Co-funded by
the European Union

UTOPIA IS NOT AN ISLAND

"You cannot buy the revolution. You cannot make the revolution. You can only be the revolution. It is in your spirit, or it is nowhere."

Ursula K. Le Guin, The Dispossessed: An Ambiguous Utopia

Training Course
Benicàssim, Castellón, Spain
11th–18th May 2026
(travel days included)





ABOUT THE PROJECT

Utopia is not an island is an 8-day (including travel days) international Training Course that brings together 24 youth workers from across Europe to explore how imagination, hope and inclusion can become practical tools in youth work.

At a time when fear-based narratives, discrimination and hostile public discourses increasingly affect queer communities and other minorities, this project creates a safe and creative space to pause, reflect and respond. Inspired by the idea that utopia is not an escape but a method for change, participants will critically analyse how dominant narratives shape young people's wellbeing, sense of belonging and participation.

Through non-formal education methods such as storytelling, theatre-based approaches, media analysis, creative labs and peer-to-peer workshops, participants will move from reflection to action.

BUT, WHAT IS AN UTOPIA?

The concept of "utopia" refers to an idealized society where conditions are perfect and free from human evils. The term was coined by Sir Thomas More in his 1516 book Utopia.





METHODS & OBJECTIVES

During the training, we will co-design and test inclusive workshop formats, develop practical tools and contribute to a collective digital toolkit that can be implemented locally after the mobility. The project aims not only to strengthen professional competences, but also to foster a European network of youth workers committed to creating safer, more inclusive and hopeful spaces for young people.

The two core objectives of Utopia is not an Island are:

- To equip youth workers with the knowledge, skills, and competences needed to design and implement effective, high-quality actions with and for young people strengthening their capacity to counter fear-based discourses and promote wellbeing, inclusion, and participation.
- To provide a safe, intercultural, and creative learning space where participants can critically analyse dystopian narratives, explore emotions and cultural references, and co-create utopian horizons through experiential and arts-based methodologies.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE

Gender balance and fewer opportunities situations will be taken into account in the selection process.

We 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.



- **YOUTH WORKERS:**

  We aim this project to youth workers who are regularly working with youngsters, paying special attention to those working with queer and / or minority targets.

- **FROM/LIVING IN ONE OF OUR PARTICIPANT COUNTRIES: :**

  Spain, Netherlands, Belgium, Romania, Poland, Finland and Italy

- **+18 YEARS OLD:**

  There is no age limit for this Training Course, but everyone must be +18

THE TEAM



DAVID

Trainer and co-writer of the Project.
David is co-founder of Maricuir, technician in Social Integration and youth worker involved in Eramus+ for more than 12 years as a participant and for the last years also as a writer and facilitator.
He is usually reading and learning about queer things, social justice and utopias.



LUCÍA

Trainer and co-writer of the project.
Lucía has been working in formal and non-formal education for more than 10 years.
She is passionate about creating new educational proposals through arts and storytelling methodologies to generate safe and brave spaces of self-awareness, creativity, resilience, critical thinking, and empathy.



ALEX

Trainer and co-writer of the Project.
Alex is 22 and scout for 12 years.
In 2024 they finished studying Dietetics and started working with Maricuir.

Alex loves fighting for social causes and loves animals.
They are proudly non-binary and advocates for queer rights!

HOW TO ARRIVE?



Venue: Albergue Juvenil Argentina, Benicàssim

click here!

PLEASE DO NOT PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS UNTIL YOU HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED AS A PARTICIPANT BY THE ORGANISING TEAM!!!

* Nearest airports are Castellón, Barcelona and Valencia Airport
* There are direct trains to Benicàssim from Valencia, Barcelona and Castellón. You can purchase your tickets HERE.
* There are also buses from Castellón Airport to Castellón and from Castellón to Benicàssim. You can check the info HERE and buy your tickets at the bus station.

THE VENUE

The Albergue Juvenil Argentina is a 1940s building in a nautical style that was completely renovated in 2009. It has landscaped areas, sports facilities and various communal amenities. Added to this is the fact that it is right on the beachfront, just a few metres from the sea, and has a wide beach with fine sand.



20-minute walking from the city centre





Nearby shops and supermarkets



Bed sheets are provided, towels aren't

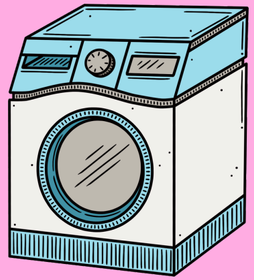


Shared rooms (mostly 2 or 3 people). All rooms have their own bathroom

WHAT TO BRING?



- Typical food from your country
- Pocket money (€)
- European Health Insurance Card
- Clothes for warm weather (24–14°C)



Washing machine (2€) and dryer (2€) available



TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

The maximum amount of money covered for the trip

Spain	28€
Italy, Hungary, Romania, Belgium, Netherlands	309€
Poland, Finland	395€



If you choose to travel by bus or train (Green Travel), the amount of money will be...

Spain	56€
Italy, Hungary, Romania, Belgium, Netherlands	417€
Poland, Finland	535€

You can decide to stay 2 extra days either before or after the project, but those days' expenses won't be covered (food, accomodation...)

PARTNERS

Organisations involved in this Project

Bosco Base – Belgium

Suomen Rauhanpuolustajat ry – Finland

Hang-Kép Kulturális Egyesület – Hungary

Romagna+ ETS – Italy

Vivid Voices – Poland

Stitching Jong Noord – Netherlands

MA Hub – Romania

MARICUIR – Spain

CONTACT

If you have any question, contact us via e-mail or WhatsApp

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David: +34 611 86 90 14
e-mail: info@maricuir.es



Feel free to ask any additional questions if you are not sure if this training is suitable for your learning and professional needs before deciding to apply.

And the last but not the least:
We want it to be a safe space. No form of discrimination or violence will be tolerated in this project.

CLICK HERE TO APPLY!

