



**YOUNG ✓ VERIFIED
LEADERS**

July 2021 – December 2022





Farewell on the track between Süleyman, from "Solijugend" and Tokki from "ADEEJ".

"Alone we can do so little,
together we can do so much"

HELLEN KELLER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Y FOR YOUTH

- 1. Presentation of the "Young Verified Leaders" project 4 - 5
- 2. Presentation of the associations 6
- 3. Presentation of the members and the coordination team 7-13

V FOR VERIFIED

- 1. Workshops 14-17
- 2. Exchange of professionals in Sousse 18-19
- 3. "Juleica" training in Heidelberg 20-18
- 4. Members meeting in Algiers 29-33

L FOR LEADERS

- 1. Program review and fun facts 34-39
- 2. Practical implementation after Heidelberg 40-43
- 3. Future of the project and challenges 44-45



Group picture on the banks of the Neckar in Heidelberg.

Presentation of the “Young Verified Leaders” Project

The project “Young Verified Leaders” (YVL) is the outcome of international solidarity and a long-standing partnership between the organizations “ADEEJ” and “ALEJ” (Algeria), “We love Sousse” (Tunisia) and the “Solijugend”. It was born out of a mutual desire to strengthen the channels of communication with the North African partner organizations that had been maintained during the pandemic – also in order to implement further joint projects in the future. The goal was from the beginning to develop concrete activities with young people from Algeria, Tunisia and Germany leading to the obtaining of an international “Juleica” card to consolidate our trilateral ties. The project is funded by the German Foreign Office from July 2021 to December 2022.





Haifa and Nasser in Sousse.



Very enthusiastic young verified leaders.

Meeting with the minister of youth and sports in Tunisia.

Based on empathy and solidarity as well as cooperation at eye level, we want to give each and every young person access to a high-quality training in youth leadership. This has been our guiding principle for the project from the very beginning. The reliable partnership that has grown up with the three partner organizations was the best prerequisite for this.

Due to the ongoing pandemic situation and related measures, it was important for us to build bridges between our partners in Tunisia and Algeria and our active members at the local level. The aim was to qualify both sides for the independent implementation of international exchange formats and to develop a network of young leaders at both national and international levels.

Along with this, our concern was to strengthen the local supporting structures and at the same time to counteract prejudices and radicalization in the countries involved, in order to ultimately be able to continue the cooperation with our partner associations in North Africa in the long term, even after the pandemic.

Furthermore, "Young Verified Leaders" was born out of a common desire to facilitate a continuous, trilateral and intercultural exchange between young people and professionals from the three countries. In doing so, we strongly believe in the synergies that come from the fact that although our participants come from different cultures and thus bring different perspectives, they share common interests and similar lifestyles. The goal was to create a common and unique project in which the voices of all stakeholders are heard.



Presentation of the association



The association "We Love Sousse" was founded in 2011. The association works under the umbrella of the Anna Lindh Foundation. The ultimate goal of "We Love Sousse" is to improve the living environment of youth and young adults in particular in the Tunisian city of Sousse through cultural, civic, artistic and environmental activities. "We Love Sousse" (WLS) collaborates with international organizations, institutions and local stakeholders who share the goal of improving the quality of life in the city of Sousse.



ADEEJ

"ADEEJ", "Association pour le Divertissement et l'Education de l'Enfance et la Jeunesse", in English "Association for the entertainment and education of children and youth", is a nonprofit organization founded in 2018 by a group of young civil society activists who are active in several municipalities of the capital. The members of "ADEEJ" are particularly involved in supporting children and young people in their everyday lives and in strengthening their personal development and increasing their educational opportunities. The organization also focuses on promoting learning and leadership development.



ALEJ

Founded in 1989, the Algerian organization "ALEJ", "Association pour les Loisirs de l'Enfance et la Jeunesse", in English "Association for Childhood and Youth (educational) Leisures", is a non-governmental and non-profit organization that develops activities in the field of youth work and international meetings for the benefit of children and young people not only in the capital city of Algiers but also in some of its surrounding towns. By the same token, it promotes intercultural youth exchanges and advocates democratic participation, it also advocates the understanding of citizenship and the preservation of peace.



The Solidarity Youth of Germany is a youth association with roots in the workers' sports movement.

The "Solijugend" is committed to a social, just democratic and sustainable society – through seminars, workshops, camps and international youth encounters. The association supports young people in their development to become responsible, critical, receptive to other cultures and open-minded citizens of the world. The solidarity youth of Germany is a recognized carrier of the free youth welfare and independent youth organization of the RKB "Solidarität" Germany 1896 e. V., an association for bicycle, motor, roller and mass sports.



Presentation of the members and the coordination team



Samra

My Name is Samar but my friends call me Samra, I'm a ball of energy as I like to do everything with a splash. I like food and I'm vegetarian (Maybe you will need this information *wink wink*) I'm an extrovert, so don't be surprised if we start sharing personal stories in our first conversation.

The "YVL" journey in Heidelberg was my first experience outside my country Tunisia and I already made many international friends which I value a lot.

Having international friends is like having access to multiple windows that each open into a different part of the world. And for me, I really enjoy learning from people about their culture, traditions, and how they generally go about living their lives. Moving to this training of the young verified leaders, the thing that impressed me the most was that we were from different origins and different backgrounds, but when we got to know each other, it turned out that we are not so different after all.



Khouloud

I'm Khouloud Ben mohamed, from Tunisia, I'm a medical student.

I'm a member of the association "We Love Sousse" so I organize many activities and programs.

Participating in the young verified program was a challenge for me, first of all, it's my first time traveling. Second, I wanted to be part of an international group. I have to admit that it was a very interesting experience for me and it helped me organize sessions with members of our association. I'm so excited for the next step!



Farah

I'm 25 years old and I'm an English teacher. I'm a big fan of reading, walking and adventures. I'm a sociable person. I like to interact with people, try new experiences and learn as much as I can. I aim to enjoy every single moment because why not we don't live twice. I've been a member in "We Love Sousse" since April 2021 and it's been the most interesting journey in my life. My participation in Young Verified Leaders program was based on my eagerness to develop my skills and perspective. I looked forward to exchanging ideas and thoughts about diverse topics and get a first hand experience with the interculturality term. It feels good to be part of such an international environment.





Ghada

My name is Ghada Elouaer, a 23-year-old Tunisian student who loves the ocean, sea turtles and volunteering. My dislikes are limited to the color orange and horror movies. However, I am an avid fan of spooky music and dark colors. I like cooking, reading manga and taking walks with friends, practically anything that involves food and nature. I am a fan.

As for "YVL": I love volunteering and learning about new informal education tools, soft skills and how to generally become a source of change as a leader and youth educator, "YVL" was an opportunity to do all of the above while structuring new bridges between volunteers from different backgrounds and mindsets. This fact alone made the program an unforgettable journey for years to come.



Yasmine

I'm Yasmine Ben Harzallah, 25 y.o., a freshly graduated software engineer. As my "We Love Sousse" girls call me IT wizard, I like discoveries, camping and hiking in nature, diving into the heart of mother earth unraveling its secrets and mysteries, and getting to know people from different places. During my growth, I experienced many things until my new comfort zone became the growth zone. I always like to learn new things, to create new goals and to achieve them. This quality is one of my biggest motivations to join the "Young Verified Leaders" program where I had the honor to get to know people with different backgrounds and perspectives. I was overjoyed to facilitate the "Women and leadership" session with my girls Ghada, Samra, Farah and our leader Haifa Gharbi, sharing and debating with every participant in the program. Surely it was a very enriching and enlightening experience, especially since all of us come from different countries with different cultures which makes the topic even more interesting!



Haifa

Hi there! My name is Haifa -Haf'- for short. A morning person, a cat lover, and a cool individual to be around, (only when decently caffeinated!). My mind and schedule are usually packed. It feels like I can't help putting too many irons in the fire. I teach English to secondary school students for a living, it's been more than fifteen years now (yes, I can't believe it myself! Time flies!). I am also involved in community work and my long-time experience with "We Love Sousse" association highlights my commitment best. Indeed, as a Secretary General of my association, I take pride in working on different programs while serving several departments having a direct positive impact on the quality of life of the inhabitants of my home city; Sousse. Within "WLS", I also thrive in supervising the amazing English SpeakEng Club and coordinating two of the main exchange programs we run with our long-term partner association "Solijugend"; namely the International Youth Camp and "Young Verified Leaders" program. Talking about the "YVL", it's no wonder that I have decided to be part of it as I am always game for new challenges especially when it comes to dealing with exchange programs which promote interculturality and hospitality. The smooth alliance with the "Solijugend" staff achieved through a wonderful past/present collaboration -both online and in person- also encouraged me to be part of this program and contribute to its success.



Some "WLS" members with Haifa.



ADEEJ



Faten

I'm Faten and I'm a course developer/management student/seamstress/cat lady/movie enthusiast... you get the gist, I have too many things going on. I first became a member of "ADEEJ" in 2021 after accidentally meeting its president, and then I became a participant in the "Young Verified Leaders" Program. I've found the "YVL" program to be very supportive and appreciative, and very proactive in developing myself and other participants in a multicultural event. I realize that it's a little complicated trying to achieve this remotely, yet the team makes it work! So "YVL" organizers, we salute you! Recently, I was a facilitator in our Workshop "Conflict & Leadership" and the experience has been experimental to say the least.

We are all well aware that when individuals are put together and asked to do something, conflict is bound to happen. But what happens when you group together students with very hectic schedules and ask them to organize a workshop? Technology! That's what happens. It comes in and online meetings save the day. So we've had our differences trying to organize the workshop, but what was interesting about it was that we weren't researching any topic. We were actually looking for solutions to our own team conflicts, the fact that we did a whole presentation about it was just a bonus. Not only did we learn from this, but we also experimented and applied it on ourselves. Which was pretty interesting, "learning by doing" as they say. All in all, this whole experience has been very

educational, and oddly entertaining at the same time. I look forward to doing more activities with our YVLs. I also encourage other youth to get involved with associations/programs available in their region. Each region has its unique way, but the main focus remains the same. To educate and empower future generations to be able to advocate for others and themselves on various issues like accessibility, independence, and self-esteem. Youth need that push from someone other than their parents or guardians. They need to find mentors that will help them find a distinctive path for their lives.



Amanda

My name is Smati Chaima Amanda, I am a 20-year-old student. The project was a great experience, I learned a lot about teamwork and team spirit which are two skills of paramount importance to me. I could feel that we were a real family, We learned to communicate and better having the privilege to be in touch with different cultures and languages. Thanks to them we could complete our mission in an awesome way.



Kamelia

My name is Kamelia, I'm a 23-year-old computer science student, and a member of "ADEEJ" since 2021.

As an introvert, I feel more energy and stimuli in more reserved places. I know how difficult it must be for people like me to step out of their comfort zone. So, when the opportunity came up, I grasped it with all my power. As a participant in the "Young Verified Leaders" program, I started to change my quiet ways and with great delight I can finally say that I'm able to challenge myself to become less shy and be confident in my ability to adapt to social situations and push myself to extend my boundaries. My participation with the "ADEEJ" team in preparing the "Conflict & leadership" workshop has helped me practice my communication and social skills. As well I learn a few things about conflict resolution. I am happy to have been granted this chance.

Faten, Tokki and Kamelia from "ADEEJ".





Nassim

My name is Medjir Nassim, I am a 28-year-old young Algerian, I studied mechanical engineering and specialized in materials engineering at the University of Science and Technology Houari Boumediene in Algiers and I also have a master's degree in administrative affairs. I am currently working as a developer at "Djezzy", an Algerian telecom company. Since my young age I am interested in Algerian culture and intercultural exchanges, I love travelling, discovering other cultures and traditions. I am also a member of the Algerian Youth Council and a member of an Algerian folk-dance troupe, and I have participated in many national and international festivals. I have acquired a lot of knowledge of the traditions of other countries, and this has encouraged me to continue working in this field. I'm one of the founding members

of "ADEEJ". I was elected by the members of the association as president, and it is here that I begin to apply what I learned and acquired during my career in the association work. I decided to be part of the "YVL" project, because I was looking for a new international project beside the annual international youth camp.



