



**IFAIR**  
Young Initiative on Foreign Affairs  
and International Relations e.V.



*Dumitrescu Andreea/ Bouaroua Elias, Bilal, Etienne*

*Exil patrimony*

*Yerevan , August 2017*

---

**Young Initiative on Foreign Affairs and International Relations (IFAIR) e.V.**

District Court Charlottenburg Berlin, Registry Number: VR 30447 B

Executive Board: Johannes Klein, Dr. Kilian Spandler, Lukas Rudolph, Steffen Murau, Theresa Lieb

---

*Table of Contents :*

- General Information: Who are you? Who are you working for? p3
- Project team: Why did you choose to work together? p5
- Project idea: What is your joint project about? (Content, goals, target group, activity plan, project/funding partners) p6
- Activity plan: What was the programme/what did you plan to do during these days? p8
- Work Shadowing: p9
  - a) What were the goals for the work shadowing sessions?
  - b) Were you able to stick to your plan? Did you succeed to meet your goals?
  - c) What did you learn from the other organisation?
  - d) How was the work in the team? What went well/not so well/are there ways to improve your team work?
  
- Perspectives: What is the status of your project? (Content, organisation, funding) What is your schedule for the upcoming weeks/month p11

- General Information: Who are we ? Who are we working for?



Didac' Ressources is a French association based in Marseille, whose objective is to promote a qualitative education and training for all, facilitating the sharing of knowledge and competences, especially in the popular neighborhoods, encouraging the participation and autodidacticism. Lately, the association has initiated various activities that tackle the collective memory in the popular neighborhoods and the creation and restitution of live stories and witness objects that can revive the history and the identity of the local neighborhoods.

The project Weshipedia and similar activities are described on the site of the organization: <http://didac-ressources.eu/>. As a follow-up of the project "Common remembrance, future relations", organized by Ifair in May 2017, in Armenia (Erevan), where Didac' Ressources association from France, Marseille was represented by Elias Bouaroua and Andreea Dumitrescu, we are proposing a new project that would take place in Marseille and afterwards in Erevan, as a reply to the French event(s).



*Andreea :*

I am Romanian student that embarked almost 2 years ago on a Mediterranean odyssey represented by an Erasmus Mundus master entitled "Crossing the Mediterranean; towards Integration and Investment". For each three month I studied in a different university from a Mediterranean country, which gave me the amazing opportunity to live in Barcelona, Venice, Meknes (Morocco) and Montpellier (France). I have studied communication, as well as

sociology, anthropology and history related to the Mediterranean area, focusing though on migration and intercultural mediation as the main dynamics in this region. Currently I am living in Marseille, France, where I am doing my internship at one of the most famous European museums: MuCEM (Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilisations), in the department of international cooperation and research.



*Elias :*

I'm coming from Marseille, the oldest french city. It holds an amazing history, which extend beyond french history, as port open on the Mediterranean, and on the world. Regretably, the current image of the city depends more on crimes rate than on its thousands-old-history. Within Didac'Ressources association, i am working on implementing a project to enhance the working-class neighborhoods of this city, partly through the collaborative encyclopédia Wikipédia. This project propose rediscovering and commoning local history to the inhabitants. Bringing to light workers and migrants memories allow inhabitants to impact, and as far as possible to choose, the image of their area. This grassroot memory of an open city (both culturally and economically) worth to be put in perspective with other cultures patrimonies in a mutual exchange. Studying History at Aix Marseille University, i feel naturally and personally concerned by the stake of memory, and particularly, by the perception of memorial patrimony. My internship in an other NGO, Eclore association, learned me how to build and implement a collective project and to work with heterogeneous publics. I particularly worked with youngsters from Paris and Marseille facing discriminations, with social workers, youth workers, NGO representatives, national education personal...

- Project team: Why did we choose to work together?



We met Gregory at the Yerevan forum “common remembrance for future relationship”. He was a french volunteer representing an armenian NGO, so we quickly went to talk about connexions of both histories, and their impact on cities’ identities. Working with armenian youth and including international volunteer, his organisation appeared to be an excellent potential partner. Indeed, we were thinking about organising common workshops dealing with memory, by youngsters from both countries, which was the first step in building our project (as we precise in this document, the project has, since, evolved). Both NGOs are used to work with digital and creative tools, necessary for producing deliverables from these workshops. We built this common project together with Gregory and were getting along with him. But, without explanation, he stopped giving news from our departure of Armenia. After two months trying to reach him and to follow up of our meeting and develop our project, we tried to find a solution. Ifair supported us and helped to organise a workshadowing in Yerevan, so that we’ll be able to continue the project. Through that, we connected with APY organisation whom was a part of the project “Common remembrance for future relationship”. The NGO proposed to take part in the project. We are very happy that we are able to work with an organisation well known and very active on its territory since 10 years. In particular we share its values, of sharing and empowering. These are really matching with our principles. The workshodowing was the opportunity to meet and understand really APY organisation, and to place the cornerstones of a great partnership. We then started to work together and to readapt the partners roles in the project.

