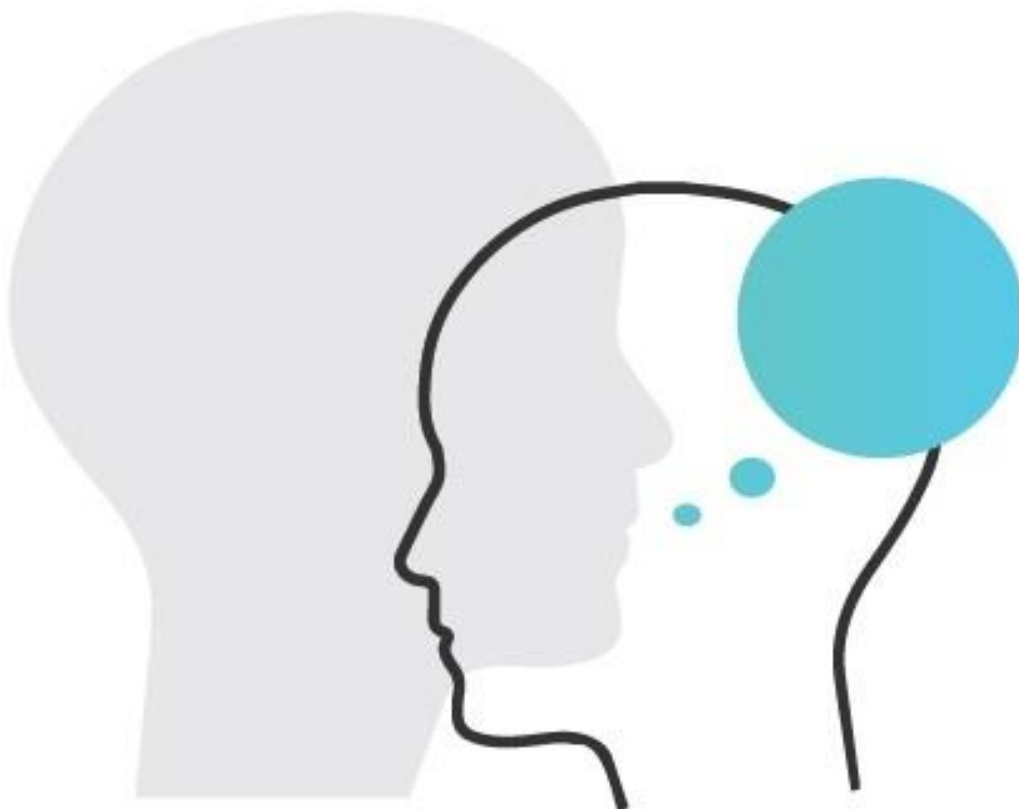


TRAINING COURSE FOR YOUTH WORKERS



Critical thinking skills

4-12 May 2019

Pamporovo, Bulgaria



C:E:T
Platform



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



**HUMAN
RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT
CENTRE**

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

Training course „Critical Thinking Skills” will take place in Pamporovo, Bulgaria. 32 youth workers from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Spain, Saint Martin, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, North Macedonia and Croatia will participate. The project duration is from 01.01.2019 till 31.07.2019, including days of program activities (4-12 May 2019).

The main topic of the project is related to the development of critical thinking in young people. The project responds directly to one of the main challenges Europe faces regarding the youth - nearly one fifth of the young generation doesn't possess the needed basic and fundamental skills, taking into account their importance with regards to their future employment and social inclusion. In the European key competences framework for lifelong learning skills are identified that are a prerequisite for personal development, active citizenship, social inclusion and employability. Besides “traditional” competences it includes communication in mother tongue, communication in foreign languages, digital competences and IT, and also skills of a transversal nature like learning to learn, social and civic competences, sense of initiative and entrepreneurship, cultural awareness and expression. Considering the importance of these fundamental skills with regards to future employment, social inclusion and lifelong learning, The Council of Europe takes as criteria the share of young people whose basic skills are assessed as “poor” to be below 15% by 2020. In that aspect the European Commission states as significant the development and assessment of “horizontal competences” related to critical thinking, creativity, sense of initiative, problem solving, decision making and communication. It is precisely the development of these competences the current project undertakes.

The main goal of the project is to build critical thought in the participants aimed at developing cognitive skills for improving various personal and professional qualities. Also create an entirely new view for organizing and planning activities, problem solving, decision making based on proper arguments, applying common sense, mental discipline, sense of initiative, interpretation, communication, analyzing and assessing the thoughts, drawing conclusions, self-regulation, self-assessment all of which are related to successful social and professional development.

