

TRAINING COURSE

CIRCUS AT THE END OF THE UNIVERSE

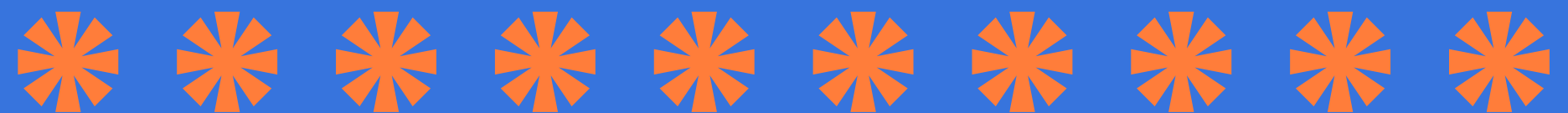


02-11 OCTOBER 2025– BALESTRAND, NORWAY

An illustration on the left side of the slide. It features a profile of a human head with a detailed brain. Blue lines representing neural connections radiate from the brain. Behind the head is a large, light blue starburst shape. The background is a dark, textured space with several colorful, comet-like streaks in shades of orange, yellow, red, and blue.

THE MAIN GOAL

The main goal of the project is to **explore the attitude of clowning and circus arts** in the youth work, with focus on **youngsters with fewer opportunities.**



THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THIS TRAINING COURSE ARE:

To explore the clowning attitude and meet the inner clown;

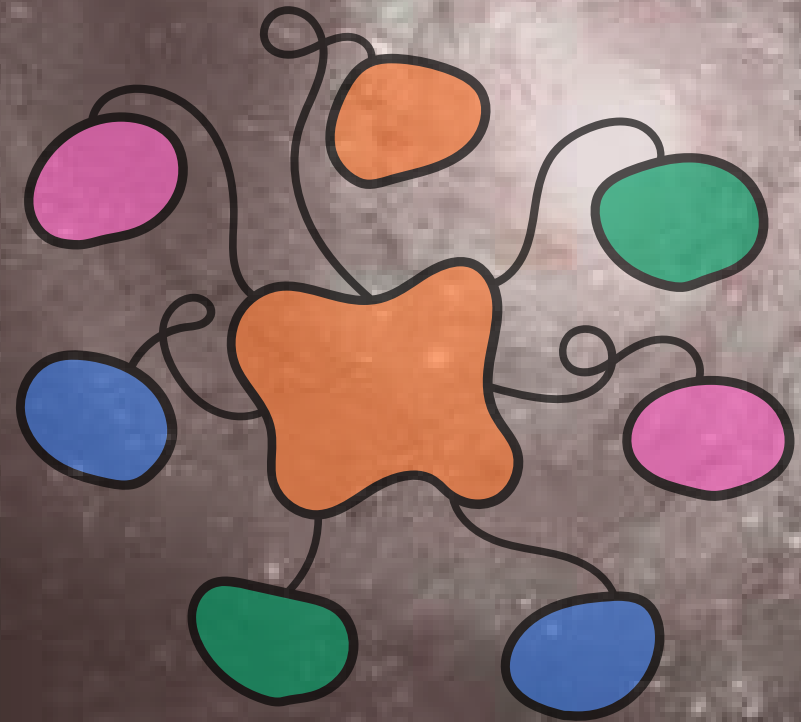
To explore the concept of failure;

To explore how the clowning attitude can help in dealing with emotional well being of both, youth workers and youngsters;

To explore the topic of inclusion through the glasses of intersectionality;



To develop circus related skills and explore how to transfer them to youth work.



During the TC we will explore **circus pedagogy** and **principles cooperative learning**. After getting to know how circus lessons are made, we will see how this could be transferred to youth work, organizing social and community circus. Beside that, the **exploration of the concept of failure and clowning attitude** can be also used **in youth work individually or working with groups**, and this program will offer a chance to find **your own approach and usage of these tools**.



