



Association Lojtra
a space for exploration



ADVENTURE EDUCATION IN YOUTH WORK

Explorative training course

3. – 14. 6. 2022, Ponoviče, Slovenia

www.drustvolojtra.si

#LOJTRA
prostor za raziskovanje



Sofinancira
Evropska unija





General description and objectives



"ADVENTURE EDUCATION..."

...is a variety of teaching and learning activities and experiences usually involving close interaction with the outdoor natural setting and contain elements of real or perceived danger or risk in which the outcome, although uncertain, can be influenced by the actions of the participants and circumstances." (Aga Lešny, AE online workshop)

AIM

Modern youth and the area of youth work in general face many challenges (rising mental health issues, uncertainty about the future, peer pressure, ...). Creating spaces of meaningful connection has never been more important than now. With this training we would like to invite you **to explore the potential of adventure education in youth work**.

The main aim of this explorative training will be to experience different forms of adventure and to search for lessons and meaning in them for you and for your youth work practice.

OBJECTIVES

- **Learn about adventure education through experiencing adventure education** – the training itself will be a series of little and not-so-little adventures, also in and with nature.
- **Deconstruct and harvest the elements** of what adventure education consists of and gain an understanding of how to use them in one's youth work practice.
- **Explore the potential of this transformational process** for young people, its tangible and intangible outcomes, and the impact of adventure education.
- **Invite participants to co-create** the content by sharing their experiences, methods, approaches, questions and ideas that they use, or would like to use, in their YW practice.
- Present and explore **possibilities of bringing regular youth work activities into nature**.
- **Explore what the role of a facilitator** of adventure education is and how to embody it.





Methodology and target groups



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn" (unknown).

Learning through experience, trying things out, playfulness – a participatory and holistic approach embedded in non-formal learning will be our guiding principles.

CONTENT

The aim of the training will be the experience of various processes and methods of adventure education. You will be invited to:

- sleep in tents;
- attend a longer hike (2 days, minimum 5h walking per day) and sleep in a cottage in another location for at least one night;
- take advantage of the natural surroundings and do most of the activities outside and in the forest;
- experience the low ropes methodology as one of the approaches of adventure education;
- take shorter and longer (intentional) hikes in nature, individually and in a group;
- share stories, music and memories around the fire;
- co-create part of the schedule and present your own approaches, methods and activities;
- experience simple breathing and meditation techniques to connect with oneself and the environment;
- learn how to create space for dealing with possible tensions in groups of youngsters when experiencing adventure education;
- participate in common sessions in the morning and in the evening, with the possibility then of choosing among parallel sessions on some of the days;
- reflect on the lessons and processes we garner with the support of diverse methods.

TARGET GROUPS

Youth leaders, trainers and experienced volunteers (who want to step into the shoes of youth workers). Some experience with facilitating learning in natural environments is very welcome, especially if it comes with motivation to share the new experience and bring an adventure education approach to youth work practice back home.

A conversational level of English is a requirement.

This training welcomes candidates with special needs (e.g. health conditions, disability,...) – for more information, contact us on tina@drustvolojtra.si.



Accommodation and other technical info 1/2

PLACE OF GATHERING



Training will take place near the geometrical centre of Slovenia, on a hill close to the town of Litija, in the village of Ponoviče.

Accommodation will be organized in tents (2 people per tent). In addition, this magical hilltop place offers:

- spacious areas for working outdoors, surrounded with forests,
- 3 toilets and 3 showers
- a large community kitchen
- teepee/wigwam
- lots of roofed spaces with shade and a large inside space for working (in a traditional Slovenian wooden structure called a *toplar*).
- two cats that circle the surroundings and can be petted if you are a cat person :)

WHAT TO BRING

- Good vibes, openness and a respectful attitude.
- General information about your organisation/work.
- Food and drinks for the international night (there are approx. 10 partner countries involved so bring a small sample of the taste of your country ;)).
- Medications, if you need them.
- Comfortable clothes.
- Warm clothes (evenings might still be a bit chilly) + rain jacket.
- A smaller backpack, repellent and sun screen, a water bottle.
- You will also need a towel.
- We will do hiking in nature, so sneakers or hiking shoes are recommended.
- Personal hygiene accessories.
- Board games, instruments and anything else that will make you feel comfortable during the free time and will not disturb others.
- Sleeping bag (we can also lend it to those who cannot bring it, just mark it in the application)





Accommodation and other technical info 2/2

ACTIVITY DATES AND HOW TO ARRIVE



Arrival day: 3. 6. 2022.