Tokki

My name is Nour Islem Cheikh Echioukh. I am 21-year-old and a member of "ADEEJ" since 2021. I am a big fan of dancing and martial arts. I'm also a very communicative person who does not like to miss chances of self-development; I am always open to learn new things and to embrace moments of joy all the time. I was a facilitator at the "Conflict & Leadership" workshop, which has been a fun experience that I learned a lot from.



Abdeldjallil

Hello! My name is Abdeldjallil Benhamma. I'm of Algerian origins, aged 26, you can call me by my nickname "Rougi". I work as a chef executive of a sorting center in the logistics field. I am a really curious person who loves to analyze and to reflect. I am an active member of the association "ADEEJ", I love animating activities for young children like dance games, and theatrical pieces for education purposes. I enjoyed my trip to Germany which was part of the "Young Verified Leaders" program that I proudly participated in. I like to face challenges and enjoy life to the fullest. I seize every opportunity to improve and get to know new people. Once you get to know me, you will never regret it!

Some "ADEEJ" members with Nassim.





ALEJ



Nasser

I am the Secretary General of "ALEJ" and have been coordinating its International activities on a volunteer basis for over 25 years. I am an English teacher and I support children and youth in non-formal education. I believe that educational leisure activities are an essential factor in the personal and professional development of children and youth.



Maria

My name is Maria Bouzoula, Algerian and I've been an active member of the "ALEJ" association since 2017. I'm 17 years old. I'm a high school student who enjoys learning new things not only subjects at school but also for life in general (this project for instance). It is the first time for me that I participate in such a big project and I'm so thankful for getting this opportunity to work and learn and meet new people, new nationalities and new men-

talities. Especially when I was preparing the workshop with my team. It felt different, it was a very nice atmosphere of working because we all shared this positive energy and the same goal which was: making a presentation worth listening to and benefiting from. Hope you had a good time with us!



Melissa

My name is Melissa, I am a 23-year-old freshly graduated process engineer student and an active member of "ALEJ" since 2013. I like having new experiences, like the most recent one: preparing and leading the 7th session of the "Young Verified Leaders" program about "Media: influences and impacts on society". It was my first time facilitating a workshop; this experience encouraged me to push my limits and helped me develop my skills. It was a very enriching experience, especially since we all come from different countries with different cultures. I, therefore, look forward to participating in the next sessions and thank you very much for this amazing opportunity.



Fares

My name is Meghar Wassim Fares. I am 19 and I have been a member of "ALEJ" since 2016. I am a person who likes to practice sports, make new adventures and relationships.

I also like to learn new things and new skills that allow me to move forward in my life. I participated in the "YVL" workshop "Media: influences and impact on the society", it was my first experience and it was so good. This participation was like a challenge for me which encouraged me to develop my skills even more and learn new ones, also to exchange new ideas with others and to debate on various subjects. But also I had a great time preparing and organizing the part we presented with my teammates.



Chanelz

I'm Saouat Hana Nadjat nicknamed Chanelz. I'm 20 years old. I'm an international trading student and I'm a customer's broker trainer at the airport. I love reading and discovering and learning new things in my life. I have been a member of "ALEJ" since 2008 where I have participated in many intercultural youth exchanges and performed traditional dances. My participation in the "YVL" project allowed me to perform my competencies, reflect on various subjects and understand what interculturality means. I have always preferred to be among the international environment. For the first time in my life I experienced on-line workshop moderation about "Media and its impacts and influences on the society" where I did dare to speak in English in front of a lot of participants from different nationalities and origins. I am usually a shy girl. My teammates and I were all working together, exchanging ideas and information in a good coordination. We all spent a very pleasant time. I had the honour to meet people from different horizons and perspectives.



Mirjam

My name is Mirjam, I'm 24 and currently I have a tech job. However, since I am a very helpful, empathetic person, you can imagine that my heart actually beats for social work. The "Solijugend" has been with me since the 50th youth camp. I would like to be a part of it also in the future, because this time was always very memorable and unique for me. These are also the reasons why I would like to participate in the "Young Verified Leaders" workshop. At the physical and mental health workshop during corona, I was a facilitator. Even though it's online, you get to know a lot of people and you always look forward to the next workshop. For me it's awesome that there I could collect memories for a lifetime.



Adeline

I am Adeline Haaby, international youth education officer at "Solijugend", working for the "Young Verified Leaders" project with Algeria and Tunisia since July 2021. My goal is to build long-term bridges between our North African partners, to strengthen our mutual cooperation and trust among our active members. My work consists of expanding the network and the qualification of professional partners and volunteers in North Africa and Germany. Concretely this means that I am responsible for the conception and implementation of youth encounters in Germany, Algeria and Tunisia as well as for the development of educational concepts.

Equality of rights, gender opportunities, diversity and empathy are of great concern to me and shape both my professional path and activist convictions. Intercultural perspectives and intersectional feminism are my long-known companions: critical views of social power relations are particularly important to me.

I am 30 years old and come from the region Alsace. I have lived, studied and worked in beautiful Munich, vibrant Berlin and lively Buenos Aires. After my French-German double degree in communication science and business administration, I obtained my master's degree in political science. I wrote my master's thesis on the food lobbies industry within the European Union.

After a few years working in adult education, where I taught German as a second language, I started a long trip in Latin America before the outbreak of the pandemic. In addition to my work at "Solijugend", I am enrolled in a second master's program in Gender Studies. Right now I am writing my master thesis about "The political potential of vulnerability in terms of solidary practices". When I'm not devouring books and podcasts, I love deconstructing old beliefs and practices, unraveling conditioned patterns and thinking outside the box. During the day I jog through the green corners of the city and at night I can be caught at Berlin's diverse and famous music nights.

The whole German team members.





Juli

Hi my name is Julia (nickname Juli) and I'm 22. I have been a member of Soli Germany (again) since December 2019. Right now I am studying social work. It's my last semester. I love artistic roller skating, gaming, traveling and archeology :). I think there's nothing more exciting than meeting new people. So the "Young Verified Leaders" program is the perfect chance to try new things and I'm extremely thankful to be part of this program.

The young verified leaders at the amphitheater of El Jem in Tunisia.



Süleyman

My name is Süleyman and I have been working in the field of youth work for several years, mainly as a mentor. Bringing especially young people from all kinds of cultures together and encouraging them is my ambition in life. An intercultural dialogue creates more happiness, peace and cohesion in this world than any money could do. Very philosophical, isn't it? Besides philosophers, I admire organizations that manage to bring together the most diverse people from the most diverse countries in exciting projects. That's why I've been an admirer of the "Solijugend" ever since. They managed in the "Young Verified Leaders" program to bring such a diverse group together and put on an unforgettable workshop. In our Zoom meetings we had many great moments with incredibly sympathetic people from Algeria, Tunisia and Germany - a big thank you to everyone who participated! I was able to learn a lot from you about tolerance, dialogue and international youth work, and I am very grateful to each one of you.

Thanks also to all of you who have read this far, you seem to be really interested in the topics mentioned. So stay on track and keep getting involved in youth work: that's how you create happiness, peace and cohesion in this world.



Hannes

I am Hannes from the most beautiful place in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. Since 2016 I have participated in various political youth projects with the state youth council. Over time, I found my interest in several international youth camps on a European level. Nothing fascinates me more than the cultural exchange of experiences at these camps. Especially in the past two years, it has become clear how important the social aspect at these events is. That's why I was pleased to be able to participate in the organization and implementation of camps in Portugal, Estonia, Brussels, Italy and Rostock, besides finishing the final exams in highschool.





Preparation of the team's strategy during the morning routine with Juli, one of the trainers in Heidelberg.

1. Workshops

The main task of our project was to train young people from Germany, Algeria and Tunisia in groups. This unique program combined hybrid and face-to-face activities in an international and multidisciplinary environment with a great linguistic diversity. The project served to promote knowledge transfer between full-time and volunteer members, strengthen subdivisions of international youth work, and enhance leadership skills. Various activities were fulfilled out in practical and theoretical learning units.

Right from the start, the coordination team was able to agree that the workshops should be held in English. It was important that each participant in this international project would use a common foreign language. This allows the participants to better understand what it means to communicate in a language other than their native tongue. This common challenge created empathy and understanding

between participants from the participant countries from the very beginning. Even though the English language level of the participants was very heterogeneous, the coordination team noticed that at some point the language skills became secondary. According to their observations, it is those who feel more confident in the language who help the others find the right words and serve as role models for the shy ones. This was especially true during the breakout sessions of the online workshops, where the smaller group size allowed participants to express themselves with less inhibition. Likewise, they quickly found ways to share their knowledge and enrich each other. For example, some wrote their ideas in chat in Arabic, which were then translated directly by other participants. Those who felt a little less comfortable speaking wrote their comments in English in the chat box, which were then read aloud by other participants.

W
for
Verified



Click to watch the workshop "Leadership & Interculturality": <https://bit.ly/3YbbGRP>

WELCOME TO OUR SESSION

Women & Leadership



Click to watch the teaser:
<https://bit.ly/3EF9CKI>



Click to watch the workshop
"Women & Leadership":
<https://bit.ly/3y4Yenz>



1

Screenshot of the workshop (above). PowerPoint presentation during the workshop (below).

What particularly struck the "YVL" team was that these mutual support connections developed very organically and benevolently. It wasn't a matter of showing which person had the most knowledge or the best English skills, but using and teasing out the specific skills of each individual. While the main goal of the online workshops was not so much the content, but rather to build strong connections between the partners, the topics raised during the online exchange were also addressed during the training week in Heidelberg.

Here is a review of the six workshops, which were designed to prepare participants for the "Juleica" training:

"LEADERSHIP & INTERCULTURALITY"

The content was diversity, human rights and prejudices - and what this has to do with good leadership. These topics became tangible and vivid when the participants discussed the history of their names in the context of biography work.

"WOMEN AND LEADERSHIP"

In the two-hour workshop, the following question played a central role: "What do women need to do to balance their professional obligations and their private lives?" The following topics were also covered: Challenging biased judgments and patriarchal legacies, as well as structural factors that marginalize women; female leadership skills/ styles.



Click to watch the teaser:
<https://bit.ly/3y17kSC>

"LEADERSHIP AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT"

Here, the focus was on working through concrete conflict situations that may arise in the daily lives of young participants. It is important to remember that the goal of the workshops was not only to provide specific knowledge for leading groups throughout the program, but also to put the participants in practical situations and provide them with tools on how to solve conflicts in a sustainable way.

"MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH DURING CORONA"

The content was about mental and physical problems experienced during the corona lockdown. In small groups, participants discussed perceptions and feelings during this lonely time. In addition, the young verified leaders also felt it was very important to talk about resilience (more specifically, building mental strength). They also gathered ways,

Very focused young verified leaders (above). The young verified leaders trying to answer the question together (below).

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. On the left, a presentation slide titled "Miscommunication" lists five points: Lack of Context, Assumptions, Vagueness or Ambiguity, Excess Communication, and Wrong Medium for Audience. The slide features an illustration of two people in a conversation. On the right, a grid of 15 participants is visible, each with a name tag. A chat window on the far right shows messages from participants, including "yes", "dommage j'ai fait un chat", "i made an alien", "hahahah", and "looks like WALL E".

