

# ...[NATURE'S BEST : outdoor skills to enhance learning]...

a training on outdoor skills and techniques in an intercultural setting

## ▶ @ a glance

- ! Date: 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2011
- ! Location: Olloy-sur-Viroin, Belgium
- ! Board and lodging: lodging in a youthcenter, two-persons bedrooms (8 nights)  
lodging in tents, without sanitary equipment (3 nights)  
fully boarded
- ! Participant's profile: European youthworker  
aged 21 and up  
experienced an interested in one or more outdoor sports (climbing, rafting, orienteering, trekking, etc.)  
interested in setting up intercultural exchanges  
interested in activities and methods of adventure based learning  
able to communicate in English
- ! Fee: 50 EUR/person  
board, lodging and training are fully covered by European Commission  
30% of travel charges are up to the participant (or his/her organisation)

## ▶ OBJECTIVES shortlist



- ! To **exchange and enhance technical skills** (for rock-climbing, rappelling, tyrolean traverse, kayaking, orienteering, etc.)
- ! To identify best practices in terms of **ecological awareness** (leave-no-trace approach) and **safety management**
- ! Adapting activities towards groups with special needs
- ! Creating ideal conditions for future international partnerships to awake and evolve

Topics concerning the adventure based learning approach and group dynamics will also be addressed as they emerge.

**A fully detailed draft programme is available!**

## ▶ BACKGROUND

Since several years, NATURE is actively involved in European exchanges. Throughout our numerous contacts with partners and other organisations, we experienced a need for a more **hands-on, practical approach on how to organise and run adventure education programmes within the intercultural context of a European exchange**. A lot of different partners mean a lot of difference in working methods and techniques used. Even though we appreciate the diversity, we are also convinced of the need for standards concerning methodology, safety and environmental issues that should be met by every programme. It is our conviction that **NATURE'S BEST** will be able to contribute to establish these quality standards.



**The training course will be designed in order to provide maximal learning opportunities in the following fields:**

- Basic conditions for outdoor programmes:
  - Safety (technical – management / physical – mentally)
  - Environmental issues (leave no trace – legislation)
- Experiential & Intercultural Learning
- Group Dynamics
- Working with socially disadvantaged youth

**On a different level, NATURE's BEST would like to co-create the conditions to enhance the collaboration and the set up of new exchange initiatives through the Youth Programme.** The training course will provide plenty of opportunities to collaborate on a specific project **during the training course itself.** In doing so, we want to create optimal conditions for further networking and concrete exchanges after the training course. The design of the programme will enable participants to be trained and to exchange best practices in the field of adventure education and how to set up European exchanges. During 5 days, participants will have lots of opportunities to learn and exchange various skills, techniques and knowledge. Two experienced trainers in the field of outdoor education will be present to share their knowledge, skills and experiences.

**After that, the training will offer the opportunity to plan and run an intercultural outdoor programme.** Participants will be divided in two subgroups. Each subgroup will be challenged to plan, set up and run an intercultural outdoor programme in the here-and-now. Participant will thus be responsible for all aspects covered in the first part of the training: safety, environment, experiential and intercultural learning and group dynamics. Trainers will shift roles. From that point on they become coaches on one hand. They will assist (and intervene if necessary). On the other hand, they will facilitate the learning and collaboration process amongst the participants. By means of daily debriefings and regular reviews, participants will be invited to share and reflect upon their experiences. It is our explicit intention to get concrete partnerships out of those subgroups. Through their shared learning experience, we want to stimulate participants to broaden their experience over the borders of the actual training course.

Of course participants will be granted all necessary support to prepare their programme. They will have time and be able to visit the activity-spots (climbing rock, river, and so on), check materials and legislations. Trainers will provide support and assist in every way possible.

## ▶ VENUE

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Olloy-sur-Viroin is a small village in the southwest of Belgium, at the banks of the river Viroin. It lies in the heart of the stunning landscapes of the Viroin-Hermeton natural park with its richly varied sub-Mediterranean flora and fauna. This area is very suitable for rock-climbing, trekking and other outdoor activities in the middle of a superb landscape.

Participants will either travel to Brussels National Airport, or to Brussels South Airport [operated mainly by Ryanair]. From both locations, there is a train connection to Mariembourg, where we'll be glad to pick up participants for a 15' drive to the youth hostel.

Arrival on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May from 14.00 in Mariembourg, train station  
Departure on the 12<sup>th</sup> May from 06.00 in the morning in Philippeville, train station

## ▶ PARTICIPATE?

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**Submit the application form AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to [info@nature.be](mailto:info@nature.be) or by fax to +32 16 35 66 70**