

What a Story! - Erasmus+ training course

12-20 September, 2017

Kisterenye (www.haromkincsvolgye.hu), Hungary

Brought to you by Ökoszolgálat/Ecoservice



Summary

The idea for our course is born from the deep knowledge that storytelling is an incredibly powerful tool for education. It can address creativity, youth participation and employability, critical thinking and social responsibility.

Europe at the moment is facing major problems. Among these, the dis-empowerment of young people who feel marginalised from society, can't find their place and don't know (or forget) how to realise their potential in life.

At the same time, phenomena like hate speech and online violence are on the rise.

Also, racism, intolerance and ignorance can be greatly fueled by storytelling – as demonstrated by the strong use that every totalitarian government has done of it.

One of the needs we perceive in youthwork is to have tools to counteract those parts of the mainstream media which fuel ignorance, intolerance and fear. Therefore - by using different forms and tools based on storytelling - we want to provide youthworkers, educators and trainers with background, motivation and skills to be able to handle these negative effects, to effectively contrast them, and to build healthier and positive alternatives.

Do you want to explore STORYTELLING as a transformational educational method AND as a tool of promoting democratic values, inclusion, empowerment & critical thinking of young people?

"What A Story!" is an Erasmus+ 8-day training course aimed at youth workers, facilitators and educators active in the field of youth. It is hosted by Ecoservice Foundation.

Trainer team

Carmine Rodi Falanga, Italy. Born near Napoli in 1977, after a master degree in business administration, works in non formal education since 2002. Former journalist, he loves storytelling through all sorts of media, communication, history and culture, games (of all kinds); he semi regularly keeps a blog about all his interests and is probably obsessed by Star Wars.

Bára Rodi (Bláhová), Czech Republic. Born in 1983, works as a freelance trainer and project manager. Passionate about education, media awareness, personal development and nature. Since 2007 active in the trainer pool of the Czech national agency, in 2010 took part in the SALTO training of trainers. In the last few years working with the methodology of backpack journalism (civic journalism) as a mean to promote active citizenship and social change. Also loves sharing stories, is trained as a Council facilitator.

Gyula Szabó, Hungary. Born in 1967, has his degrees in Business Administration and History. After various types of working experiences in music industry, telecommunication and CSR, now works as a green living coach, trainer and council facilitator. He is a determined enthusiast of Mother Nature and strongly believes in the power of stories.

Krisztina Pásztor, Hungary. Experiential trainer, project manager, council facilitator, permaculturist. She is passionate about the transformational power of nature, self-development, ecopsychology, sharing and listening to stories and is devoted to initiate the process of change, facilitate group processes.

Working Methods

The activities will be based on non-formal and experiential learning methodologies with a strong participant centered approach. We will offer different learning processes, founded on the principles of - among others - nature based education, the Way of Council, the narrative of the Hero's Journey.

The course will have a strong experiential part. Be prepared to be challenged in some ways that can surprise you! Participants will be offered a space for trying themselves out, and there will be a space for their inputs to be incorporated in the course.



Training objectives:

- to identify and understand key elements and skills for storytelling, and explore their potential benefits for learning, personal development and employability;
- to analyze the increased impact that stories (and media) have on phenomena such as “hate speech”, intolerance and open racism. We will discuss the new needs for awareness, ethics and knowledge that come with the social and digital era;
- to explore the concept of “transformational storytelling”: using storytelling as an innovative tool to address change and personal development;
- to use elements of gamification to make youth work more attractive and accessible to young people (especially marginalised YP);
- to create an international network of youth workers and organisations, able to use storytelling to develop skills and methods and to have an innovative impact on local levels.



The **expected learning outcomes** for the participants are:

- to be trained on, and receive information about, innovative approaches based on Storytelling, illustrating specialistic concepts such as the Monomyth, the Way of Council, Game Based Learning and Gamification - and the work methodologies related to them. Our approach combines nature and technology, theory and practice, sharing reflections and good practice tips with trainers and colleagues in a peer to peer learning community;

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Direct link to apply http://bit.ly/WhatAStory_Hungary deadline: 6.8.2017

- to increase awareness and learn how to better tackle in youth work their potential negative effects, as well: the risk of addiction and escapism from reality, the possible manipulation and propaganda uses that can be done by authorities, political and social actors, governments.

Working with games and stories in education is our biggest passion, and we sincerely wish to see more and more people trained to use them, and as enthusiastically and sincerely as we do.

The Venue



The training course will take place 90 kms from Budapest in Kisterenye, Hungary. The venue is a retreat centre outside the village in beautiful natural surroundings, called „[The Valley of Three Treasures](#)”. Participants will be accommodated in 4 bedded rooms.

The closest airport is Budapest Airport. Please allow approximately 1,5 hours to get to the city centre where the (non-direct) buses leave for Kisterenye every hour. From Kisterenye bus stop you can hike or we will give you a ride. Please note that you will need to reach the bus in Budapest city centre at 12.40 the latest to arrive at the venue on time.

Who can apply?

The course will involve 28 participants from 10 countries: Czech Republic, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, UK - plus 4 trainers.

The ideal applicant will be a trainer, youthworker, social worker or educator, strongly motivated in participating for the whole duration of the course, including preparation, follow up and dissemination phase. The working language will be English. Note: what matters is the country of your residence - from where will you travel, not your nationality!

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Costs, reimbursement and other conditions

Participants will receive a travel reimbursement proportional to the country they are travelling from, as follows:

Hungary: 20 EUR

Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia: 180 EUR

France, Greece, Italy, Poland, Spain, UK: 275 EUR

Food and accommodation at the venue will be paid for and will be free of charge.

As **participation fee**, each participant will be asked to contribute according to their possibilities between **30 and 100 EUR on a sliding scale**. Should this be the only obstacle for you to participate in this training course, please contact us.



We look forward to seeing you in Hungary :)!