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. On the left, a presentation slide titled "WHAT MEANS RESILIENCE?" lists two main points: "It's the ability to cope with crises and learn to handle the personal and social resources" and "Seven Factors for resilience". The factors are numbered 1 through 7: (1) Self-Efficacy – yes, I can!, (2) Optimism – when life gives you lemons..., (3) Responsibility – get out of the victim role!, (4) Network orientation - I am not alone!, (5) Goals & Visions, (6) Mindfulness & Acceptance, and (7) Creativity. On the right, a grid of 15 participants is visible, each with a name tag. A chat window on the far right shows messages from participants, including "hahahahaah", "Wer kann Ihre Nachrichten sehen? Aufzeichnung E", and "Versenden an: Alle".

strategies and tips for all countries involved in the workshop on how to deal with a possible next overall societal physical and mental crisis.

"MEDIA: INFLUENCE AND IMPACT ON SOCIETY"

To kick things off, participants worked in small groups to answer the following questions: What does the word media mean to you, what is media? Where does most of the information you get come from?

It was noted that social media comes first; it is the easiest way for young people to get information. Participants were then divided into small groups to share the pros and cons of media, which was very enlightening for many. Among other things, participants mentioned that constantly following trends on Instagram could be detrimental to self-esteem.

"RACISM THROUGH A YOUTH LENS"

The sixth and final workshop included showing images that describe racism from a historical perspective and asking participants to share their thoughts about these images. In addition, the workshop addressed systemic racism and how institutions or organizations deal with racism. Among other things, some examples and statistics from the field of education were examined in more detail.

PowerPoint presentation during the workshop (above). Even young verified leaders need to rest (below).

Diaporama PowerPoint - MEDIA-melissa - PowerPoint

Map of the workshop

- Media and its evolution
- Benefits and downsides of Social Media
- Impact of media on the society
- Fake News
- The power of persuasion
- How to protect yourself from false information

Discuss the video + answer the next questions :

- Where can we experience racism ?
- Have you ever encountered a racist situation ? How did you feel ?
- Do you consider your country racist ?

Break Out Rooms

15 minutes



2. Exchange of professionals in Sousse

WHAT HAPPENED IN SOUSSE? From 13 to 18 December 2021, the coordination team of the project “Young Verified Leaders” met in Sousse (“Solijugend”, “ADEEJ” and “ALEJ” from Algeria and “We Love Sousse” from Tunisia). The goal was to plan the upcoming workshops, to prepare our international youth encounters, to exchange about methods of non-formal child and youth work – and last but not least to finally get to know each other personally.



Interview with Haifa

Responsible of the project from “We Love Sousse”.

Can you present to us your role in the “YVL” program?

Being the project coordinator from the Tunisian side my role was to select the most suitable candidates for the program, supervise them and prepare them to take part in this 18-month life changing experience. My role also consisted in coordinating regular meetings with my Algerian and German partners. In those meetings, we built the project from scratch; from designing the logo to fixing the program timeline. I was also in charge of organizing the international meeting of partners in Tunisia. Prepare the agenda and activities while making sure that participants are involved all along the process.

How was it to organize this encounter in the middle of a sanitary crisis?

Why was it so important to make this encounter happen?

It was indeed extremely challenging given the pandemic threat and hectic worldwide situation. Yet, it was necessary for the overall success of the program. Reflecting on it now, I can only feel proud that we made it happen against all odds. It not only strengthened the bond between the partners but also offered a chance to assess our progress and plan ahead the next steps. Not to forget that the encounter provided the “YVL” program with visibility in Tunisia as we could meet some important officials such as the minister of Youth and Sports. Thanks to these encoun-



Some young verified leaders in the old city of Sousse.



Haifa, Adeline and some "WLS" members.

ters, we were able to lay out our project in the hope of getting international recognition for the "Juleica" card in the near future.

What were your expectations for this YVL exchange program? Have you met them?

I must say that I have met a great deal of my expectations for this exchange program. Indeed, I hoped that my team would have an opportunity to experience leadership in concrete ways. I wanted them to take initiatives and be responsible for their own progress and fulfillment. I am thrilled that the online workshops and "Juleica" training in Germany were tailored to achieve that particular goal

and I can only feel satisfied to observe the amount of progress, confidence and maturity they have gained along the way. On a personal level, this program allowed me to step out of my comfort zone and lead in a trilateral project for the first time. I believe that I have learned from my partner colleagues as much as they have learned from me. Our cooperation was fruitful mainly because we were equally involved in each and every step of the project. We had each other's back while facing some mishaps along the way and found

solutions as a team through steady communication. We constantly shared thoughts and ideas in our regular meetings and made sure we take consensus-based decisions. I think that ultimately played an important role in achieving outstanding outcomes.



Tired young verified leaders after a very challenging day in Heidelberg.

3. “Juleica” training in Heidelberg

WHAT HAPPENED IN HEIDELBERG? The international “Young Verified Leaders” youth leader training took place from 25. 07. 2022 to 30. 07. 2022 in Heidelberg. The following contents were imparted by the two trainers to the required extent: rights and duties of young verified leaders, welfare of the child, life worlds of adolescents, psychological development, group roles, Intercultural sensitization, diversity and racism, games and methods, gender sensitivity, practice your masterplan, presentation and feedback of the concepts, self-image: motivations, strengths, potentials, and attitude. In addition, to name a few; participants were given tools on various methods: morning and evening routine, getting to know each other and the program, team challenges and feedback, self-reflection techniques.



Regardless of the challenging and innovative program, this accelerated training of more than forty hours in five days gave members the opportunity to finally get to know each other face-to-face. What was striking was how quickly they were able to build mutual trust and overcome their initial reluctance. This was achieved thanks to the diligent work that had been done in advance, the six previous online workshops and the intensive preparation for the training in Heidelberg.

This assessment was also confirmed by the trainers Juliane Uhlig and Klaas Opitz, who answered the question “What challenges did you face in interacting with the participants?” as follows: “This group was an international and mixed group that had already been working together online for 10 months. So in proportions, the group already knew each other. The challenge for the seminar leaders was to break up the partial integration of the participants in the national groups, to expand it and to enable them to come together as a whole group with negotiation processes to go through. [...] The participants quickly showed a lively interest in each other and met with openness and appreciation. They also spent

a lot of time together outside the seminar times, during breaks and in the evenings. The space offered for exchange and further acquaintance was readily accepted and used. The challenge of dealing with prejudices (especially nationalistic ones) as well as with influences of post- or neo-colonial, sexist and racist structures and power asymmetries did not lead to any difficulties for the seminar leaders. Power asymmetries were addressed and there were no perceptible sustainable tensions, although there were pedagogically-intended as well as unconscious reproductions of those structures in the seminar.”



Click to watch
“What is a Juleica”:
<https://bit.ly/3IZ8DrD>



Working group in Heidelberg.

Interview with Adeline

Responsible of the project from
"Solidarittjugend Deutschlands"

**Can you describe your position in
"Solidarittjugend Deutschlands" and
your role in "YVL"?**

I started working at "Solijugend" at the time the "Young Verified Leaders" project kicked off in July 2021. I was hired as project manager and international youth educator officer in order to expand and strengthen the existing networks between the partners in North Africa and the "Solijugend", including the regional associations and local groups.

What were the outputs of the encounter in Tunisia?

In Tunisia, the main objective was for the coordinating teams of the three countries to meet personally for the first time. The goal was to plan the upcoming workshops, to pre-

pare our international youth encounters, to exchange about methods of non-formal child and youth education and finally meet in person for the first time.

What are the highlights of the training in Heidelberg? Are there any aspects you wished you'd manage differently?

For me the highlight of our meeting in Heidelberg was the diversity of our group and the high commitment of each participant. One of the challenges of these four days was to cover very dense and complex modules without overworking the young people.

The added value of this training is that everyone can go home with new knowledge and practical exercises that they can reinvest in other contexts. For this to work, it is imperative that the participants train "without realizing it", always with a lot of pleasure and curiosity to get to know other participants. This is one of the great differences with the structures of formal education where coercion and competition are the main drivers.

I would like to thank the trainers Juli and Klaas for adapting the theoretical content and the practical activities of the course to meet the expectations of the participants. A program of such density also requires a lot of time for self-reflection. This was possible thanks to the setting up of a logbook, com-

pleted each day by the participants. Ideally, I would have liked to offer three additional days of training to really take the time to reflect on the knowledge acquired as a group as well as individually.

How was the coordination and work with the two trainers Juli and Klaas? What challenges have you faced to get everybody on the same page?

Since the beginning of the project, I have made it a point of honor to translate and make the challenges and contents of this training understandable to the different actors with whom we are building this unique program. Klaas and Juli had already trained young people in the "Juleica" training, but they had never worked with a group of German, Tunisian and Algerian people whose working language was English. For me it was important to use this great diversity in a positive and active way to make sure that everyone felt comfortable and confident enough to make comments or formulate criticisms. In the end, the other asset of this program was the very diverse background of the trainers and coordination team, coming from specific backgrounds but working towards the same goals and values. ➤

What would you do differently if ever the program was granted a second edition?

If the program were granted a second edition, I would like to address the issue of visas with the German Foreign Office and the respective institutions in charge of the project from the beginning. The lack of visas has been the main difficulty of this project, preventing the participants from meeting twice. In addition, regardless of the direct consequences of not obtaining visas, the weeks of uncertainty during the preparation of the files and the numerous failing attempts to contact the authorities in charge have considerably slowed down the work of the participants and the coordinating teams.

In both cases, whether in the case of the visit of the Algerians to Germany or during our presumed meeting in Algeria, we experienced acute phases of stress. Until the day before the respective departures, the embassies asked us to wait for a so-called phone call. I wish I would never have to work again in such conditions and to depend on the arbitrary power of officials sadly tied to political realities that we cannot influence.

A visa refusal that did not come at the last minute would have allowed us to make the necessary arrangements. This lack of professionalism was even felt by the participants themselves. After 18 months of working together, I had to suddenly tell the German team that we would not be able to participate in the meeting in Algeria. As project manager, I had to take responsibility for this failure and find the right words so that the participants would not question their unfailing commitment throughout the project.

What do you think of the overall experience?

I came out of this experience very enriched, as I had to constantly juggle between my responsibilities as project manager and international youth education officer. My objective was to connect the different actors of the projects while suggesting quality content, thoughtful and matching the expectations of the participants. I really learned what it means in a practical way to lead at eye level a project combining three countries with different but complementary cultures, customs, and practices.



Haifa, Ghada and Adeline in Heidelberg.

I have also been able to perceive the hurdle of online communication that comes with so many interpersonal nuances of cross-cultural communication.

What is your wish for future trilateral experiences?

My wish, apart from more support and guidance in applying for visas, is a greater recognition of the importance of trilateral projects for the German, Tunisian and Algerian youth. "YVL" was born out of this shared vision and the need not to leave our young people alone to deal with the consequences of the pandemic. A long-term cooperation with our Maghrebian partners is only possible if the project continues to exist, is promoted and is perceived by as many people as possible. It is therefore important for us to maintain and further develop the foundations of the relationships that have been established. In this way, it would be possible to profit from the initial successes instead of having to start from scratch each time. Nevertheless, our guiding question remains: how can we create sustainable international youth work that benefits many organizations? I am still inter-

ested in spreading the know-how generated by projects like "YVL" to other multipliers. This knowledge transfer will initiate more alliances between organizations and increase the cooperation within institutions in order to share knowledge and learn together from challenges. This also means for me to find more interfaces between already existing similar projects like "YVL". I would like to integrate the generated knowledge in a more meaningful way - with the aim to support other organizations and thus also our youth with a comprehensive handbook on the implementation of international youth leader trainings, to strengthen international cooperation and to ensure the transfer of knowledge in international youth work.

As the coordinator of the project, how was your first experience working with Tunisian and Algerian youth? Were your expectations met?

