



Project within Erasmus+ accreditation



**EMPOWER
YOUTH
FORUM 2.0**

Bringing Change to Communities

Mobility of youth workers

23-27 March, Sandviken/Gävle, Sweden



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

Welcome to EmpowerYouth Forum 2.0!

We are thrilled to welcome you to this unique gathering of passionate youth workers and leaders from across Europe. Over the five days in Sandviken and Gävle (Sweden), you will join 25 representatives from the European community of youth workers lead by Rapatac to an inspiring learning journey dedicated to sharing ideas, learning new approaches, and building lasting partnerships.

EmpowerYouth Forum is more than just a meeting – it is a platform for growth, collaboration, and empowerment. Together, we will explore how to strengthen youth leadership, promote equality and diversity, and overcome the challenges youth organizations face today. This is your opportunity to connect, exchange best practices, and discover innovative ways to engage and uplift young people in your communities.

Our hope is that you leave this forum not only with new knowledge and skills but also with meaningful friendships and a renewed passion to drive positive change through your work. The impact of your efforts goes far beyond this event – it creates ripples that strengthen communities and inspire youth across Europe.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Let's learn from each other, grow together, and empower the next generation to lead with courage and confidence.

Welcome aboard!



About the Forum

Hosted by Rapatac – a Swedish activity center for education, inclusion, and youth empowerment, the *EmpowerYouth Forum* brings together passionate youth workers and organizations from across Europe to collaborate, grow, and create new opportunities for young people.

With over a decade of experience, Rapatac has established itself as a leading actor in supporting children and young people through structured, meaningful activities in education, technology, culture, and health. As the host of this initiative, Rapatac opens its doors to international partners to share its proven methods and inspire dialogue on the future of youth work in Europe.

Dates & Locations

- **Forum Days:** 23–27 March 2026
- **Travel Days:** 22 & 28 March 2026
- **Location:** Sandviken & Gävle, Sweden

Who is this Forum for?

The *EmpowerYouth Forum* is designed for youth organizations and youth workers across Europe. This includes activity centers, youth centers, and NGOs engaged in supporting and empowering children and young people.

Bringing together professionals and volunteers active in youth work, the forum offers a unique opportunity to exchange knowledge, strengthen practical skills, and build lasting partnerships. By sharing innovative methods and tools, the forum supports participants in enhancing the impact of their daily work and developing meaningful, community-based youth engagement initiatives.

About Rapatac

Your coordinator and host organisation is **Rapatac** (*Hyttgatan 21, Sandviken*), an **activity center** founded in 2012 in Gävle and established in Sandviken in 2019. Rapatac aims to empower children and youth aged 6-21 by providing a safe and stimulating environment that supports both academic and personal development. The organization offers diverse educational courses in Technology, Music, Media, and Art, along with homework assistance to help students succeed in school.

Rapatac fosters leadership, social responsibility, and civic engagement through projects focusing on sustainability, democracy, and human rights. Guided by humanistic values aligned with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the organization ensures equal opportunities for all children, regardless of background. Its principles emphasize holistic growth, inclusivity, community collaboration, and mentorship.

Acting as a bridge between school, home, and leisure, Rapatac works closely with families and schools to provide the best comprehensive support for youth development. Through its programs and role models, Rapatac inspires young people to reach their full potential and positively impact their communities.



Check our
social media




Website:
rapatac.se




Instagram:
[@rapatacsandviken](https://www.instagram.com/rapatacsandviken)




Facebook:
[Rapatac Sandviken](https://www.facebook.com/RapatacSandviken)

Goals of the Forum

The EmpowerYouth Forum aims to strengthen youth work in Europe by creating a collaborative, inspiring, and practice-oriented space for professionals in the field.

The key goals of the forum are:



To foster networking and collaboration:

Bring together youth workers and organizations to exchange ideas, build connections, and explore future partnerships that support youth engagement and community development.



To promote professional development:

Equip participants with practical tools, non-formal learning methods, and innovative approaches that can be applied directly in their work with children and young people.



To share best practices in youth engagement

Highlight successful strategies and experiences from different organizations to inspire new ways of working with young people and tackling shared challenges.



To support community-based impact

Strengthen the role of youth workers as catalysts for positive change, empowering them to develop new local initiatives that foster inclusion, leadership, and participation among young people.



To contribute to the development of youth work across Europe

Encourage the spread of effective practices and reinforce the long-term sustainability of youth engagement efforts through cross-border cooperation and shared learning.