- Project idea: What is our joint project about? (Content, goals, target group, activity plan, project/funding partners)

On the occasion of 90 years since the closure of Oddo camp and also 70 years since the implementation of the “docker” status, we are proposing an artistic and cultural project that would revive the memory of the firstly arrived Armenians in Marseille, in order to question how the inclusion and the welcoming has been done in the case of a people, the Armenians, migrating not because of a decolonization process, but because of danger and persecution in their country. We consider that this project could go beyond the frame of the Armenian case and by extension, could have an awareness impact on a more actual debate, related to the refugee crisis.

Whereas Marseille has been a landing place for economic migrants and for those arriving after the decolonization process, the Armenians, one of the largest communities in Marseille, had another reason and history. Having to escape the atrocities of the Armenian genocide in 1915, they began to arrive in Marseille and install themselves in Oddo camp, in difficult conditions. Between 1920 and 1924 around 58000 Armenians arrive in the port of Marseille, attracted by the socio-economic opportunities and among them, some become dockers. In 1927 camp Oddo closes and 20 years later the professional status of the dockers is officially reglemented.

The initial dockers working in the port are among the first ones to have witnessed the arrival of the Armenians. How did they welcome the newly arrived? We would like to question and research into this matter that we find particularly important given the uncertain professional status the dockers had at that time and the new migrants who represented for them concurrence of another culture on the work market. We are therefore proposing a multiform exhibition (photos- especially portraits, life stories, objects, videos) in a symbolic place, together with an online interactive platform where the materials and other productions related to the Armenian arrival in Marseille and their receiving by the dockers could be posted and shared eventually (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).

Also, preparation of a wikithon page for sharing the information. The French artist JR (<http://www.insideoutproject.net/en/about>) and his project (<http://www.insideoutproject.net/en>) are of much inspiration for our initiative, given the fact that one of the most visually impacting activities we are proposing is creating large posters with the portraits of the firstly arrived Armenians in Marseille and/or their descendants, placing them in symbolic place where their history and lifestories could be shared and maybe

discussed together with the public.

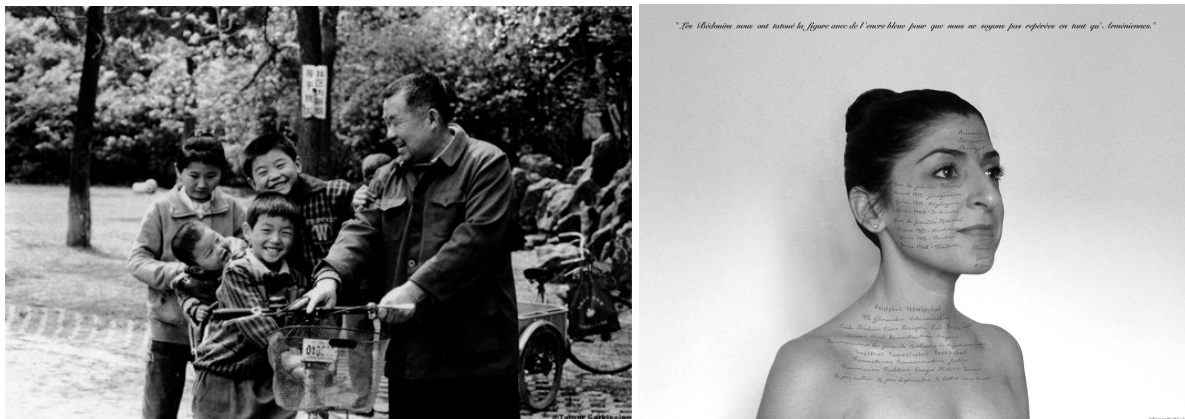


*(works of JR in Kibera (Kenya) and Ramallah (Palestine))*

A booklet would also be produced that could include the most important artistic results of project, accompanied by a well documented history of the Armenians in Marseille and personal life stories of interviewed people. For this booklet the beneficiaries would contribute themselves, through documentations and writing workshops. In this way, Didac' Ressources's objective of training and providing competences will be achieved as well.

The project will involve closely around 30 to 50 people, represented by dockers from Marseille, Armenian inhabitants, descendents of the firstly arrived Armenians in Marseille, artists (2 of whom are Armenians and we have already contacted).

Exemples of the work of our photographe Tamar Sarkissian:



*(china 2002 ans text 1915-2015 triptic)*

In parallel, the life and history of Armenia is deeply imbued with exile and return. The city of Yerevan has known several waves of return, the main one mainly affecting the Syro-Armenians

which constitutes an important community in the city. These repatriated Armenians often come from generations different from that which had to flee the country although attached to their countries they are in a particular position.

Nicknamed “Brothers” in their country they bringing with them a varieties of cultures and a mixed identity in Yerevan. We want to create a response to Marseille’s productions of this project. This will question the role of these “brothers” in the identity and memory of the city, and the perception from Yerevan inhabitants on them and the diaspora. A form of echo produced between two cities whose journey is a major part of identity. We wish to work with people returning from exile in order to also carry portraits (by a different artist) and workshops in order to constitute an equivalent work more adapted to what is the city of Yerevan.