Even if I regularly followed the Tunisian and Algerian news, mainly of a political nature, I had little concrete knowledge of the expectations of these Maghrebi youth. Being able to communicate daily with young people and understand what their aspirations are made of was undoubtedly my main motivation to work on this project. I have been surprised to observe that although our participants come from different cultures and thus bring different perspectives, they share common interests and similar lifestyles. In addition, I have really learned on a daily basis to question the post-colonial North/South structures and the ways in which they impact Maghrebi youth. In concrete terms, this meant on the one hand, being able to bear and handle ambiguities and contradictions. On the other hand, I learned not only to work inclusively and with flat hierarchies in project management, but also to actively promote diversity. In doing so, I have endeavored not to reduce complexity and identity references and to make visible the interweaving between multiple dimensions of differentiation. Again, the fact that on two occasions we did not receive visas made it very difficult to meet my expectations.



Farah, Samra, Ghada and Khoulood in Heidelberg.

JOURNEY OF FARAH FROM “WE LOVE SOUSSE” IN HEIDELBERG:

Writing about this journey will not be enough for me and I can proudly say that it is the most magical experience that I have been through so far. I am grateful first for every person who contributed to pave a way for me to learn and explore myself better.

It was a rich chance with an integrated pattern of knowledge, creativity, updated methods, moments, interaction and beautiful friendships. The diversity makes all of us special, and it is even more precious when offered a spontaneous atmosphere where I got the chance to share, work with teams and learn more about skills that I did not think I would have.

I enjoyed every day of the program, the topics included, the different perspectives shared, the activities either in the hostel or outdoor that added a unique sense to the learning process. Klass and Juli were very friendly,

open to suggestions and funny, they did not hesitate to help and provide us with guidance and support, which was much appreciated. They gave me a space where I got to express my ideas freely in a non-formal context.

To learn about being a leader has always been of great interest to me and the “YVL” was the right direction to acquire the needed skills, to impact in a good way as a youth and to share the acquired knowledge with the youth community in my country. The bond I created with the participants after spending more than 10 months online allowed me to gain memorable friendships and quality time, while enjoying learning and acquiring capacities. The fact of being in an international environment helped a lot to see what vision I should take in order to act as a leader and chase my dreams and goals.

This experience was full of such delightful moments besides the knowledge, the team bonding, the trainer’s communication and it was so easy to adapt. Each session was beneficial, in addition it gave me a wide idea about others’ cultures and beliefs. The topics were well chosen and enabled me to see from

a different perspective. Besides, group work created a sense of togetherness: working on presentations, brainstorming ideas definitely allowed me to learn from the people I worked with. This kind of program taught me that I can step out of my comfort zone: When you accept the challenge of stepping into a completely different environment, you have the chance to open new doors you didn’t even know existed.

The energizers before the sessions were really helpful, the time I got to describe my thoughts through painting for example was funny and quite enjoyable.

This “YVL” pushed me further to dream bigger, to challenge myself, to talk comfortably, and to apply what I learned, to get to know myself better and to believe that I am able to practice leadership and that the best way to do it is by working more on enhancing my skills and never ceasing to chase learning and knowledge.



The young verified leaders in the old city of Heidelberg.

What do the young verified Leaders think about Heidelberg?

Which connections did you find between the training in Heidelberg and the online workshops?

Hannes: Most of the online workshop sessions were organized by a volunteer team. Mostly those team members represented the Algerian, Tunisian and German organizations. With roughly four weeks of planning these groups prepared a two-hour online workshop about a specific topic concerning intercultural differences and everyday issues in interpersonal coexistence. During the training in Heidelberg, our schedule was organized into different topics that affect our day-to-day interaction when working in groups and youth organizations. In each situation we tried to transfer knowledge using games and interactive methods. Of course, the opportunity to interact with multiple people at the same time is a much greater challenge when meeting online, but we used the given gadgets effectively.

Süleyman: In the “Juleica” training, we mainly had overlaps in the topics of psychology and cultural diversity.

Mirjam: The online workshops prepared us for the workshop and the interaction between the participants. Also, we got to know each other. For this reason, we achieved a basic knowledge on the substances of a “YVL”.

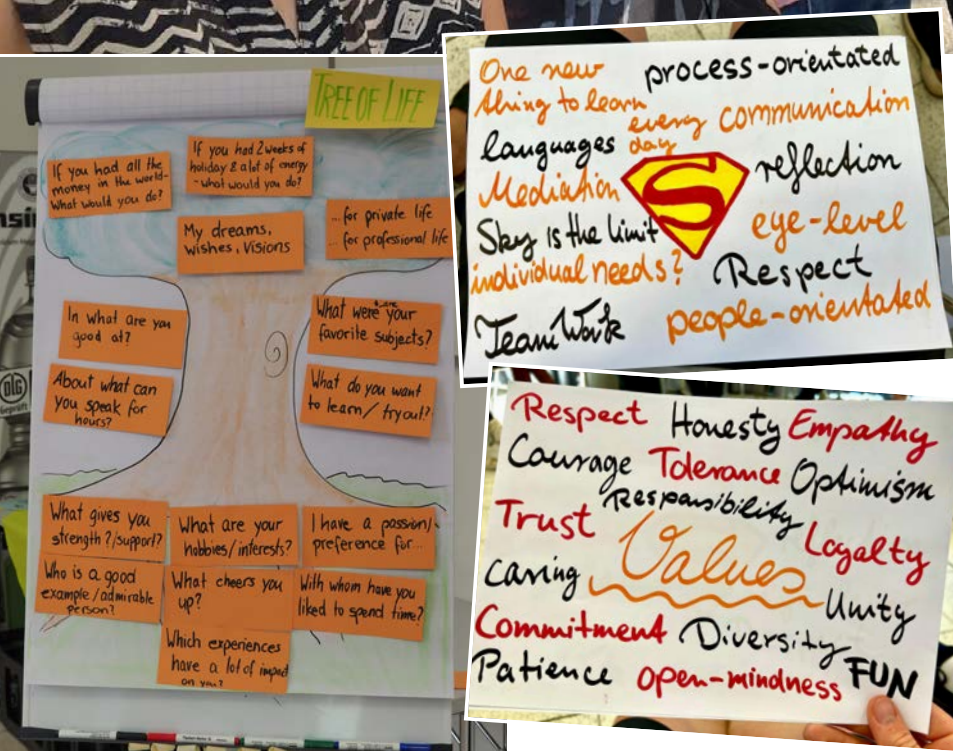
Ghada: How it started: an online camp, a blooming idea, a growing team and then a PC, a mail and a zoom link. I can still remember our first sessions, unfamiliar with the faces and the program, an online session that we got used to until we had to make our own workshop and face the struggles, thus we learned to appreciate every effort done for our sake during these workshops. Through them, we got to know each other: first the names, then the personalities and afterwards the humor and talents. Afterwards, the online morphed into reality, those we befriended became actual people with actual bodies and voices not microphoned ones. The preparations, the day of the flight, the transport which was no easy fit, especially the 20 kilos suitcases that were filled with

Harissa and summer dresses. However, once we made it to the youth hostel, and we met the people we left as pixels, that was a feeling unbeknownst for our words to describe. Later, there was the meet-and-greet, introduction, ice breaking where ice was broken long ago but tradition upheld. We learned something new every day, had the most organized yet unexpected turns of a day-agenda, been tired, never bored, having time to rest while always stimulating our appetite for knowledge. The morning and evening routines, the energizers, the well-chosen biscuits and tea, and the beauty of our night strolls to Rewe, chatting, sharing, expressing, joking, munching, laughing and just creating more memories that will leave us in tears once we depart.

Abdeldjalil: Both the workshops and the Heidelberg training were unique and rich in information in their own perspective. I learned a lot in both of them, especially that we had activities in Heidelberg that were related to the workshops each association prepared in the zoom meetings.



International selfie in Heidelberg.



Self-aspiration materialized through a "tree of life".

Which values and skills should a young verified leader have?

Juli: The online meetings were a great opportunity to get in contact and learn a little about the other participants and their organizations. Especially when we all finally met in person in Heidelberg after all the online meetings it showed that it was way easier for us all to work in a group with an amazing atmosphere and grow together really fast.

Tokki: I saw a complementary connection where we went more in depth and learned about how to be a leader on a practical level after learning about it in theory during the online workshops.

Which skills or competence did you learn and/or train during the week training in Heidelberg? Why are those skills important to you?

Mirjam: I learned a lot about how to contribute to equality in the future. And this is what I personally want to achieve in my private and working life.

Süleyman: Especially my English :D. This is very important if I want to work in an international context, either as a volunteer or as a professional. I also learned a lot about Algerian and Tunisian cultures, which was very enriching for me.

Khouloud: Thanks to this training, I had the opportunity to acquire new methods of working in a workshop. Before this experience I was not able to plan a group work session because the activities I could do were limited, but now I have access to documents on Trello which I consult frequently.

The discussions we had also gave me a clearer idea about certain topics, such as gender and racism.

One of the activities that stood out for me was the car activity where everyone has to choose their role in their group according to the example of the different parts of a car.



The trainers Juli and Klaas giving some instructions before the outdoor night activity.



I remember most of the group works even if with time some details might be forgotten and the information learned somehow needs to be refreshed by skimming through notes. However, I could never forget the feelings we had, especially on the first day: we were still strangers with all our differences but we quickly learned to live together, to share our experiences and the details of our lives. I particularly remember the moments when I had to deal with conflicts and leave my comfort zone. In the end, I think what you really take away is never information or definitions: the real discovery is getting to know yourself and knowing the other person.

Abdeldjalil: The method of preparing activities of the group was the most treasured skill that I learned during my training, it was one of the most important things to me since I had a new view on the process of making activities corresponding to the group I'm leading depending on age/ethnicity, etc.

Hannes: The entire week of working with the tunisian and algerian team was characterized by different methods to get to know each other, to break the ice and to refresh the energy level of the group. In many respects, these competencies are of outstanding importance when dealing with groups. First and foremost, they're a great way to boost participants and get them moving around. So far, I have found that participation, for example in workshops, is more effective if you get up and move regularly. Furthermore, these small activities have the advantage that attention is raised. Especially in the early morning hours this comes in handy. Finally, it should be mentioned that these activities also strengthen the personal relationships of the individual group participants. Especially when it comes to groups in which the people did not know each other before and speak a different mother tongue. In these cases, activities for the feeling of cohesion are essential and form the basis for effective action.

Ghada: "YVL" changed us, changed me. I am more aware of my shortcomings and even more aware of my hard-earned skills. I did not like the term leader, to me it seemed like too

much responsibility and a mission so complicated. Now, I do not mind it as much, I had my share of struggles already but they are challenges that will make a better version of myself; these are memories that will be engraved and remembered as opportunities for growth well-undertaken. I can be a leader, I want to be a leader, with my own rules and my very own style. A true verified young leader!!

Juli: One of the most important things I learned was to get a little bit out of my comfort zone and be open for new experiences.

Tokki: The skill I cherish the most is being more flexible socially. I learned to communicate better, talk better and express myself more clearly and freely.



One of the favorite activities of the young leaders in Heidelberg was the famous “Watermelon party”. The concept is very simple: buy every evening the best watermelons in town and savour them until there are no more. To relieve the pressure, nothing better to accompany this summer fruit with surely unhealthy yet delicious snacks...

What was your favorite module/activity in Heidelberg?

Abdeldjalil: My favorite module was “Psychological development”. It was an interesting learning experience and the flow of information got more in depth about analyzing and learning about the psychological aspect of being a leader and the group you are leading.

Süleyman: I really liked the warm ups. In addition, the group work was exciting; here you could get to know the participants even better.

Ghada: One module I particularly liked is the agenda planning, to me it was the one-pot part, the module that gathered all the knowledge and inspired application. The idea we worked on especially was a great testament to our past and newly acquired knowledge. My favorite activities were “The energizers”. I loved the train one even though it was so complicated at first. I loved the portrait drawing activity in the racism workshop and last but not least the tree of life activity, it was so much fun to create and share with others parts and little bits of your person.

