

Info-pack

for an international training course

"ECOLAB 4 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"

01-08 AUGUST | 2016
YEREVAN / VANADZOR, ARMENIA

The Organizers

EcoLab Foundation for Sustainable Development and Active Citizenship (Armenia) has been established by the alumni of Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg cooperation programs in Armenia who have previously been involved with EcoLab program for sustainable development and active citizenship. The foundation aims to empower young people from Armenia by developing their skills related to active citizenship and civil society project management. It promotes the cooperation among civil society actors, business and local self-government bodies in order to multiply the results of civil society projects and strengthen communities in rural Armenia. Through our activities we mobilize those communities and increase the number of innovative projects (social entrepreneurship, green business, public spaces, etc) in Armenia creating stimuli for their replication and multiplication all over the country. Additionally, the program activities promote democratic and participatory decision making and build mutual trust between the civic activists /initiative groups and the local self-government bodies.

TeachSurfing (Germany) is a global a platform to connect travelers to knowledge-sharing opportunities in schools and non-profits in their travel destination. Today TeachSurfing community reached 1310 users and 144 organizations from 12 countries. Since May 2015, a dedicated team in Armenia helped to organize 11 TeachSurfing events. Travelers visiting Armenia shared their skills with over 250 students in schools and organizations all over the country. As a traveler, you can search for volunteer teaching opportunities based on your skills, experience, and traveling preferences. TeachSurfing will also notify you of new teaching opportunities. As an organizer or member of a school, NGO, or any community with learning needs, you can post teaching opportunities. Moreover, you can search for travelers with special skills and invite them to your school or organization.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The venue 1 – YEREVAN (August 1-6)

Seminar will take place in **Yerevan – the capital of Armenia**. Yerevan is a political, administrative, commercial & financial, as well as cultural & educational centre of Armenia. The population is about 1.2 million people. Because of the fact Yerevan is one of the oldest cities in the world; it hides many beautiful and interesting places. To speak about Yerevan sightseeing and its endless number of attractions is absolutely impossible but your visit to Yerevan will not be complete if you miss out any of these sites – Cascade Complex, Victory Park, Matenadaran, Saryan Park, Vernissage, Erebuni Fortress and more. You can find the complete list of places to see here: <http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g293932-Activities-Yerevan.html>

The venue 2 – VANADZOR (August 6-9)

Vanadzor, is the third-largest city in Armenia and the capital of the Lori Province in the northern part of the country. It is located around 128 kilometres north of the capital Yerevan. Set in a river valley it has a milder climate than that of Yerevan. The city is in a picturesque setting, with an attractive planned town centre. Mostly crumbling Soviet-era chemical factories dominate much of the valley below the city. The area of present-day Vanadzor has been settled since the Bronze Age.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Training Course "Ecolab 4 Sustainable Development" will provide active citizenship and sustainable development education for youth workers aiming at preparing them to become change agents in their communities and transfer their knowledge to young people they work with. European countries pay little attention to the social and intergenerational justice, environment protection and fair economic redistribution focusing only on economic growth. Moreover, the public policy-making processes are far from being participatory and as a result the influence of the civil society on the public decision-making is still rather low. Training Course "Ecolab for Sustainable Development" will address the above-mentioned issues in its unique way.

Through Education for Sustainable development the Training Course will promote the economical and efficient use of resources, the thoughtful treatment of the environment and the responsibility towards future generations. Project participants will implement projects with youth they work back home aiming at strengthening their communities. These projects will find solutions to the problems their communities are facing in social, economic, environmental and cultural of Sustainable Development.

The objectives of the Training Course:

- To qualify, inspire and empower 30 youth workers to act as ambassadors of Sustainable Development;
- To support exchange of experiences among involved youth workers and youth leaders on Sustainable Development;
- To increase youth workers knowledge and awareness about Sustainable Development as a complex phenomenon and its' four dimensions;
- To facilitate process of creating new ways and techniques which can be used by youth workers in order to promote sustainability in their daily life and the youth work;
- To encourage long-term partnerships by connecting civil society actors and organizations;
- To increase number of innovative projects on Sustainable Development under the Erasmus+ Programme.

Profile of the participants:

- Youth workers, educators and Youth leaders aged 18-35.
- Ready to work on the topic of Sustainable Development
- Motivated to transfer knowledge to youth back to their organizations by organizing local projects.
- Fluent in English.
- Resident of one of the participating countries.
- Available for the whole duration of the Training Course.



