

KA151 Erasmus+ Study Visit Safe(r) and brave(r) spaces in youth work

17/05/2025 - 24/05/2025

Belgium (various cities)

Coordinated by JOETZ vzw, in collab with ICPI



Background

This project stems from the **partnership-building activity "Rainbow Upgrade,"** organized by **Awesome People** in Sweden in August 2024. During the event, participants brainstormed about future projects, one of which focused on creating safe(r) spaces in youth work for LGBTQ+ youth. JOETZ and ICPI have since taken this initial idea and expanded it, recognizing the **importance of creating spaces that are not only safe and welcoming for LGBTQ+ youth but also inclusive for all individuals**, regardless of their background, identity, or circumstances. This broader focus ensures that the project addresses the diverse needs of young people, promoting equity and a sense of belonging for everyone. By broadening the scope, the project seeks to provide **tools and methodologies that youth workers can apply in various contexts** to foster environments where all youth feel supported, respected, and empowered to be themselves.

What are the objectives?

- ⇒ Offer participants the opportunity to **visit a diverse range of youth (work) organizations** in Antwerp, Ghent and Brussels, each contributing to safe(r) and brave(r) spaces in their own unique way.
 - Provide tools, methodologies, and inspiration for participants to apply in their own youth work contexts.
- ⇒ Provide a **platform** for international participants to **share** their **experiences, challenges, and insights** on fostering inclusive environments in youth work.
- ⇒ Strengthen international **collaboration** and networking within the youth sector.
- ⇒ **Integrate** newly acquired knowledge and methodologies into the daily operations of participating organizations.
- ⇒ Enhance the capacity of youth workers to create environments that promote the well-being, participation, and personal growth of young people.

This study visit is based on the belief that **creating safe(r) and brave(r) spaces in youth work is essential for fostering inclusion, empowerment and personal growth** among young people. Such spaces provide opportunities for youth to express themselves freely, feel valued and build meaningful connections.

What's in it for the youth workers participating, and/or for your organization?

Direct impact of the project on the participant:

- ⇒ Participants gain unique insights into how Flemish youth organizations create and sustain safe(r) and brave(r) spaces.
- ⇒ Participants engage in meaningful exchanges with local youth workers and international peers, broadening their perspectives on inclusivity in youth work.
- ⇒ They gain inspiration from practical examples and innovative approaches observed during the visits.
- ⇒ Participants reflect on their own practices and identify opportunities to enhance safe(r) spaces in their work.

For the partner organization in this project:

- ⇒ Bring back fresh ideas and practices to improve the inclusivity of their youth work.
- ⇒ Strengthen their connection to an international network of youth organizations.

Which partner organizations and participants are we looking for?

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

We are seeking organizations that organize **leisure activities for children and young people**. Ideally, these organizations offer at least **local and/or regional activities** and are maybe open to exploring European/international opportunities. Additionally, we welcome organizations that support others in providing leisure activities for children and youth.

We are particularly interested in organizations representing a diverse range of experience with the topic. This includes organizations with **little to no experience** in fostering safe(r) and brave(r) spaces but with a strong motivation to explore its potential and implement it in their work. At the same time, we welcome **experienced organizations** eager to further expand their knowledge, exchange ideas, and find new inspiration to deepen their practices.

PARTICIPANTS

The primary target group for this project are youth workers **aged 21 and older**. We prefer youth workers **who engage with children and young people in their free time**, whether as **professionals** (paid youth workers) or as **volunteers** (unpaid youth workers or those receiving a volunteer allowance).

We are targeting youth workers who:

- ⇒ Have some **experience in youth work**;
- ⇒ Take an active role in their organization (either as professionals or volunteers);
- ⇒ Can pass on the learned competencies to their fellow youth workers within or outside the organization;

- ⇒ Are open-minded, curious, and eager to learn and share their experiences with others;
- ⇒ Maintain an **open attitude** toward all participants and recognize the value and qualities of everyone present;

What do we expect from an organization that joins as a partner in this project?

