



EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR BETTER FUTURE



SAMOBOR FEBRUARY 2015

Training Report





Following report is a summary of experiences shared by a group of youth workers on a 8-day programme organised and led by **Outward Bound Croatia** in Samobor, from February 20-27th, 2015



Training course funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Commission



Erasmus+





Training gathered 21 participants from 7 countries from the following organizations :

Serbia - Centar za razvojnu politiku i saradnju



Romania - ASOCIATIA TINERI PARTENERI PENTRU DEZVOLTAREA SOCIETATII CIVILE



volunteer
movement

Turkey - Gonullu Hareketi

United Kingdom - TheDojo.Org.UK



THEDOJO.ORG.UK

Georgia - SIQA

Georgian Association of Educational Initiatives



Czech Republic - Brno Connected



The main objectives for this training were:

- to enhance the international dimension of education and training through cooperation between participating countries and by using non-formal and experiential learning as methods of education, motivation and guidance for youth without proper parental care, underprivileged and socially excluded youth
- to improve key competences and skills of youth workers, young leaders and youth organizations interested in working, educating and guiding youth with fewer opportunities, socially underprivileged young people and youth without proper parental care
- to motivate youth leaders and youth workers of committing themselves to helping youth without proper parental care to get adequate education, to reduce violence and aggression among such youth and to find new and innovative approaches and methods of non-formal education
- to empower youth with fewer opportunities to seek better education for themselves and to reduce early school leaving using non-formal educational methods





The programme started with the conventional getting to know games and ice-breakers.



The goal of this activities was to make the participants get the feeling of a relaxed, safe and friendly enviroment, the same as there are trying to create with the youth they are dealing with in their work.

It continued with everyone's expression of their expectations and goals and even fears concerning this programme. The result was "the fears" and "the expectations" poster.

Participants also agreed on the rules of behavior and made a course contract they will follow. Afterwards they were given personal diaries in which they will keep record of their experiences during the course.





The next day the organiser, *O u t w a r d B o u n d C r o a t i a*, presented their organisation through its history, principles and methods. Those mostly consisted of outdoor activities, designed for participants to get a better sense of their own capabilities and powers, but also to learn how to work and rely on a group. The participants were presented with the challenges that could only be achieved by ignoring their own preset limits and expanding their trust in themselves and their group.







The participants were divided into groups and offered a case study based on actual situation concerning disadvantaged youth. Using their previous experiences and newly acquired methods they created an approach and the solution to the presented case study.

- 10 participants aged 14-16
- From correctional facility where they will spend 2 years (after 1st year they are evaluated and have a chance to be released earlier)
- they have been there for 1 month so already know each other
- goal → develop skills for non-violent conflict solving, prevent aggression, raise tolerance among them
- create 5 day programme (activities, methods, evaluation, follow-up)



During video workshop activity, the participants, divided in groups, made videos on how they see their work with disadvantaged youth or ones in which they role-played a real-life situation.





During a visit to a local school participants had a chance to show their skills with young people and to apply those newly gained.

Local youth had an opportunity to gain insight into informal teaching and learning methods and to learn more about the Erasmus+ programme.

Participants also had a day dedicated to Erasmus+ programme and Youthpass, during which they shared their experiences, tested their knowledge and learned novelties about the programme.



Erasmus+





Some of the activities about local life and culture was also organised by Outward Bound Croatia.

Free time was offered for leisure activities, for participants to get to know each other better and to visit sights and find more about local culture.

Intercultural evening was an event where participants shared values and traditions (both material and non-material) of their home countries. It also serves to help you open yourself towards other perspectives and ways of thinking.





In the end, every participant got a chance to reflect on competences and skills they gained through the training, giving a general reflection on their experience.

We can proudly say that a lot of "checks" could be done on the "the expectations" list made at the beginning of the programme, and none on the "the fears" one.





Here are some of the participant's impressions, showing how they have experienced the course:

"The Wind of Change. The Wind comes and goes, no one knows where it came from neither where it goes, yet its effect is felt it transforms.

The transformational impacts of the Empowering youth for better future project, will be felt for years and generations to come."

**Francis Nwofor
United Kingdom**

"It was beautiful program and I learned a lot of new interesting stuff and get useful information to improve myself and my future interactive programs. I am grateful for this training course :)"

**Kristýna Popelková
Czech Republic**

