

InfoPack

Outdoing

- training course for youth workers to explore the power of outdoor and experiential education methods when working with inclusion groups –
-

The idea behind

The great outdoors is a perfect place to organize activities for young people – it helps them focus, be more present, and, contrary to popular belief, be less distracted. The problem addressed by this project is that too many times, nature seems to be a place reserved for ‘sporty’ people, a place for a niche group who are fit – this project aims to break that stereotype by developing youth workers’ competencies in delivering good quality programs in nature, for young people who are at the risk of exclusion because of physical conditions.

The main needs and issues which we are trying to address with this project are:

- young people who are physically challenged have limited access to outdoor activities, although their condition many times allows and encourages them to be active
- the youth workers have limited competences and self-trust to work with inclusion groups

Objectives:

- Provide 18 youth workers with a theoretical approach as to why nature should be used when working with young people, by giving them access to at least 3 relevant resources on theory of outdoor education
- Provide a space to 18 youth workers for exchanging good practices, experiences and resources about the use of nature with physical-exclusion groups, by bringing them together for the Training
- Raise awareness of local and international community about the impact and effects that nature can have on youths who are excluded because of their physical condition, through press releases and other documents
- Develop the participants’ confidence and initiatives of working with physical-exclusion groups, through a hands-on approach and involving them in direct work with excluded young people measuring their availability and motivation before and after the project
- Develop the participants’ skills in the creation of non-formal educational programs implemented in nature, aimed at physical-exclusion groups, by supporting them in creating activities dedicated to this topic, which can later be used in their organisations

Methodology:

The project will make use of the principles of non-formal education (eg: participant centered approach, group seen as a learning resource, adaptability of the program, holistic approach, trainers are facilitators of the learning process etc) and of experiential education. There will be elements of low-ropes (this is the name given for activities that challenge participants to walk on a line situated between two trees, 0.5 meters from the ground, for example). The schedule will include a hands-on approach and putting things to practice.

Organizational details:

Where: Romania, Băile Herculane

When: 23-29.07.2021 (travel days: 22 and 30th)

Who: Italy, Germany and Romania

Participants' profile:

- 6 participants from every country
- aged 18+
- person who belongs to or works for the partner organizations as volunteer or as part/full time employee
- person who works with young people (aged 14 – 35), as either a youth worker, or a teacher, or youth mentor etc
- has interest and is motivated to learn more about experiential education and working with inclusion groups
- speaks English
- understands the value of participating in this project, including the implementation of various tasks

Participants commit themselves to actively participate in the whole process, including:

- reading all the information carefully;
- communicating timely with the organizers;
- preparing adequately for the training course;
- taking actively part in the full duration of the activities;
- participating in the evaluation process after the course and the dissemination of the results
- obtaining a full insurance (travel risks, medical, injuries) as the participant's responsibility;
- understanding that pictures, videos and images taken at the course, as well as the materials produced during the activities, can be used to document the activity in reports or websites or social networks, or for promotional material;

Application for this training course:

If we got your interest, then please fill in this application form before the 29th of June, 2021:

<https://forms.gle/PRFppxbeNhMw5AL27>

Good to know:

All meals and accommodation are covered due to the support of the Erasmus+ Programme

Transportation is paid by the participants, but the costs will be reimbursed, after the completion of the dissemination plan and upon receiving of all original tickets. The maximum amount that will be reimbursed is as follows:

- 275 euros for participants coming from Germany and Italy
- 20 euros for participants coming from Romania

The project is subject to sudden changes, reflecting the general situation of the pandemic. All safety measures will be taken, but the organizers rely heavily on the open and honest communication and cooperation with participants.