

## Forum for a multicultural Europe 2008

### North-South divide ?

We, the young people of Europe, have been together for 3 days of discussion and we would like to present the results of our work. The topic of the "Forum pour une Europe multiculturelle 2008" is "the North-South divide?" We have been focusing on three of the eight Millennium Goals:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Ensure environmental sustainability
3. Develop a global partnership for development

We know that global wealth is not distributed equally. Northern countries have access to over 80% of the total amount, while the South only possesses 20% of it, even though the population is much bigger. This means that the northern countries have the responsibility and moral obligation to help the poor countries. The governments are not able to coordinate help; therefore, there are Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) which try to complete their actions.

Money is not the issue; it is more that we have to improve our organisation and cooperation. For example, 400 billion dollars were given to Africa in 1970, but almost nothing changed.

We believe that the money provided has to be supervised in a better way by an organisation of democratic countries, based on the principle of equal rights for rich and poor countries. The decisions should be made by a council which is directed by a president, elected by both the donor and the recipient countries. This organisation should be financed by the donor countries and have three different departments: Education, Health Care and Economy.

One solution could be that the Northern countries (governments and individuals) give money to one big NGO, which will buy the local products made by the Southern states at a fair price. These products could be sold on to the poor population at a lower price, so that they can afford them. This will enable the local and national economies to grow.

Once these economies are working well, money could be used to implement an improved health care system: hospitals should be built and nurses and doctors must be trained. In addition, training in hygiene has to be given to the people in order to reduce diseases. In order to ensure the quality of education it is necessary to build schools and improve the training of teachers. Money has to be invested to buy machinery and build factories in order to create jobs and increase wealth.

After finishing school, the best students should study abroad (e.g. in Europe or in the USA). After studying, they should come back to their home countries and encourage the development of new companies. In this way, these countries can build up their own economic structure.

We are convinced that the efforts already undertaken should be followed by new projects that are regularly adapted to the changing world economy and the specific needs of each developing country.