



Erasmus+



KA1 - Contact Making Event

Let's get them working!

Arrival Date: 28th November 2015 **Departure Date: 6th December 2015**
Worcester, United Kingdom

INTRODUCTION

Unemployment is by far one of the most pressing challenges affecting young people nowadays. According to the Eurostat statistics for 2013, at the end of the year approx. 23.1% of young Europeans within EU-28 alone remained out of work (source: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Unemployment_statistics). Moreover, with each potential crisis sweeping the European economies, the situation is likely to get worse as young people, being in the most vulnerable position, are likely to be hit first and the strongest.

Numerous articles and scholarly works keep on warning the society about the long-term implications of the situation. As observed by the research associate at Bridging Europe, Ms Vana Nedeljkovic: 'Being young and unemployed can lead to increase in the risk of poverty, deskilling and social exclusion as well as cause loss of motivation and mental health problems' (source: <http://www.bridgingeurope.net/consequences-of-high-youth-unemployment.html>). It is not surprising then that the sense of alienation, lower self-esteem or even hostility become more and more often traits of young people.

Working with young people on the daily basis, we are convinced, however, that the generation is not yet lost, as many tend to describe. In fact, there are still numerous opportunities to be given to young people when it comes to developing their potential and ensuring better chances for gaining much needed employment in the future. Such opportunities are presented, among many others, by engaging in various entrepreneurial and creative ventures offered by volunteering placements (both locally and internationally), internships, exchanges, courses or even self-led projects (e.g. youth initiatives).

As keen advocates of the previous Youth in Action and Lifelong Learning Programmes as well as the current Erasmus+ Programme, we strongly believe that involving young people in transnational projects is one of the tools in dealing with the possible consequence of unemployment. Though majority of the projects offered around Europe do not create jobs themselves, precious learning gained when attending or helping to organise an activity leads to invaluable experiences. We have already seen the outcomes of that with hundreds of young people boosting their self-esteem, becoming more motivated to undertake challenges, developing resilience and even setting up their own entrepreneurial ventures (e.g. projects, start-ups, etc.).

consiliumdt@gmail.com
11 Bluebell Close, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR14 3QR, UK



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With regards to the above, however, it is important to remember that not all projects are successful and exert positive change. Much too often do we see EVS volunteers disappointed with their placements, youth exchange participants being on holidays rather than on the learning journey or even youth workers attending training and complaining of the mismatched expectations and hence time wasted when at the course.

Concerned about the quality of the European youth projects and yet still positively encouraged by the feedback received from attendees of the previous international activities, we decided to address the issues by holding a contact making event (CME). As such, the partners strongly believe that by coming together, developing stronger links (both personal and professional) as well as by jointly planning our future steps, we are in much better position to ensure needs-based, timely and high quality implementation of youth projects. Similarly, realizing that focusing on too many issues is rather pointless and rarely leads to real outcomes, we decided to focus on the topics of creativity and entrepreneurship as the tools, means and methods in addressing youth unemployment.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES:

The proposed CME is aimed at bringing together stakeholders interested in developing networks and joint future projects with the view to addressing issues of youth unemployment. We wish to achieve the aim by means of:

- discussing the topic of youth unemployment around Europe so as to understand its short and long term negative effects on young people
- exploring the themes of creativity and entrepreneurship in the context of combating youth unemployment
- facilitating networking between partner organisations engaged in the project so as to create stronger and trust-based bonds for the future
- exchanging best practices in the fields of youth employability and supporting the development of employability skills
- developing capacities to prepare and implement high-quality, sustainable youth projects with long lasting impact
- promoting and facilitating the use of the local and international funds (e.g. Erasmus+) in supporting young people's development
- developing ideas and strategies for the future joint projects to be carried out by the partner promoters.

METHODOLOGY

The project will see the implementation of various non-formal education methods such as ice-breakers and energizers, team building exercises, small group discussions, role-plays, and individual reflection, feedback and evaluation activities.

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FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The following project is financially supported by the **ERASMUS+ grant**. Hence, **100%** of food and accommodation expenses will be covered by the organisers, as well as **up to 100%** of the overall travel costs (please see the max. allowances per country listed below). Also, due to some extra attractions being planned for the CME, **participation fee** has been set as **30 GBP per participant**.

PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

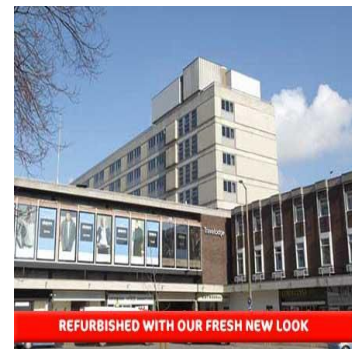
All participants will be accommodated in **basic triple rooms (single sex)** at the **Travelodge Hotel**, situated in the very centre of Worcester. Please visit: <http://www.travelodge.co.uk> and check the photos of the hotel. Additionally, all meals will be provided at the hotel or other workshop venues, depending on the daily programme.

The address of the hotel:

Travelodge, Cathedral Plaza
3 High Street
Worcester, WR1 2QS

United Kingdom

Tel: 0871 984 6277



Directions to the hotel from Worcester Foregate Street Train Station:

When arriving to Worcester, please get off at **Worcester Foregate Street Train Station** (there are two stations in Worcester– please do not get off at Worcester Shrub Hill Train Station).
Next:

- 1) When you exit the train station, turn left and walk towards the city centre (the road is called High Street)
- 2) At the end of High Street, there is a statue of Edward Elgar (the Cathedral is on the opposite side of the road) – if you turn left here and walk about 40 meters you will find the entrance to the Travelodge Hotel (to your left under the covered walkway).

