

Special Effects

A training course to develop training and facilitation competence with a focus on skills that will make your inner „tool box“ richer, special, sparkle.

Organised by Cooperativa Sociale Muovimente and
LPCS - the Learning Partnership for Creative Sustainability.

16.-23. March 2014 (including travel days)
in Sermugnano, Italy.

Participant's Infopack

We are looking forward to welcome you at this training course and to work together with you for six days sharing ideas and competences, experiencing and discovering new things, knowing new people and learning from each other.

Here follows a short info-pack for you to get ready for this new adventure.
Stay tuned and see you soon in Italy!



1. Why "Special Effects"?

Because we believe that **non formal education and youth work are crucially important** to shape our future, and we want to give our contribution to this process. We have a real passion – and a lot of experience – in educational methods that help people to discover their potential, to actively pursue it and to inspire others in doing the same, and to live together. **And we want to share all this.**

Is your passion to work in education, for adults or young people, AND nature and community-building? Do you want to strengthen your competences in training and facilitation? The Special Effect training for trainers aims to empower and inspire trainers and educators to bring new elements into their work.

The course will involve 30 participants from 13 programme countries: Italy, Spain, Greece, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Ireland, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and Portugal.

2. Aims and Objectives

The main **objectives** of our training course are:

- to establish an international platform, **to discuss and share** knowledge, experience and good practices related to **training and non-formal education** in Europe today; with special emphasis on **nature-based and community-based approaches** in youth work and education;
- to deepen participants' understanding of **key concepts in non-formal education** such as: training, learning, facilitation and coaching both on theoretical and practical level; **to define formal and non formal education**, and to create a bridge between these two worlds through a **practical experience of non-formal activities in a local high school**;
- to provide participants with **experience of topics relevant to the course** in a variety of interactive methods and participants-centered learning processes, such as parallel workshops (e.g. different activities for beginner / advanced level...), **Open Space, Way of Council, threshold walk, reflection time and guided time in nature**;
- to create a **social experience of community, through sharing living and working spaces**, participating in housekeeping tasks and daily practices, and to valorise this as an opportunity for learning and personal and social growth.



3. Working methods



We will use the full range of **non-formal working methodology** such as group work, games and creative methods, input, discussions, reflection time, etc.

Plus, in this course **we want to propose innovative activities and learning processes** that are an important part of what we do, founded on the principles of nature based education, deep ecology workshops, Way of Council, individual and group practices for reflection.

We will hold the main frame of the course, at the same time leaving a big part of the programme in the hands of participants, who will be free to experiment and try out to learn or improve their skills as trainers and facilitators. **The course will have a very strong experiential dimension.**

The working language will be **English**.

4. Participants profile and how to apply

This might be the right course for you, if:

* **you already have some experience** in youth work and have an interest in strengthening and building your competences in youth work, training and facilitation;

* **you already have the possibility to apply your learning with youth groups** or organisation you work with – **or are willing to develop it** in the future;

* **you are interested and willing to learn about nature and community-based approaches** in training, learning and education, including (but not limiting to): guided learning processes through spending time in nature, sharing experiences and emotions in a group, methods based on "deep ecology" (connecting with nature on different levels).



Application online only, please find the form at the link <http://goo.gl/vqIOvO>

The team will make a selection based on the received applications and participants will be informed about the results by **Saturday, 1st of March 2014**.

5. the Team of trainers

All trainers on this team have extensive national and international training experience, working in the formal and non-formal field, as well as the border between the two. With probably more than 40 years of experience between the four of them, they know the training world of Youth in Action / Erasmus+ closely and all train for their respective National Agencies, plus other private and public bodies and organisations. They have worked together before and are looking forward to sharing some of their best tricks with you.

Honza Látal: from South Bohemia, in education and training since 2002, loves running in forests, plays instruments, does body performances, collects stones and Norwegian music, likes to connect unexpected, obsessed with macro photography, interested in religions and cultures, brings insight and needs balance, context and clarity.