TRAVEL INFORMATION



It is possible to reach Yerevan through 4 airports: Yerevan International Airport (Armenia), Gyumri Airport (Armenia), Tbilisi International Airport (Georgia) and Kutaisi Airport (Georgia).

If you arrive to Yerevan International Airport: The participants landing in Yerevan will be picked up by the organizers.

If you arrive to Tbilisi International Airport: We will arrange a bus for you from the Tbilisi airport to Yerevan. The price of the bus is 15 EUR one way.

If you arrive to Kutaisi Airport: You have to take bus to Tbilisi (cost 20 GEL) and join the bus that will bring you to Yerevan.

If you arrive to Gyumri Airport: The transfer from Gyumri to Yerevan will be organized by the organizers.

Arrival and Departure Information

01st of August is the Arrival Day. Make sure you arrive to hotel between 12:00 - 18:00. We will have a welcome dinner altogether at 19:00. The official program starts on 02nd of August.

09^h of August is a Departure Day. The check-out should be performed after the breakfast, before 12:00 o'clock.

NOTE! You can arrive to Yerevan or Tbilisi couple of days earlier or stay couple of days longer to see around or to travel. However, this should be done at your own expenses. The Hosting organization can help you to find a hostel for extra days, but you should bear those extra costs.

Tickets & Registration

You should make a small research and purchase the cheapest tickets. The deadline to purchase the tickets is **01st of July!**

NOTE! The ticket should be consulted with us before you buy it. You should **consult** the tickets with our project manager, Ms. Diana Chobanyan chobanyan@ecolab-program.net. She will help you to find the best option. **Only after the confirmation, the ticket can be bought.**

All the participants should fill in the online **Registration Form** till **15th of June, 2016**. This will help the trainers' team to develop the program that meets your expectations!

Here is the link to the Form:

<https://docs.google.com/a/apv.am/forms/d/1AV1vCnH6pAwAzYba6pUbbTGhkWb7mg01L220R7uerc/viewform?c=0&w=1>

VISA information

EU citizens as well as citizens of **Georgia, Moldova, Russian Federation and Ukraine do not need visas** to enter Armenia. The citizens of Turkey receive the visa on the border, either at the Yerevan airport or on the land border between Armenia and Georgia. The visa cost for 21 days short term visa is 6 EUR or 3000 AMD. The visa cost will be refunded by the organizers.

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

TRAVEL COSTS

COUNTRY	ORGANISATION	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	TRAVEL COST PER PERSON
Armenia	Ecolab Foundation	2	0 EUR
Bulgaria	The Starry Start of Talents Foundation	2	275 EUR
Croatia	Raplection	2	360 EUR
Czech Republic	European Youth Centre Breclav.	2	360 EUR
Estonia	Continuous Action	2	360 EUR
Germany	TeachSurfing	3	360 EUR
Georgia	Iris Group Managing Diversity	2	180 EUR
Italy	Associazione Culturale Strauss	2	360 EUR
Latvia	Orbita	2	360 EUR
Moldova	Asociatia Obsteasca EcoVisio	2	275 EUR
Romania	Asociatia Puzzle OptimEast Tg. Neamt	2	275 EUR
Russian Federation	German-Russian Exchange	2	275 EUR
Turkey	Europe-Turkey Foundation	2	275 EUR
Ukraine	Ukrainian Network of Adult Education	2	275 EUR



FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

100% OF travel costs of the participants will be reimbursed. Reimbursement will be done in **EUR**, regardless of the currency indicated on the ticket and receipt/invoice. Any tickets purchased in a local currency other than EUR, will then be converted and calculated according to the exchange rate of the month given by the European Commission. Participants will receive the travel reimbursement on spot, in cash, during the last 2 days of the Training Course.

NOTE! Please check travel budget limits above. If travel costs exceed the amount budgeted in the project. The organizers will only be able to reimburse participants the maximum travel costs indicated in the travel budget. You are therefore strongly advised to book trip travel well in advance and look for the cheapest option.

IMPORTANT! In order to receive the travel reimbursement, every participant needs to complete a **reimbursement form** that will be sent a week before the Training Course. Additionally, every participant should attach the following documents to the reimbursement form:

- ❖ **Tickets** (there must be price and name of the person stated on it).
- ❖ **Boarding passes** (in case of loss – please get a confirmation from the airlines, that the flight was taken)
- ❖ **Invoices** – yes, even if you have a ticket, our accounting still needs an **INVOICE**.
- ❖ **Online Check-in** should be made before your leave Yerevan to make sure you give as Boarding Passes from the way back as well.

