



Sharing Stories, Building Bridges

Digital Storytelling for Dialogue Facilitation

Context & Objectives

In a time, where the political discourse of many European Countries is characterized by an increasing polarization, the capacity to deal with differences in a constructive and differentiated manner is of crucial importance for the development of a sustainable democratic culture.

One consequence of polarization in conflict situations is that we do not perceive others anymore as individual beings with multifaceted identities but reduce them to representatives of the conflicting party. Such processes of de-individualization make it increasingly difficult to connect with people on the other side and to find common ground for a constructive dialogue.

One approach, which has shown its ability to create bonds among people with diverse and even conflicting backgrounds is the method of storytelling. Being able to tell and relate to stories is an ability, which connects humans across cultural and even historical boundaries. Creating a safe environment where personal stories can be shared and listened to, therefore helps to go beyond the polarized perceptions and provides the possibility for relating with others on a very basic human level. Especially for young people this can become an impactful experience and helps them to not only reflect about themselves in a deeper manner but also to form bonds with youth of different backgrounds.

Given this context, the proposed training course '**Sharing Stories, Building Bridges – Digital Storytelling for Dialogue facilitation**' wants to gather 26 youth workers from 10 EU countries to equip them with the competences to make use of storytelling methods in the work with young people. While storytelling is as old as mankind,

the digital age allows us to make use of additional layers of sounds and images, creating an even more immersive experience. We will therefore be working with the approach of 'Digital Storytelling' inspired by the work of Joe Lambert, founder of the Center for Digital Storytelling in Berkeley.

If you would like to get more insights on the method, you can check the website of our cooperation partner [Upstream Stories](#) (DK) as well as their [Vimeo](#) Channel for examples of stories produced in other workshops.

Trainers

Signe Sander has facilitated Digital Storytelling since 2014, and has worked as facilitator, trainer and project manager in several local and international projects since then. She has a M.A in cultural studies, wrote her master thesis on storytelling and has been trained in the method from Digital StoryLab in Denmark. Signe is furthermore a part of the international Digital Storytelling network and regularly attends conferences on the subject to keep up to date with the developments of the method.

Kasia Kowalska is a political scientist specializing in theory and practice of civil society development. Throughout her career she lived and worked in Romania, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, and Georgia. Wherever she goes, she collects personal stories and explores how the power of sharing can help people build a meaningful dialogue across cultural differences.

Oliver Wiechmann is working as an international consultant and project manager in the field of conflict transformation and dialogue facilitation. Apart from coordinating long-term projects in this field he regularly holds trainings for INGOs (e.g. OSCE, GIZ) and governmental institutions.

Facts & Figures

Dates	05.-13. November 2022
Place	Baitz/Berlin, Germany
No of Pax.	26
Course Fee	35,00 € – 70,00 € (pay as you can) ¹

The fee covers full board&lodging for 8 nights as well as all seminar costs.

Venue

The venue of the training course is the village of Baitz, which is situated ca. 1 hour by train from Berlin central station. We will have a 3-storey, 900 sqm former farmhouse all for ourselves, the [website](#) of the place is unfortunately only available in German. Participants will be accommodated in two-or three-bed rooms of the same gender.

Arrival and Departure

You can arrive anytime on 05th November in Baitz. The latest train connection from Berlin leaves at **22:15** from Berlin Central Station (**21:42** from Berlin Airport), therefore, please book your travel accordingly. You can leave anytime on 13th November.

You will receive more detailed information concerning the travel planning after confirmation of your participation.

Special Needs and Insurance

Please make sure to inform us about any needs you have such as food allergies/intolerances, health problems, special diet. We will still send around a questionnaire on vegetarian/vegan food option before the start.

¹ We leave it up to you to self-asses how much you can afford in the mentioned frame depending on your financial situation

Health insurance is not provided by the organisers. All participants are required to purchase health insurance individually.

Travel Reimbursement

To find out the maximum amount for travel reimbursement, please go to the following website and calculate the distance between your city and Baitz:

https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/distance-calculator_en

We can reimburse the most economic travel option up to the following maximum amounts:

Distance	Max. Amount
0-99 km	23,00 €
100 – 499 km	180,00 €
500 – 1999 km	275,00 €
2000 – 2999 km	360,00 €

Application

To apply fill out the following form by **14th October 2022**.

<https://forms.gle/urnsxBFMJdHpoay2A>

Contact

In case you need additional information, you can reach us via the following email:

tc.dialogos@gmail.com

