



EUROPÄISCHE
JUGENDBILDUNGS &
BEGEGNUNGSSTÄTTE
WEIMAR

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

REACT Radical Education



A Long-Term Training Course for Educators

23.11.-29.11.2026 | Weimar (Germany)

24.05.-30.05.2027 | Portugal (tbd)

The Opportunity for Radical Thinking

The tradition of radical thinking - thinking from the root - has a solid ground within critical pedagogy theory and is at the heart of educational practices aiming to follow Paulo Freire's invitation for uncovering oppressive structures and imagining equitable societies. Building on the first experience of "Radical Education - A Pilot Training Course for Educators Exploring Alternative Educational Practices" (2025, EJBW Weimar), this Long-Term Training Course (REACT) offers a deep 11-month active learning journey for educators.

The course is designed as a hybrid process, seamlessly integrating a permanent online dimension, intensive residential seminars for collective experimentation, and a dedicated local phase where participants implement educational work in their own contexts. The content moves from the personal to the systemic, starting with self-clarification and the exploration of diverse visions of the world. Participants will engage with the thoughts of radical thinkers to examine our everyday relationship with the world and the transformation of power relationships. By looking beyond the "end of history" paradigm, the REact training course invites participants into utopia-making and a deep dive into the intentionalities of radical education. This conceptual work is directly applied to ongoing practices, supporting educators in making their current work more radical-coherent.

This process provides a platform for educators to not only explore bold ideas but to develop, test, and showcase educational practices through the lens of Radical Education, aiming to foster critical consciousness and collective action. The journey concludes with a showcase at an international event, followed by the release of a collective publication, systematizing the content, process, reflections and practices developed during the course.

Objectives:

- To create a protected, reflective, and collaborative space for educators to deeply engage with radical thinking.
- To develop and refine educational practices that address systemic issues and utopia-making.
- To provide a structured environment for peer-led experimentation of radical education tools and practices.
- To support the implementation of local educational initiatives with a radical thinking approach through peer support circles.
- To showcase developed practices to the wider youth work sector.
- To produce a collective publication addressing Radical Education for Educators, systematizing the LTTC process, including the different consolidated educational practices developed by participants, as a critical contribution for the European Youth sector

Target Group:

Radical education is - as Paulo Freire writes - "a task *for radicals*".

This activity is targeted to educators from **Erasmus+ programme countries (18+) working directly with young people**, whether at local or other level, through educational practices addressing one or more of the so-called structural issues such as, but not limited to: racism, postcolonial imagination, patriarchy, ecofeminism, climate change, eco-crisis, LGBTQI+, de-growth, anti-disablism and autonomy, anti-capitalism, horizontal leaderships and the commons, intersectionality, civil disobedience, utopia-making.

Participants must be ready to develop their practice as a space for radical thinking and committed to follow-up action, also **ready to commit to the full duration of the whole process** (July 2026 – May 2027) as well as to the **hybrid character of the process**.

Priority of participation is given to:

- Educators non-established in international youth work routines, who wish to develop their practice as a space for radical thinking;
- Individuals from non-EU backgrounds and the Global South living in Erasmus+ countries.
- A strong commitment to follow-up action is highly valorised, both in the sending organizations (if one) and candidates;

Methodology

"Practice without theory is blind, theory without practice is sterile" Karl Marx

REact uses a blended methodology that will follow Action-Training-Research process:

- It's a collaborative, participatory methodology combining practical action, training, and research.
- It enables practitioners to co-construct knowledge and drive changes through a cycle of reflection, training, and intervention, linked together by critical reflection.
- It bridges the gap between theory and practice through the experience and reflection of Praxis.

For Paulo Freire, praxis is the continuous cycle of action and reflection used to transform reality. Praxis is not just action; it is an action informed by critical reflection on social, political, and personal realities.

Key features include:

- Immersive Audio Unlearning: Using narrative and sensory anchors to problematize reality.
- Peer-led tool test-drives: Dedicated space for participants to facilitate and peer-evaluate their own methodologies, tools, practices, strategies through the lens of Radical Education
- Safety & Co-responsibility: Explicit sessions for group agreements and establishing a safe space for experimentation.
- Peer Circles: online peer support during the local implementation phase
- Group sharing and discussing
- Readings and theoretical inputs followed by group discussion / reflection

Main contents of the programme

- Radical Thinking
- Radical Education
- Intentionalities of Radical Education
- Critically revisiting the widely regarded essentials of practice in Non-Formal Education (aims, principles, educator's competences, facilitation)
- Risks for Radical Educators
- Designing/improving an education practice through the lens of Radical education
- Creating transformative imaginaries (Prefigurative education, rehearsal of realities, utopia making...)

