

MAKING OF MINIMAL & FUNCTIONAL

FROM THE IDEA TO THE CONCEPT



**Co-funded by
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From Idea to Concept: Building a Minimal & Functional Toolbox for Non-Boring Youth Work

The goal of the Minimal & Functional project, a Erasmus+ Small Scale Partnership, was to improve youth work quality by collecting, testing, and publishing minimal and functional educational practices—methods that are accessible, creative, and easy to reproduce, even with limited resources or experience.

The project unfolded through three structured activities, each focusing on a specific phase of project.



Bulgaria — “Own It! Own your voice, story and budget” (Sofia)

16-20 January 2025

Three days of structured observation and skill-building:

sCool Media: newsroom-style session on fact-checking and creating responsible youth media.

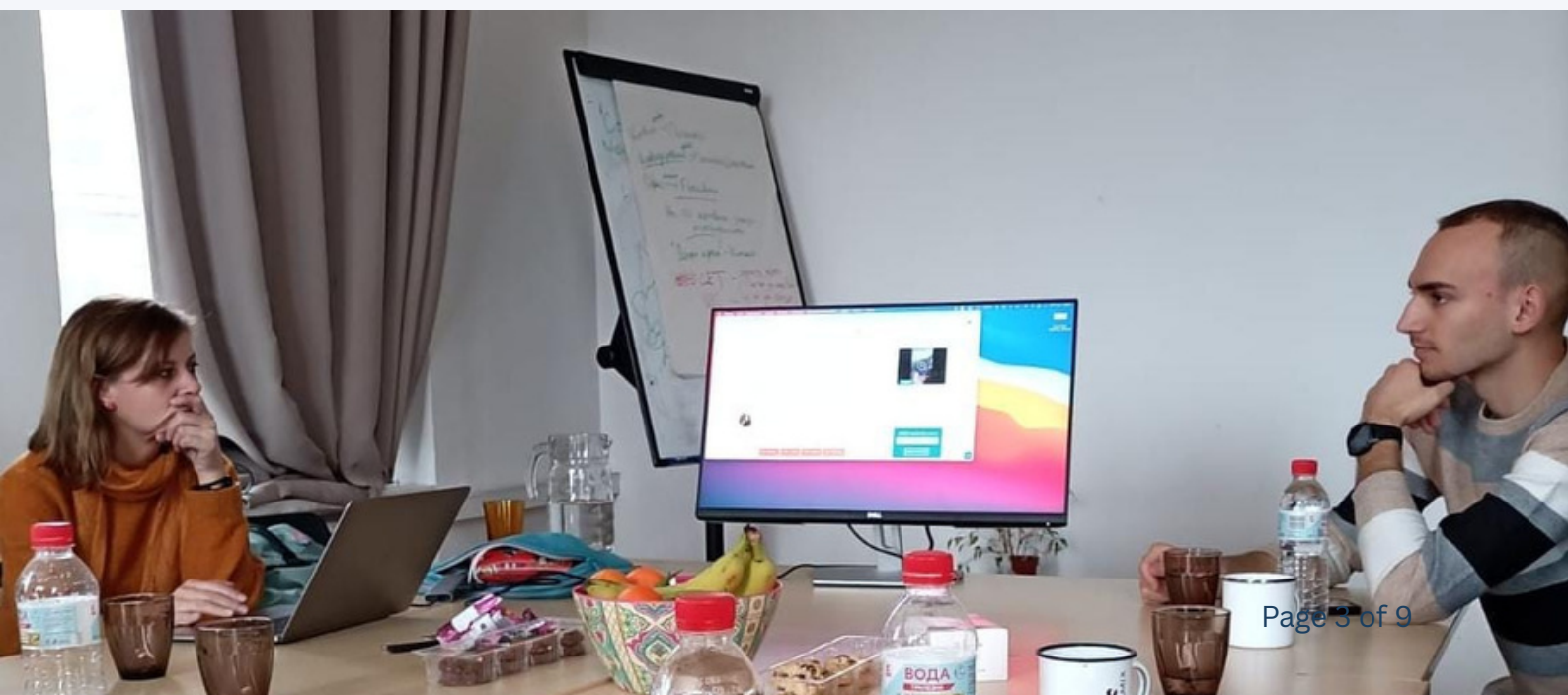


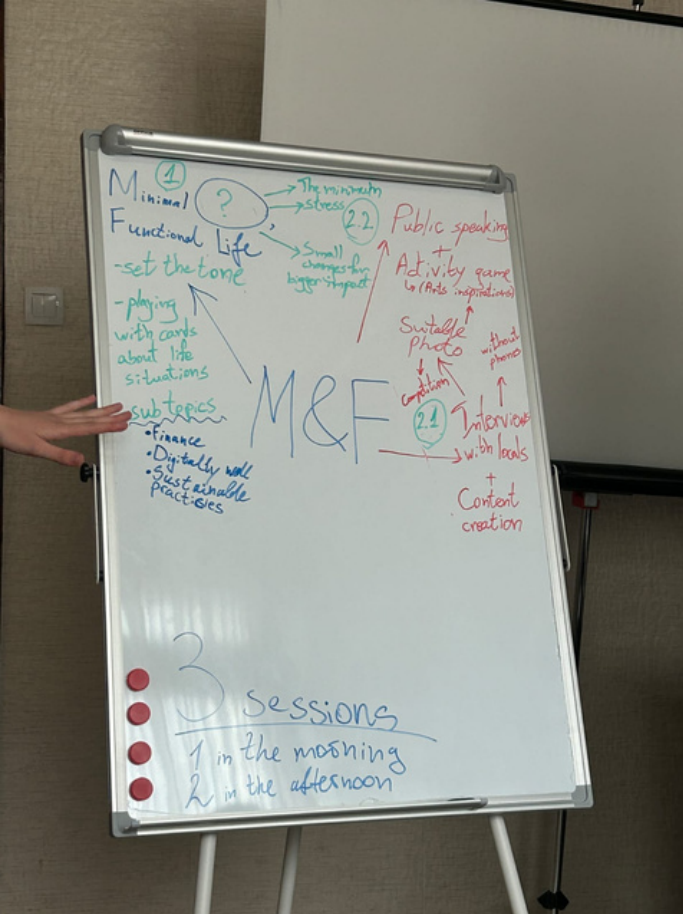
Kristiyan Pashov: practical workshop on speech creation and public speaking for youth facilitators.