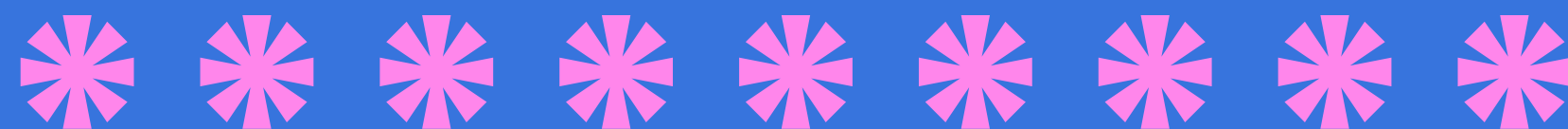
- This training is shaped with the **non-formal education** approach, with group dynamics and **creative activities** that promotes **active participation** during the training course. The process is based in experiential learning, also giving some theoretical input and space for individual/group reflection.
- **Creative methodologies** such as Clowning, Creative Writing, Participatory and Social Theatre, Circus disciplines will be used to dig deeper in the topics of this training course;

- Creation of a **Safe (enough) Space** where every participants feel free to express ideas and proposal;
- The learning process is **shared** among individual participants, the group of participants and the trainers. The program is **flexible and sensitive** to the participant's needs;
- **ETS Competence Model** for youth workers to work internationally will be used as a framework to reflect on the learning journey in relation to competences.



Participants have to keep in mind that **the training is going to be long and intense**, there will be a lot of group work that includes physical activities, touching each other (with consent).

We expect that participants come free of other work and take full participation in the whole program, not skipping sessions as there is a coherent program planned – missing a part of it might result in difficulties to comfortably join the continuation



THE HOSTING ORGANIZATION

Creative Connections Norway (CCN) is established in 2018 within the CIDERHUSET, an apple farm and cidery located in the peaceful landscapes of Balestrand. It is founded by **Tuba Ardic and Gard Eitungjerde Høyvik**, who are national trainers for the Erasmus+ program in Norway. With extensive experience in international projects, the founders have brought their expertise to the art village Balestrand.

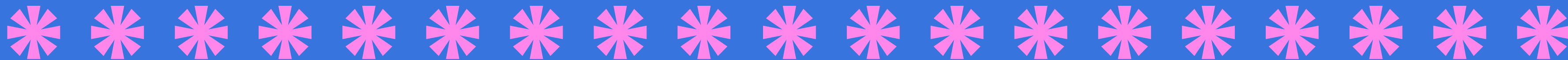


Alongside their involvement in the gastronomy and tourism sectors, **the founders are passionate about fostering artistic projects and cultural exchange.**

To ensure a long-lasting impact, they established CCN as a non-governmental organization (NGO) to spearhead a variety of initiatives and forge strategic partnerships aimed at cultivating creativity and fostering cross-cultural dialogue.

At the heart of CCN's mission lies its unique approach known as "ARTicipation" which harnesses the power of artistic expression to promote inclusion and active participation. Through "ARTicipation" CCN aims to create an environment where individuals from diverse backgrounds can engage with art as a means of self-expression and social connection.

A recent milestone in CCN's journey is the establishment of the **Balestrand Art Factory**. This dedicated space for artistic expression and creativity serves as a hub for various artistic workshops, events, and artist residencies. It is located just 1,5 kilometers away from Ciderhuset farm and has stunning panoramic view over the Sognefjord. With the vision of becoming a significant contributor to the region's creative landscape, Balestrand Art Factory embodies CCN's commitment to enriching cultural experiences and empowering individuals of all ages and backgrounds through art.

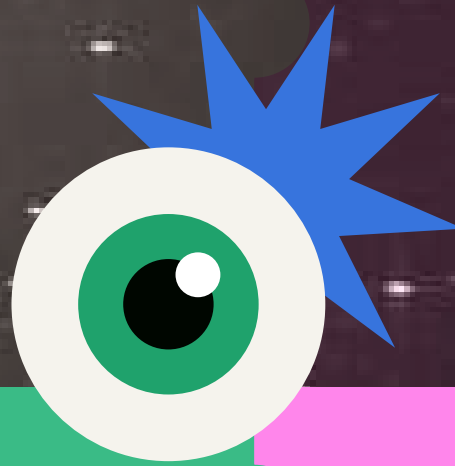


The learning process will be guided and facilitated by an experienced team.

