



Youth  
in Action  
Programme

A TRAINING COURSE FUNDED UNDER THE TCP  
BUDGET OF THE YOUTH IN ACTION PROGRAMME  
FROM 2009 TO 2013

# THE POWER OF

Non **FORMAL** Education

6 TESTIMONIES OF STRONG OUTCOMES

## TRAINING COURSE: THE POWER OF NON FORMAL EDUCATION

In 2009, the very first training course 'The Power of Non Formal Education' was launched. A course which focuses clearly on the use/underuse/abuse of the power youth workers, youth leaders, teacher and other stakeholders within the youth field have. The clear focus on self-questioning instead of merely delivering pedagogical tools, turned this training course into a particular strong process for the participants involved. Where for some it was an introduction into the field of Non Formal Education, for people with (extensive) experience it became often a turning point in their daily practice.

This booklet is composed with some testimonies that previous participants have send us back. We have selected only few for this electronic publication.

### SOME FACTS AND NUMBERS

Between 2009 and 2013:

- ✓ 37 countries involved
- ✓ 294 youth workers and youth leaders followed this training course
- ✓ 11 training courses run in various countries, 3 more scheduled within TCP 2013
- ✓ 3 trainers

### THE STEERING GROUP

Since end of 2012, this training course is now coordinated by a steering group composed by interested National Agencies and the 3 involved trainers, currently coordinated by the Swiss National Agency. By joining these both dimensions in the youth work field, this training course has now even a stronger connection with the identified needs in local, national and international youth work.

### IN THIS BOOKLET...TESTIMONIES FROM:

Tom Kurz	Germany	TC in Portugal 2009
Aleksandra Chomicz	Poland	TC in Czech Republic 2011
Pierre-Yves Butel	France	TC in Portugal 2011
José Oliveira	Portugal	TC in The Netherlands 2012
Bogdan Romanica	Romania	TC in Switzerland 2012
Unnur Gisladdottir	Iceland	TC in The Netherlands 2012

### AN EXPERIENCED TRAINERS TEAM

All 3 trainers have a strong connection to local youth work and to community work in general. Active in the international youth work field for many years, they aim to put the theory into practice.

Denis Morel	France	<a href="http://trainers.salto-youth.net/DenisMorel/">http://trainers.salto-youth.net/DenisMorel/</a>
Jo Claeys	Portugal	<a href="http://trainers.salto-youth.net/JoClaeys/">http://trainers.salto-youth.net/JoClaeys/</a>
Simona Molari	Italy	<a href="http://trainers.salto-youth.net/SimonaMolari/">http://trainers.salto-youth.net/SimonaMolari/</a>

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## TOM KURZ – GERMANY

### TC POWER OF NFE - PORTUGAL 2009

Enriching my personal experience!

For many years I had been an active trainer in the field of NFE. I was aware of the power the methodologies, simulations, “games” and all the other activities have and how they can be used to help young people in their personal development. My knowledge of how other trainers use them was, however, limited to Germany.

Most of my awareness on the topic, however, stemmed from personal experience, from talking to young people about the way they perceived the trainings and seminars and from their evaluations. Attending the training in March of 2009 showed me how these activities are used in a European context. How youth workers from different organizations, different backgrounds and different countries used non-formal learning. I realized, that they have similar questions, share similar examples and struggle with similar obstacles in persuading other people and other sectors of society of the value of non-formal learning. The conversations we had, ideas we all came up with during the days were a really enlightening and enriching experience on a personal level and convinced me to become an even more determined advocator of non-formal learning, its methods, goals and the usability in our competence and employability focused world.

I have used some of the methods in following trainings and, more importantly, used our ideas, discussions, examples and outcomes to advocate for non-formal learning in society. Remembering the training always provides me with that extra bit of motivation to take a step forward.

**REMEMBERING THE TRAINING  
ALWAYS PROVIDES ME WITH  
THAT EXTRA BIT OF  
MOTIVATION TO TAKE A STEP  
FORWARD**

Tom Kurz

[kurz@experiment-ev.de](mailto:kurz@experiment-ev.de)

## ALEKSANDRA CHOMICZ – POLAND

### TC POWER OF NFE – CZECH REPUBLIC 2011



The inspiration of the project „Art for a change”, made in Poland with group of young people from Poland and Portugal, was found in NFE training course and active methods of participation proposed by the trainers. The most important was reflection about the mechanism of social changes and the experience of simulation games in development of social and personal competences of participants. The methodology of non-formal education makes possible to create emotional connections with the proposals topics. In that way the change is started inside of mind - in personal goals and beliefs and can be transfer for real circumstances of daily life of every participant.

The final of our project was a performance „DO A REAL REVOLUTION” presented in open space of the city (Gdansk). The performance was a form of manifesto against social exclusion, discrimination and isolation. The performance was also a ritual of change happened inside of every participant. The best testimonies of NFE impact are not my words about it but the emotions and reflexions of participants during evaluation of the project:

*“For me it was a revolution against the Everyday, against our own limitations, against the things, which oppress us in our daily life”;“ My SELF before and after the project is different. I feel that some kind of revolution happened inside of me. I changed my way of behaving and thinking. In that aspect we made a Real Revolution.”*



Here is also the video from the project:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=KpZyNxyGtjs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=KpZyNxyGtjs)



**Aleksandra Chomicz**  
[algosambukus@yahoo.com](mailto:algosambukus@yahoo.com)  
**Fundacja MI-RO-RO**  
ul. Łukowa 13  
83-050 Kolbudy  
(0048) 798-244-904  
[miroro.kontakt@gmail.com](mailto:miroro.kontakt@gmail.com)  
[www.miroro.pl](http://www.miroro.pl)

**THE MOST IMPORTANT WAS  
REFLECTION ABOUT THE MECHANISM  
OF SOCIAL CHANGES**

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## **PIERRE-YVES BUTEL – FRANCE TC POWER OF NFE - PORTUGAL 2011**

Dear NFE Team,

Less than two years after the TC, thank you to give me the opportunity to reflect about its impact... Personally, I often think about what happened during the session when I am in link with young people. Does my NGO really give them a place or is it manipulation? By working in an NGO who “helps” young people, don’t we use them for our own recognition? And what place is given to them?