Bára Blahová: Bara comes from Ostrava, in the Czech Republic. She has a huge passion for non-formal education, as opposite to her traumatic educational experience of studying medicine. Her big interests at the moment are personal development, coaching and using nature as environment for learning, and is developing an addiction for social networks – not only as working tools.

Katrin Lüth: Katrin lives, works and plays in Tirol, Austria and all over Europe. Katrin is called upon among others when heart-centered communication like The Way of Council, creative and playful methods or large group facilitation are needed. She is also a very talented visual artist and an experienced outdoor guide.

Carmine Rodi Falanga: born near Napoli, southern Italy, he holds a master degree in business administration but works in non formal education since 2002, probably because he hates to wear a neck tie. Former journalist, he loves storytelling through all sorts of media, communication, group dynamics, games of all sorts and watching movies; he only cooks with olive oil.

6. How to reach us

If you are travelling **by plane:** fly to **Roma** (either airports). Then see below "by train".

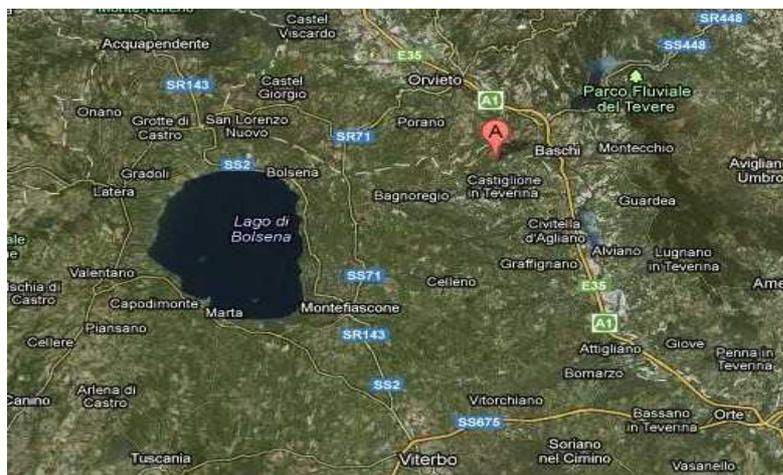
By train: Take a train on the line Firenze – Roma and get off at Orvieto train station. Inform us about your time of arrival, and there will be a pick up service from the station, which is 15 kms from our place (20 minutes by car). Weblink to Italian Railways: www.trenitalia.com

NOTICE: please try to arrive to the venue place by h 16.00 on the arrival day. You can consider around 2 hours of travel from the airport to our venue place: make your travel plans accordingly. On the departure day, avoid if possible flights earlier than h 10.00 am, for the same reason.

Inform us as soon as you have a travel plan. For info and assistance, please email us (see "contacts" below).

7. Accommodation, Map and Area Informations

The area where the project is taking place is at the border between the regions of Lazio and Umbria, in the center of Italy.



The accommodation will be in **Sermugnano**, a really tiny village between the cities of **Viterbo** and **Orvieto** (which is 130 km far from Rome and easily reachable by train). Sermugnano is a beautiful medieval town surrounded by rolling hills, immersed in an inspiring landscape ideal for reflection and education. Fast link to google maps to Sermugnano: <http://goo.gl/maps/XGeZs>

The hostel of Sermugnano is regularly used for our residential courses. It has two distinct working or chill out spaces at ground floor, and 8 bedrooms at the upper floor, each with private bathroom and shower. 3 to 5 persons will be accommodated in each room. Wi-fi internet is available free of charge.

The house will be self managed by our group, which will be responsible for living together during the course. It is a normal part of our educational approach, and encourages community spirit, responsibility and sharing. Everyday tasks like cleaning, setting tables, sorting garbage and washing up will be shared by participants, as part of the "sustainable living" experience. The structure has a fully equipped kitchen with fridge, available to the group.

Beddings, pillows and blankets will be provided. **Please bring your own towel**, or it can be rented for 4 €. Food will be prepared fresh on the spot by our staff, who will combine its mastery over Italian traditional cuisine with an attention to the needs of an international group. Ingredients will be local, seasonal, and whenever possible coming from the local community.

