CALL FOR PARTNERS · KA152 YOUTH EXCHANGE
Beyond Bystanders
Empowering Queer Youth through Theatre of the Oppressed and Art-Based Methods

Project at a Glance

Action Type: Erasmus+ KA152-YOU (Youth Exchange)
Dates: 20–30 July 2027 (including travel days)
Location: Czech Republic
Participants: 30 in total (5 participants + 1 Group Leader per country)
Partnership: Czech Republic (Host) + 4 Partner Countries
Working Language: English
Target Group: Young people aged 18–26 identifying as LGBTQIA+ or allies, with a strong focus on youth with fewer opportunities.

Context & Background

Across Europe, there is an increasing level of hostility, discrimination, and online violence directed at LGBTQIA+ individuals. Rooted in heteronormative social patterns and the widespread absence of queer topics in education and politics, this environment forces many queer youths to suppress their personal identities. Simultaneously, it leaves their peers unequipped to intervene, turning them into passive bystanders.

Young people often lack the tools, encouragement, and safe spaces to recognize and actively stand up against this oppression. Relying on our deep organizational background in drama in education and participatory theatre, this project shifts the focus from passive endurance to active resilience. We aim to create a safe, inclusive environment where participants can build confidence, process internal discrimination, and learn how to defend their rights.

Aim & Objectives

Overall Aim: To empower queer youth and allies to stand up against discrimination and cope with oppression through the methods of Theatre of the Oppressed, active listening, and collaborative art.

O1: Equip 24 young people with practical tools to identify and actively confront heteronormative oppression and hate speech using Theatre of the Oppressed methodologies.

O2: Develop personal resilience and healthy coping mechanisms against internalized discrimination through art-based methods and safe-space storytelling.

O3: Foster a deep sense of belonging and solidarity among international peers, moving participants from a state of isolation to a supportive community network.

O4: Co-create a tangible public output—a collaborative 2x2m physical collage—showcasing the participants' journey and raising awareness, to be displayed in a local gallery at the end of the exchange.

Methodological Approach

The daily program steps away from traditional formal learning, relying heavily on spatial action, sensory awareness, and embodied practices:

Theatre of the Oppressed: Using interactive and physical theatre methods to rehearse real-life scenarios of discrimination, allowing participants to act out interventions and break the cycle of passive bystanding.

Art-Based Resilience: Utilizing tactile and visual arts to externalize inner conflicts, process trauma, and build emotional resilience against internal discrimination.

Storytelling & Active Listening: Creating an analog, highly empathetic circle where young people can share their lived experiences and build collective intelligence.

Participant Profile & Fewer Opportunities

Each national team will consist of **5 participants (aged 18–26) + 1 Group Leader (no age limit, must have youth work/facilitation experience).**

Participants should identify as queer/LGBTQIA+ or be active allies.

Fewer Opportunities: Inclusion is a core priority. Each partner must guarantee that at least **3 out of their 5 participants** face fewer opportunities (social, economic, geographical, or educational barriers).

Profile of Partner Organizations

We are looking for **4 reliable partner organizations** that:

Actively work with LGBTQIA+ youth or are strong, established allies.

Have the capacity to recruit participants matching the specific profile (including the fewer opportunities quota).

Are willing to actively prepare their groups before the mobility and support the dissemination of the final gallery exhibition outcomes locally.

Environment & Sustainability

This project is committed to environmental sustainability as a lived practice.

Food: All meals provided during the exchange will be 100% vegetarian, focusing on low environmental impact.

Travel: We strongly encourage and will support "Green Travel" (trains, buses, carpooling) for all partners where geographically feasible.

Financial Conditions (Erasmus+ KA152)

Accommodation & Food: 100% covered by the hosting organization.

Travel: Reimbursed up to the maximum limit established by the Erasmus+ distance band calculator.

No participation fee is required by the host.

How to Apply

If your organization aligns with our values and is interested in joining this partnership, please send us:

1. Your updated **PIF (Partner Identification Form)**.
2. A brief confirmation of your ability to recruit the required participant profile (specifically the 3 participants with fewer opportunities).