

## Training Laboratory II: Designing Learning for Peace

01 – 09 February 2022, Yerevan (Armenia)

### Project Information

#### Project aims

Over the past years, Europe – and other places in the world - has seen a dramatic increase in populist movements and narratives as well as societal polarisation. Those are often rooted in identity-based discourses and at many times linked to questions of identity, ethnicity and values.

As organisations working in the youth field, we perceive a key role in this context:

- First, by empowering and activating young people to contribute - within their communities - to counter polarisation and radicalisation among their peers, family and the wider society
- Second, by strengthening young people's resilience towards radical and extreme ideas and actions and the efforts that populists undertake to polarise our societies

In order to capitalise on the potential of youth work to counter populism we need to overcome the obstacles that youth workers and youth organisations have in addressing societal polarisation and radicalisation through their work with young people.

The obstacles and challenges that we have identified for that and which we aim to address with the project are the following:

- Difficulty to comprehend the mechanisms leading to polarisation/ radicalisation
- Limited conceptual clarity on how education influences attitudes, behaviour and context of youth at risk to fall into radical and populist traps
- Limited understanding of educational responses that have the power to address radicalisation and societal polarisation
- Need for an international exchange of practises given the common tendencies described above

Therefore, the project aims to strengthen the capacities of organisations working in the youth field to respond by educational means to the growing societal polarisation and radicalisation alongside fundamental cleavages existing within the societies in the EU and its Eastern Partnership region.

#### Objectives of the project:

- To strengthen the competences of youth educators in realising peace education activities that strengthen young peoples' resilience towards radicalisation and societal polarisation and foster their civic engagement
- To develop innovative and needs-based educational activities and materials for peace education in the youth field, especially for addressing societal polarisation and radicalisation
- To intensify transnational cooperation between the participants

## Project activities

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- Training of Trainers (01 – 09 February 2022, Yerevan, Armenia)  
A training course for 24 youth workers and youth educators on designing and facilitating youth peace education courses on countering societal polarisation and populism. Specific objectives of the training course are:
  - To strengthen the competences of youth workers and educators to plan and implement tailor-made non-formal educational courses for young people countering populism
  - To learn, use and refine tools and methods for peace education on countering populism
  - To develop peace education materials for other educators working through
- Dissemination (February – April 2021)  
After the training course, the project aims to publish online (on relevant youth platforms) educational resources, tools, and sessions based on the participant-led workshops in order to make the developed educational resources accessible for other youth workers.

FYI: The training programme is the continuation of a programme that started in 2019. Thus, some of the participants will have participated in a training course prior this training of trainers. Depending upon the profile of all participants, the training programme will be refined by the educational team to best match learning needs of the whole group.

## Participant profile

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The training programme is open for participants from Armenian, Belarus, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain and Ukraine.

The requested profile of participants is the following:

- Currently working as a part-time, full-time or voluntary youth worker with educational profile, freelance educator, or peer educator working with young people on youth empowerment and/or peace education
- Past work experience as an educator of at least 3 educational activities (workshops, training courses, mentor programmes, youth exchange etc.) in the youth field
- Good understanding of the situation of young people in one of the participation countries of the project
- Good understanding of the societal conflicts and cleavages existing in one of the countries represented by the participants
- Good knowledge of approaches to youth work and non-formal education
- At least basic knowledge of community-driven approaches to counter populism and extremism at community level
- Motivation to take part in a mutual learning process in a very intercultural setting
- Good level of English to follow the course and to contribute to it

## Financial conditions

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The training course including accommodation and food are free of charge.

Travel costs will be reimbursed up to the maximum amount indicated below for each country.

- Armenia – 25 EUR per person

- Belarus – 250 EUR per person
- Georgia – 100 EUR per person
- Ukraine – 250 EUR per person
- Germany – 400 EUR per person
- Poland – 350 EUR per person
- Italy – 350 EUR per person
- Spain – 500 EUR per person

Reimbursement will only be done based on actual incurred travel costs upon presentation of the respective travel documents (invoice, travel ticket, proof of payment etc.). Please bear in mind that we do not reimburse first class travel tickets or taxi costs.

## Covid-19 and health

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Participation in the residential training course will require from the participants to be vaccinated, recovered or tested against Covid-19.

Furthermore, the participants shall be aware about the health risks that they take concerning their participation in the activity, and that the organisers do not carry any responsibility for potential infections with Covid-19.

It is in the responsibility of the participants to make themselves familiar with safety regulations and restrictions in their own country about travelling internationally. The participants have to commit to the safety rules and restrictions existing in the training course destination.

In case a deterioration of the Covid-19 situation in Armenia results in tightened restrictions which make the residential realisation of the training course impossible, the organisers reserve the right to realise the course online or if this seems not feasible (e.g., due to tightened restrictions shortly before the training course) to cancel the course.

## Course application

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If you are interested in this programme, please apply via this [Application Form](#) until **November 29 2021**. Applicants will be informed latest on the 9th of December 2021 if their application was successful.

## Contact

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If you have any questions regarding the programme, please feel free to contact is at [eif.germany@googlemail.com](mailto:eif.germany@googlemail.com).