Hannes: All the activities we participated in were enriching and distributed to an intercultural understanding. It is hard to distinguish between them and to decide for my favourite one but I can for sure tell which one stuck to my mind until this day. About halfway through the camp we had an activity where the presenter hands out four flipchart papers with

just the outline of a human. It was then our task to draw stereotypes of European, African, Asian and Arabic people. This activity was particularly interesting because most of the time we had similar associations and stereotypes with the origins of the people.

Mirjam: In my opinion it was on the one side the discussion on how to create a gender-just youth camp and on the other side, the module about stereotypes and racism as I am in favor of equal rights for everybody.

Juli: I personally enjoyed every opportunity where we could get in discussions and learn more about each other. So for one part, of course, the team building activities but also the free time where we could just sit together and talk.

Tokki: I’d say my favorite module was “Psychological development”, since it allowed me to learn more about a subject I’ve been interested in for a long time, especially as a youth and as a leader.



Heidelberg Panorama, © Sergey Dzyuba

Which were your highlights during the week in Heidelberg?

Mirjam: My personal highlight was to get to know so many friendly and helpful people who shared the same goals.

Hannes: With such eventful days, it is very difficult to signal out the highlights of the week. But I wouldn't attach highlights to individual events. On the contrary, the best thing about the week in Heidelberg is the gathering of almost twenty students from two different continents who together speak four different languages. In times of distance and working from home, we have clearly set an example of how enriching cultural exchange between young people from different parts of the world can be.

Ghada: My favorite moments include our last group picture, writing down the small messages to each other and seeing the pride in our Juli and Klaus' eyes by the end of the training. We progressed so much in just a few days, creating our own agendas and camps, brain-storming activities and themes. The program taught us to value our mistakes and push our limits, because that is what a leader is all about! Someone who will challenge themselves to lift others, someone who looks beyond stereotypes and sees new perspectives from people surrounding them, inspiring and teaching them how precious a mere second can be.

By night, late at night, the love for watermelons was celebrated in the most festive of ways, a feast of a plump watermelon shared by the boys then all the team, that was my

most special memory of the "YVL" training. Going to Heidelberg's old city on the final day with the entire group and taking all those enchanting pictures while in tears because we are leaving the next day.

Abdeldjalil: My highlight of the week was getting to know the members of the project more especially, asking them questions and letting them introduce themselves, which got me more familiar with everyone. I appreciated it a lot.

Juli: My personal highlight was finally meeting all the people and spending time with them since we already knew each other through the online workshops.

Samra: The things I enjoyed most during the week at Heidelberg were as follow:

- The diverse activities that we did to know each other,
- the way of delivering the presentations,
- the group roles module,
- the morning routines (specially the one facilitated by Süleyman).

Khouloud: The highlight of the week in Heidelberg, for me, was working on the idea of a camp. This activity was the outcome of the five days as we tried to integrate the information we learned to work on a complete project with all the necessary details.

We consulted the files already shared as well as other sites and had a long conversation to finally have the plan for three days.

Tokki: My highlight was the watermelon parties we threw at the end of each day. It was nice to see everyone smiling and enjoying themselves after a long day of working hard and learning.

Süleyman: To have met such incredibly lovely people.

One thing you will start doing differently after these experiences in Heidelberg?

Samra: I still remember every single detail from this experience and will always do, this is my first traveling experience after all, but if I have to highlight one thing that I learned and will apply in the future, it will be way the presentations were delivered using flip charts, I noticed that presenting information using that method stuck in my mind, and I'm sure it will be very effective in my future presentations.

Mirjam: I want to be more careful about inequality.

Abdeldjalil: I started taking more English courses to communicate and express myself better in future projects.

Tokki: I became more strict about my schedule, especially my sleeping and meals schedule. It got way better. I thank you for that.

Hannes: After all the experiences I gained in Heidelberg, I will from now on deal more intensively with the culture of Arab countries in Africa. For this I started a trip to Tunisia just three weeks after the "Young Verified Leaders" camp. I can only recommend this to anyone who has not traveled to this region, yet.

One thing I wish to change in Heidelberg?

Ghada: About myself as a "YVL" participant: to listen more and be empathetic towards my groupmates, sometimes I felt so overwhelmed that I ignored other people's opinions and visions while stubbornly holding onto my own, it is a resolution of mine to get over this habit.





View of the city from "Maqam Echahid"

4. Members meeting in Algiers

WHAT DID HAPPEN IN ALGIERS? This event from December 16th to the 22nd marked the third and final "Young Verified Leaders" intercultural meeting. It was hosted by "ADEEJ" and held in Algeria.



With the attendance of the "We Love Sousse" team and the sad absence of the "Solijugend" team as they were not granted visas to Algeria.

Have you ever seen young verified leaders roaming the grounds? Some young verified leaders spotted at the "Dream Park" in Algiers.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16TH, 2022: ARRIVAL

The welcoming team from "ADEEJ" met at the airport at 10 a.m. in anticipation of the arrival of our Tunisian partners from "We Love Sousse" (WLS) organization. Sadly, due to unfortunate circumstances related to the non obtention of their visas, our German partners from "Solijugend" could not make it to our final "Young Verified Leaders" international meeting. The Tunisian plane was scheduled to land at 11 a.m., but the customs procedure took a while, and the "WLS" team did not emerge until 1 p.m. After that, the greetings and welcoming took place. The teams were split into two vehicles, with an extra one for luggage, and were taken to their hotel, where Nassim was waiting to greet everyone.

The "WLS" team was given some time to freshen up, and then everyone headed for a late lunch at Garden City — a lifestyle center designed after the architecture of the Casbah of Algeria. Despite "WLS" team being very tired, they managed to interact over the meal, and started to get to know those from "ADEEJ" they had never had the chance to meet before. The two teams soon realized they had very different dialects and started having linguistic exchanges over the different names of things.



A part of the "ADEEJ" and "We Love Sousse" team at the "Garden City".

After the late lunch, the "WLS" group was split into those who wanted to rest and those who wanted to walk around the center. Later, it was back to the hotel for some well-needed rest.

Dinner was at a "Khayma" — a traditional desert tent — for some traditional Algerian food and interesting conversations, followed by a late-night visit to Maqam Echahid (Martyr's Memorial) — a soaring 1982 concrete monu-

ment that towers over the city of Algiers overlooking the harbor. Made up of three rising palm leaves, each of which has a statue of a single Algerian soldier at the base — to overlook the city and see the monument change colors at night.



Members of "ADEEJ" and "WLS" at the Youth Community Center "Maison de Jeunes Kouba" (top).

The young verified leaders in front of the basilica of "Notre Dame d'Afrique" (above).

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 2022: DAY 1

After a full night's sleep and an early breakfast, the two teams headed to the Youth Community Centre of Kouba where the "WLS" team did a presentation introducing their organization and sharing the activities and projects they have accomplished on a national and international level. Followed by a workshop with the creative young minds of the Coloring and Drawing Club of "Maison de Jeunes Kouba" (Youth Community Centre) with some animation and games enjoyed by both the members of the "Young Verified Leaders", and the children who participated in this workshop.

Later in the afternoon, after a delicious lunch, the two teams visited the basilica of "Notre Dame d'Afrique" (Our Lady of Africa) – an 1872 Roman Catholic Church on a cliff overlooking the Bay of Algiers, built with a mixture of Roman and Byzantine styles of architecture and Moorish influences.

The day ended with a trip to Bab Ezzouar Commercial Center for a relaxed dinner that made both "ADEEJ" and "We Love Sousse" members end their day with an enjoyable discussion among newfound friends.



Presentation about the association "WLS" given by the members themselves.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH, 2022: DAY 2

Back to "Maqam Echahid" (Martyr's Memorial), but during daytime this time, where the National Museum of Moujahid beneath the monument was open. The two teams had a curious visit on the history of the Resistance and the Algerian Revolution for freedom.

Then it was off to the National Museum of the Armed Forces nearby, where they saw displays of various objects, clothing, weapons and other unique pieces that belonged to the Algerian fighters. In the afternoon, they had a trip to the Casbah – An "Islamic city" that flourished during the 315-year Ottoman Empire rule. This living monument is recognized under UNESCO World Heritage List for its cultural and historical heritage. Walking through it gave the teams a familiar, yet, alien sensation of walking through the streets of Tunisia. This highlighted the similarities and brought out the differences between the two countries.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19TH, 2022: DAY 3

On this day, the teams had a trip to "La foire d'Alger" (the Algerian Palace of Exhibition). They started off their visit with a tour around the Exhibition of National Products where they had the opportunity to discover products that were locally made. An interesting subject for young future leaders to know about, and learn of how they themselves can create their own brands and products and contribute to their country's economy.

After passing through such an exhibition, the teams then headed to the theme park "Dream Park" where both "We Love Sousse" and "ADEEJ" members got into fun and adrenaline-rushed experiences.



The members of "WLS" and "ADEEJ" during the presentation of the "ADEEJ" association.



The members of "WLS" and Tokki, member from "ADEEJ" at "La Foire d'Alger".



The young verified leaders in front of the Martyr's Memorial "Maqam Echahid".

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH, 2022: DAY 4

That morning the team's first visited "Djamaa el Djazair" (the Great Mosque of Algiers) – considered to be Africa's biggest mosque and includes a Qur'an school (an institution often connected to a mosque where boys and girls become familiar with the Qur'an, the sacred Islamic book), a library, a museum of Islamic art, and a research center dedicated to the history of Algeria. This was a first time visit for the Algerian participants as well since the mosque was completed in 2019 and is only

two years old. At 265 meters high, the mosque boasts Africa's tallest minaret. The teams were very excited to have VIP access to it, where they were allowed to reach its highest floor with a magnificent view overlooking the city.

After that, it was back to the Youth Community Centre of Kouba where the teams participated in a workshop about project management facilitated by Mr. Hamid Saada, former Director of the Euro-Med Youth Unit at the European Union.

It was an interactive workshop that enticed the participation and interaction of the members. Then, after a coffee break, the "ADEEJ" team took the floor where they presented their association, its history and its activities so far.

Later that afternoon, the participants were taken to Hassiba Ben Bouali Boulevard – named after a female hero of the Algerian independence war – for a walk and a bit of shopping before dinner.

That day also happened to be the evening of the birthday of one of the members of "We Love Sousse". The teams wanted to make it special, and an early birthday party was thrown in her favor.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21ST, 2022: DAY 5

On that day, the two teams gathered around for an online meeting with their German partners from "Solijugend". It was a sad moment for the "YVL" project as its participants were unable to meet physically for this last step. Having that meeting was more of a symbolic tribute to our German friends so as to involve them in this final episode of "YVL". Despite the distance, their contribution and participation were much appreciated.

Visit of the Great Mosque of Algiers "Djamaa el Djazair".

Then some members of both "WLS" and "ADEEJ" (Nassim, Raouf, Anis, Haifa, and Imene) were scheduled to visit the Algerian Parliament that day.

And since not all members were able to go to the parliament, the two teams split once again. Ones were headed to the parliament, and others wanted to buy souvenirs on their last day in Algeria, so they went on a little shopping spree.

But first, they went and had lunch facing the Great Central Post Office – a neo-Moorish building built in Algiers in 1910. After lunch, the second team joined them where they told them about their visit to the Algerian Parliament. They had met with the president of the youth, sports and community activities commission where they had an interesting conversation and introduced the "YVL" project. They also discussed the difficulties that happened with the German Visas and how to avoid such possible issues in the future.

Then everyone headed on an afternoon shopping trip at the traditional "zniket laarayes", which literally translates to the "bride's alley" and is part of the Casbah. It was clear that the "WLS" members were very excited and enjoyed their time tremendously buying traditional trinkets and souvenirs.

After the shopping spree, they regrouped at a café for an afternoon coffee and to rest their sore feet for a bit. There, the participants got to know each other a bit more with a game of truth or dare.

