

LETTER OF INVITATION TO THE PROJECT

“O.E.D.Y.P.U.S.: O.vercome E.xclusion D.efending Y.outh after P.andemic U.ncertain S.cenarios” – O.E.D.Y.P.U.S.

KA1 – Mobility of youth workers – 4th of October 2022 deadline

Centro Interculturale Artistico Siciliano (CIAS) La Guilla – Teatro alla Guilla
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CIAS La Guilla "CENTRO INTERCULTURALE ARTISTICO SICILIANO - LA GUILLA" (Teatro alla Guilla) is a cultural association in Sicily, Italy. We use theatre as a mean to promote intercultural dialogue, non- formal education and empower youth. C.I.A.S. - LA GUILLA is running a theatre in Palermo since 2008. We opened our space to the city and to our neighbourhood which is in the historical city centre of Palermo. From 2011 our cultural association represents a meeting point and an intercultural centre for the city of Palermo. In the last years our cultural association organised performances, exhibitions, concerts, theatre labs, training courses for young people and disadvantaged groups trying to use theatre as a tool to promote dialogue and fight against prejudice and xenophobia. During our theatre season, which is called "Bread and Theatre", we organise a special performance every month and for admission we ask the audience to bring bread and food instead of paying a ticket. In this way we collect food and goods for the organisations dealing with poor and disadvantaged people. That's the reason why our theatre season is called "bread and theatre".

Our main objectives are:

- to support young local actors through training, youth exchange and mobility abroad;
- to encourage cooperation and international mobility in the field of youth among cultural associations and organizations;
- to support initiatives for European cooperation in the cultural sector;

- to foster intercultural dialogue and fight racism, xenophobia and radicalization through arts;
- to promote international cooperation activities in the field of arts in general, and theatre in particular. Main activities:
- management of a cultural space in the city centre of Palermo with dance, theatre, music and video performances;
- organization of training and workshops for young actors; - support to local communities through charity events using theatre, dance and music; - youth exchange in the field of theatre with European partners.

In 2015 Teatro alla Guilla was awarded an Erasmus+ KA1 youth exchange with 12 countries on theatre as tool for youth empowerment and tackling exclusion called "A.N.T.Y.G.O.N.E.". In 2016-2017 our Greek partner, Inter Alia, was awarded a grant for "Antigone on tour", follow up of A.N.T.Y.G.O.N.E. youth exchange where our theatre method was applied to two groups of youngsters in Portugal, December 2016, and Greece, January 2017. In 2019 Teatro alla Guilla was awarded another youth exchange called "Against Exclusion NEw Artistic Skills" – AENEAS which is under progress. Teatro alla Guilla was also granted a KA2 -YOUTH called "YOUSTAR" in October 2020 under the Creativity Call.

OEDYPUS training course

According to a survey by OECD (**Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development**), (<https://oecdcofoto.blog/2021/08/11/young-people-are-our-future-lets-help-them-make-it-a-bright-one/>) young people are under pressure as never before. It showed that 2 out of 3 of young people were no longer planning for the future, which is a terrible state of affairs for their personal development, for social cohesion and for the economy. Moreover, it revealed that times of crises have a much more significant adverse impact on the social, educational, health, professional, and financial lives of young females compared to young males. We all have a responsibility to ensure that, as a generation, their future is not lost. By working together, as civil society, governments and youth organisations, youth workers can help them face the challenges of work, gender equality, the green transition, and the future of business, and empower young people to create and seize new opportunities.

As stated above and thinking about Oedipus tragedy and the plague of Thebes, this project wants propose a new vision of Oepidus' drama, comparing the plague and the Covid19 pandemic during our times, and trying to address the problem of

social exclusion, with a focus on post pandemic youth discomfort. The social distancing caused by pandemic of Covid19 and the social exclusion of Oedipus from Thebes will be compared and discussed during the TC, finding a chance of a resolution in the human being. The project goal is to go beyond the tragedy, analyzing it and proposing an exchange among young people coming from different nations, who found themselves alone and isolated during Covid19, social exclusion and social distancing caused by the pandemic, which created lack of relationships and social issues, and the absence of institutions that could have given support at the ending of the world health crisis.

The project promotes non-formal learning for youth workers through a mobility with practitioners from at least 9 countries to stimulate the active participation among young people, inclusion, creativity and innovation using theatre and the Oedipus Greek tragedy. Social disruption *caused* by the *pandemic* is devastating, so this project can give a chance to young people to find a new way of socialization, playing a role in the final performance of the Greek drama as metaphor of life, increasing self-empowerment and self-esteem, enhancing intercultural awareness and improving foreign language.

Once back at home, youth workers will train youth using Teatro alla Guilla's well-established theatre methods: Oedipus is only the last example of theatre applied to social inclusion, which Teatro alla Guilla has been using in the last 8 years in project such as A.N.T.Y.G.O.N.E. – "Acquiring New Tools for Youth to Get Out of NEET and Exclusion" youth exchange, AENEAS – "Against Exclusion NEw Artistic Skills" youth exchange and training course, A.N.T.Y.G.O.N.E. KA2 and many other Erasmus+ funded projects which were based on theatre techniques for the social inclusion of disadvantaged youth. The project wants to put together at least nine partners, possibly theatres, and foresees 6-days training based on Teatro alla Guilla theatre techniques for empowering youth workers with new tools to support youth in overcoming the pandemic times through resilience and socialization.

If you are interested in participating in O.E.D.Y.P.U.S. training course for the 4th of October deadline, please contact Dario Ferrante ferrante.dario@gmail.com