

MÓRE
THAN A FRIEND.

Supporting learning in EVS

October 17–24 • 2015 • Georgia



Context

This training course is aimed at developing basic competences in facilitation of learning processes and providing learning-oriented support for EVS volunteers. It will specifically focus on deepening the understanding of facilitation, improve competences of EVS mentors to support volunteers in defining and satisfying their learning needs, providing a space for reflection and practice, deepen the theoretical knowledge on learning and create space for sharing experience and practice of mentoring.



The overall aim

Support and empower EVS mentors through developing competences needed to facilitate the learning process of EVS volunteers.

The specific objectives of the project:

- Create a framework for facilitation based on non-formal education and self-directed learning.
- Deepen the theoretical knowledge of facilitation as a tool to support the personal development/learning process of volunteers.
- To ensure deeper understanding of the learning process.
- To improve professional competences of EVS mentors.
- To support mentors in multiplying the competences they gained.
- To provide space for practicing and sharing experiences in facilitation of learning in a safe and constructive environment.
- To deepen an understanding of the YouthPass process.
- To develop essential facilitation skills.

Methodology

The course and its methodology are inspired by the values and principles of non-formal learning and self-directed learning. It is based on the learning theories of Humanistic school of education, particularly works of [David Kolb](#), [Carl Rogers](#), [Richard Boyatzis](#) and [Albert Bandura](#).

Because of this in the development of the programme we focus on needs of participants. For this reason, participants are always asked to conduct self-assessment and reflect on their learning needs and interests. The team facilitates the learning that mostly come from participants' and group experiences. Therefore the course is very much practice oriented and gives the participants tangible skills.

This also means that a big responsibility to make the training course lies with participants. Each participant will be not only encouraged to be an active learner responsible for his/her own learning, but also for supporting the learning of others.



Draft programme

| Arrival | DAY 1 | DAY 2 | DAY 3 | DAY 4 | DAY 5 | DAY 6 | Departure |
|--------------------|--|---|---|--|---|---|-----------|
| | Getting to know Group building | | Moving to facilitation – introduction | Asking good learning questions | | “So What?” How do we use this in our work | Goodbye |
| | Introduction to the programme Setting learning Objectives (learning diaries) | The “Experience” Experience | Role and competences of facilitator of learning in an EVS context | Tools and methods that stimulate learning | Values and principles in mentor’s work | Results presentation of “So What?” sessions | |
| <i>lunch</i> | | | | | | | |
| | EVS philosophy and the role of the mentor | Debriefing of the “Experience” exercise | Learning environment & learning planning | | | Youthpass | |
| | Concepts: Non-formal education & learning (ASK), YouthPass | Introduction to Feedback and installing Feedback as a platform | Free Afternoon | Workshops on topics coming from needs assessment | „So What?“ How do we use this in our work | | |
| | Learning groups | Learning groups | | Learning groups | | Evaluation & Closing | |
| <i>dinner</i> | | | | | | | |
| Welcome evening | Sharing realities & Why am I here? | Solo walk | Free Evening | Movie night | Free Evening | See you soon party | |

Programme phases

The programme consists of the three main logic elements:

1. The first part of the course is focused on **“Me as a learner”** and provide participants with the opportunity to reflect how person learns, what helps and prevents him/her to learn. The certain part of the programme emphasises specifics of learning process during EVS experience.
2. Next part **“Me as a facilitator/supporter of learning”** equip participants with a variety of tools assisting learning of the others with special focus on supporting individual learning process within EVS, including learning in different cultural contexts.
3. The last part is focused on **practicing** design of learning process for/with EVS volunteers applying tools acquired during the course.



Former Participants' Feedback

I would recommend this TC because it is a great way to learn or rethink what being a mentor is about.

TC "More than a friend" is definitely more than a training course. It's a practical tool how to support learning process of EVS volunteers but also of yourself.

I'd recommend this course because it shows mentoring from the other side and helps to understand mentor's role

If you have no idea how to be a mentor this course will give you theoretical knowledge and tools for supporting learning and apply them in real life

With this TC you can get a new directions in which you can support the learning of your mentee



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