

# CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

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## *Study Visit in Denmark*

### **Youth Participation in Rural Areas**

09 – 12 October 2017

Egedal Municipality, Denmark

**Organized by:**

**DYPALL**



Ministry of Higher Education  
and Science  
—  
Danish Agency for Higher Education

Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



## Background & Context

DYPALL stands for **Developing Youth Participation at Local Level**, and as a network, it started its development in 2011, with the purpose of fostering the potential of young people to be active citizens and actors of real social change in their local communities, as well as in their regional and international realities.

Our experience strengthened our belief that involving young people in decision making is a key driver to empower them and to increase their sense of belonging and active citizenship.

This involvement should include not only the support from local authorities to activities targeting young people, but also a broader dimension, where youth has an active voice and is a fundamental actor of the development of their local communities.



The network itself is built on the principles of creating an effective and sustainable involvement of youth on decision-making with and in cooperation with local authority's demands, as well as willingness and commitment from both parties, but also the development of knowledge, sharing of experience and tools to create and to develop further these spaces of shared decision-making. This demands the development of strategies, building structures and relations of trust and cooperation between actors. This necessity and the similar experiences of several partners, made visible the common need to **establish a network that could work in a stable and systematic way on themes of common interest and strengthen the cooperation among local authorities (LA), civil society organizations (CSO) and young people, where the creation of mutual understanding and learning spaces are the main goals.**

Among a wide range of diverse but complementary activities implemented by and with its members, DYPALL Network has involved and strengthened the cooperation among municipalities and organisations working in the field of youth at local level. These initiatives and all the different local, national and European experiences strengthened our common understanding that it is crucial to develop a new culture of youth participation, especially regarding the decision-making processes on issues of direct concern and interest of youth. It is essential to look at youth as a forceful and creative source of solutions for our societies that can largely contribute for their sustainable development.

For more information on the network and what we do visit us at: <http://dypall.com/>

## Study Visit

This study visit is the first implementation phase of the **project “Youth Participation in Rural Areas”**, which will involve **21 participants** comprising youth leaders, youth workers and youth municipality officers.

The visit to Egedal (Denmark) will allow further capacitation of **municipality officers, youth workers** and a **member of a youth council or other participation mechanisms within the**

**municipality**, to work together and implement specific projects of youth participation in rural areas.

DYPALL Network and the Danish partner Ung Egedal, assessed gaps as regards current resources and capacity on developing the inclusive participation of youth from rural areas, at the local level.



The main conclusions were that there are insufficient competences of youth workers concerning structures, instruments and methods on how to get young people to participate while taking into account the critical context in Europe. More particularly, there is a lack of advanced competences on how to make the participation inclusive and open for NEET youth, young people from

different social, cultural and economic backgrounds. There is also a lack of understanding of local, regional, national and European Youth Policies, lack of advanced skills in developing action plans and youth policies among different stakeholders (youth organizations and municipalities and other decision making structures). At the same time the competences and abilities of youth workers are strongly connected with the effective involvement of young people from different backgrounds in decision-making at local level and these skills and knowledge of youth leaders, youth workers, and municipal officers need to be improved.

## Objectives

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The specific objectives of this study visit are:

- To explore, experience and understand the specific challenges to youth participation in rural and geographically remote areas.
- To visit examples of good practice and based upon interaction with the project organisations, filter out elements to transfer to own reality
- To think of innovative ways of youth participation in rural areas (new technologies, long-distance tools, etc.).
- To offer possibilities for long term partnership building among organisations active in the field of youth participation in rural areas, for future projects.

The project will create a learning space to focus on: (i) how to make rural areas more rural friendly; (ii) increasing young people participation in the decision-making processes, and thus their ownership of the local realities; as well as (iii) on measures to apply during the implementation of selected projects to offer more opportunities to rural youth, to support young families and young people to either stay or return to the countryside and gain their livelihoods through local employment and entrepreneurship, user-driven and self-organized initiatives.

## Participants Profile

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This study visit is mostly targeting youth leaders, youth workers and youth municipality officers. Moreover, the participants must:

- Be able to work in English;
- Be willing to contribute with their experience to the training course;
- Be coming from Denmark, Portugal, Macedonia, Italy and Latvia; no other counties can be accepted at this stage);
- Be able to attend the whole duration of the training;
- Have relevant experience in the topic of youth participation at local level;
- Highly motivated towards learning about decision-making processes in youth work.

The **application for this study visit** must be **together with another participant** from the same town/region:

1. One being a local youth policy representative (in either youth, social, education and/or employment policies, depending on the local organizational structure of the municipality), working within the municipality.
2. And the other one being a local professional youth work manager or senior professional working with and for youth and young people with fewer opportunities.

In other words, ideally the participants should not be co-workers, but instead belong to “both sides”: municipalities and civil society organizations. It would be an added value, if they have already worked together within their own local setting, have expertise in above-mentioned fields and be able to work together after the training in order to implement the lessons learnt.

In the application form, do not forget to mention the participant you are applying with!

## Practical information

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### *Travelling days and expenses*

- **Arrival day** is 9 October 2017 (ideally in the morning), and **departure day** is 12 October 2017 (ideally after 3 pm). *There might be a change in the departure day, as both coordinating organizations are currently assessing the possibility of an extra day in the programme.*
- **Flight tickets** shall be bought only after agreement and confirmation with the organizers. Travel expenses to and from the venue will be reimbursed up to a maximum pre-agreed with the organizers, according to the Erasmus + Key Action 1 rules.
- **Reimbursement** will be done via bank transfer after the training.
- **Accommodation and meals** will be provided by the organizers. Any particular need should be communicated at the moment of registration.

## Other information

- An **info-pack** with further details on accommodation and programme will be shared with the selected participants
- There is **no participation fee**

## Registration Procedures

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To **apply** for participation in this training course, please **fill in the online registration form** here: <https://goo.gl/tjhoFj>.

The deadline for application is **16 July 2017**, latest by 23:59 Central European Time.  
**SELECTION WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY 19 JULY 2017.**

## Organizers

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Partnering with DYPALL Network, **Ung Egedal** (Denmark) has the lead role in organizing this training course.

Ung Egedal is a public organisation within the municipality of Egedal working with activities outside of school that are of the interest of youth. Since 2014 the municipality of Egedal has worked with a 4 year strategic plan about youth in Egedal, in which this organization has played a big part in its development. In many ways the organisation is working more and more with youth participation and democratic involvement.

Within the last couple of years the organization has been focusing on involving youth in participatory democratic processes, by creatively using existing resources and creating new attractive opportunities. Besides that Ung Egedal's actions take into consideration local SSP (school, social department and police) collaboration and youth clubs, and thus offer a wide range of youth activities, projects, travel experiences and vacation activities.

You can find more information about Ung Egedal at: <http://ungegedal.dk>.

## Funding

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The activity is co-funded by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union, implemented by the Danish Agency for Higher Education, which performs the function of being the National Agency for the Erasmus+ programme in Denmark. For more information: <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/> and <http://www.ufm.dk/erasmusplus>.

## Contacts

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In case you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Aleksandra Maldžiski at [aleksandra.maldziski@dypall.com](mailto:aleksandra.maldziski@dypall.com).