Marco Marinelli: Hey there! I'm Marco from Italy, moved to the north from the south, but still keeping with me the warmth of the sun and freshness of the sea. I'm a circus pedagogue, youth worker, and activist working for Arterego APS (local circus organisation in Bologna) and for Giocolieri&Dintorni (Italian circus school network). I'm interested in the topics of social inclusion and diversity, gender equality, feminism, critical pedagogy by using creative tools and methodologies like Theatre of the Oppressed, embracing a holistic and systemic approach to youth work.

Linda Ulane: Hey! I am an educator in an NGO called "Radi Vidi Pats" (Create the Environment Yourself). Mostly I cover topics of support systems for youngsters and youth workers and the importance of creativity. Besides this, I also work with burnout, environmental awareness and climate action topics, because without that – what's the point of anything else. I also am a writer and volunteer youth worker in Liepaja prison where I offer bibliotherapy workshops. Besides that, I'm a healthcare clown in a hospital. It builds me and gives hope.

Do you resonate with this course and want to be part of it? This is who we are looking for:



- **Members or close collaborators of active Youth Organizations** (staff or active members, paid or not) who are working regularly with young people. **The organization should have a valid OLD number.**
- **Youth workers, youth project managers, youth support persons, social pedagogues, probation officers or other institution representatives that work with youth in their daily work.**
- People who are **interested in gaining new competences** in their existing work with youth.
- Good command of the **English language;**
- People **older than 18 years and with a legal residence** (proven by documents) in the country they are currently residing in.

EXPENSES

- **Board and lodging for the training course are fully covered** by the local organizers during the period mentioned in **shared rooms (3-5 people in one room)**.
- Each participant is free to choose the preferred way of travelling. We strongly encourage the use of green travel. If flights are used for more than 50% of the total travel distance (roundway) the maximum budget allocated available will be from standard travel!

- **Use this website** (<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/distance-calculator>) to find out your distance. Write at the START, your location, from where you will start your travel and at the END, Balestrand, Norway. You will get a km number as a result which will correspond to financial support which you may get for your travel costs.
- ***NOTE this is the official website which will be used for calculating your final travel allowance!**