Examples of possible local actions to be implemented

- Workshops / round tables / seminars / trainings to disseminate the learning impacts of LTTC at grassroots level
- Strategic plans for improving local youth work through the lens of Radical Education
- Networks of practitioners committed to radical education and systemic transformation

Time line

2026

- **May** - Call for participants
- **June** - Pre-selection
- **July** - Online activities for final selection
- **August-October** - Online activities (getting to know each other, readings, discussions, theoretical introductions);
- **23rd – 29th of November 2026** - Residential Seminar, Weimar, Germany (conceptual ground, experiential sessions, practice development/improvement)

2027

- **January-April** - Local implementation/testing
- **24th – 30th of May 2027** - Residential Seminar, Portugal (TBC, showcasing practices to wider Youth sector)

Selection process details:

1. Kick-off Call
2. Pre-selection of participants based on call criteria, assessed in applications
3. 1 - 3 activities in online platform
4. Final selection based on call criteria, assessed in online activities.

Two groups are created:

- **Selected Participants - to fully participate in the whole LTTC process, including residential seminars;**
- **Selected online Participants - to participate in the online and local dimensions of the LTCC process. Please note:** if drop-outs happen, participants of this group might be invited to join the residential processes (waiting list).

Examples of possible online activities after pre-selection:

- read a certain document and discuss it in trios online
- share a draft of the tool you would like to develop in the framework of this training course
- explain your educational context to educators trying to help you articulate the development of your educational tool with your context

Team:

- Facilitation: Laure De Witte & Sérgio Xavier
- Rapporteur, Editor and Educational Support: Ivett Szabó

Travel information

We will reimburse the travel costs on the basis of the cheapest possibilities, e.g. second class railway tickets, economy class flights etc., within the provided limit, from place of residency to the venue of the activity and return, based on the rates of the “distance calculator” of the European Commission <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/de/node/2626> and related regulations as follows:

- 10-99 km: 28,00 EUR / Green travel: 56,00 EUR
- 100-499 km: 211,00 EUR / Green travel: 285,00 EUR
- 500-1999 km: 309,00 EUR / Green travel: 417,00 EUR
- 2000-2999 km: 395,00 EUR / Green travel: 535,00 EUR
- 3000-3999 km: 580,00 EUR / Green travel: 785,00 EUR

*Green travel: Travel where low-emission modes of transport are used **for the majority of the journey**, such as bus, train, bicycle or carpooling.*

Participation fees

We are aware of the difficult financial situation of many people active in the field. Nevertheless, we see the offered events as a quality experience concerning venues, tools and activities and therefore as a unique opportunity for personal learning, professional development & networking which should be, beyond the received funding from European taxpayers not “for free”. Further, as providers of civic education, focusing as well on topics as (global) social justice, we decided to disrupt the vicious system of underpayment of people active in the field of (international) youth work & education, who dedicate their lifetime & energy for creating quality learning experiences by offering fair payment for their work (e.g. as free-lance trainers, facilitators or support staff). Therefore, a financial contribution from each participant **participating in the whole LTTC process, including both residential seminars** is required **upon individual situation & decision**:

- You are e.g. student, unemployed person or a volunteer without own income (reduced fee): 75,00 EUR
- You are e.g. freelanced youth worker / trainer / educator with own income (standard fee): 100,00 EUR
- You are e.g. a person in stable job/employment (solidarity fee): 125,00 EUR

For participants, participating **solely in the online and local dimensions of the LTCC process** a symbolic contribution in the amount of 25,00 EUR is required.

In case you are not able to afford the fee, please contact us for individual solutions.

Venue, accommodation & board

23rd – 29th of November 2026 - Residential Seminar (I) Weimar (Germany):

- Accommodation in shared rooms, full board & activities will take place at the Stiftung Europäische Jugendbildungs- und Jugendbegegnungsstätte Weimar (Foundation “European Youth Education and Meeting Centre in Weimar, EJBW): <http://www.ejbweimar.de/>

24th – 30th of May 2027 - Residential Seminar (II), Portugal

- Accommodation in shared rooms, full board & activities will be provided. Exact venue tbd.

How to apply?

Please apply **until 7th of June 2026** via

We will inform all applicants after 14th of June 2026..

SUPPORT



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Women and Youth

As part of the:



IMPRINT:

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- 24th – 30th of May 2027, Portugal (tbd.)

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Weimar, May 2026