

“TO EMPOWER THROUGH EXPERIENCE”
TRAINING FOR FACILITATORS IN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
11TH – 20TH JANUARY, 2014
SREMSKI KARLOVCI (NEAR NOVI SAD), SERBIA

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Background of the project

Based on the report on volunteering in EU “there are around 92 to 94 million adults involved in volunteering in Europe. This in turn implies that around **22% to 23%** of Europeans aged over 15 years are engaged in voluntary activities”. (http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/pdf/doc1018_en.pdf). Youth in Action and previous Youth programs (as well as other mobility and participation programs) contributed to this increased number of projects and young people as active participants in the society (through increased accessibility). One downside of this situation is lack of proper monitoring of the quality of learning processes and adequate facilitation of the process young people are passing through.

Based on years of experience in the youth field, project team identified a *crucial need to increase the level of quality and impact on young people by upgrading the competencies of youth workers in experiential learning*. These competencies could be applied in the educational field, but also in their projects and direct work with the volunteers. Important topics, such as: intercultural, global, human rights education: theatre: street methods for community interventions etc. are relying on facilitating experiential learning process. Often the importance of this process is overseen or done superficially and many young people are losing a lot of learning outcomes.

The aim of this project is to increase the quality of youth work by equipping youth workers (coordinators, facilitators, mentors) with competencies in facilitating experiential learning.

The project is based on an intensive experiential learning process to reach **following objectives**:

- To increase the knowledge in experiential learning (theory, concepts, steps, philosophy);
- To increase the practical facilitation skills in experiential learning cycle (in various settings-beyond workshop context);
- To develop practical skills in designing and implementing experiential learning activities.

Training course

During the training course participants’ personal and professional competencies (knowledge, skills, and attitudes) as youth workers and facilitators of experiential learning will be tackled and upgraded in the process. The training will be highly practical and based on experiential learning process and on increasing the impact and transfer (in their work and communities).

Educational team is composed of 3 trainers (from all corners of Europe) with more than 10 years of experience in youth work field, training youth workers and trainers across Europe and experiential learning.

Target group and criteria for selecting 26 participants

Youth workers /coordinators/facilitators/ trainers that:

- are **currently working directly with young people in various settings** (project, workshops, camps, campaigns, etc.)
- **express a need to upgrade their competencies** in designing and facilitating experiential learning processes;
- **have experience in facilitating learning for young people** (could be an advantage);
- **have at least medium level of English** (to be able to participate in discussion and in training activities);
- **are resident of one of following countries: Serbia, Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Italy, UK, Poland, Latvia, Spain.**

*(**Important Note:** applications from people residents in other countries (regardless if they are nationals/citizens of the countries mentioned before will not be accepted)

Implementing organisation

The main focus of the Youth Dialogue Programme is intercultural dialogue and understanding, together with the empowerment of young people, especially the ones coming from marginalized and vulnerable groups. Most of the organization's activities have been implemented on local and regional level, with the young people in Serbia and Kosovo and later on in the Middle East. The organization is dedicated to facilitating dialogue and intercultural learning of those who are separated by deep-rooted conflicts. In the last years organization focus was on training youth worked in various topics: global education, intercultural learning, human rights education, street campaigning, educational games, training of trainers, etc. From this experience came the realization that there is a low level of competencies in youth work field in managing experiential learning process for young people engaged in the projects. This project aims to follow-up on the previous projects results and to contribute on a long term to an increase of the youth work quality in Europe.

Costs

This project is funded by **the Youth in Action Programme**. According to its rules, all costs of board and lodging will be covered by the organisers. In addition, the Youth Dialogue Programme is going to reimburse 70% of the participants' travel costs, upon the receipt of all original tickets and invoices.

If you fit the profile of participants and you are interested in taking part in "TO Empower through Experience" training course, please fill in the application form and return it completed **no later than December 11th, 2013** to to_empower_through_experience@yahoo.com!