Expectations:

- ⇒ Willing to **put into practice** what has been learned, incorporating knowledge, skills, and methodologies to enhance the quality of their (inter)national activities.
- ⇒ Participating in an online **meeting** with the organizers and all partners prior to the project and an online meeting as follow-up after the training.
- ⇒ **Dissemination** of the learning outcomes to increase the **impact** and scope of the project.
- ⇒ Send required documents on time.

Regarding the selection of the participants, we ask to the partner organization to:

- ⇒ spread the project in the context of selecting the participants;
- ⇒ conduct the pre-selection of the participants based on the provided criteria. The final selection will be made by JOETZ and the trainers;
- ⇒ To keep the conditions of Erasmus+ program fundings all the partners must guarantee to complete the group of a certain number participants (TBD; most probably till the end of February) and the participation of them in the whole training course.

Regarding the preparation of the participants, we ask the partner organization to:

- ⇒ inform the participants about Erasmus+;
- ⇒ assist the participants in making travel plans and organizing transportation;
- ⇒ after the project a meeting with the participants of your organization to collectively examine what the training course meant for them and your organization.

We encourage organizations that have little or no experience with Erasmus+ to be a partner. JOETZ offers extra support in this case.

Who organizes this project?



Grant receiving and coordinating organization: JOETZ

JOETZ is a **recognized national youth association** by the Flemish government. JOETZ's mission is to be a **health promoter for children and young people** (3-30 years old) in Flanders and Brussels.

JOETZ wants to achieve this mission through various health projects (healthy workshops, online and offline health content, health campaigns), activities (children's and youth holidays, playground activities, children's events) & training (animator/youth leader trainings, training courses, peer to peer education) and does this for, by and with children and young people. This happens locally, supra-locally and internationally.

As a health promoter, JOETZ wants to have an impact on children and young people, always starting from its youth work DNA: **in a fun and playful non-formal way**.

JOETZ's specific core tasks are: [health projects](#), [activities & holidays](#), [trainings for our unpaid youth workers](#), [international youth work](#) and giving a voice to young people.

Role:

- Supporting and ensuring a high quality of the content of the training together with the trainers.
- Creating support for a safe project atmosphere together with the trainers and facilitators.
- Financial and administrative handling of the project (e.g. reimbursements).
- Youth passes
- Creating support for the implementation of the project in the broader youth work in Flanders and beyond.

Contact:

- Liselotte Bekaert, coordinator international youth work JOETZ
- www.internationaaljeugdwerk.be
- [Instagram](#)

Collaboration

The project includes collaboration with [ICPI](#), a long-term partner from Georgia, whom JOETZ supports in their work despite challenges in hosting projects locally with an LGBTQ+ focus. ICPI's Laura Vos will be one of the facilitators of the study visit.



Practical

- Location: Belgium. We will visit youth (work) organizations in Antwerp, Ghent and Brussels. Already confirmed: [Kras Jeugdwerk](#), [Safe Space vzw](#), [JC BAZZZ](#), [Overkop Gent](#), [JOETZ](#).
- Duration: 6 days (excl. 2 travel days)
- Dates: 18/5/2025- 23/5/2025, excluding arrival day (17/5, starting from 4 PM) and departure day (24/5, after breakfast)
- Accommodation, food (breakfast, lunch, meal and coffee breaks during residential meetings) + travel expenses during the study visit dates are 100% covered by the Erasmus+ grant (based on planned budgets cfr. program guide).
- We will be traveling from Brussels to Antwerp and Ghent. We are hoping for good weather and will **preferably walk to the various locations**. Please take this into account.
- You will stay in the heart of Brussels at [Hostel Jacques Brel](#), which is close to the central station. It's a great base to explore Brussels after the visits and meetings we arrange. Due to the very busy high season, only **shared bedrooms** with 8 beds are available, but you will be accommodated with a **maximum of 5 people per room**. There are 3 rooms, and we will take your gender preference into account when assigning rooms.
- There is a **participation fee of 55 euros**.

How to become a partner in this Erasmus+ project?

1. Please carefully read this call for partners.
2. Answer the questions in digital forms here:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScT0EU7T8Xh5Yz7C47wgmS7-YGmEnVKB-fOuLq9MYLtKoSAbg/viewform?usp=sharing>
3. Deadline 10/02/2025

More questions? internationaal@joetz.be

