

“Creative strategies to approach challenging Youth”

a training organized in the context of the Erasmus+ program

Tirana, Albania

11 to 17 August 2015

Introduction

In organizing the training “**creative strategies to approach challenging Youth**” we wish to give opportunities to local organizations from Albania and from the South East Europe (SEE) countries plus countries from the European union to share their experiences and gain knowledge about youth project management, specifically those addressed to young people with fewer opportunities. How do organizations prepare projects aimed to this target group? What’s the role of voluntary work in this field? How can professionals use artistic approaches and games to better address young people in this situation? How can organizations commit local communities in improving the chances of these youngsters of being true European citizens?

Lead Organization: The Richter Foundation (The Netherlands)

The Richter Foundation is a Dutch not for profit organization based in Den Helder, which has been working in the field of international cooperation for almost 20 years. Richter is run by a team of professionals in the field of arts and cultural movement and each year organizes around 15 cultural events throughout Europe. Richter has co-operated with all the EU member states and for the last ten years has been active in the Caucasus region, Belarus and Russia. At the moment Richter has 25 volunteers in the Netherlands, 60 volunteers working and living in Europe, and 50 active partner organizations in Europe. Richter is also an major European player in the Erasmus+ programme’s European Volunteer Service.

Local partner: “ Fëmijët Janë e Ardhmja” (FJA)/ “Children are the Future “(CAF)

CAF is an Albanian, non-profit development organization that works to create better lives for children and youth and equal opportunities for their development. Established in 2008, in Tirana (Albania) CAF is managed by a highly dedicated team of individuals with a rich educational and professional background in the fields of education, youth work and development, sociology and arts, who are united by a strong will and commitment to bring about positive changes in the lives of thousands of children and youth with fewer opportunities. CAF works mostly in disadvantaged areas and communities by ensuring an active participation of children and youth, teachers, parents, other community members in the improvement and democratization of life.

Project summary

"creative strategies to approach challenging Youth" will bring together a maximum of 18 professionals in the field of Youth work. Through workshops, debates, discussion and study visits we want to establish an environment in which they get the opportunity to develop themselves as an individual and as a group. Using these methods, one intends to facilitate exchanging and networking, to add knowledge and commitment to the Erasmus+ Program, as well as to raise, discuss and find strategies on how to use innovative approaches, based on informal learning and specific means of personal and collective expression (g.e. arts or games) with people with fewer opportunities.

A special focus will be considered on creating local impacts and on providing information about Erasmus+ Program. The trainings course is led by an international team of experienced trainers and is open for member states of the European Union and SEE countries and member countries of the European Union.

Aims and objectives

The aims of the training are

- to explore the theme of volunteering, with a particular emphasis on promoting the inclusion of groups with fewer opportunities;
- to advocate for the techniques of informal learning;
- to explore the aims and objectives of the Erasmus+ programme, and to place it in the context of youth work;
- to develop cooperation across Europe and enhance European networking.

The objectives of this project are for participants

- to learn about youth work practice across Europe;
- to understand the theory and practice of volunteering;
- to explore different techniques for developing volunteering amongst young people with fewer opportunities;
- to share knowledge and experience of recruiting, training and managing volunteers within their own organizations;
- to be able to use techniques of informal learning with young volunteers within their own organizations;
- to have a good working knowledge of the Erasmus+ Programme;
- to develop new projects together.

Working methods

The training is designed as a process of informal learning and peer education using participants own experiences in the fields of youth work and international cooperation. To be successful this will require participants to have an active input in sharing knowledge and experience, and to be willing to learn new skills from the trainers and from each other.

The methods employed during the training will include:

- verbal and visual presentations
- small group discussions
- plenary debates
- game playing
- drama exercises
- study visits
- cultural presentations.

Participants

Richter has in recent years found out that a small elite group participates in many trainings in the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme within a short space of time. Together with our training partner Children Are the Future (CAF) we want to avoid this, and to give inexperienced participants the chance to participate in project that are funded by the Erasmus+ program.

To succeed in the stated aims and objectives, the training needs inexperienced European youth workers/leaders who have some experience in the field of youth work and youth arts and who have a mandate to represent their own organizations. It is recommended that the candidate had been participated ones or twice in an youth activity and to have some practical experience in youth work.

Note that international EVS volunteers cannot be included as participants in this training as they are already receiving funding from the Erasmus+ programme and this type of double funding is not allowed under the rules of the programme. However, previous EVS volunteers or those who want to do EVS in the future will be very welcome to apply.

Should it appear during the training that a participant is already well experienced within the previous Youth in Action and Erasmus+ programme, then we will not reimburse the travel expenses. We will have 18 places (maximum) available and the applicants should fulfill the following conditions. They should have:

- the ability to use English as the working language throughout the project;
- a willingness to fulfill an open and active role in the training;
- the availability to attend the full duration of the project;
- an opportunity to share new information, skills and contacts within their own organization;
- an ambition to set up new projects in the field of the Erasmus+ programme;
- a certain mandate to make concrete agreements with other organizations.

Venue

The location will be in Tirana, Albania.

Duration

Date: 11 to 17 August 2015

Five full working days, plus two days for traveling.

Participation fee

The participation fee for the project is 30€.

Financial information

Almost all expenses will be covered by funding from the EU Erasmus+ Programme. This includes food and accommodation and all training costs. Travel expenses (home to home) will be reimbursed, based on the Erasmus+ distance calculator.

Application and selection of participants

Participants will be selected by project leaders on the basis of:

- the profile of participants as described above;
- the rules of the Erasmus+ Programme;
- the experience, expectations and training needs of the applicants;
- the desire to create a balance in the range of participating organizations;
- the desire to create a balance in the range of geographical areas represented.

Successful applicants will receive confirmation of their participation, followed by more detailed information when the funding is confirmed by the EU's Erasmus+ Programme.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact:

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