



The Study Session

"Social Inclusion for Active Youth Participation"

26 May – 02 June 2013

European Youth Centre Budapest

Call for Participants

Deadline: 7th April 2013

Background

“The „Participation for All” (hereinafter, PAFA) is an International network of youth organisations and NGOs working with young people, youth workers and professionals. The network was created as a result of a long term cooperation project between different organisation from Europe and Central Asia. They are dedicated to participation and inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities, particularly with physical disabilities, by means of non-formal education. The aim of the network is to 1. promote active citizenship, 2. foster the development of active civil society and 3. increase participation of young people, particularly those with fewer opportunities, marginalised and minority groups in public life.

The member organisations and partners of the Network are working in different European and Asian countries with young people aged from 13 to 30 using mixed ability approach. While working in Latvia and on international level in cooperation with its member and partner organisations, PAFA organisation had faced the situation when physically disabled young people are not active and do not participate in public life. At the same time, there is almost no dialogue and cooperation between young people with and without disabilities in society.

All partners in the network came to the conclusion that the infrastructure in partner countries is not well developed. The structure does not let young people with disabilities be active members of the society; they often even cannot go out of the place where they live. Young people with disabilities do not know about the opportunities and ways for participation. The network believes that non-formal education is a great tool to support learning for active participation in society. But many young people with disabilities do not learn what non-formal education is and have little or no chance to experience it. In Asian countries non-formal education is not introduced and developed at all, in European context it is not widely used as an effective tool for increasing of participation and integration of young people with fewer opportunities as well as mixed ability approach..

Already for several years the members of the network have developed partnership with the purpose to increase participation of young people with fewer opportunities, particularly youth with physical disabilities, and apply and promote mixed-ability approach into youth work practices and non-formal education activities. Through non-formal educational activities it is believed we also contribute to development of the dialogue between young people with disabilities and without.

The “Participation for All” in cooperation and with financial support of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe (www.coe.int/youth) has decided to organise this study session to give the opportunity for participants to exchange the experiences on non-formal education initiatives and practices in the field of social inclusion and participation of young people with disabilities as well as implication of mixed ability approach (inclusive approach) into youth work practices in participants’ countries, and plan and initiate International and Interregional cooperation for more effective action on either governmental and non-governmental levels in this area.

Aim:

The main aim of the Study Session is to promote and foster the implementation of the mixed ability approach (inclusive approach) into youth work practices in participants’ countries in order to contribute to the increase of active participation of young people with disabilities.

Objectives:

In order to achieve the aim, the following objectives were defined:

- To introduce participants to the concepts and instruments of Social Rights and Human Rights;
- To provide better understanding about situation of participation of young people with disabilities in public life and access to Social Rights in participants’ countries;
- To share understanding and perspectives of social inclusion and active youth

- participation and particularities of inclusive approach to youth work practices;
- To contribute to intercultural dialogue on personal and professional level between participants and organisation representing European and Asian countries;
- To introduce the Human rights education and non-formal education as effective tools for youth work in the field of participation and social inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities, particularly with physical disabilities;
- To exchange the experiences and good practices in the field of non-formal education, active participation and social inclusion of youth with physical disabilities in participants' countries;
- to develop recommendation to different bodies and organizations, including the Council of Europe and Youth Department, in the field of increasing active participation and inclusion of young people with physical disabilities, thus, contributing to better access of disadvantaged youth groups to social rights;
- to enlarge and strengthen the network and sustainable partnership among members of the network and partner organisations for development and implementation of future non-formal education youth initiatives and actions, in particular of mixed-ability nature.
- To contribute to design and compilation of the Action plan of the Network for the period of 2013 (second half) and 2014.

Profile of Participants:

It is expected that the Study Session will bring together the youth workers, youth leaders, and representatives of NGOs or other structures from 21 countries, i.e. those who are:

- actively working with young people and aware of youth work realities, particularly of young people with physical disabilities;
- willing to join and contribute to the development of the network and its strategies for increase of participation and social inclusion of young people with physical disabilities;
- motivated to take part in the activity and become involved in the initiatives within the areas of work of the Network;
- ready to share previous experience and learn;
- able to work in Russian and/or English ;
- preferably under 30 years of age (the exceptions from this rule are possible);
- able to participate in the whole duration of the study session.

Participants are expected to provide a contribution to the Study Session from their personal experience and knowledge of the topic and provide input to the construction of the follow up.

The invited participants should be available for the full duration of the Study Session, i.e. arrive on Sunday 26 May before 19.00 and depart on Sunday 02 June.

Application process:

All interested to attend the Study Session can express their interest by returning the application form by **Sunday 7th April 2013 to: applicationspafa@gmail.com**

The preparatory team will select 21 participants on the basis of the profile outlined above and ensuring a balanced group (gender, geographical regions, different types of experiences, cultural backgrounds and organisations).

All candidates will be informed about selection results on 16th April, 2013.

Accessibility, practical and administrative conditions of participation

Dates:

Arrival day - Sunday 26th May 2013

Departure day - Sunday 02nd June 2013

Venue:

European Youth Centre, Budapest

Working languages:

English and Russian are foreseen as working languages of the study session. Candidates must have sufficient understanding of one or both working language(s) of the study session in order to comprehend and complete the application form without assistance from another person and to fully participate in the study session itself.

Enrolment Fee & Travel expenses

An enrolment fee of **50 Euros** is payable by each participant. This amount will be deducted from the amount to be reimbursed for travel expenses. For participants with travel costs lower than **50 Euros**, the difference needs to be paid to **the organisers of the study session** at the EYCB during the study session.

Travel expenses and visa costs are reimbursed upon presentation of the relevant receipts, according to the rules of the Council of Europe. Only the participants who attend the entire study session may be reimbursed. Participants attending less than 80% of the total duration of the session will not be reimbursed. The payment will be made on spot at the end the study session or by bank transfer after the study session in Euros.

!!!Please do not arrange your travel and do not buy any tickets until you get the official confirmation from organisers of the study session that you have been selected for attendance and given further instructions for travel arrangements.

Accommodation and accessibility

Board and lodging will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre in Budapest.

The European Youth Centre Budapest aims to secure full accessibility and the best possible support to all selected participants to enable them to fully participate in the meeting.

!!!Please provide in the application form clear and detailed information regarding your needs so the organisers can secure accessibility of the activity for you.