

## NECE 2018 Marseille

### Raconte-moi ton histoire

### Workshop, 7 September

Report by Alban Genty – Voute&Vous / Das Progressive Zentrum

Hélène Bourgon, who gave this workshop, is a journalist and former correspondent during six years for the public French radio broadcasters Radio France in the Middle East (Syria, Lebanon). After that, she was a war correspondent in Syria before she settled back in France – more precisely in Marseilles. She co-founded in 2017 the association “15-38 Méditerranée”, a new magazine dedicated to reporting about all countries surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. Corresponding to the geographic coordinates of the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, “15-38” deals through a magazine about topics seen through the eyes of each surrounding country, and also tries to stimulate youth media education.

*“Si je sais d’où je viens, je saurai où je vais.”  
“If I know where I come from, I will better know where I go.”*

#### **Birth of the 15-38 initiative**

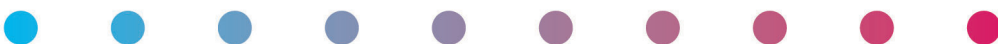
The idea of the association’s creation gets back to conversations led by the co-founders with war correspondents in Syria and Lebanon. On the eve of the refugee crisis, Hélène Bourgon was shocked by the disparity between countries like Lebanon, where the proportion of refugees in comparison to the whole country’s population was much higher, and the debate taking place in Europe, especially in France. She realised how low the knowledge of the French debate was. This led to the creation of a dedicated magazine, dealing in each issue with only one topic, treated by correspondents located in each country surrounding the Mediterranean Sea and going beyond the common knowledge.

#### **Two projects about youth media education**

Hélène Bourgon presented two projects they launched in parallel to the magazine. Both initiatives are targeting pupils around 12-14 years old and are dedicated to youth media education.

This project has been launched together with the person responsible of the library of a “collège” in the northern part of Marseilles – the poorest part of the city, where the rate of people with migration background is at the highest. They developed the project hand in hand with the students, who decided to tackle the issue of “migration”. The idea of the project is to stimulate the students to do interviews with a wide diversity of people about the topic. The core team gives them media skills (technical as well as “social”).

Another project was created together with a social centre in the north of Marseilles – Vitrolles, a city known for the fact that the previous mayor was from the Front National party. The idea here was to encourage young people to get in touch with the



city's inhabitants. They led interviews with a wide range of people – from the baker to members of the war veterans association. For each conversation, the participants developed questions and asked them during a recorded conversation – under the supervision of at least one trainer.

### **Project's evaluation**

Comparing both initiatives helps to get a better idea of the weaknesses and strengths of the approach. Cooperating with the schools was more accessible than with the social centre. Interesting is that schools located in socially deprived zones of the city answered first to the call launched by 15-38 Méditerranée. They were keen to try new ways of civic education with their students. The school's rhythm helped to have a regular engagement of the students. In comparison, it was much more difficult to get regular participation of young people through the social centre – this was on a voluntary basis.

It is the first time 15-38 Méditerranée is starting a project of this kind. For now, they still lack a robust methodology and did not gather feedback about each initiative. Nonetheless, the potential of their initiatives has been confirmed, so that they are right now improving on this matter.

Last but not least, this example shows the current interest of the French school system in youth media education. This is a very interesting “entry door” for civic education in this very closed universe.

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