Then it was time for dinner and a late-night stroll in the port of Sidi Fredj.



Closing ceremony in the hotel's lobby.

Some young verified leaders on departure.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 22ND, 2022: DEPARTURE

On that morning, the teams gathered around in the hotel lobby just like they had been doing for the past five days, but this time it was their last. An emotional closing ceremony was held where each of the "YVL" participants, and some members of "ADEEJ" who helped organize everything, shared a quick word about their experience and their hopes for future collaborations. Pictures were taken, gifts were exchanged, hugs were given, and the final farewells were said.

After that, the "WLS" team was taken to the airport to catch their departing flight. Haifa went first and then the rest of the team followed.

A FINAL WORD

The "Young Verified Leaders" exchanges gave its participants the opportunity to not only participate in the program but to host it as well. It gave them a chance to observe, learn and apply what they have learned. Hosting the exchange gave the team an opportunity to learn a lot about time management, communication, and organization. It taught them that not everything can be planned so they had to learn how to manage and improvise when put in situations where they had to lead. Despite having some experience in leadership, the "YVL" experience was completely different. The participants were used to planning events locally within their comfort zones. Having outsiders come and ask them questions about today's plan, their next

activity, and random cultural questions concerning their culture and history made them realize small things they were unaware of. Things that are not taught in school, things that nobody has ever questioned before, the experience made them stop and reflect. Certain leadership skills cannot be taught; they can only be lived through experiences. The "Young Verified Leaders" program provided those experiences. It helped develop its participants by getting them out of the familiar and helping them face the unfamiliar.



Raouf (member of "ADEEJ"), Nassim, Haifa and Ben alia boubekeur (president of the youth, sports and community activities commission).



The young verified leaders on the last day of the encounter in front of the hotel.

Interview with Nassim



Nassim, inside of the Great Mosque of Algiers "Djamaa el Djazair".

How was it to organize this encounter, as the last encounter of the project? Why was it so important to make this encounter happen?

Organizing this meeting was a great challenge that we committed to facing. This experience is the first of its kind for us. The beginning of preparation was to hold many internal meetings between members and the executive office to develop a road map for the good preparation of the encounter. Of course, the task was not easy at all because of the administrative complexities of extracting the necessary licenses from the competent authorities, but nevertheless we were able to overcome these problems. This meeting is of great importance to the project, although the important part of the project has already been completed (the German meeting in Heidelberg)

This meeting is also just as important as its predecessors. A final evaluation of the project and identification of the recorded shortcomings and weak points of the project was required.

What were the goals of this encounter?

The main objective of this meeting is to ensure the continuity of the project, and the continuity depends heavily on coordination between partners. The second objective is to

focus on addressing some of the shortcomings and lapses recorded in previous encounters.

What were your expectations for this exchange? Have you met them?

My most important expectations were:

- Learn how to prepare international camps,
- How to deal with children and adolescents,
- Dealing with sensitive subjects smartly and without wounding.

In fact, what has been achieved has somewhat exceeded my expectations.

Can you present us your role in the "YVL" program?

I went through three stages of the "YVL" program, in the first part I was responsible for the coordination with the partners and the integration of the preparation of the online workshops with the young people. Part two in Germany, I was in charge of a workshop with Haifa where I was able to take part in the training as a lecturer. In the third step, I was in charge of preparing the meeting in Algeria in terms of visas, accommodation, transport and programming.



1 Program review and fun facts

The "YVL" Team, almost complete, after a full day of work.

What does it
mean for you to
be a Leader?

for Leaders

Samra: For me, being a leader is when you are able to unite your team and motivate them to give their 100% to achieving the team goal.

Ghada: Be calm, collected and level-headed. Your team takes courage from you so always strive to be calm in the storm. Every person is special with a set of skills proper to them, leadership is not forgetting who you are and wearing the robes of a leader, it is using the finest threads of your colors to weave with your own hands a robe only you can wear in the gala.



What kind of group leader are you and want to become?

Why did you decide to participate to the "YVL" project?

Hannes: At this point I have to be truly honest. When I took part in the regular online meetings in summer 2021, I didn't even know what the whole campaign was about. To be more precise, I don't even remember how I got there in the first place. At first it bothered me a bit because the meetings were on Friday afternoons, when I would sometimes have preferred to be outside in the garden or on the beach. However, I don't quite remember how it started, but in the end I am more than happy to be a part of the "YVL" team.

Abdeljalil: Because I had a local experience in Algeria as a leader and I wanted to develop my leadership more on the international level and see the cultural differences which will help me more in my vision as a young verified leader.

Süleyman: Actually, all I wanted was a "Juleica" card. To do this in an exotic program with people from countries other than Germany was very appealing to me.

Tokki: Because I was interested in other countries, cultures and how to be a leader for the youth of the future and those two goals were met with the "YVL" project it was one of the highlights of my life.

Juli: I'm studying social work so I am already very interested in youth work and especially the international aspect of this particular project got me interested. I also thought that this would be a great opportunity to meet new people who share a similar interest.

Mirjam: I decided to participate because I wanted to get to know about political and social work with young people.

What were your expectations at the beginning of the project? How do you feel after having been involved for 18 Months in an international project?

Haifa: After 18 months working on the project, I feel relieved that most of our goals have been met so far. When I reflect on the project activities, I honestly feel proud that we could manage to make every step of the way interesting for our participants. First, the online workshops served a great deal in developing connections between participants and helped them gain confidence and embrace leadership roles. Second, the training in Heidelberg offered a wide range of learning methods that sparked the creativity of participants and inspired them to take on leadership roles during the International Youth Camp. Certainly, there were few setbacks like the sanitary crisis and the visa procedure, but we could manage to overcome them by maintaining the channels of communication open and exchanging views and recommendations.

Nassim: After 18 months of training I feel happy to have had the chance to participate in this exceptional program which helped me develop several leadership skills. I see the "YVL" project as an opportunity to acquire more skills in an intercultural environment. The big challenge was time management. The highlights were in Algeria where the meeting did happen despite all the challenges.

Süleyman: My expectations were definitely exceeded. I would not have thought that the organizers could put this so professionally.

Mirjam: I expected the "YVL" Workshop to be a small project and to be much more impersonal. However, I am very happy that it is such a big project: five days in Heidelberg, seven days in Algeria. It almost feels like the

project is never ending because Jörg also informed us about the plans in the future – I am very much looking forward to it.

Juli: At the start of the project I was a little bit skeptical how it's going to work with the online workshops and how the participants are going to be included/involved in the process. But I was absolutely positively surprised after the first meeting and was excited for the following workshops. It was a fantastic time and an amazing experience for me.

Abdeljalil: I expected to know more about other cultures and to improve my abilities as a leader and as a person, and during my involvement I felt really honored to be among such nice and educated people to help each other out improve.

Hannes: In the beginning, I was a bit unfamiliar with the whole situation with the online presentations. This changed quite quickly, however, when I then had the opportunity to organize a lecture on racism with participants from the other teams. My enthusiasm grew with every meeting and with it my anticipation of the meeting in Heidelberg. Finally, I could hardly wait for the last meeting. At the same time, I also stayed in contact with Tunisian participants beyond the online workshops.

Tokki: I expected to become a competent person that other people would rely on after I'm done with the program, and I felt really involved in the 12 months especially after meeting everyone in Heidelberg and learning together and perfecting our skills to the fullest.



What do you think international friendship is about?

International friendship in Heidelberg.

Abdeldjalil: I got acquainted with international friendship more after participating in this project and I learned that despite all our differences in cultures nothing stops us from bonding and learning more about each other and holding on to the precious friendships we made along the way.

Khouloud: It is a friendship between people of different nationalities in a work or entertainment context. Before this experience, the idea of international friendship seemed vague to me, but now I can admit that spending days with people having differences (language, culture, background, age) can contribute to the foundation of relationships of sharing and affection and this has brought us together to finally form a homogeneous group of different people.

Haifa: I think that international friendship is all about challenging the status quo by working hand in hand on common projects. To my mind, the best way to develop genuine human connections is by working together for a common goal. We are living in a hostile world and unfortunately, this is deeply affecting international relations. By working peer to peer we could challenge stereotypes and break down barriers. We could conciliate opposing views and give room for more sincere interactions and help true friendships come to existence.

Mirjam: International friendship cannot and should not be taken for granted. It is not self-evident but it's consistent. And of course, it is hard work because all parts of the friendship have to work on it so that the friendship remains.

Nassim: International friendship is about building bridges of understanding and networking across national and cultural boundaries, and valuing and learning from the diverse perspectives and experiences of others. It is an important part of building a more peaceful and interconnected world.

Süleyman: Above all, it's about approaching the other person with as little bias as possible. A big problem I have noticed in today's society is that many people put their own culture above others and thus defame them. However, if you are willing to explore different cultures through friendships, it can be very enriching and rewarding.

Tokki: I personally think the world needs international friendship the most to know each other to bond with everyone and to learn about the cultures and respect each and every one of them is necessary for the future of the world and our youth.

Hannes: So far I've had quite a lot of contact with international friends. Every year I travel to as many countries as possible to take part in social, cultural or ecological projects. If you only see each other for such a short period of time, you should be as open as possible to new influences and also reveal a lot about yourself. The little time is particularly valuable and should be used for cultural exchange, leisure activities and adventures. Afterwards, it's good if you keep in touch via the internet and also to visit each other.

Adeline and Hiba Belkhiria from "Radio Zina" during the recording of a podcast dedicated to the project in the office of "WLS" in Sousse.

If you could start from the beginning of the project, what would you change?

Tokki: I loved the project. I wouldn't change anything. It was a treasured and unique experience of mine and I wish I will do it again and again in the future.

Hannes: If I could start the project all over again, I would have done more online meetings in the time immediately before the meeting in Heidelberg. From my point of view, two meetings per week would have been very cool. I also really enjoyed the private work and consultation with the teams on the peace statement video. Looking back, I would have liked to have had more contact with the Algerian team. The attitude has just been great and lit up a fire in me. Also, I personally think we should have a meeting in Sousse, the hometown of our friends from the "We Love Sousse" Team.

Abdeldjalil: It was a really good project but if I can change anything in the program it would be, adding more translators during the workshops to help the ones who struggle with the language, and give more chances to prepare workshops with people from all the countries.



Click to watch the podcast recording:
<https://bit.ly/3xUEeUV>



How could we improve the “YVL” program? Do you have any recommendations?

How could international youth organizations and international partnership strengthen youth work and enable them to develop their poten- tials? What do international youth need?

Mirjam: International youth need options to sustain the friendship. The organizations could bring in the capabilities for this. For example, creating longtime projects or organizing events regularly.

Abdeldjalil: They need to develop more workshops with different helpful educational and fun subjects, and work with a lot of different countries – the more the better – to help youth from each country.

Haifa: I believe that mutual understanding will lead to sustainable change. Therefore, international youth organizations should promote programs which encourage youth to be open to other cultures and engage in experiences that would make them challenge pre-conceived ideas and stereotypes. Most importantly international youth organizations in North and South countries should never give up working on international partnerships no matter the setbacks because it's the only way to put pressure on officials in their respective countries to alter the obsolete regulations and laws that represent an impediment to the fulfillment of outstanding projects and human connections.

Tokki: By making more camps and workshops, meeting other people from the other side of the world and receiving and sharing ideas between each other is helpful for the growth of the person and the nations.

Süleyman: Comprehensive networking among each other is essential for long-term cooperation. In addition, politics must also help here. International youth organizations must therefore maintain contact with the respective foreign offices and demonstrate that international youth work is an enrichment for every country.

Hannes: We have to make sure that the young people know about the offers. There should be enough publicity for such projects. The best way to do this these days is through social media. We need active participants who report on their experiences and shorten the distance to interested young people. We can achieve something like that on a theme day, for example.

