

CALL FOR PARTNERS

ERASMUS + KA1 MOBILITY PROJECT FOR YOUTH WORKERS

EUROPEAN TRAINING COURSE AND SEMINAR ON COMMUNITY URBAN GARDENING AND INCLUSION OF YOUTH WITH FEWER OPPORTUNITIES, esp. REFUGEES



Working title:

“Concrete jungle: urban gardening as a youth work tool for social inclusion of refugees and other young people with fewer opportunities ”

Funding: Erasmus+ KA1 Mobility of youth workers

Application deadline: 1st of February 2016

Form: 1 Seminar and 1 Training Course in Berlin (Germany)

Applicant organisation: Kulturlabor Trial & Error e. V. (Berlin, Germany), www.trial-error.org

Project time frame: 1st of May - 31st of December 2016

Activity dates: 12th-19th of June 2016, 4th - 14th of August 2016

Please find below the following points:

1. CONCEPT
2. BACKGROUND
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5. FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK
6. PARTNERS: WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

HOW TO GET ON THE BOARD?

If You are interested in the project, please contact us until 17th of January 2016 by email - gartenlabor@trial-error.org with topic “TC CONCRETE JUNGLE”

If You know someone, who is the perfect partner for the project, please do not hesitate to pass it on!

We are looking forward to hear from You!

In name of Kulturlabor Trial & Error e.V. garden gnomes,
Ruta & Joana

Berlin, 20th of December 2015

1. CONCEPT:

“Gardening is a survival skill,” says Ron Finley, the inspiration for urban gardener from deprived neighbourhood of Los Angeles. Rarely explored in the school, almost never in non-formal education, urban gardening can be seen as one of the most powerful tools for building communities, teaching participative and active citizenship, creativity, developing entrepreneurial skills, taking one of the most basic needs - food supply - in own hands.

Gardening as a tool for non-formal education has not only the opportunities of exploring the healthy lifestyle choices, learning the origins of the food and understanding nature - we also see it as a tool of empowerment of young people, tool to learn practical skills for own life and work market, to explore possibilities of improving the footprint of the urban ecosystems, and, the most important, building community around it and bringing new people into the community.

From the other side, being aware of the necessity for bottom-up initiatives to welcome new people in the local communities, we would like to adjust the gardening youth work experience to the current European situation and explore the opportunities to support the social inclusion of the [young people with fewer opportunities](#) (esp. social, cultural, economical or geographical obstacles), with focus on youthwork with target group - newcomers, or refugees.

Therefore with the project “Concrete jungle: urban gardening as a youth work tool for social inclusion of refugees and other young people with fewer opportunities ” we aim to extract the knowledge of community building, gardening skills within the specific frame of marginalized youth groups, exchange with experiences, start basis for European network and create a tutorial for urban gardening as a tool for inclusion in the local communities.

2. BACKGROUND:

Kulturlabor Trial & Error is a Berlin based, non profit organization, working with crafts, D.I.Y. culture, sustainability, arts and media. We are the queens of Upcycling, the experts for creative activism and your local Kiez-swap shop and fairteiler and much more.

Even before the Kulturlabor T&E existed, we were involved in various urban gardening projects in Berlin and around the Europe. We have been part of other initiatives, did guerilla gardening actions and thought children in schools and youth centres the basics of upcycling and gardening, developing our own methods on critical consumerism, urging the curiosity of the small people to find the origins, contents and life cycle of the food they eat. That also implies exploring the food waste and look at different ways to return the it back into the cycle.

We believe in that thing called bright sustainable future, but lately the term “sustainability” has brought us to the point where we would like to develop an urban ecosystem that is permanent and maintains itself - create place for people to meet each other, share gardening knowledge, swap with seeds, plants and in the end - grow their own food.

With this project we would like to share our knowledge, exchange with experience with likeminded collectives and look at the urban gardening as a tool for community building and social inclusion. More information about us can be found in our website - www.trial-error.org

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3. AIM AND OBJECTIVES:

The aim of the project is mainly to raise critical mass, improve skills and theoretical competences (open source the gardening and community work knowledge for everyone) build community and networking. We strive to increase pro-activity in food production/ urban harvesting in public spaces , self-responsibility/ choice mechanisms and environmental awareness (food production, autonomy vs interdependence, reduce footprint, trash/ waste, DIY [everything] and upcycling).

*We aim to promote the garden as a metaphorical tool for stressy urban lifes on how to slow down and get in tune with your local environment, natural circles and human relationships.