➡ **Participation fee!** There is a participation fee of 40 EUR. Participants with fewer opportunities, social and economic obstacles may be **exempted** from the participation fee upon the request. The participation fee will be extracted from the travel reimbursement.

➡ **Insurance**

Please keep in mind that you are self-responsible for sufficient insurance (illness/personal liability/cancellation/theft etc.). Ecolab Foundation takes no responsibility for the insurance. Make sure you have a travel insurance valid in Armenia from 01st to 09th of August.



ACCOMMODATION

The first part of the program (August 1-6) will take place in Yerevan. The second half in Vanadzor (August 6-9) .

In Yerevan, the participants will be accommodated in **Hotel Capital** in Yerevan city centre. Here is the web-site of the hotel: <http://capitalhotel.am/>

The Capital Hotel is a friendly and comfortable hotel located in Aygedzor area of Yerevan - one of the most beautiful areas in the city centre with a beautiful sight to ravine from balconies. It is located on 10 minutes walking distance from the city centre and 5 minutes from the Metro Station and [Lover's Park](#).

Free Services:

- Wi-Fi Internet
- 24 hour Reception and Security
- Medical Service
- Outdoor Swimming
- Satellite TV
- Phone
- Air conditioning
- Hairdryer
- Single use sanitary-hygienic items



Other Services:

- Laundry and Dry Cleaning
- Lobby Bar
- Cars Rental
- Bar
- Summer Café
- Souvenirs and Gift Shops



➤ Rooms:

The accommodation will be organized in Double and Triple Rooms, 2-3 participants per room.

➤ **Address of the Hotel:** Aygedzor 53 B, Yerevan, Republic of Armenia

NOTE ! In Vanadzor city, the participants will be accommodated in **Kirovakan Hotel**, that is situated in the summit of Vanadzor city offering a unique panoramic view to the surrounding mountains, lakes and the city.

Web-site: <http://www.hotelkirovakan.com/en>

PREPARATION FOR THE TRAINING COURSE



Language: The language of the course is **English**. Participants should be able to communicate in English.



Intercultural Evening

During a special evening we will share characteristics from our culture. We ask you to bring foods and drinks to share! You can also think of some other things to share with the group from your culture: stories, dances / songs etc. In case you play an instrument, it might be very nice to bring it. Just no power point presentation or country promotion videos, as it would be the best if you can share something in your own words! By the way, to present something from your culture does not mean it has to be something from your country: it can also be from a region, a city etc.



Homework and Daily Program

Two weeks before the Training Course we will send you a small homework to complete in your Country group. The Daily program will be also sent together with the homework.



NGO Fair

One of the aims of the Training Course is to develop cooperation and new projects between the NGO's/ That is why we are going to organize an NGO fair where every organization will have a chance to present itself. Make sure you bring some informational materials, flyers, booklets or publications representing your organization.

YOUTHPASS Certificates

All participants will receive a Youth Pass certificate in the end of the Training Course. Upon their request participants will get also Annex to Youth Pass with 8 Key Competences.



Facebook Group

Please join the Facebook group of the project and let's start getting to know each other. Here is the link:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/540252656136480/?fref=ts>



DEADLINES

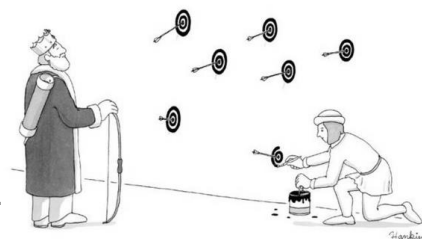
JUNE 10th – The participants are chosen by the sending organizations.

JUNE 15th – The Registration Forms are submitted by the participants.

JULY 01st – The tickets are bought by the participants.

JULY 25th – The daily program and the homework is sent to the participants.

JULY 28th – The arrival list and the airport pick up information is sent.





Armenia is usually referred to as a sunny country. Its climate ranges from dry subtropical to cold. The mountain peaks are covered with eternal snow, while their slopes are lined by alpine meadows. August is the ideal month for visiting Armenia with pleasant temperature (sometimes too hot) and virtually no rain, except for possible thunderstorms in the mountains. More info: <http://www.meteo.am>



Currency in Armenia:

Armenian national currency is the Dram (AMD). There are ATM machines and banks all around the city. Payments with VISA/Master Card credit cards are possible in most of the supermarkets, cafes, shops and restaurants. For the small local shops it's always good to have some cash. The exchange offices are located in the banks and some big supermarkets. No passport is needed to exchange money.

1 EUR – 550 AMD
1 USD - 480 AMD
1 GBP - 700 AMD



USEFUL CONTACTS

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