Schedule of the Forum

Date, time	23/11. Monday	24/11. Tuesday	25/11. Wednesday	26/11. Thursday	27/11. Friday
8.00-9.00	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast + Transfer to Gävle	Breakfast	Breakfast
9.00-10.00	Opening Ceremony & Welcome Session	“Vägen till 100%”: The Bigger Picture - Understanding the Individual in Context	Study Visit: University of Gävle - Social Work in a Swedish Context	“Vägen till 100%”: Conditions for Effective Interaction - Approach, Environment, and Learning	“Vägen till 100%”: Diversity as an Asset - Inclusion and Integration
10.00-11.00	Why Rapatac? - A Guided Tour to Rapatac Aktivitetscenter Sandviken	Workshop: Collaborative Problem Solving in Youth Work		Workshop: Collaborative Problem Solving in Youth Work	Workshop: Collaborative Problem Solving in Youth Work
11.00-12.00	Networking session: Professional Connect & Refelction	Group Reflections & Presentations	Walk to Rapatac Aktivitetscenter Gävle	Group Reflections & Presentations	Group Reflections & Presentations
12.00-13.00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13.00-14.00	Sandviken Uncovered - Guided City Experience	Study Visit: Sandvik - Innovation, Inclusion & Youth Collaboration	Study Visit: Gästrike Återvinnare - Sustainability in Practice	World Café: Best practice sharing (part 1)	Youthpass Workshop
14.00-15.00					Drafting the Resolution of the Forum
15.00-15.30	Fika	Fika	Discovering the City of Gävle	Fika	Fika
15.30-16.00	Sustainable Development Goals in Practice: A Case-Based Exploration	“Vägen till 100%”: Approach and Interaction - The Seven Guiding Principles		Fika	World Café: Best practice sharing (part 2)
16.00-16.30		Group Reflections & Presentations	Learning from the Field: Reflection Session (Rapatac Aktivitetscenter Gävle)	Group Reflections	
16.30-17.00					Free time
17.00-18.00	Free time	Free time	Free time	Free time	Free time
18.00-19.00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner

* With reservation for changes

Accommodation information

Housing and breakfast have been arranged for you within walking distance of the training venue. You will **check in on Sunday evening, 22 March**, and stay in a shared, gender-based room with 1-4 other forum participants. Bed linen and towels will be provided.

Your accommodation is:

Norrgården i Sandviken (Linggatan 11, Sandviken)

If you have any special requests regarding your room or roommate, please contact maria@rapatac.se. While we cannot guarantee that all requests can be met, we will do our best to take them into consideration.



Participants Speak! Empower Youth Forum Highlights

The first Empower Youth Forum (10–14 November) was met with overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants. Below is a selection of the reflections and comments they shared:

- *“Valuable content, great opportunity to find partnerships, different activities, interesting study visits.”*
- *“Activities were so interactive, and I liked that. We learned from each other’s experiences.”*
- *“It was a great experience. I think that it could bring a lot of benefits to our organizations.”*
- *“It has given me new perspectives, practical tools, and examples that I can take back and apply within my organization. The discussions helped me understand how others approach similar challenges, and I’m confident that what I’ve learned will improve our work and strengthen our processes.”*
- *“Delighted with the experience and thank you for the opportunity. I am hoping future projects can be created from the networking that has happened here!”*
- *“Thank you everyone in the Rapatac team for all the effort invested in organising everything down to the smallest details! And for sharing with us your inspiring location and amazing organisational culture!”*
- *“I love Rapatac team!”*
- *“Everything was just WOW!”*
- *“The ‘Road to 100%’ concept and especially how it was presented reminded me of many things about my work and myself that I had forgotten. It was an eye-opening and truly inspiring experience, and I had the pleasure to share it with such wonderful people I met here.”*
- *“The experience was eye-opening and really moving (emotionally). The impact that Rapatac has on society is incredible—providing chances to kids to grow both professionally and mentally. The most important was ‘Road to 100%,’ giving me strength and power to contribute to my society and giving me tools to do what I love in the best way possible. Thank you for the opportunity.”*

Contact information

You will be guided and supported by a dedicated team throughout your time at Rapatac. We're here to make sure you feel welcome, informed, and inspired every step of the way!



Moussa Ndiaye
Founder
moussa@rapatac.se
+46 70-246 66 41



Mathilda Gavlén
Organisational Developer
mathilda@rapatac.se
+46 70-293 42 30



Maria Shishkanova
Project Manager
maria@rapatac.se
+46 70-150 25 79

**We look forward to welcoming you
to Sweden and to Rapatac!**



**EMPOWER
YOUTH
FORUM 2.0**

Bringing Change to Communities

Unite. Empower. Transform.

**Connecting, inspiring, and advancing youth
work for a stronger, more inclusive Europe.**



Erasmus+

Welcome to EmpowerYouth Forum!

Dear Participant,

We are delighted to welcome you to Sweden and to the EmpowerYouth Forum hosted by Rapatac in Sandviken. We're looking forward to spending an inspiring week together, filled with learning, exchange, and collaboration.

Breakfast will be served at your hotel at 08:00, and we will begin the day's activities at 9:00 at Rapatac Activity Center (Hyttgatan 21) to start the official program.

You will find the schedule and contact information on the following pages. Please take a moment to review the details and feel free to contact us if you have any questions during the forum.

We hope this week will bring new insights, valuable connections, and memorable experiences.

Once again, a warm welcome to Sandviken and to the EmpowerYouth Forum!

Warm regards,
Rapatac team

