

Managing my organization - managing myself

‘A training course to support youth work organizations and institutions to improve their work professionalism and quality and the quality of life of the manager simultaneously

13th – 18th November 2012, Solothurn / Switzerland

Methodology:

This training course works through exchange of best practices, non-formal, and interactive working space. It empowers youth workers, managers of youth organisations and youth projects, to define their needs, potential and fields of development in their working environment in order to provide youth work quality on a regional, national and international level.

Date & venue: 13th – 18th November 2012, Switzerland

Countries involved: Switzerland, Turkey, Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Italy, Germany, Ireland, Portugal

Target Participants:

Youth workers, project leaders and directors of youth organizations and institutions that have both needs and experience in developing well-working youth organizations and youth projects.

Costs:

Accommodation and food during the training course will be covered by the training course. 70% of the travel costs of the participants – minus a participation fee of 50 Euros – will be refunded after the training course.

Summary:

The background of this 5-days training course came about through a conversation between 2 trainers that are at different stages of carrying the responsibility for an NGO that is particularly active in Youth Work and international youth projects (such as Youth in Action).

When discussing the challenges faced when working on providing professional quality in youth work, the idea came to mind that there may be other organizations facing the same challenges; managing the transition from enthusiastic young people with a common vision to a well-working organization that is able to provide its work and engagement in a sustainable way with long-lasting results requires professional and personal resources that don't always seem readily available

In order to discover strategies as to how to discover and develop these resources, as well

as identify potential roadblocks that may be faced in doing so, three trainers from Israel, Switzerland and Turkey that are also directors of youth organizations, are developing a training course open for trainers, project leaders and youth organization directors which is aimed at supporting each other in developing the quality of support systems and professional organizations and structures, as well as developing personal strategies that enables the manager of the organization to experience progress and success while maintaining personal resources intact and maintaining quality and balance in their personal life.

Language of the Training:

English (all participants are required to be able to communicate in English)

Number of participants: 24

Objectives of the training course:

- To provide the opportunity for organizations to meet and exchange best practices and ideas
- To reflect on the challenges faced and to provide possible solutions/ideas/tools that can enable participants to handle these challenges in the best way possible
- To develop together strategies which fulfill the explored needs of each participating organization
- To honestly and openly reflect on the reasons for stress, overwork, burnout, being "the only one", financial difficulties, personnel lacks and communication challenges in order to find viable and sustainable solutions
- To find ways to maximize productivity, efficiency, motivation, teamwork, promotion, sense of "ownership" by volunteers and employees and financial resources.
- To support NGO managers in exploring ways to build personal resources and maintain a balanced life
- To discuss the similarities and differences related to NGO management in relation to the varying realities of the participating countries
- To develop structures that enables the participating organizations to provide quality youth work in a regional, national and international level, according to the required standards of programs such as YOUTH IN ACTION

Trainer team:

Leilani van Rheenen (Turkey), Yehuda Stolov (Israel), Oliver Schneitter (Switzerland)

Contact and Information:

Oliver Schneitter, oschneitter@gmx.ch, +41 76 338 93 51

Information on the Trainers:

Leilani van Rheenen is of Dutch origin born and raised in Brazil. She originally came to Turkey as a volunteer and is currently managing the organization that she was originally volunteering in (Aile Eğitimi Derneği). According to Leilani learning how to manage an NGO in a foreign country at such a young age was one of her most important learning experiences and opportunities for personal development. She is currently working as a volunteer coordinator and Youth in Action project manager in addition to being a freelance trainer also working with the Turkish National Agency within the context of Youth in Action and Lifelong Learning.

Oliver Schneitter works as a Project Manager in the field of cultural and non-governmental work and as a trainer for a Swiss youth organization where he was responsible for trainings in social work, project management and holistic development, mainly based on outdoor activities.

He holds a master degree in Culture Management, Religion Studies and Theology and completed the Youth in Action Training of Trainers. With his own association "Verein Naturkultur" he is developing and running trainings on outdoor activities, interfaith and intercultural activities and personal development, as recently the SALTO-training on leadership within the youth work sector.

Yehuda Stolov is the executive director of the Interfaith Encounter Association, an organization that works since 2001 to build peaceful inter-communal relations in the Holy Land by fostering mutual respect and trust between people and communities through active interfaith dialogue. In 2006, he is a member of the International Council of the International Association for Religious Freedom and was awarded the Immortal Chaplains Foundation Prize for Humanity, which honors those who "risked all to protect others of a different faith or ethnic origin." Among other activities, Dr. Stolov was a member of the steering committee for the United Nations Decade of interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace. He holds a B.Sc. and an M.Sc. in Physics and a Ph.D. from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.