All activities and methods will contribute to the process of non-formal learning and creating long-lasting understanding of the concepts, as well as sustainable motivation for applying of what is learnt and shared. The program methods follow the “learning through experience” model – debates, simulations, energizers, ice-breakers, communication games, learning and sharing activities, gamification, LEGO serious play, group discussions, coaching sessions, open space, etc. By means of debriefing in-depth learning and understanding of the subject matter will be ensured.

The basic needs this project addresses **are aimed** at decreasing the share of poor achievements among youngsters which is of significant importance for the young people in Bulgaria, partner countries and Europe. Considering the highlighted goals of the

“Europe 2020” strategy for intelligent and inclusive growth EU member states adopt vast-reaching literacy strategies based on coordinated inter-institutional policies. During the years in EU there has been a trend of decreasing the share of poor achievements. The goal is below 15% by 2020. The project aims to integrate the results and recommendations of “youth goals” identified during the Bulgarian Euro-Presidency and build-up the designated skills from the latest two “structure dialog” youth conferences where the need for rational decision making, debates and critical thinking is even more obvious. Because of that we consider that the impact and result of this project will be long-lasting and may be seen in two different directions:

1. Individual level effect – among participants and effect in youngsters, youth workers and citizens engaged in youth work (teachers, trainers etc.). As a result their basic and fundamental skills, knowledge and attitudes will be boosted which they will use and apply in their personal development, active citizenship, social inclusion and professional employment.

2. Global level effect - increasing the productivity of the population of working age which in turns will lead to economic growth and improvement of social-economic factors as nearly 75 million people in EU (1/3 of labor force) currently have poor basic and professional skills and many of them lack sufficient level of literacy to cope with daily requirements of personal, social and economic life.

The training course will be fully implemented in English!

WORKING PROCESS

1. Preliminary information – information material for the host and partner organizations, training program, venue and important information about Bulgaria - transport, climate, currency, prices and more. The information contain requirement for documentation and reporting of travel expenses of participants as well as a list of necessary items and preparation prior to the course. So, if you reading those rows – welcome on the first phase!

2. Evaluation of personal training needs - filling in form, which will contain information on personal training needs of selected participants. The trainers will gather information and be able to carry out final tuning of the program so that maximum to meet the needs of the participants.

3. Online information packages - it will be several e-info package that will send participants before the start of training. Info packages will represent a short online course with information on the topics of the training. Course will contain concepts, theories, video presentations and links to the participants on the topic. Info packages will have a role to set wave participants to learn and motivate them before training, also to prepare

them with the necessary knowledge on the topic. Info packages will be prepared by the team-trainers who prepare the training program.

4. Homework - Participants will receive a list of tasks to prepare to national groups to cover several aspects of training strategic planning, inter-cultural learning, building partnerships and networks. The tasks will be to prepare presentations with the necessary materials: the future course of their organizations, the activities of the organizations and the national culture of the countries.

5. Training course – the program activities will be between 4-12 May 2019 in Pamporovo, Bulgaria. You will have more details below.

6. Mentoring phase – in the next 3 months after program activities (12 May – 12 July, 2019), each participant will receive mentoring support (if necessary) in two directions: directly mentoring - for the implementation of new tools and methods learned during the training; sharing of materials – our team will share useful information related with the topic of the project.

PROGRAM AND METHODOLOGY

The course is prepared and will be run on the basis of a methodology that emphasizes active participation and commitment of all who's involved. Therefore, the program is subject to regular changes and adaptations before and during the course. The activities foreseen are ice-breakers, role-plays, teambuilding and outdoor activities, debates, open space and several workshops to develop life skills and competences useful for any youth worker. The working methods are the: "Experiential learning", "Educator to Peer" and "Peer to Peer". We will like to remind you again that this training course will be quite challenging since we will be reflecting and facing challenges on individual and on group level overcoming demanding situations, we will be questioning a lot how we and others are living and will pass intensive reflection moments.

The methodology of the training course is conceived in ways that require active participation and exchange between participants. It is based on participants' own experiences and builds on concrete actions for the future. The methodology of the training program is based on the main principles of experiential learning cycle and non-formal education.

The program is designed with a logical flow that starts with introduction to concepts and progressively gets into the topic, to end up working on the creation by participants of practical results. This way, the course will close with a document containing all the information gathered in the training. Here you can find full program of the project - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RMjlugH_UJp0ObHliSBTPD7xxQZUZ3rDyssQb9XZINU/edit?usp=sharing

SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS

Age: 18+

Profile: Youth workers, trainers and volunteers actively work in youth field.

