

# CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

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*Study Visit in Portimão, Portugal*

**Boosting Youth Participation at Local Level**

13 – 18 November 2017

Municipality of Portimão, Portugal

Organized by:



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



## Study Visit: Background & Context

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This study visit hosted in the southern region of Portugal, is the **first implementation phase** of the **Project *Boosting Youth Participation at Local Level***, The project " Boosting Youth Participation at Local Level: a Study Visit to good practices" aims to visit, analyze, experience and explore good practices of youth participation, by visiting examples being implemented in geographically isolated areas.



It will involve a total of **26 participants** comprising youth leaders, youth workers and youth municipality officers. This visit will allow further capacitation of **municipality officers, youth workers** and/or **members of youth councils or other participation mechanisms within the municipality**, to work together and implement specific projects of youth participation in geographically isolated areas.

DYPALL Network and the Swedish partner, Puntland Diaspora Forum, assessed gaps as regards current resources and capacity on developing the inclusive participation of youth from geographically areas.

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, as well as 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 central learning objective of this visit to Portimão is to better enable the participants to set up projects, programmes and long-term strategies and approaches, in order to increase youth participation in rural areas and on long term strategies and approaches.

The specific objectives of this study visit are:

- To explore, experience and understand the specific challenges to youth participation in geographically remote areas.

- To visit examples of good practices and based upon interaction with the project organisations, filter out elements to transfer to each participant’s own reality
- To think of innovative ways of youth participation in remote areas (new technologies, long-distance tools, etc.).
- To offer possibilities for long term partnership building for future projects, among organisations active in the field of youth participation.

This visit will thus create a learning space to focus on: (i) increasing young people participation in the decision-making processes, and thus their ownership of the local realities; as well as (ii) on measures to apply during the implementation of selected projects to offer more opportunities to geographically isolated 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 visit;
- Be coming from **Sweden, Portugal, Turkey, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, Netherlands, Malta, Italy** – no other counties can be accepted at this stage;
- Devoted to participate in the full process of the project: preparation, full programme and follow up activities. *The second implementation phase of the project is planned to be in May 2018 in Börlange, Sweden*;
- Have relevant experience in the topic of youth participation at local level;
- Highly motivated towards learning about decision-making processes in youth work.

We are **targeting the following profiles per country**:

1. Civil / public servants from local and regional authorities, officials working in the field of youth;
2. Youth workers, people working directly with young people;
3. Youth leaders, leaders of youth groups or representatives of youth organisations/NGOS working with youth relevant topics (local, regional, national, European, international)

**In other words**, the selected participants per country should belong to “both sides”: municipalities and civil society organizations.

## Practical information

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### ***Travelling days and expenses***

- **Arrival day** is 13 November 2017 (ideally in the morning), and **departure day** is 18 November 2017 (ideally after 3 pm).
- **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/QHpVgS>.

The deadline for application is **27 SEPTEMBER 2017**, latest by 23:59 Central European Time. **SELECTION WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY 30 SEPTEMBER 2017**.

## **Organizers**

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Partnering with Puntland Diaspora Forum (Sweden), **DYPALL Network** and the **Municipality of Portimão** (Portugal) have the lead role in organizing this study visit.

### **DYPALL NETWORK**

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/>

## MUNICIPALITY OF PORTIMÃO

The Municipality holds responsibility for socioeconomic measures in the area of Portimão and also **supports and implements many projects in the field of youth, on economic innovation** (e.g. StartWork – Fair of Entrepreneurship, Employment and Vocational Training), aiming at greater economic diversification, creating new employment opportunities together with young people, and **on fostering social inclusion by working against youth unemployment**, especially among those with fewer opportunities.



The Municipality has a Local Youth Council that comprises of 20 organizations and jointly reviews youth policy decisions. It offers various services to young people, like a Youth Information Centre (*Loja Ponto Já*), a youth counseling service (on topics like health, physical activities, clinic and educational psychological support, nutrition). The municipality also supports national programmes on employment (*Youth Guarantee*) and housing (*Porta 65 Jovem*).

Healthy lifestyles are promoted by combining the youth and sport components in the yearly

activity "*Férias Desportivas*" that brings together over 1000 young people over 6 weeks during the summer to spend their summer vacations trying different sports, while being supervised by 60 young volunteers that the staff of the Youth and Sport Department trains and supervises throughout the summer period.

The municipality is also very active in supporting civil society organizations that work with young people, and during international thematic days, the municipality also offers activities that foster inclusion of young people.

You can find more information on the Municipality of Portimão at: <https://cm-portimao.pt/>

## Funding

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The activity is co-funded by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union, implemented by the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society, which performs the function of being one of the National Agencies for the Erasmus+ programme in Sweden. For more information: <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/> and <https://eng.mucl.se/>.

## Contacts

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In case you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Helena Esteves at [helena.esteves@dypall.com](mailto:helena.esteves@dypall.com).