

## Call for participants

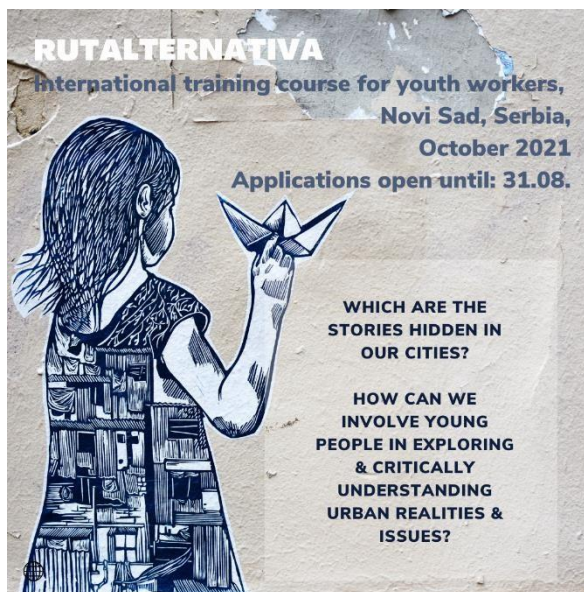
*From/ living in: Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey*

**RutAlternativa International Training course, 4th-11th October 2021 (6 working days) in Novi Sad, Serbia**

Volunteers' Centre of Vojvodina (SCI Serbia) is opening a call for participants in the frame of the project RutAlternativa.

Please read the following document carefully, and contact the **partner organization from**

**your country of residence** (see below) if interested. Applications are open **until August 31<sup>st</sup>**!



## The Project

A bit about the project RutAlternativa and its background:

This international training course is part of the **Erasmus + KA1 (Mobility of youth workers) project RutAlternativa**, aimed at enabling youth workers to train their peers, colleagues and young people in their cities to become creators and organizers of **educational walking tours which aim to explore the different realities of a place and to tell alternative stories about it.**

Educational walking tours are (mainly volunteers-based) organized guided walks through a city or a neighborhood, with the purpose of **presenting individuals and groups the experiences of those living in a certain place**, through their unique perspective: these walks take place in many cities around the world, and they have different purposes, such as bringing locals close to the [cultures and traditions of migrants in their cities](#), raising awareness on the life conditions of [urban homeless persons](#), and so on.

Any topic can be involved in educational walking tours: climate change, social movements, youth cultures, biodiversity, urban gardens, cultural diversity, gentrification are just some of the areas that can be covered!

Target groups of these tours can be locals, visitors, persons belonging to a specific group, ie. certain professionals who are interested in getting to know more about a certain issue, or even members of local authorities and decision-makers.



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## The phases of the project are:

- the international training course (6 working days) in Novi Sad, Serbia, where participants will learn about the methodology of educational walking tours;
- a follow-up one-day training which participants to the international training will organize for their peers in their organizations/cities -so that they will learn the basics of this methodology and be able to create their own educational walking tours;
- pilot walking tours in each city (preparation, promotion, implementation, evaluation) organized by the international training course participants with the support of the partner organizations;
- a final e-publication on educational walking tours, created using inputs and tools from the TC as well as from the participants' direct experiences and the routes they created in their cities.

## Partners are:

- Volonterski centar Vojvodine (Serbia) - applicant, 3 participants + 1 logistic manager and 1 trainer
- GAIA Kosovo (Kosovo), 3 participants + 1 trainer
- Nešto više (Bosnia and Herzegovina): 2 participants,
- Volonterski Centar Zagreb (Croatia), 3 participants,
- Zavod volontariat (Slovenia): 2 participants,
- ADP Zip (Montenegro): 2 participants,
- PVN (Albania): 2 participants,
- Sci Austria: 2 participants,
- SCI Germany: 3 participants,
- Youth and Change (Turkey): 3 participants, • Sci Switzerland: 2 participants.

## Why do we need educational walking tours?

Here are some issues that we identified, and that we believe you will relate to:

- the need for youth workers to increase their capacities in fostering involvement of young people in understanding the complexity and human, social, economical, environmental interconnectedness of the issues affecting communities they live;



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## Erasmus + International Training Course RutAlternativa – Call for participants

- the need for young people to become more aware of diversity surrounding them in order to be more resistant to modern fascisms and any form of intolerance towards others' identities;
- the issue (pre-existing but even more enhanced by the current pandemic of covid-19) of social distancing on the basis of ethnicity, material status, legal status and many other elements of identity that enforce segregations with its negative effects on the people and communities affected;
- the high potential but insufficient role of youth organizations and organizations working with youth in acting as a platform for interaction, mutual learning and understanding between young people from different groups as well as between young people and other groups in society;
- the fact that educational walking tours have a great potential, but are not widespread or known, especially in the Western Balkans.