As part of our effort towards sustainability, meat (or fish) will be served every other day.



8. Training fee and travel reimbursement

The course is co-funded through the **Youth in Action** European programme. As such, each participant will get **70%** of travel expenses reimbursed.

Please note: We can reimburse only the cheapest transportation possible and only public transport, 2nd class fares. Taxi is not refundable, as well as private cars.

For the **reimbursements**, we will need:

1. An **invoice** with the **itinerary** of your trip, the **names** of the passengers and, very important, the **price** of the ticket. Usually all this information is available on the e-tickets for flights.
2. All your original **travel tickets and receipts** (train and bus tickets, boarding passes, etc.). The **boarding pass** is a very important document, the only evidence that you took the flight, and is required by National Agency for reimbursement. We cannot provide reimbursement without these documents, and it will be your responsibility to take good care of them.

The following list shows how much is the maximum allowed **per person** for a full return (two ways) journey, so please try NOT to spend more than this. You will receive up to 70% of this amount.

Italy - no reimbursement available
Greece - 250 eur each
Switzerland - 250 eur each
Germany - 350 eur each
Belgium - 300 eur each
Hungary - 250 eur each
Portugal - 350 eur each

Spain - 300 eur each
United Kingdom - 450 eur each
Ireland - 300 eur each
Austria - 300 eur each
Czech Republic - 250 eur each
Poland - 300 eur each

Important notice: to determine where you are from, **residence** is the counting factor, not nationality. This means that we can support the participation of somebody living in Austria (or Belgium, Spain, etc), **as long as they travel to and from the country**, no matter what nationality is shown on their passport. Please don't ask for exceptions ("I live in Argentina and I have an Australian passport. Can I participate?"): these are the rules and we cannot change them.

The reimbursement will be done **after** the end of the project, after we successfully get all the tickets and boarding passes from the trip back home. Consider 4-6 weeks while we process all the documents and organise the transfers. More information about when and where to send the tickets, and the relevant reimbursement form will be given during the training course.

Food and accommodation will be provided free of charge for the full duration of the course.

The course will have a **participation fee** to be paid in cash upon arrival. The exact amount will be your choice, depending on your financial possibilities, **from 50 € to 100 €**. However, should this fee be the only obstacle for your participation, please contact us and we will try to find a solution together. You will get a receipt if requested.



9. Other useful information

- Pack your own **phone and laptop chargers**, and **travel adaptors** for the Italian standards. We have a few in the house, but they are never enough. More info here on socket standards: <http://goo.gl/b1zGy>

- **Weather** in March is usually very pleasant in our area, with temperature ranges between +14 and + 26° C. However, **rain is very likely** and you might be surprised by how moist it can get. You have been warned! **Pack some warm clothes, also suitable for outdoor activities, and some rain gear.**

- **Internet** is available on the venue place, but the signal can be subject to drops. **Do not plan important online meetings or deadlines** to be met during the course, which will be quite packed anyway;

- Our programme includes half a day free and we will offer some options for sightseeing, limited to the surroundings. **No trip will be organised to visit Rome, Florence or the nearby main cities** you might be interested in visiting. If you want, organise yourself and take a few days extra for your own leisure time. **You can take up to extra 2-3 days and still be eligible for a travel reimbursement (not more);**



- Obtaining a **full insurance (travel risks, medical, injuries)** is the participant's responsibility;



- **The participants commit themselves to actively participate in the whole process**, including: to read all the information carefully, communicate timely with the organisers, prepare adequately for the training course; to take actively part in the full duration of the activities; to participate in the evaluation process after the course;

- **Pictures, videos, images** taken at the course, as well as **the materials produced** during the activities, can be used to document the activity in reports or websites or social networks, or for promotional material;

- Providing **information on special needs**, does not remove the participant's personal responsibility for ensuring their own health and safety.

Any questions? Please contact us!



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