

Active newsletter

Welcome to the Active newsletter! Active consists of 31 member organizations from all over Europe gathered in sobriety, friendship and peace. The newsletter is issued once a month. Do you have contributions, please send them to office@activeeurope.org!

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1. State of the art

The World No Tobacco Day, celebrated on 31st of May attracted huge attention among Active member organizations. Our members found it important to express their opinion about tobacco abuse, through street actions, campaigns and other activities on this date.

Still that's not all. Even at its preparation stage, Active summer camp 2007 already creates its unique atmosphere among Active members! After having done applications and reports, the Active volunteers and the office managers are working very hard with the camp team on organizing the next Active summer camp in Semkovo, Bulgaria. There are travels to be booked, visa invitations to be sent. The Camp is coming soon, so book 29th July – 4th August for the most exciting event this summer, and go register right now, at www.wildspace.fybg.org, to meet and see the wonders of the Wild Space!

2. Activities

- The Lithuanian temperance federation "Baltu Ainiai", Active member organization, joined the celebration of the "World No Tobacco Day", on May 31st, organizing "No Tobacco Street Action". Members of this organization gathered around 150 young people in Vilnius. Young enthusiasts used posters, leaflets and slogans to spread the message of the importance of tobacco free living to the citizens and media of the Lithuanian capital. They pointed out the risks and dangers of using tobacco, and the importance of abstinence as a best prevention of diseases and deaths, caused by this substance.
- "We are here – where are you?" is the next school project Juvente Estonia has received a grant for. The Project will include continuous lectures from September 2007, until May 2008, as well as two seminars in November and May, all on the topics concerning alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, which are nowadays, most popular in Estonian society. The Project will also gather sober young people of Estonia, who will gather creative ideas for creating an effective alcohol – drug campaign.
- Juvente Estonia organized another "Alcohol and tobacco free party" for young people of Tartu, on 18th May. The main aim of the event was the popularization of a healthy lifestyle. Around fifty guests enjoyed the great atmosphere created by a local band. They participated in several competitions and, at the end, confirmed that young people can have fun without using alcohol and other drugs. More information about Juvente, you can find at: www.juvente.ee
- Again this year, Juvente Germany gathered around thirty of its members plus several internationals on Whitsuntide weekend on the Dutch island "Schiermonnikoog". Besides an exciting "Island rally" and an intriguing "Night-lighthouse" game in the dark dunes, young Juventees played, now traditional soccer match against members of "Bund fuer drogenfreie Erziehung" (BdE). Of

course, no team could escape from Dutch specialties, such as “Fla” and “Patat spezial”.

3. Newsflash

- Albania, one of the countries that is known for having one of the highest rate of smokers in Europe, has finally submitted a draft-Law on tobacco and smoking. This draft completely outlaws sales of cigarettes to minors, younger than 18. It will also provide strict rules for the tobacco industry, regarding the sale and advertisements of tobacco products. The draft is a part of a World Health Organization project, which aims on reducing the tobacco consumption among the general population.
- Germany approved a smoking ban on public transport and in federal buildings, including Parliament. The ban on cigarette sales to minors under 16 is now raised to the age limit of 18.
- An Active member took part in the first meeting of the European Youth Forum (YFJ) Tobacco Contact Group, on May 21-22nd. The group discussed its role and activities within The European Commission campaign “Help – for a life without tobacco”. It further discussed rules for funding projects which deal with the tobacco issue within the campaign. Member organizations of Active are welcome to write projects on their own and apply. To get more information about the funding rules, contact kristiina.lepa@ctiveeurope.org. Hurry up! Applications should be ready until 15th of October 2007.

4. Organization of the month

“Free Youths of Albania” (FYA) stands as an example of the power and influence NGOs can have. Recognizing a problem with smoking in public places, FYA and other NGOs initiated a meeting with the Albanian Ministry of Health. Together with members of the Ministry, they discussed this issue and stressed all the consequences of tobacco usage. After a big public campaign, and a discussion with the biggest business groups that deal with tobacco, the result of joint efforts of FYA and other NGOs, the Albanian Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization, was an adopted strict draft-law, which prohibits smoking in public areas and sales of tobacco products to children and minors under 18. Considering the tobacco industry, the new law enforces a ban of billboard advertising and any form of direct marketing on the streets. The draft describes penalties for producers and consumers that fail respecting this law. This example shows that young people, gathered in NGOs can play an important role in creating their future. Way to go FYA! Way to go ACTIVE!

5. Calls

- There are no calls at the moment.

Subscription

Active newsletter is issued once a month. If you wish to receive it send an email to office@activeeurope.org. To unsubscribe send an email to office@activeeurope.org.