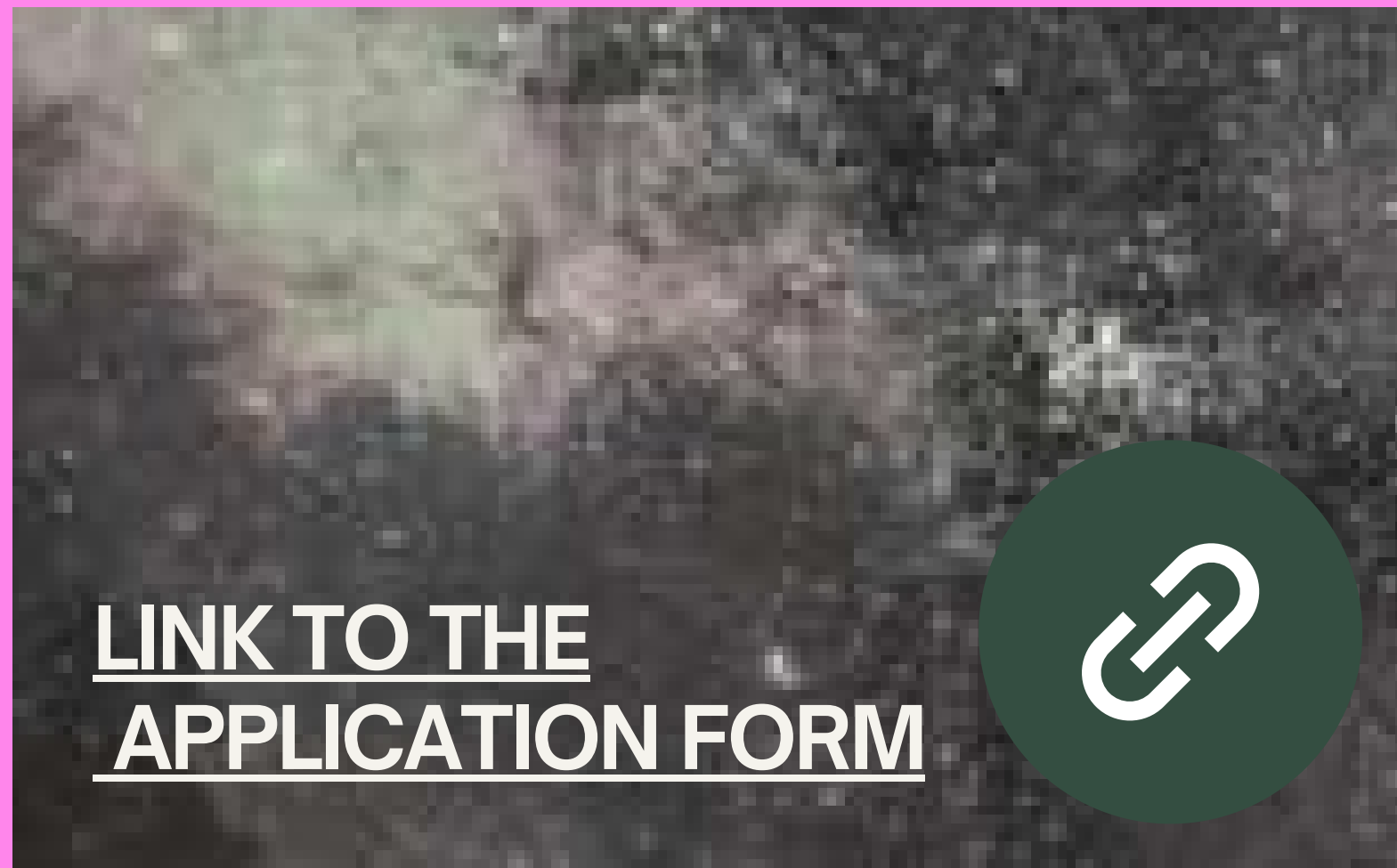


THE INDIVIDUAL MAXIMUM BUDGET ALLOWANCE FOR TRAVEL, PER PERSON, IS THE FOLLOWING:

• 10 – 99 km	56 EUR (Green Travel)/	28 EUR (Non-Green Travel)
• 100 – 499 km	285 EUR (Green Travel)/	211 EUR (Non-Green Travel)
• 500 – 1999 km	417 EUR (Green Travel)/	309 EUR (Non-Green Travel)
• 2000 – 2999 km	535 EUR (Green Travel)/	395 EUR (Non-Green Travel)
• 3000 – 3999 km	785 EUR (Green Travel)/	580 EUR (Non-Green Travel)
• 4000 – 7999 km	1188 EUR (Green Travel)	1188 EUR (Non-Green Travel)
• 8000 km or more	1735 EUR (Green Travel)/	1735 EUR (Non-Green Travel)



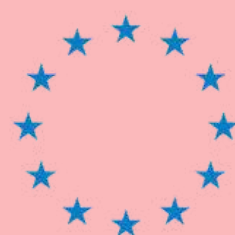
We are taking the application process very seriously and **we believe in the importance of personal input and honesty** in the answers in the application form. Therefore, we want to **strongly discourage of using AI-generated content** in your applications. This can lead to your disqualification or at least negatively influence the evaluation of your application.



Elena Stevkovska
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If you decide to apply, we would appreciate if you **approach the application process with honesty, integrity and dedication**. We are curious about your unique perspectives, experiences and motivations to be part of the training course, and it is of high importance to us. Feel free to ask any additional questions to the contact person (mentioned next) if you are not sure if this training is suitable for your learning and professional needs before deciding to apply.

THANK YOU



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