Nassim: To my mind, there are four important pillars:

- Exchange programs: International exchange programs can give young people the opportunity to learn about other cultures, develop their language skills, and gain new perspectives on the world. These programs can also help young people build leadership skills and learn how to work effectively in diverse teams.
- Training and capacity building: International organizations and partnerships can provide training and capacity building opportunities for youth workers and young people, helping them develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their personal and professional lives.
- Funding and resources: International organizations and partnerships can provide funding and resources to support youth work and youth development initiatives, enabling young people to access new opportunities and achieve their goals.
- Networking and collaboration: International organizations and partnerships can provide opportunities for youth workers and young people to network and collaborate with their peers from other countries, sharing ideas and best practices and learning from one another.

Mirjam: As I did not know what to expect, I would have liked more explanation about the project.

Abdeldjalil: Yes of course we can improve it, I want the program to include more nationalities, and for the workshop preparations to put more diversity on the members making all the nationalities work together instead of each nationality working on its own, and this will help us bond more on the international level.

Haifa: The “Young Verified Project” offers youth a genuine opportunity to experience leadership in concrete ways. Having the “YVL” training take place right before the International Youth Camp was a great idea as it allowed participants to have a hands-on experience following the training in Heidelberg. Participants could practice what they have learned by leading workshops and running activities in an international context. To my mind this practice should be maintained and reinforced in future editions. We should also work on better coordination with the staff in charge of the International Youth Camp and make sure that the “YVL” participants are more involved in the organization process and are offered better visibility during the camp. I also firmly believe that we should give the chance to more than five participants per organization to be part of the “YVL” program. Why not having two cohorts to benefit from this opportunity? That would be even better, I guess. On a different note, a tremendous amount of work on networking should be done by the coordinators of the program. In fact, getting international recognition for the “Juleica” card will only be possible if we attract more associations to our project and push them to engage in partnerships similar to the one we have just materialized.

Süleyman: Possibly choose a place where you can prepare some of your own food. Different cultures come with different diets in particular.

Tokki: We can improve it. I'd like for more countries to participate in it on future occasions. It will be even more helpful.

Nassim: For the next session of “YVL” I would like to have more participants and to have more face-to-face meetings.



Group selfie in front of the amphitheater of El Jem in Tunisia.

Would you recommend participating in the “YVL” program? If yes, for which reasons?

Mirjam: Definitely yes because I did not only learn things for being an adequate young leader, but I learned for life. =)

Abdeldjalil: Of course I would recommend it since it helps the youth and encourages them to work more as leaders and improve their skills.

Juli: I would absolutely recommend it to everyone who is interested in youth work because it's a great way to get experience, inspiration and motivation. And not only in the work of a youth leader but also for personal growth.

Tokki: I do recommend it for every young person with the desire to be a leader. It's a well made program directed by excellent people.

Süleyman: Yes in any case! The program is very enriching. On the one hand, you learn a lot about youth work itself (you even get a “Juleica”). On top of that, you make international friends that you wouldn't have otherwise.

Hannes: I have never seen a program like this with such international participation before. After having spent several weeks with the participants from the North African countries, I would like to recommend the “Young Verified Leaders” program to everyone who is

interested in widening their horizon when it comes to intercultural competences and communication. I promise you, it will definitely help you see the world with open eyes and get a feeling for how people in other countries live their day. The methods you learn will give you many advantages in everyday life beyond your work as a leader of youth groups. Social and communicative skills are a fundamental requirement in almost every job these days. Training with the young verified leaders offers you the best place to learn and improves skills like this.

What do you wish for the future of the “Young Verified Leaders” program?

Juli: I hope that the program can keep this amazing atmosphere and team work that I experienced and inspire people to be more active and motivated in youth work in international contexts.

Abdeldjalil: I wish them a lot of success with this program because it was really helpful and rich and I encourage everyone to participate in it.

Mirjam: I wish for a longtime project and that we meet at least once a year.

Haifa: I truly think that the “YVL” program should be granted a second edition to allow us to further pursue the long path we have already crossed. I wish the program gets the necessary funding to allow more youth to benefit from it and most importantly to achieve the ultimate goal of getting an international recognition for the “Juleica” card.

Tokki: I wish them endless success and I hope it lasts until every youth leader in the world is satisfied.

Hannes: I would be happy if we could also have a “YVL” meeting in Tunisia together. That would also open up the possibility to meet the other members of “We Love Sousse” Team. From my experience, I can tell that all of them would be excited to get to know people from Algeria and Germany.

Süleyman: I wish the organizers all the best! Hopefully so many great people can continue to benefit from this program in the future.



If you could start from the beginning of the project, what would you change?

Morning challenge in Heidelberg.

Juli: When I started as a participant in this project I had no idea what big influence it would have on my life and I'm very thankful that I could have been a part of this amazing journey.

Abdeljalil: Concerning the "YVL" program it was really rich and informative, and it allowed me to see the world from another perspective even with the language obstacle but the spirit was always there, I'm honored to be a participant in this project and I'd like it to be a long running and helpful project for the future, BORA BORA :).

I want to thank each and everyone of them for giving their own ideas and perspectives and getting to know each other better. It was an enjoyable and educational experience and I wish we can do more in the future together.

Haifa: It's been a real pleasure to be part of this program. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to those who believed in it and in our capacity to make it a huge success. I would also like to thank Adeline, Nassim and Nasser for their cooperation and support. The "YVL" has been quite an adventure and I am glad we could make it through thick and thin. I'd like to end up with a positive note by saying: we are just getting started.

Hannes: Throughout the last couple of years, I have visited most of the European states with associations belonging to the social and ecological field of work. Of course, I would like to share some experiences with my friends, if I haven't done so already. In my eyes, you should use every opportunity to travel the world, experience new cultures

and find new friends. It is this very time in your life when the doors are open to figure out how life works in different parts of the world. Talk to people, interact with people and most importantly, have fun on your journey. If you haven't seen enough of Germany so far, I would like to invite you to come visit me here. Maybe not all at once but please don't hesitate to talk to me.

Tokki: I'd like to send my utmost gratitude to each and every single participant I met with precious people that helped me develop myself for the better as a person. Thank you endlessly. I would like to give my gratitude first of all again for the chance to participate in such a program with such people. I learned a lot, improved a lot and made new friendships along the way. It was an absolute pleasure. I hope we meet in the future for more "melon parties" :)

Hannes: For the future of the project, I wish that the cooperation between the three organizations from Germany, Tunisia and Algeria will continue. I would really appreciate it if we decided together to carry the whole thing forward. Whether as a closed team or according to individual needs.

Nassim: Love you all and I hope I can see you next year.

Dinner in the city of Heidelberg.





2 Practical implementation after Heidelberg

An overview of the masterpieces that have been drawn during the festival.

After the meeting in Heidelberg, the "Young Verified Leaders" were given the opportunity to apply the knowledge they had acquired under their own initiative. Here is an overview of what happened after Heidelberg.

In the following you can read the experience reports of the Algerian partner "ADEEJ" during the Comic-Festival "FIBDA" and two workshops on "Moral development" and "Public Speaking as a soft skill" designed and conducted by the Tunisian partner "We Love Sousse": <https://bit.ly/3lwgX0i>

"ADEEJ" report

Tokki, organized with other members of "ADEEJ" the "FIBDA" comics festival, from 4th to 8th october 2022. "FIBDA" is an abbreviation for "Festival International de la Bande Dessinée d'Alger". It gives Algerian authors the opportunity to promote their comics and it also involves authors from all around the world especially from Japan. The slogan of this 14th edition was: "Let's paint our heritage" / "انشارت هيريتاج دنا". This year's edi-

tion of "FIBDA", consisting of five days of events, was a great addition to the yearly activities of "ADEEJ" in 2022 since it's the first big manga event since the pandemic.

How did you feel after organizing five days of the festival?

"It feels good to operate with a team that is so self-reliant and motivated. Without the support provided from the team, the organization might not have achieved the milestones. Despite having a busy schedule, everyone just made the project look easy. I want to thank everyone for all for the amazing dedication and effort."



Tokki from "ADEEJ" managing the "FIBDA" comics festival (left).

Some very talented drawers during the festival (right).





The "WLS" team during the workshop "Moral and development".

Rapport of "We love Sousse"

Ghada Elouar, member of "We Love Sousse", moderated a one and a half hour session with 36 young people at the "Youth House Hay Err-iadh" in Sousse on the following topic: "Public Speaking as a Soft Skill".

The presentation focused on three axes:

- Meaning of public speaking: "Know Your Public"
- The skill of storytelling
- Nonverbal communication: "Voice + Body Language"

Ghada implemented activities and techniques she learned during the "YVL" program:

- **Use of flip charts instead of PowerPoint presentation:** "I used three flip charts containing an axis of the session each. Flip-charts allow a clear and direct transmission to the audience."
- **To grasp a new skill there is nothing better than practical examples:** "The idea behind the activity is to adapt presentation and public speaking skills to the public. I asked two participants who came late to introduce themselves and to pretend they were talking to a class of 4-year-old children and to a room full of 40-year-old adults. After-

wards they expressed their feelings when doing the exercise and we shared some tips on how to deal with each audience. This activity serves not only as an ice-breaker but also helps to integrate late comers and it is a very good introduction to understand public speaking."

- **Group activity in the form of inter-group competition:** "This activity is a mix of my own style and what I have learned in the "YVL" training. This group work helps people to feel at ease and participate willingly. First the participants were divided into 4 groups labeled with colors, then I gave each team an envelope containing 4 random words and I asked them to create a story using these words. The idea behind the activity is to create links between the words making a story to present it later. Eventually, to measure the efficiency of the team's storytelling as an integral skill in public speaking, they had to guess each other's words after their speeches."
- **The use of a non verbal communication tool: Role playing and voice-acting:** "We had many participants who were part of a theatre club, a fact that made this final activity even sweeter. Before this part, we had a short break to rest and recharge, which is an important step in every workshop. Once back, we did a little equation: Public speak-

ing = 55% body language + 38% voice + 7% content. To demonstrate the reality of this equation we did three miming scenes: a group mimes a situation and the rest will guess the roles and context. We also learned how to deliver an emotion from reading a random paragraph. To do so, I chose a Tunisian-dialect poem and asked four volunteers to enact emotions while reading it. The results were extraordinary! The participants outdid themselves; they would be reading a usually funny text while displaying an emotion of sadness or fear and it was so accurate, the audience were on the verge of tears on the edge of their seats. Not to mention, they managed to identify every emotion in record time."

Ghada's feedback and feelings during this session: "The feedback from the participants was overwhelming; they absolutely loved the workshop and were full of smiles a gratitude. The challenges I faced were related to the number of participants, sometimes it was hard to control the session and ensure my role as facilitator especially during the group activity where they got too excited and too loud. Otherwise, it was a light, fun workshop and I was proud of facilitating it using my newly acquired skills."



Visit of Hannes in Sousse

Hannes, a participant of the German group, became friends with the members of “We Love Sousse” and decided to visit them this summer, directly in Sousse, and to live with them the daily life of a Tunisian youth association.

You have been part of the “YVL” program since last year: You got to learn the Algerian and Tunisian participants firstly through Zoom during the online workshops and met them for the first time in Heidelberg in July 2022 during the international “Juleica” training. How was it to meet them face-to-face?

To meet the international participants face-to-face for the first time after 10 months of online sessions was even more fascinating than I could have ever imagined. Interacting with the Tunisian and Algerian team during the “Juleica” training was totally different from meeting online in Zoom meetings. Besides the exchange of knowledge, experience and culture during the workshops we also grew as a team due to the quality time we had in Heidelberg.

After the international camp in Giengen an der Brenz, you decided to visit this summer the Tunisian partner of the program, “We Love Sousse”. How did you come to the idea and why did you wish to visit “We Love Sousse” in Tunisia?