**... WHICH SHOWED THAT  
MANIPULATION CAN BE  
HIDDEN BEHIND GOOD  
INTENTIONS**

I was very impressed by the game “Power to the People” which showed that manipulation can be hidden behind good intentions. As an impact, I can say that I give more attention to this than before the TC.

About the tools of NFE, we had the opportunity to organise a game with young people and people from our local institutions and partners (social workers...).

Another impact was a reflection about the way I can learn. We offer young people a time to reflect about this during the preparation before an experience abroad (for a job or volunteering).

Well, a lot of little tools with some that could be directly used and other that are growing slowly in the mind. Surely a little change.  
Long life to this TC!

**Pierre-Yves BUTEL**  
**Directeur**  
**Jeunes à Travers le Monde**  
02 99 78 01 50  
06 32 50 43 22  
[www.international-jtm.com](http://www.international-jtm.com)

## JOSÉ OLIVEIRA - PORTUGAL

### TC POWER OF NFE - THE NETHERLANDS 2012

'Power of NFE' was for me "the best TC".

I learn a lot and I could implement several exercises with my kids such as the step forward. Unfortunately the video project was cancelled because the target group had some problems with the police and now they are in jail ☹

After the training (in May) I made an artistic exposition with some kids where they show the community and city their works and the importance of non-formal education in their daily lives. We make the connection between generations and it was very important for the community (this was other fruit from the tree of NFE). I sent you a picture.

I'm also giving some power to other youngsters by giving them some training in youth work so they can prepare some activities for the summer.

I'm also doing the TOT and I'm preparing to host our Training Practice Project with Sanne ☺ and so this is also an amazing story that was born in PoNFE. Our TC is about Empower young people connection to the NFE. I'm just sorry for not having so much time to answer you in the best way possible.

Finally I'm also working with Lorenzo and Liis in a Youth Exchange that will happen in Estonia in August.

Yes, the TC was amazing and opened so many doors, yes I have to underline your work as Trainers, yes the group and all the themes we worked were wonderful.

You are an example of excellent Trainers.

Thank you so much for that.

**José Oliveira**

[sjovem@gmail.com](mailto:sjovem@gmail.com)

Rua da Bela Vista 22

Almada - Portugal

**... THE TC WAS AMAZING AND  
OPENED SO MANY DOORS ...**





## BOGDAN ROMANICA – ROMANIA TC POWER OF NFE - SWITZERLAND 2012

... I BECAME MUCH MORE  
CONFIDENT IN MY POWER ...

"The Power of Non-Formal Education have had an important impact on me. It opened a lot of new perspectives upon the world but also on how education works and how I, as educator should I lead the educational process. The training changed me a lot at a professional and personal level. I became much more confident in my power as educator/trainer/youth worker. I understand better how to facilitate and lead a method and a training and have more courage to create and to use challenging methods. I became also more interested in social problems, active citizenship and global education. I created a method that is inspired from Power to the People and Plan B. All these things brought more quality in my work, in my trainings and bigger changes in the youth with whom I work. All these aspects contribute to the development of our community. Another important aspect is the vision upon learning, reflection and transfer of learning into reality. I really liked the reflection moments and I found very useful the action plan which we made in the last day of training. Your training was for me an innovative training, who make me think outside the box and make me more responsible at a professional and personal level. Recently we organized a youth exchange when we made Take a Step forward and a method that is inspired from Plan B (of course is much simpler and easier). These methods had a great impact upon the participants and added value to the learning process. I want to thank you again for the great learning which was and is your training.. "

I am sending you one picture from our youth exchange.  
Thank you again.

**Bogdan ROMANICA**

[ro\\_bog\\_al@yahoo.com](mailto:ro_bog_al@yahoo.com)

President of **Dreams for Life**

Youth Program Coordinator

+40-745-585415

[www.dreamsforlife.wordpress.com](http://www.dreamsforlife.wordpress.com)

[www.facebook.com/DreamsforLife](http://www.facebook.com/DreamsforLife)



## UNNUR GISLADOTTIR – ICELAND 'TC POWER OF NFE' - THE NETHERLANDS 2012

The „REAL“ power of Power to the People.

In April 2012 I participated in „The Power of Non-formal education“. At that time I was taking my Masters degree in education and working as a facilitator in a Youth House called „Íbúðin“ (= The apartment). I have worked in the field of Non-Formal education for 11 years, and this training course changed my approach and view on my work. I have been working with terms such as „Experiential learning“, „Democracy“ and „Care-theory“. But in this seminar I had a revelation a real KEY to binding all these theories together. After I got home I started working I felt the change in my approach towards the youth and in the way I structured my relations with them. It also I think this seminar defines me as a teacher. After the spring of 2012 I got hired in a college and there the formal and non-formal meet and I got the opportunity to bind these two together with great success.

I think this seminar can be a real stepping stone in further developing your professional awareness.

Best wishes

Unnur Gisladdottir

[unnur@bhs.is](mailto:unnur@bhs.is)

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APPROACH AND VIEW ON MY WORK ...