## Aims

The main aims of the project, and specifically this training course, are:

- Support the involved organizations in creating educational walking tours that can introduce resident and visitors to relevant places and issues through first-hand contact and experience, in order to increase their knowledge and understanding of a certain places' history, culture and current issues;
- train participants in becoming multipliers (training others in their communities and organizations) of educational walking tours methodology;
- create at least one itinerary of an educational walking route per partner organization.

## Methods

This is how we are going to work:

The whole training course will be based on non-formal education and experiential learning: we expect participants to be active, engaged, participate with their opinions, ideas, experiences to enrich the contents of the programme, as well as their free time.

The whole training will be delivered by two experienced trainers (selection is ongoing!) from Serbia and Kosovo, and will be held completely in English language.

Between the tools that will be used: ice-breakers, energizers, team building tasks and games, individual and group reflections, case-studies, exercises with digital tools, brainstorming and more. Visits to local initiatives and to persons or groups dealing with, or affected by, different issues in our city will also be organized.



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## Outcomes

What do we expect after this training course, and by the end of the project:

- At last one itinerary per city/participants' group/partner organization;
- At least two implemented walking tours per city/participants' group/partner organization;
- One e-publication for organisations working with young people and willing to introduce educational walking tours as a methodology for their activities and programmes, based on this training course and its participants' experience.

## The Venue

Due to the topic of this training course, we believe that it is important for it to take place in Novi Sad, the city where we are based, rather than in surrounding towns or villages, even if those could provide us with a more natural lifestyle. Therefore, the group will be accommodated at a local hostel (see below), meals will be served at nearby restaurants, while the activities will take place at a [local youth center](#).

All these places are located in the city center, at walking distance, and you should keep in mind that you are required to be on time for each activity even if it requires leaving the hostel/room 20 minutes before its start.

A detailed daily calendar will be shared with selected participants, as well with a list of addresses and useful maps, so no worries!

## COVID-19

We believe that it will be possible to organise the Training course in-person in Serbia in October. We will ask all participants to either send us a proof of vaccination and/or that they have recovered from Covid-19, or to do a Covid-19 test before departure.

Should there be another lockdown, we will consider to postpone the seminar to once we are allowed to organize it in-person (no online version of the seminar is foreseen).

## Participants' profile

The participants may be youth workers, social workers, youth mentors, coaches of youth initiatives and other youth projects, volunteer coordinators, trainers, facilitators, activists.

All potential participants applying for this project should meet the following criteria:



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- be 18 years old or older
- be able to work in English
- be interested in the Training course topics and have a strong motivation to act as a multiplier
- be able to attend for the full duration (October 4th-11th or 11th-18th) - dates to be confirmed to selected participants.
- when feasible, be committed to come to the seminar without flying, and to travel instead by overland route (bus, train..).

We explicitly encourage participants of all social backgrounds, genders, sexual orientations, abilities and ethnic backgrounds to apply.

## Logistics, financial conditions and sustainability

- **Accommodation:** The seminar will take place in a [hostel](#) with simple living conditions. You will sleep in a room shared with a few other participants. Meals will take place at nearby restaurants, while coffee breaks will be served at the venue where sessions will take place (see above, “venue”). The distance between the hostel and the training venue is 1,5 km (20 minutes walk).
- **Money:** We cover all essential costs of the program including food, accommodation, insurance and travel costs up to a maximum amount per country (maximum travel reimbursement amounts: 10-99 km = 20 Euro, 100-499 km = 180 Euro, 500-1999 km = 275 Euro, 2000-2999 km = 360 Euro), visa costs, accommodation and trainers through an European grant in the frame of the Erasmus+ programme. Your sending organisation might ask for a small participation fee.
- **Food:** The food we provide will be vegetarian and vegan. This is in line with VCV's and SCI's work and values: with providing vegetarian and vegan food, we do not support cruelty towards animals, or the destructive effects on intensive animal farming for people and the planet, and provide participants with an opportunity to reflect on the impact of food consumption on the environment and other living beings.
- **Travel:** We would like to encourage you to come to this training course through more sustainable means of transport rather than flying (e.g. by train or bus), if somehow possible. We will give you more guidance on how you can reach the venue, once you are accepted to the seminar.

## How to apply?

To apply, fill in the [application form](#) by **August 31st**.

All applicants will receive a confirmation that their application was received and about our final decision after August 31<sup>st</sup>, as soon as we receive a feedback from your sending organization.

All those accepted will later receive a detailed infosheet (incl. info on how to get to the venue, how to book your travels, more info about the agenda of the project).



## Contact

If you have any questions regarding the project and your application, don't hesitate to contact Francesca at [vcvoffice@gmail.com](mailto:vcvoffice@gmail.com) (please use TC RutAlternativa as your email's subject).

**We are looking forward to your applications!**



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