

Share Your Story

Backpack Journalism for youth work and social change

Organised by Cooperativa Sociale Muovimento

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. What is "Share Your Story"?

"Share Your Story" is a training course for youth workers, social workers and people involved and with an interest in education, to explore **Backpack Journalism (BPJ)** competences and life in rural areas, in connection with nature.

We will: work on media sources, create content on different platforms (blog, video, photo...) and free softwares, discuss media & their impact on our society and life, exchange skills and knowledge in a non-hierarchical group of learners, share everyday tasks and practical sustainable actions, explore community life - while practicing the competences related to all this!

With two successful programmes already realised within this methodology (Czech Republic, January 2014 and Spain, November 2014), with very positive feedback, we can claim with confidence that each participant will be able to set and reach their own personal learning objectives within the frame of our activities.

The course will involve **28 participants** from 8 countries: Italy, Poland, Czech Republic, Georgia, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Hungary and Ukraine.

2. Objectives

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

- to introduce the methodology of Backpack Journalism (BPJ) and see examples of previous projects and good practice;
- to explore and identify how BPJ can be used as a tool for youth work, education, employability;
- to promote active citizenship, participation of young people and responsibility to make change in the society and community;
- to discuss and re-think concepts such as work, employment, business, economy, ecology and sustainability;
- to create an experience of community through sharing living and working spaces and participating in daily tasks, to contribute directly to environmental, community and social well-being;

3. Working methods

The program of this TC will offer participants the opportunity to reflect about: how to tell a story, deliver a message & communicate in everyday, social and business situations; the relations between ecology, economics, media & democracy; active citizenship; education.

Hands on activities in the house, garden & kitchen will create the setting for applied BPJ skills in real life community work. As a participant, you will be active at three levels: at an individual level, in a team and as a whole group; and there will be three learning dimensions: learning by thinking critically about new and old information; learning by empathy and as a social experience, through sharing with the other participants; and obviously learning by doing. We know it's a very ambitious plan, but experience so far tells that we can make it!

The working language will be **English**.

4. What is Backpack Journalism?

The aim of Backpack Journalism is to raise media literacy of young people through their active participation as non-professional journalists. The idea of the methodology is to go to different places with basic journalistic equipment and to explore the local environment. Participants take all the equipment with them in their backpacks. The method can be used to motivate and train young people to become citizen journalists and critical media users. It also includes a rich learning dimension, not only in the media literacy context but also in terms of intercultural learning, project management, team work and responsible citizenship. Read more here: <http://bpjournalism.eu/>

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.

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.

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".

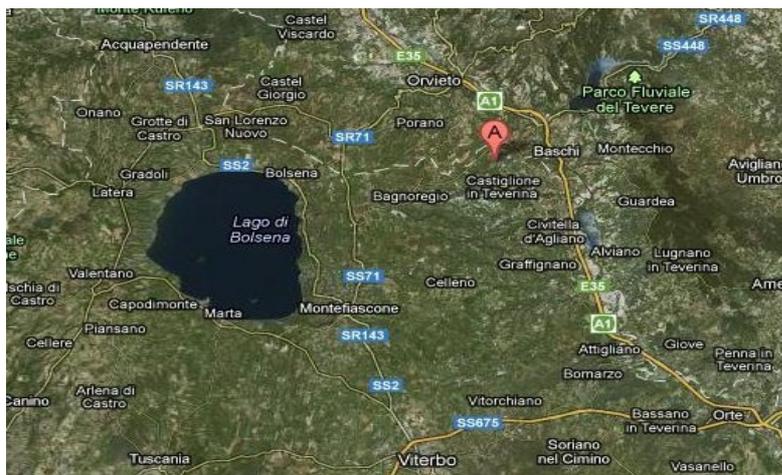
By train: Take a train on the line Firenze – Roma and get off at Orvieto train station. Inform us about your time of arrival, and there will be a pick up service from the station, which is 15 kms from our place (20 minutes by car). Weblink to Italian Railways: www.trenitalia.com

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 **Erasmus+** European programme. 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:

Italy - no reimbursement available
Poland - 275 eur each
Czech Republic – 275 eur each
Hungary - 275 eur each

Georgia - 360 eur each
Slovenia - 180 eur each
the Netherlands - 275 eur each
Ukraine - 275 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 of 50 euros** to be paid in cash upon arrival. 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>

- **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!



Cooperativa Sociale Muovimente



Mafalda Morganti

mafaldamorganti@gmail.com