat** poverty and social exclusion. The guiding principle is to **give voice to the concerns of people** who have to live with poverty and social exclusion, and **to inspire** every European citizen and other stakeholders to engage with these important issues. And then, who can these voices be heard? Who better to raise awareness, to inform, to actively engage?

Journalists, who contribute to an increased awareness **through their work** and a broader understanding of poverty and social exclusion, **are the answer**.

The impact of Media

Media plays a crucial role in forming and reflecting public opinion, connecting the world to individuals and reproducing the self-image of society. Their **strong social and cultural** impact upon society is predicated upon their ability to **reach a wide audience** with a strong and influential message.

Media generates information from a network of relations and influences and with the **individual interpretations and evaluations** of the information provided. Journalists with incentive can relate not merely to the way news(worthy) events are perceived, but also to a multitude of cultural influences that operate through the media.

What will you learn?

- Facts about the 2010 Year
- Understanding social exclusion
- Media criticism
- Avoiding stereotypes in journalism
- Theory of Journalism Discourse

Participants

- Preferable **young journalists** (and other young enthusiasts who are interested in the topic),
- are from **18** to **27** years of age,
- are **citizens** from **EU Member States** and **Candidate** or **Potential Candidate Countries**.

Participants will be invited on the basis of motivation letters. We will invite about 30 participants.

Programme

Our conference Meet me in Solidarity will consist of **lectures, workshops** and **social events**. Getting to know our city and our way of life is as important as the learning itself...so **free time** is included in the programme.

MONday, 25th October

14.00 Registration
16.00 Welcome
16.30 The 2010 Year facts
18.00 Dinner
20.00 Welcome party

TUESday, 26th October

07.30 Breakfast
10.00 What is Social Exclusion
11.00 What is Social Exclusion (workshop)
12.30 Lunch
14.00 Media criticism
15.30 Free time
18.00 Dinner
20.00 Visit of Wine cellar

WEDNESday, 27th October

07.30 Breakfast
09.00 Free time
12.30 Lunch
14.00 Avoiding stereotypes in journalism
15.00 Theory of Journalism Discourse
16.00 Theory of Journalism Discourse (workshop)
18.00 Dinner
20.00 Bowling night

THURSday, 28th October

07.30 Breakfast
09.00 Final plenary and debate
10.00 Career opportunities in the EU institutions
12.30 Lunch
14.00 Checkout



Contact

If you have any questions regarding the conference, its programme or practical arrangements, please feel free to contact us:

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