During the international camp in Giengen an der Brenz, I mostly stayed with the Tunisian team since I already knew some of them from the previous “YVL” program. Not only the hospitality, but also the great effort to integrate me into their team strengthened the connection between myself and all “We Love Sousse” members. In the end, they insisted that I come to visit Tunisia to get a taste of the full Tunisian experience. Luckily, my summer was not completely booked out with activities so I took advantage of the opportunity to visit an African country for the very first time in my life.

Can you describe what you did in Sousse? Did you have already planned a program in advance? How were you involved in the activities of the organization “We Love Sousse”?

I personally enjoy being spontaneous, especially when I travel to another country. Before visiting Tunisia, I had nothing special on my mind besides visiting my friend from the “We Love Sousse” team. However, everything changed when Samra and Salem picked me up from the train station, telling me there was an eight day program planned for me which included fundraising, cultural visits, volunteer work and lots of fun. Every day, the majority of the team came together at their headquarters to prepare their biggest humanitarian action in 2022. The focus of this particular work was to provide 300 school bags filled with all the necessary supplies for families in need. Therefore, we bought an enormous amount of school books, note books, pens, pencils and all the equipment students from 1st to 9th grade need in their day to day. Farah Ellefi, chief of the action, took me to different companies where we either received donations or bought supplies. That way I also got to see lots of different places around the beautiful city of Sousse in late September. Some evenings, I joined the “WLS” team to prepare the school bags in their headquarter where we worked until the



Hannes with "WLS" members.

early morning to get the work done. By the time I left Tunisia, we had already 263 bags prepared and ready to be handed over to students.

What did you learn about "We Love Sousse", you haven't known before? What did surprise you?

First and foremost, I would like to underline the outstanding commitment and the willingness to work of all the "WLS" members I got to know. Beyond my expectations, most of the volunteer workers came together as a team every day and dedicated their free time with the aim of completing the project. But working together for the sense of the action was by far not the only activity done by the "WLS" members as a team. Team building projects were also scheduled daily and varied from visiting a museum to having dinner in a restaurant.

Could you in Sousse, together with the participants of "We Love Sousse", implement the knowledge and competences you are learning from the "Young Verified Leaders" program?

As a matter of fact, the soft skills and methods I learned during the "YVL" program were particularly helpful, especially when working together with "WLS" members I haven't met before. Due to my experience gained in the one week "YVL" program in Heidelberg, it was easier for me to interact and communicate

with people who are also not native English speakers. Another method I used multiple times was to focus not just on the goal or aim of the project, but especially on the process of working in a team as well as on the people around me.

How can the "Young Verified Leaders" benefit from the expertise and the experience from "We Love Sousse"?

Even though the entire "WLS" team seems to be a group of people who work together for a long time, this is certainly not the case. Many volunteers just joined the association recently and haven't even gotten to know half of the members. However, all of them showed great interest in working as a team, supporting humanitarian projects and putting personal needs behind. This performance is not only worth an award, but could definitely be inspiring for all the "Young Verified Leaders" and distribute to a powerful team atmosphere.

What do you wish for the future of the "Young Verified Leaders" program?

Due to the experience I gained working together with different organizations, I would be very happy if the "Young Verified Leaders" program could take place in different countries. That way the home organization could get the chance to present their work and the



participants would get the opportunity to widen their horizon. Moreover, the young verified leaders would be able to take part in different activities and help the other associations to complete their projects while contributing to an international atmosphere with their experience from abroad.

Do you have anything to add or an anecdote to share with the other young verified leaders?

I would kindly advise all the young verified leaders to seize the opportunity to get in touch with volunteers from different associations, other nations and with people of a different culture. It will help them widen their perspective and change their point of view in a positive way. There is absolutely no reason to be afraid of a language barrier since most volunteers speak multiple languages and are willing to communicate with each other.



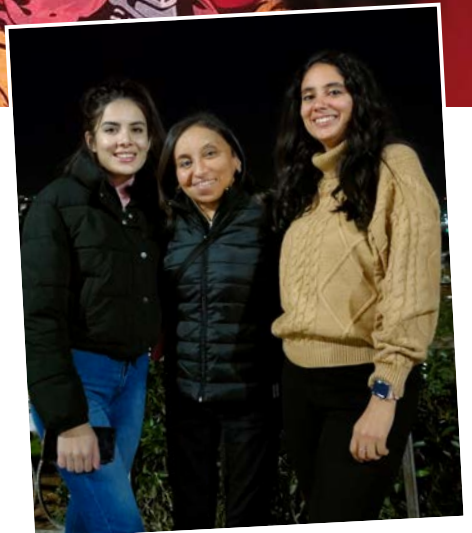
3 Future of the project and challenges

Despite the many multiplier effects of the "YVL" project, the program will not be continued in 2023, to the disappointment of the members and the partner countries. The reason for this is that no follow-up funding was possible via the German Foreign Office due to the general budget situation. Nevertheless, the partners are working flat out to find ways to carry on. A project of this size needs much more time to bear fruit. Although the goals were largely achieved, the long-term plans that the team had developed could only be rudimentarily implemented if the "YVL" project would have been financed for at least 18 more months. One of the challenges of the project that we were not able to overcome by the end of the grant period in December 2022 was the standardization of the training record at the international level. From the outset, our long-term goal was a standardized proof of international training that would be recognized by all participating countries. Not

least because such an international youth leader card could also simplify visa processes. However, such an international standardization can only succeed over the course of years, when several generations have gone through the training - and not after just a few months.

The coordination team remains firmly convinced that we need a standardized training of international youth leaders across EU borders to be able to master future challenges. The political recognition of a project like "Young Verified Leaders" - even if only symbolically - would undoubtedly promote the willingness of youth and young adults to volunteer.

In addition to the structural difficulties related to the pandemic, the optimal implementation of the project was hampered by obstacles of another kind: The entire team deeply regrets that the young verified leaders were unable to meet in full in Heidelberg in July. In



Imen, Haifa und Samra in Algiers.

fact, one of the participating organizations from Algeria, "ALEJ", had not obtained a visa for Germany. For the same reason, the whole German delegation could not participate in the last activity of the project in Algiers (Algeria) in December 2022, which led to a huge disappointment among the participants and the coordination team, who had prepared for months for the meeting.

Even after many attempts with the German and Algerian embassies, it could not be possible that the members, who had participated in the project for more than eighteen months, were allowed to fly to Germany and Algeria. The non-issuance of the visas prevented the full implementation of the project objectives. This would only have been possible if all participants had met on site.



Ghada from "WLS" showing the way to Adeline, while Haifa is trying to master the traffic jam in Sousse.

The project will not continue to be funded, but the ambitions have not ceased. The intercultural dimension of our programs can only be maintained if peer-to-peer exchanges are further developed. Getting to know the other, their history and culture, takes place in projects devised by professionals and often by people who have themselves benefited from exchange programs in the past as young people. They are usually in the best position to design innovative and thoughtful international encounters.

Lastly, it is important to emphasize that "Solijugend" is one of the few German organizations that has implemented a project of this magnitude with three partners from two



The coordination team with a member of "WLS" in the old city of Sousse (top).

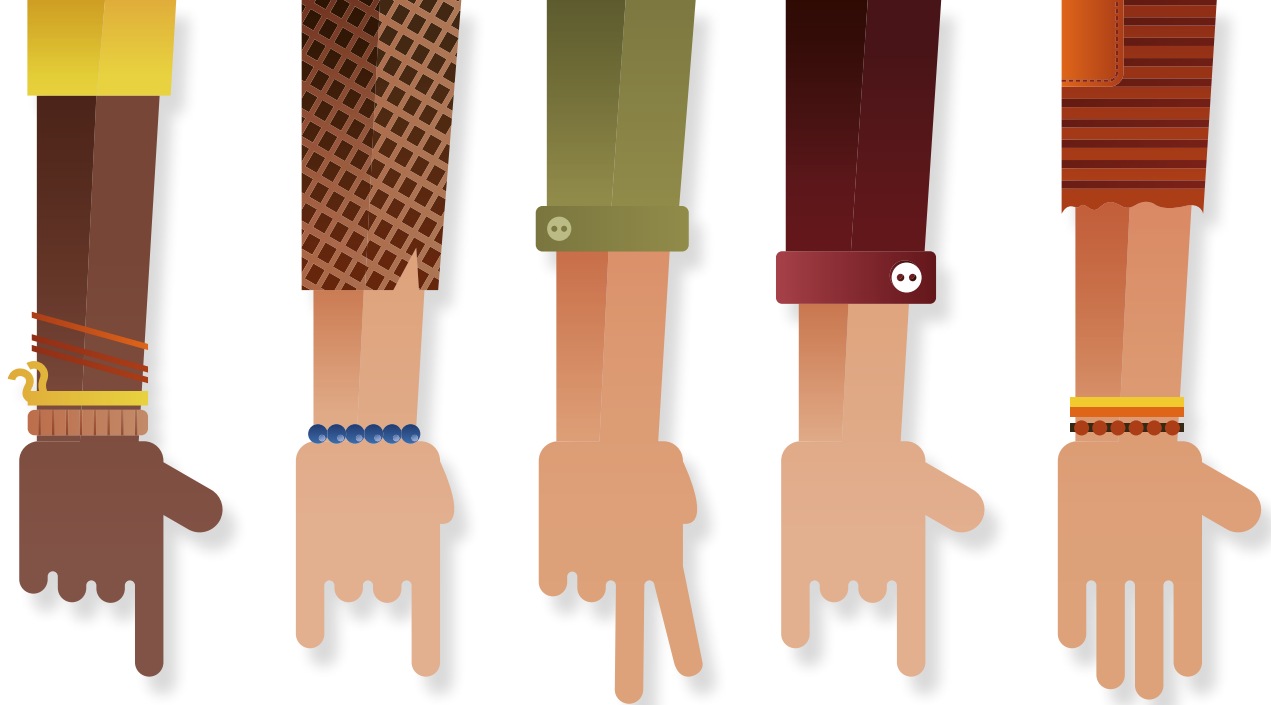
Morning negotiation in Heidelberg (above).

Maghreb countries in international youth work. We hope that this will change and that the "Young Verified Leaders" program is only the beginning of a long series of corporations. The wheel does not have to be reinvented in this process: Future projects can leverage the results and experience of 18 months of "Young Verified Leaders". For this reason in particular, we have updated the project website week by week and docu-



Adeline, Nasser und Carolina inside of the amphitheater of El Jem in Tunisia. Carolina assisted Adeline from the beginning of the "YVL" adventure. Also international youth education officer at "Solijugend", Carolina supported strategically the "YVL" coordination team. Since July 2021 is Carolina on maternity leave (above).

mented the experiences of the participants in the form of this handbook. Other organizations involved in international youth work can and should benefit from this knowledge and experience in international youth work.



THE COMPLETE PROGRAM, EVENTS AND SHARED MEDIA CONTENT CAN BE FOUND ON THE "YVL" PROJECT WEBSITE: [HTTPS://YOUNGVERIFIEDLEADERS.ORG/EN](https://youngverifiedleaders.org/en)

THIS BOOKLET WAS WRITTEN AND DESIGNED BY **ADELINE HAABY**,
SUPPORTED BY ALL THE **MEMBERS OF THE PROJECT**.
THANK YOU **HAIFA GHARBI**, FOR THE PRECIOUS CORRECTIONS.
THE LAYOUT WAS DONE BY VALENTIN POPA.

ANY REPRODUCTION OF ANY CONTENT - ALSO IN EXCERPTS AND IN ANY WAY -
REQUIRES PERMISSION OF THE "YOUNG VERIFIED LEADERS" OR "SOLIJUGEND".

THIS PROJECT WAS SUPERVISED BY



Solidarittsjugend Deutschlands

Bundesgeschftsstelle
Fritz-Remy-Strae 19
63071 Offenbach am Main

Telefon: (0 69) 85 20 94
E-Mail: bgst@solijugend.de
www.solijugend.de