Countries: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Spain, Saint Martin, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, North Macedonia and Croatia.

Number of participants: 3 per country.

APPLY here: <https://goo.gl/forms/q6oypFELHDpM5hy82>

Deadline for applying is 22 March 2019

TRAVEL INFORMATION

We will provide the bus from Sofia to Pamporovo in the day of arrival and departure!

Please, try to look for travel options which allow you to be in Sofia **before 15.00h. on 4th May 2019 and after 16:00h. on 12th May 2019.**

If you plan to **arrive earlier** or **leave later** and you need to find an accommodation, let us know, so that we can support you. Your expenses out of the days of the training will not be reimbursed by the organizers.

Travel limits:

Sint Maarten – 1500€

Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Poland – 275€

Spain – 360€

North Macedonia – 180€

Board and lodging will be provided and paid by the Organizers of the Training Course. There will be travel reimbursement according to the Erasmus + regulations (see the table below). Please pay attention to the figures and conditions. We are strongly recommending you to have insurance while you are in Bulgaria. Each participant will be in charge of purchasing one, because no private insurance will be reimbursed.

Organizers will reimburse 100% of eligible travel costs up to the limit.

Very important: your tickets are an essential part of accounting of the project that we must keep and present to the Erasmus+ National Agency, the main funders of the training. **Therefore, if you cannot provide your original tickets, receipts, insurance and invoices clearly stating the travel agency, your name and the exact costs of the tickets, we will not be able to reimburse you.** Please **DO NOT BUY** any tickets before approval of the organizers!

VENUE

The training course will take place in hotel "Pine Hills" - <http://pine-hills.com/> Participants will be accommodated in double rooms. Each room has a bathroom and balcony. Accommodation and full board meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) are covered by CET Platform.



PROJECT TEAM



Nikolay Nikolov is a president of the youth nongovernmental organization "Civic education and training platform – CET Platform", Bulgaria. In the past he was Secretary general of National Youth Forum (NYF) and a member of the "Project management" Pool of the NYF. He has successfully completed training of trainers of the National Youth Forum in the framework of the project "Youth Academy". He has participated in numerous national and international projects. He is a successful coordinator in 8 projects under Erasmus+.

Ognian Gadoularov is international trainer (<https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/toy/ognian-gadoularov.2625/>), member of trainer's network of SALTO EuroMed, President of Foundation "Learning for change" and coordinator of international cooperation in Narodno chitalishte "Badeshte sega 2006". Ognian last six years has prepared and conducted 20 international trainings within the Youth in Action and Erasmus + Programs.



Maya Doneva is a social entrepreneur, she founded Tea House, which is a social entrepreneurship project established in Varna, Bulgaria. It aims to help young people coming from a complicated social and family background with opportunities for independent lifestyle. The Social Teahouse is a project intending to improve the quality of life of children and young people with distance to the labor market with their first job. Maya is also a youth worker, trainer and consultant having 10 years experience in the field of youth work.





Tomislav Bogdan - "I started to be involved in non-formal education 10 years ago through different projects of education of youth in the field of youth activism and volunteering. In 2012. I was the president of Youth Council in Djakovo, Croatia and Vice president of Youth Council in Osjecko- Baranjska county. In 2014. I started to work as a youthworker and establish NGO CET platform Croatia in which I am working on a position of project manager and the trainer on topics of youth activism, human rights, antidiscrimination, entrepreneurship and migrations. Erasmus+ gave me opportunity to learn a lot about diferrent topics, meet new cultures and gain new friend all around the globe."

IMPORTANT DATES

24 March 2019 – Deadline for submitting of application forms;

24-28 March 2019 – Selection of participants;

10 April 2019 – Deadline to buy your tickets and send the copies of them;

4 May 2019 – Arrival day before 14:00h. in Sofia;

12 May 2019 – Departure day after 17:00h. from Sofia;

USEFULL INFORMATION

- ✓ CAPITAL CITY IS **SOFIA**.
- ✓ OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IS **BULGARIAN**.
- ✓ THE CURRENCY IN REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA IS "LEV". THE COURSE OF EXCHANGE IS FIXED AND **1 EUR = 1.95583 BGN**.
- ✓ THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE FOR MAY IN THE MOUNTAIN ON 1300m. ALTITUDE IS **15-20 DEGREES CENTIGRADE**.
- ✓ EMERGENCY NUMBER – **112**
- ✓ FIND YOUR FLIGHT ON WWW.ESKY.COM

PROJECT PARTNERS

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