- Activity plan: What was the programme/what did you plan to do during these days?

The workshadowing was a short period to build partnerships and work on Yerevan city identity. Our program was decided just before the travel was organised because of the changes we mentioned :

**20th of august : Arrival**

- Arrival in Yerevan during the late night
- Dinner and Accommodation

**21st of august : Encountering and shadowing**

- Meeting at APY’s. Visit of their organisation
- Presentation of our project
- Exchanges on challenges, evolution and funding of the project
- Shadowing during an intern work session on administrative organisation of volunteer travel
- Shadowing during a meeting with future volunteers
- Working (Didac’ressources) to include informations/evolutions in the project
- Contacting potential partners in Yerevan

**22nd of august : Yerevan identity and memory visit**

- Visit of Yerevan



- History and memory of Yerevan free walking tour
- Visit of Cascade complex
- Visit of the History Museum
- Blue mosq
- Meeting inhabitants and exchange on identity and memory
- Traditional meal

### **23rd of august : Partnership building**

- Vernissage Market
- Preparation of the meeting documents to present
- Common work session to redefine the armenian chapter of the project with APY
- Presentation and validation of the Yerevan axis of the project
- Concrete organisation (decision of the APY responsible for the project)
- Meeting with the Alliance Française

### **24th of august : Departure**

- Departure on the early morning

### **- Work Shadowing:**

#### **a) What were the goals for the work shadowing sessions?**

The main goals of this workshadowing in Yerevan were :

- To understand the inner functioning and identity of the city, and to gain more insight on its relationship with its diaspora.
- To look for potential partners and to build collaborations and common project - after the setback of the project with Gregory, this became the main objective of the work shadowing, both to establish solid partnership with APY and to discover other organisation
- To observe and exchange on methods, good practices, projects, with the hosting organisation

#### **b) Were we able to stick to our plan? Did we succeed to meet our goals?**

Yes we did stick to the plan we finally programmed and met our goals (unless having a new partner - alliance française, that we were not able to meet). It were not the first program and

goals, but since we changed our hosting organisation to APY, the workshadowing matched with the forecasts, and was a very rich and great experience.

### c) What did we learn from the other organisation?

We learned a lot about the operations and mechanisms of important international NGOs. In particular, we understand better the organisation of APY structure with employees and volunteers, the tasks division. We know have an idea of the way an organisation is able to give responsibility to those, particularly the youngsters, who imply in its projects. On a technical and practical side, we learned about the administrative obligations for projects including international volunteering, and relationships with embassies. We also learned a lot concerning Armenia and particularly Yerevan. We discovered the context, the history, the territory identity and relationship to memory and diaspora. We learned how APY implement empowerment project in this context and address to youth.

### d) How was the work in the team? What went well/not so well/are there ways to improve our team work?

We had some difficulties to organise the specific working time with APY because we knew very late that our workshadowing will take place in this organisation (we spent a lot of time trying to keep the contact with initial partners). It also was complicated because we were in a summer period. Most of volunteers were not available and the programm was already heavy for the employees of APY. Except from that, each meeting and exchange with APY was fluid, useful and agreeable, and we would have loved to have more time. We both work very well together (writing, organising, exchanging etc). Adriane from APY was enthousistic about our project, which is a good point because it was not a planned project for APY. She really supported us and will continue working with us for the continuation.

Given our proposal for Marseille, we are intending to initiate a reply to our activities in the capital of Armenia, having as beneficiaries and actors the Armenians who have returned from the escape and their descendents. We would need therefore to reflect how these activities could be adapted to Erevan and we would need to find the resources persons (around 15 ) and the stakeholders and partners (artists, financiators, professionals working on the subject). For this we are proposing the French Alliance, that we have already written to and waiting for an answer.

- Perspectives: What is the status of our project? (Content, organisation, funding)  
What is our schedule for the upcoming weeks/months?

We already started to fundraise for the french part of the project (AG2R, DRJDSCS). A person from APY will be responsible of the armenian part. From september, she'll start to develop these elements. Aiming to be a response from a city to an other, there is no issue to be offbeat on certain steps of the project. The general idea of the project is now very clear, and we validate the partnership. We still have to precise the deliverables, in particular those which will be produced in Yerevan, because we are less grounded, and need to really work with the people we met during the workshadowing. The identification of local people involved in the project and the sensibilisation work in Yerevan starts from september, while its already started since some months in Marseille.

- **September ; October:** interviews, partnership building
- **November:** project opening, opening online profiles and platform
- **December & January:** development of the project (blog/ platform preparation, interactive exhibition preparation, workshops with the beneficiaries etc.)
- **February & Mars:** finalization and experimentation of the exhibition+ visit Erevan
- **April:** work on the booklet
- **May:** publication and dissemination of the booklet
- **June:** memory game production
- **July:** work on the videos and preparation of a documentary movie
- **August:** preparation of the wikithon
- **September:** restitution of the results with the partners