WalkTogether: demo of two innovations used with youth, including a financial-literacy board game and a mini incubator as a hands-on science/engagement trigger.



ManEco Foundation: introduction to Climate Fresk and facilitated dialogue on environmental literacy and behaviour change.





Outcome:

The participants learned from the work of other organizations, youth groups, and individuals. The activity aimed to observe innovative practices of different organizations, youth groups, and people working with youth.

Output:

Observation notes and facilitator reflections from Bulgaria fed directly into prototypes for MediaLab, Public Speaking, and Daily Choices for Functional Life activities to be tested in the Learning Teaching Training Activity in Austria, and after assessment and evaluation to be included in the Minimal & Functional Youth Work Concept.



Czechia — “Do It! Engagement, Circus & Mindfulness” (Brno)

20-24 February 2025

Three days translating observations into replicable practice:

Eurocentrum Brno: portfolio of youth-engagement formats such as Speak Dating and Pub Quiz, plus a youth stories exhibition.

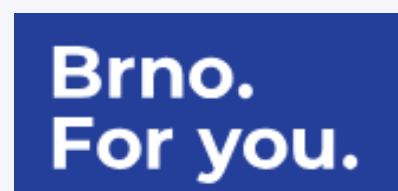


Circus LeGrando: applied circus pedagogy for focus, cooperation, confidence; team tested juggling, balance and coordination tasks.



Mindfulness block (with Robert): short techniques for facilitators (Mindful breathing, 3-minute Breathing Space).

Bruno for You: inclusion tools via Escape Box and VR scenarios to build empathy and problem-solving.





Outcome:

The participants learned from the work of other organizations, youth groups, and individuals. The activity aimed to observe qualitative practices of different organizations, youth groups, and people working with youth.

Output:

1, Observation notes and 2, facilitator reflections from Czechia fed directly into prototypes for Circus & Performance Activities, Mindfulness, Pub Quiz and Political Campaigning. The activities were to be tested in the Learning Teaching Training Activity in Austria, and after assessment and evaluation to be included in the Youth Work Concept.



Austria — Trial & Youth Lab (Linz) *01-07 April 2025*

From 01 to 07 April 2025, Partners and mixed youth groups tested, simplified, and validated the draft methods. Activities included modules such as Circus & Performing (mainly inspired by Circus LeGrando/CZ), MediaLab (mainly inspired by sCOOLmedia/BG), Daily Choices for Functional Life (inspired by WalkTogether/BG), and Politics & Politician (inspired by Eurocentrum Brno/CZ).

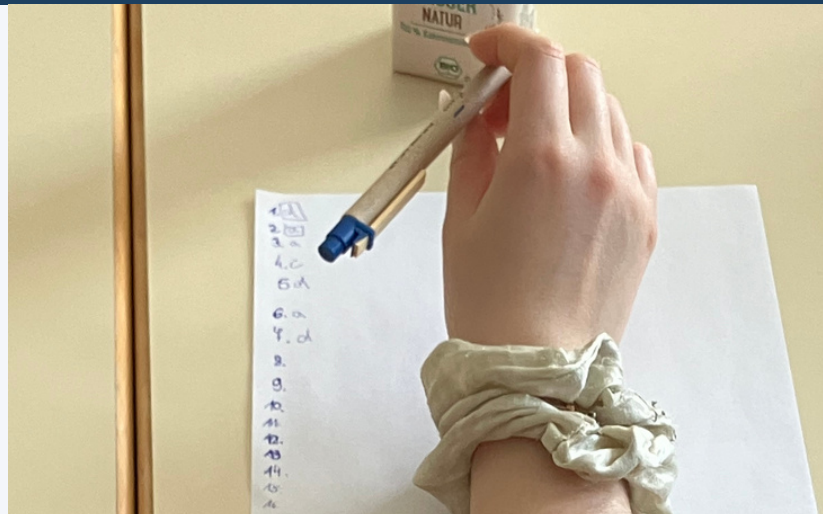


There were also sessions on Mindfulness (inspired by the session with Robert), who in the end were not selected as a tool for the Concept. Participants gave written and oral feedback, which the facilitators used to simplify, visualise and develop the final versions of each tool. The week ended with selecting and editing videos, shorts and text to for the Toolbox website.



How these activities led to the final result

Throughout all stages, participants tested in diverse contexts. Evaluations confirmed improvements in facilitation confidence, group dynamics, and awareness of how minimal resources can still have strong educational impact.



The final product, the Minimal & Functional Toolbox, is now available at www.minimalandfunctional.eu. It offers ready-to-use, step-by-step activity cards, short videos, and downloadable templates—each designed to be clear, measurable, and functional. The resources can be read online, printed as a PDF, or watched via the project's YouTube channel.



The project's structured workflow—observe, adapt, test, publish—allowed all partners to contribute equally, regardless of size or experience. Minimal & Functional strengthened transnational cooperation and produced a concrete, transferable outcome that continues to serve youth workers and organisations across Europe.



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