Departure day: 14. 6. 2022.

Prior Zoom meeting with all participants: end of May (exact date to be determined)

How to arrive?

By train or bus to Ljubljana and then to Litija.

By plane to Brnik, Zagreb, Venice or Trieste airport and then by Goopti to our location.

We will need your arrival plans confirmed **by 5th of May**. Do not hesitate to contact us if you will need any help.

REIMBURSEMENT

The project is financed by the Erasmus+ YiA program. 100% of food (3 meals and 2 coffee breaks per day), accommodation, educational program, working materials and extra trips will be covered.

Regarding the Erasmus+ rules, we are able to cover the traveling costs up to:

10 – 99 km: 23€

99–500 km: 180€

500– 2000 km: 275€

*The distance is calculated with the help of an EU distance band calculator. The distance is calculated from the headquarters of each partner organization to the venue.

If you are willing to travel using modes of transport which are "greener" (i.e., not flying), please contact us and we will find some extra funds to cover that kind of a travel, since the Erasmus+ program enables this possibility.

Reimbursement will be completed upon full attendance in the Erasmus+ activity and presentation of the original tickets with boarding passes and receipt/invoices. In case you would like to receive your travel funds in advance, please state this in the application form and we will make this possible. However, we will still need all the tickets, invoices, boarding passes, etc., from you.

INSURANCE

Each participant is responsible for arranging their own health and travel insurance for their stay in Slovenia. We strongly recommend having travel and health insurance during the project dates to avoid trouble. It is inexpensive and worthwhile. The European Health Insurance Card is also an option.



Hosting team and next steps

All of the trainers holding and co-creating the space on this training have participated in a very meaningful methodological training on adventure education in Ukraine. In addition they are all skilled in various areas of non-formal education. *We feel and we know from our own experience there is so much depth and potential in adventure education approach for youth work. This training gives us a chance to pass this experience on and explore the field further with you!*

TRAINERS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Jaka Kovač is a trainer, facilitator and youth worker, a leader of summer camps and youth exchanges, who is passionately exploring how to bring education and youth work into natural settings – the forest has been his playfield since childhood. He is a trainer in non-violent communication and a practitioner of the Art of Hosting; on his workshops he enjoys creating a safe, yet stimulative space in which people can connect to themselves and to each other.



Alenka Oblak hosts change processes, supporting creativity and participation of everybody involved to release the potential of co-creation. She feels at home in nature and likes moving around. She is an Art of Hosting practitioner and uses approaches that are based on embodiment, graphic facilitation, adventure education, non-violent communication, learning-in-nature, inclusion, and Systems Scribing.



Olga Poddubnaya has worked in NGO sector since 2002 and has experience in developing and coordinating local and international projects in the youth field. She currently works as a freelance facilitator of learning and has a special interest in the future of education and its various forms, outdoor education, female activism and inclusive practices in youth work. Her fields of expertise include: facilitation of learning, different theories and approaches to learning, and the organization of educational processes.



Tina Trdin is a trainer, facilitator and mentor of youths. She is actively exploring and creating educational activities in nature and reconnecting with the land. Her fields of activity include: intercultural dialogue, outdoor learning, global citizenship education and sustainable community development. She also enjoys picking and mixing herbs and co-creating music. Her secret plan is to influence organizations to move all their activities into the natural environment!



Aljaž Zupan believes in the power of cooperation. He is passionate about hosting inclusive processes where all the stakeholders have space to feel seen and heard. He enjoys stepping on different learning journeys, especially with groups of young people. He is absolutely amazed by the beauty and greatness of nature and he loves spending time in it, for both personal and professional reasons.