Link to the google map map: <http://goo.gl/maps/evDr3>



TRAVELLING TO THE UK

Saturday 28th November – Please arrive to Worcester by **6pm at the latest**. The meeting place will be the Travelodge Hotel, where you will all stay during the course.

Sunday 6th December – To allow time to get to the airports, your return flight must be after 9 am from Birmingham Airport, or later from other airports. If unsure, please consult us before purchasing any tickets.

The nearest airports are listed by distance/convenience:

- Birmingham Airport – this is the easiest airport to use and is only 1 h away from Worcester
- East Midlands Airport (1 h 30 min)
- Luton Airport (2 hours 20 minutes)
- Manchester Airport (2 hours 20 minutes)
- Heathrow Airport (<3 hours)
- Stansted Airport (<4 hours 20 minutes)

In order to find suitable connections between your airport of arrival and Birmingham please check:

- trains - <http://www.thetrainline.com>
- coaches - <http://www.nationalexpress.com> or <http://uk.megabus.com/>

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- You are allowed to arrive OR depart max. 2 days before OR 2 days after the CME. Extra stay will not be supported with food or accommodation, yet you can use this time to visit some places around the UK. Should your stay be longer than 2 days (unless necessary!) we do reserve the right not to reimburse part of your travel costs.
- In line with the rules of the ERASMUS+ Programme, we would like you to make your travel arrangements using the cheapest travel options. Also, before purchasing any tickets, please make sure that your travel times/cost are approved by us in advance!
- In order to receive up to 100% reimbursement of your travel costs, please ensure that your expenses fit in within the max. budget allocated per country. Should you go over the limit, the excess will constitute your own contribution to the project.
- All participants requiring visas to the UK (marked in blue below) are kindly asked to fill in the 'Visa Info' excel spreadsheet which will help us prepare appropriate invitation letters. Visa costs will be reimbursed up to max. 160 EUR.

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Max. Travel budget per country:

Country	Partner promoter	Pax no.	Max. travel costs (EUR)
United Kingdom	Consilium Development and Training	4	180
Portugal	Ananda Cooperativa Cultural	3	275
Czech Republic	EYCB - European Youth Centre Břeclav z.s.	2	275
Macedonia	STUDIO 212- Association for Education and Art	2	360
Albania	CNELL- Center of Non-formal Education and Lifelong Learning	2	360
Slovenia	Povod- Institute for culture and the development of international relations in culture	2	275
Romania	Fundatia Judeteana pentru Tineret Timis	2	275
Latvia	HUMANA PEOPLE TO PEOPLE IN LATVIA	2	275
Ukraine	Institute of Ukrainian Studies	2	275
Armenia	World Independent Youth Union	2	530
Croatia	KOR- Udruga za kreativni i održivi razvoj	2	275
Bosnia	E grupa	2	275
Italy	Associazione Circum Vitae	2	360
Poland	My Dreams Come True Association	2	275
Slovakia	ADEL	2	275
Germany	JUGEND- UND KULTURPROJEKT E.V.	2	275
TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS		35	

SOME PRACTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE UK ...

Weather:



British people always talk about the weather because it is very changeable and unpredictable. November itself is usually already cold with rain and possibly already light snow....we never know ;) Therefore, **when packing your suitcases make sure you have enough clothing to wear during mild, cold or rainy days.** Also, do not forget about a raincoat and/or umbrella.

Typical Food:

Because the British diet is so varied and multi-cultural it is difficult to define a typical meal. Britain is quite famous for its fish and chips, which is cod or haddock deep fried in batter and served with chips (fries). Food served in pubs is also popular because it is cheap and is the most representative of what British people like to eat. In large cities and towns you can eat anything from Lebanese food to Sushi. For more information about the British food, please check this website:



<http://www.iamintheuk.com/957/british-foods-favourite-drinks/>

Money and Currency Exchange:



British currency is **Pound Sterling (GBP or £)**. You can easily exchange foreign currency into sterling at banks, post offices, travel agents and exchange office. All towns have at least one facility where you will be able to exchange your money. Exchange rates for the most popular currencies will be displayed on a board and travel agents tend to have this board on display in their shop window.

Electricity

When coming to the UK make sure you **buy a special adapter** for all your electrical appliances e.g. Laptops, driers. The sockets here are different than in other parts of Europe and use standard 3-pin square plugs.



Traffic Rules

In the UK we drive on the **left side of the road** ... but we also have one-way streets so here traffic may be traveling from the right or the left! Please make sure you **pay attention to the traffic** and always look both to the right and to the left before crossing - we want you to arrive safely!



HEALTH INSURANCE

Health insurance will not be provided or reimbursed by the organisers (unless it is required in the visa process). All participants are required to purchase health insurance individually. If you live in an EU country and use a national health insurance system there, please apply for a FREE European Health Insurance Card: <http://ehic.europa.eu>

PREPARATIONS

Closer to the CME, a list of things to prepare/do before the mobility shall be sent out to all participants. Also, in due time we shall be sharing with you the proposed timetable. It will be finalised once we receive applications of all participants. It is crucial for us to adjust the course to your needs and to make it as practical as possible.

CONTACT

In case of any queries please contact us on: eu.consiliumdt@gmail.com

We'll appreciate any **ideas and suggestions** of yours that could be incorporated at the time of preparations to the project or during the activity itself. This is going to be the **Contact making Event** and we wish to implement in **NOT FOR YOU but TOGETHER WITH YOU!** Let's make it an exciting learning journey and a first step to long-term cooperation!

We're looking forward to hearing from you 😊

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