

CONCEPT

“With My Own Hands” youth exchange

"With my own hands I take care of the environment, with my own hands I create inclusion and love."



Roletto is a 2000 inhabitants town located on the hills of Pinerolo area in Turin province, Italy. Every year, when the summer gets close to its end the inhabitants of Roletto are getting pretty busy organizing the annual town festival, which take place during the 1st week of September. It's one of the times of the year when the inhabitants of Roletto are more united and when they give evidence of being a tight-knit community capable of welcoming and entertaining the several visitors who participate in the various events of the town fest.



- The Roletto society. The locals live a peaceful life surrounded by a rural landscape composed by land, forests, hills and mountains; they are not that used to interact with people who have cultural differences, except for the youngsters who goes to university in Torino. The majority of the people in the area are used to interact with each other mainly and they are not that familiar with people who belongs to a different environment or who has different personal or cultural features.

- Vagamondo is a group of youngsters involved in youth projects which has among its founding missions to promote the integration between different cultures in order to create a more inclusive society and to take care of the local environment through active citizenship actions.

https://www.facebook.com/VagamondoInformalGroup/info?tab=page_info



- 25 youngsters from 18 till 25 years old, half of them with fewer opportunities because part of a minority which is somehow stigmatized by the rest of the society where they live. Ex: 2nd generation migrants, Rom youngsters, LGBT youngsters, young people with disabilities... (5 participants per country)
- 5 leaders with no age limit. (one per country)
- 5 organizations which work also with youngsters with fewer opportunities because of part of a minority.
- Municipality of Roletto.
- Youngsters from Roletto involved in activities for youngsters in the town.
- Different kind of organizations which operate on the local area.



- In a society which is more and more multiethnic we want to give a chance to the people of the town to not fall behind,

to get in contact and interact with youngsters who have different roots, different characteristics concerning culture and identity, to get to know them, their way of living and worldview, to overcome stereotypes which originate from their isolation.

- Our societies are composed more and more by groups which have different characteristics concerning culture, identity, abilities and physical traits. Many times it happens also that those groups form closed communities which have the tendency to self-isolate themselves as kind of protection and reaction of the stigmatization coming from the rest of society. We have then societies composed by small groups which stigmatize each other and self-isolate themselves: fragmented societies characterized by tensions, widespread prejudices, incomprehension and mutual exclusion.

We want to give a chance to the participants of the youth exchange to get in contact with differences and to overcome stereotypes. We want to offer them another look on diversity, not considered as barrier but as point of interest and a possibility for learning and growing. We want to support the participants to empower themselves, to overcome the fear of the rejection while understanding how xenophobia rises up and grows and how it is possible to reduce it or overcome it, then go into the society of the town and practice the new understandings.

How?

We plan to structure the exchange in 5 main parts:

1. First 3 days, participants and leaders work mainly on the intercultural levels, to the formation of the group and to understand xenophobia.
2. Working together with the inhabitants of Roletto on the local environment: environment as a goal and as a tool.
3. A visit to Turin city.
4. Participants work on the preparation and implementation of the workshops to be presented during the public feast.
5. Evaluation of the exchange and possible follow up.

We want to use the protection and care for the environment and the town feast as means: bridges to connect the participants of the exchange and the local population.



What?

Activities focused on rising awareness about culture, identity, intercultural learning, intercultural sensitivity, elements of personal development (thinking out of the box, the difference between victimizing or taking ownership, team work, planning and taking actions, facilitating activities to group of people).

- Taking care of green areas (ex. remove plants, branches and stones from paths in the woods, cut the brambles on the sides of a stream, remove rubbish from lawns) or small renovations (ex. small stone wall, fix part of wooden structures) with the locals.

- We believe it would fit in the program one day visit to Turin. We are willing to organize there a city rally mainly focused on discover the cultural differences of the various communities who lives in the city.

- During the feasts:

Every group make a presentation of his country and of his minority focused on the points of connections.

Presentation of Erasmus +, the activities organized by the organizations involved in the project and opportunities for youngsters.

- Participants take part in some activities (sport, games, food tasting, concert) during the feast.

- Excursion and activities in nature.

When?

- From 29th August till 9th September 2015
- APV June 2015, the precise date will be choose according with the preferences of the leaders.

Contact:

If you have questions or if you want to know more about the project contact us by e-mail.

If you want to become partner of "With My Own Hands" youth exchange you can find the partner questionnaire at this link:
<http://otlas-project.salto-youth.net/3925>

Please fill it in and send it to us not later than the 12th January 2015 at:

infoyouthprojects@gmail.com



From our partners:

We search for 4 organizations willing to:

- Search and select 5 participants (18 - 25), half of them with fewer opportunities because part of a minority which is somehow stigmatized by the rest of the society.
- 1 leader, better if the leader has experiences with youngsters with fewer opportunities, intercultural learning and conflict management. We need the leader to take part both in the Advanced Planning Visit and in the Youth Exchange, mainly because during the APV we will go deeper in the program and we will choose which activities can fit the most in it and which leader is going to facilitate what.
- We propose you to organize the preparation of the participants in this way
 - Preparation of an interactive presentation of the country and of the minority (it will be presented during the intercultural evening and used as base to develop the workshop presented during the public feast).
 - Online preparation (decided during the APV)

