

Project description of the Tour d'Enlargement Autumn 2002

By the ACC International programme office,
Cooperating with folk high schools in Denmark

Summary

The ACC International programme office is going to organize the *Tour d'Enlargement* in order to debate with and inform the Danish public about the ways the EU-Enlargement process is looked upon in the rest of Europe. The tour is expected to last for 7-9 days and is going to go to different folk high schools in Denmark -focusing on our partners in the Youth2002.

Object and background of the *Tour d'Enlargement 2002*

During the Youth2002 project (which is well-known in "Nævnet"), the ACC carried through the project *Youth Update Journalism*. This project within the project was aimed at helping the teachers and coordinators of the Youth2002 project establishing a survey on what was written about the EU-enlargement process, the globalization and the future European constitution during the first half year of 2002. 12 young people from different European regions volunteered in reading their "local" newspapers everyday and uploaded summaries to the internet (www.youth2002.org) of the articles they found. These young people can be considered experts on the debate of the mentioned topics and this project has as its main idea to use their knowledge.

In November 2002 we would like to re-invite these young people plus some to supplement the non-covered areas of Europe and to make them carry through the *Tour d'Enlargement 2002*. The young volunteers (active in the ACC) are going to travel from school to school in a week and to give presentations about their experiences on (1) how the debate is going on in their home-countries about the EU-enlargement (2) what the specific problems of these countries are and (3) what benefits these countries are considered to have of the EU-enlargement.

The project is aimed at giving the folk high school's students plus the audience invited at the presentations a first hand information about the debate in other European countries and to make it possible for them to discuss face-to-face with representatives of the countries involved in the EU-enlargement process.

The aim of the *Tour d'Enlargement* is, in accordance with the general aims of the ACC, to stimulate a common European debate on questions and political problems shared by the Europeans.

We would like it to be seen in the context of the Danish EU-presidency 2002.

The EU-Enlargement has taken place already in the ideological frame of the ACC. We consider it reasonable, that people who are influenced by political decisions taken, should also be present and heard, when the decisions are taken. The politics of the EU is influencing the non-EU-countries even

more than influencing EU-countries, because of the general political balance of power. That is why it is important to invite also presenters from non-EU-countries.

Target group(s).

The presenters of the *Tour d'Enlargement* are found within the active members of the ACC, out of which some are going to be identical with the volunteers who took part in the Youth Update Journalism Project.

The targets of the panels and presenters are the current students at the folk high schools together with the audience invited for the events. We are going to cooperate with the folk high schools on making open school arrangements for the purpose.

Timetable.

The *Tour d'Enlargement* is going to last for 7 days and will take place probably in November 2002. It is crucial that it takes place within the period of the Danish presidency of the EU.

Organizational elements.

John Petersen (DK) is going to be the responsible coordinator of the *Tour d'Enlargement*.

Financing.

The project is going to be co-financed by the ACC as we expect the presenters to do their presentations for free. We are going to apply in the EU-Commission/CIRIUS as well.

Programme:

As it is extremely difficult to gather a group of up to 10 very, very active young people to take part in a *Tour* as the described one, we are going to wait fixing the time until we have certainty about the financial support. The programme is -though- easily scheduled. There is going to be debate evenings at least Monday to Friday at (minimum) five different folk high schools. The presentations are thought of as 10 minutes presentations of each presenter. Presenters are then going to be in a panel and then to debate with the audience/the folk high school students and to ask questions on issues related to their home areas.

Co-operational partners

The programme is carried through on ACC initiative. The ACC is a European organization. The secretariat of the ACC is situated at the Højskolen Østersøen in Aabenraa, Denmark. The ACC is going to cooperate closely with Højskolen Østersøen and (minimum) four other folk high schools on the idea.

Aabenraa (Denmark), August 2002

John Petersen (chairperson) of the ACC