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Welcome To Our First E-Newsletter

This month we've opted for a short and simple email. Our next edition will include more partner stories and information about how the Momentum programme changes lives

Momentum network passes 400

Over 400 young people and professionals have joined our network since its launch last month, either by registering on our website ([click here](#)) or by signing up to our Facebook group. ([click here](#))

We are now working and networking with young people and professionals across 15 countries, and we are encouraged by the level of interest being shown in Momentum. We will continue to encourage people to register, because this will be their best way to stay in touch with our developments and find out about events and other opportunities over the coming months and years. By registering you will automatically receive a regular e-newsletter, but as our organisation grows you will also get exclusive access to the vibrant Momentum Social Networking site. This will be a portal for making news friends, downloading music and video clips, hearing all about the projects and accessing documents to move through the 7 levels. It will be run and moderated by Momentum members from each country and it will be the source of much creativity and inspiration. More on this in April's Newsletter.

Info About Our Partners

The Momentum Programme relies on the strong partnerships we develop. Over the last few months we have met some inspirational organisations with whom we hope to develop a long term working relationship. Each month we will include links to their websites for you to explore what else is going on outside of the network.

This month's featured partners are :

Everything's Possible

<http://www.everythingspossible.org/>

Cre8ive8 Films

<http://www.cre8ive8.org/>

The Youth Work Unit

<http://www.youthworkunit.com/>

Partner of the Month is :

James Stier at Voidcomp

<http://www.voidcomp.co.uk/>

Fun Stuff

Registration problem solved

An intermittent problem with our online registration form has been solved, thanks to the wizardry of our technical team. Our thanks to Mark and James for this, and for their excellent work designing and developing the website. If you have any problems with the online form [click here](#) for a PDF version

How you can play a part?

If you have a group/organisation or story you wish to see on our site or in the next newsletter, email netadmin@youthmomentum.org

Launch of Momentum Consultancy Service

On 1 March we will launch our Consultancy service. We specialise in creative teambuilding, design of and support with international exchange projects, innovative media training projects, management and evaluation of youth projects and events. To enquire about these services, please email info@youthmomentum.org

Momentum pilot programme

We are in discussion with eight partner organisations in the UK and overseas with the aim of recruiting 50 young people onto our pilot programme, which will begin later this year. Further details will be announced in future issues of this newsletter.

How International Travel Has Changed Me...

This article has been written by Momentum's Operations Director - Trevor Keough.

I have been very fortunate in travelling to many

As we trawl the world of the internet we come across funny, useless yet entertaining websites and each month we thought we'd also share some of these with you. Enjoy ... and remember to share yours with us ...

Nobody Here

[click here](#)

Virtual Pilot

[click here](#)

The Surrealist

[click here](#)

The Mass Attack

[click here](#)

Put yourself In The Shot

[click here](#)

places in the world. International travel changed my life in a number of different ways. In Central America I saw people who lived in grinding poverty but who were very generous to strangers and were very happy. In the Falkland Islands I saw people who were very insular and suspicious of any "outsiders". Before the fall of the wall in Berlin, there was every sort of person you can imagine and a great mix. Canada amazed me with it's size and beauty and the warmth of the people. Cyprus was wonderful. The Carribbean Islands are an eclectic mix of wealth and poverty but have some of the best characters you could meet.

All of the above had a great effect on my life, but none of these experiences compared to my introduction to Blue Sky and the subsequent international youth programmes I worked on. Spending time in a country working to get to know the people is very different from being a soldier or a tourist. Seeing the difference between my home country and Macedonia and Albania was educational and uplifting. What impressed me most was the enthusiasm and willingness to learn of the young people I met. Everyone was looking to better themselves and their communities. The proof of this has been plain to see with members of Blue Sky and Lets Get Started moving on to greater things in their chosen areas of interest.

Finally, as a director of Glaramara, I was lucky to have international young travellers coming to me in the beautiful Lake District. I met young people from 30 nationalities over the years at Glaramara. International camps were the things I looked forward to most in the year.

This has all been life changing, because now, with Andrew Hadley and Paul Oxborough, I am involved in a whole new phase of my life with Momentum Youth Development, where we will bring together all that we have learned over many years to deliver the best possible events and programmes for young people from around the world. So I guess that after all the stuff written above, the simple answer to the main question is yes.

England or UK?

We are starting the Momentum Programme in England, for purely practical reasons. Our pilot programme will be based on two areas where we have most existing contacts. Thereafter we aim to grow the Programme progressively to reach all parts of the UK. So we welcome contact with organisations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, with a view to discussing future collaboration. Our consultancy services are available to all parts of the UK and internationally.

Focus groups and personal stories

We are currently conducting focus groups of young people, in order to understand their level of interest and need for international experience. We are also collecting stories from young people and others about how these experiences can change lives. If you would be willing to run a focus group on our behalf, or if you or a friend have a story to tell, please email info@youthmomentum.org and we will send you some simple guidance notes. Neither activity will take up much of your time.

Behind the scenes

Alongside the development of our network and pilot programme, we have been working hard to finalise our business and financial plans. We are now beginning a concerted fundraising effort, in order to turn Momentum's vision into a long term reality. All ideas, comments and help will be gratefully received.

In the next edition...

The next issue will focus on the seven levels of our Programme. We will illustrate how this structure will work and what kind of experience young people can expect.

Information and links

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