Topics:

*Gardening - Theory and practice

*Design - Consensus decision making, resources, planning/projecting and implementation

*Reclaiming public space - Private property, public space, ownership and democracy; civic rights and duties? some kind of political approach... GENTRIFICATION issue here!

*Community building- Techniques, maintenance and conflicts management.

*Minorities inclusion and emergency situations - (Integration) Techniques, cultural identities and tolerance.

*Access to learning- Education and knowledge sharing, publication.

Objectives:

- create a common base of theoretical knowledge on urban gardening, agreeing on the techniques applied in the project
- learn and link the best practices of urban gardening and inclusion of migrant youth in Berlin, Germany and around the Europe
- develop practical knowledge in designing migrant friendly community garden (social and technical design)
- hands-on experience in building a garden - preparation of soil, building structures from recycled materials, planting, working with youth
- exchange of experiences and collective counselling on problem issues in work with migrant youth in urban gardens
- learn, document and share the experience and knowledge on how to engage community in the maintenance of the garden
- document the project experience in a shareable form

4. ACTIVITIES:

PART 1

Type of activity: Seminar

Time: 12th - 19th of June 2016

Description:

The purpose of the seminar is to make a theoretical common ground...

Theoretical competencies on urban garden and social design ; pro-active citizenship and functional public space; community building and social integration of migrants/ refugees and other marginalized minorities, consensus decision making, nonviolent communication and tolerance!

Program:

- learning the partner organisations, exchange with experience and problem fields as well as learning needs.
- visiting urban garden projects working with the topic of social inclusion of refugees in Berlin.
- introduction and common ground of the project theme: urban gardening as a tool for the social inclusion of refugees.
- introduction of permaculture design for urban gardens: basic principles, philosophical background and techniques.
- follow up: documentation of the seminar, implementation of the knowledge in the work of the participating organisations, possible steps for cooperation until the Training Course (Activity 2).

Participants: 3-5 persons from each partner organisation

PART 2

Type of activity: Training course

Time: 4th - 14th of August

Description: Practical skills, basic gardening and woodworking. Community building techniques and social inclusion of migrants, refugees and other marginalized minorities; Challenges and difficulties of implementation, conflict management, nonviolent communication, consensus decision making and the vital importance of tolerance.

Program:

- team building, getting to know participants and represented initiatives, their background
- Practical gardening and basic woodworking.
- Community building and social inclusion.
- Migrants, refugees and other marginalized minorities integration strategies and techniques.
- Conflict management, nonviolent communication, consensus decision making and tolerance.
- Documentation, publication and access to knowledge.
- Follow up and evaluation.

Participants: 3-5 persons from each partner organisation or their network

5. FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

We plan to apply for the ERASMUS + funding for the deadline of the 1st of February 2016. We aim to cover all participant expenses regarding travel, accommodation and food. According to the decision of participating organisations, preparation and other costs will be covered.

For material costs Kulturlabor T&E has co-funding from the local municipality, in case of necessity there are other fundings possible.

We also invite project partners to apply for local funding to cover preparation and coordination costs, but it is not a must. Any input and support on international co-funding is welcome.

More detailed information will follow once the agreement about project framework and activities between the partner organisations is reached.

6. PARTNERS: WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We are looking for 5 partner organisations/ initiative groups from Program or Partner countries and 1 Partner organisation/ initiative group from Germany. The partner organisation shall

- be registered in ECAS Portal / Having PIC Number,
- have experience in working with youth as target group of the project relevant activities (urban gardening or social work),
- have a focus on and experience with one or both of the following topics
 1. Inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities, especially refugees, youngsters with recent migration background - social, geographically and / or economically disadvantaged or other marginalised minorities youth. (More about young people with fewer opportunities in ERASMUS + program - <https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/otlas-partner-finding/help/young-people-with-fewer-opportunities/>)
 2. Gardening - for example, organic / biologically gardening, community gardening, permaculture design and techniques, urban and/or guerilla gardening and others.
- have capacity to provide a contact person and participate in all stages of the project
 1. preparation (feedback in defining the project framework, providing the applicant organisation will all necessary documentation for the project application, if possible, support with writing the application, provide feedback on the application),
 2. implementation (promotion of the call for participants, spreading information about the project activities in the information channels of the organisation),
 3. selection and preparation of the participants of the activities, active participation in the project activities, providing all the necessary documentation for financial administration of the project, support in implementation of activities),
 4. evaluation and monitoring (ensuring the necessary documentation for the closure of the project, including the evaluation for Mobility tool.)





Berlin, 20th of December 2015

Kulturlabor Trial & Error e.V.