



EUROPÄISCHE
JUGENDBILDUNGS &
BEGEGNUNGSSTÄTTE
WEIMAR

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS



CONNECTING WITH NATURE

Nature-Based learning for Eco-friendly Youth Work
A Training Course for Youth Workers

11.01.-17.01.2027 | Weimar (Germany)

About the project

Many young people spend increasing amounts of time indoors and online, while nature can be an important source of connection, well-being, resilience and meaning. To help young people reconnect with nature, youth workers need opportunities to experience for themselves the power of learning in and with nature. During this training, participants experience what happens when nature becomes more than a backdrop or simply a setting for an activity, and becomes an active part of the learning process. Participants slow down, observe, learn in and with nature, and explore their own relationship with nature. They experience how connection can lead to care and eco-friendly action. From these experiences, they critically reflect on their own youth work practice: what place does nature have in their work now, and what place would they like to give nature in the future?

Aim & objectives

The training aims to inspire and support youth workers in integrating learning in and with nature, as well as eco-friendly practices, into their everyday youth work. The training strengthens youth workers' professional competences in facilitating learning processes, designing nature-based activities, engaging in critical reflection, collaborating, and translating insights into their own practice.

Connect

To create a safe and inclusive learning environment where youth workers can strengthen their connection with themselves, with each other and with nature, as a foundation for the shared learning process.

Experience

To introduce youth workers to a range of nature-based methods for experiential learning in and with nature, and to explore how these can contribute to nature connection, well-being and resilience for both young people and youth workers.

Critically explore

To support youth workers in critically exploring nature values and their own relationship with nature, and in becoming aware of the place, voice and influence they give nature in their youth work practice and decision-making.

Design

To support youth workers in designing their own activities for learning in and with nature, using an activity template, so that they can later co-create new activities together with young people.

Take action

To support youth workers in developing a concrete plan for integrating learning in and with nature and eco-friendly practices into their own youth work and organisation.

Learning approach

Our training is based on Nature-Based Learning (NBL): learning in, from and about nature. We spend as much time outdoors as possible. Nature is more than just the setting in which learning takes place: we also learn from nature and remain open to unexpected experiences and learning opportunities that may arise outdoors. We work through experiential learning. We invite participants to slow down, observe attentively, and experience. Through harvesting, we reflect on what these experiences can teach us and connect these insights to our own practice. From there, we move towards action: what would you like to do yourself differently, what would you like to put into practice with young people, and what would you like to set in motion within your organisation? We learn from and with each other, making space for different experiences and perspectives. As facilitators, we attune to what emerges within the group and the environment and create space for the learning process. A reciprocal relationship with nature is central to our approach: learning from nature while also exploring how this connection can inspire us to care for and take responsibility for the natural world of which we are a part.

Expected profile of participants

Are you a youth worker, youth leader, educator, trainer, facilitator or volunteer working with young people (18 years + from programme country), and looking for new ways to support their well-being and resilience? Would you like to integrate more nature into your youth work and inspire young people to care for the natural world and make eco-friendly choices? Or are you already working outdoors and would you like to deepen your understanding and practice of Nature-Based Learning? No previous experience with Nature-Based Learning is required for this training. We welcome both participants who are taking their first steps in this field and those who already have experience of learning and working in nature. We aim to create a diverse and inclusive group and particularly encourage youth workers who face social, economic, physical or other barriers in their daily lives or work to apply. You will leave the training with new experiences, practical methods for learning in and with nature, activities you have developed yourself, and a concrete plan for giving nature a greater role in your youth work practice.

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

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 is required **upon individual situation & decision** for participation in the overall project:

- You are e.g. student, unemployed person or a volunteer without own income (reduced fee): 50,00 EUR
- You are e.g. freelanced youth worker / trainer / educator with own income (regular fee): 75,00 EUR
- You are e.g. a person in stable job/employment (solidarity fee): 100,00 EUR

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

Venue, accommodation & board

11th – 17th of January 2027, EJBW, 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/>

Please note that a large part of the training will take place outdoors. As the training takes place in January, participants should be prepared for winter weather and bring suitable clothing and footwear.

How to apply?

Apply now by the 11th of October 2026 via <https://forms.gle/MxzhSnfrK4Pqo8TM8>

We will inform all applicants after 18th of October 2026.

In cooperation with



SUPPORT



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As part of the:



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Stiftung »Europäische Jugendbildungs- und Jugendbegegnungsstätte Weimar« (EJBW)
Jenaer Straße 2/4
D-99425 Weimar (Germany)
Fon +49 (0) 3643 827-0

Legal notice:

Text: Oda Salomons, Sybren Bouwsma, Edisona Franca, Markus Rebitschek
Layout: Markus Rebitschek
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