



Erasmus+



Training course

CREATIVE WRITING AS TOOL FOR COMMUNITY CHANGE

Struga, Macedonia

09. - 17. December 2019





With the training course 'Creative Writing as Tool for Community Change' we aim to increase competencies of youth workers and educators to explore ways of using creative writing as tool of addressing community issues and challenges and moreover as a tool giving an opportunity to the members of the community to express their concerns, ideas or to create a feeling of belonging to their communities. We decided to focus on creative writing because we got inspired by results of the strategic partnership project 'Creative Learning Cookbook' implemented with support of the Estonian National Agency. One of the key results of the project was a booklet of methods and techniques 'Creative Writing Cookbook': <https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/toolbox/tool/creative-writing-cookbook.1896/>.

We tried out several of the activities with our young people and their reaction made us motivated to create a training course giving us and our partners an opportunity to gain deeper understanding of creative writing.

Objectives of the project:

1. To strengthen knowledge of the participants on using creative writing as innovative tool of addressing community challenges
2. To develop capacities of the participants needed to use creative writing methods and techniques in their work on the community level
3. To provide the participants an opportunity to interact with hosting community and directly apply their new knowledge in the practice during the training days
4. To support sharing lessons learned across participant's countries and to support exchanging good working practices in the field of community work and addressing community challenges
5. To increase participant's knowledge on the Erasmus+ programme and support developing new project ideas (especially under Key Action 1)



*This training course is involving 35 participants representing:
Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Ireland, United Kingdom, Italy,
Norway, Spain, Romania and Macedonia.*

Each country should send 3 person/participast with following profile:

- age 22-30 (35)
- previous experiences in youth work, field of non-formal education
- youth workers or youth educators
- communicative level of English, willingness to take part in international TC and work in intercultural settings
- ability to take part in all project stages: in preparation activities, TC itself and in follow up activities in their organizations
- strong interest in creativity, creative writing, intercultural learning and dialogue, fighting discrimination and social exclusion, raising knowledge on the Erasmus+ program

Participating organizations:

Volunteers Centre Skopje - Macedonia
Puntland European Associations Network ry - Finland
PUNTLAND DIASPORA FORUM - Sweden
Sahan TV - Denmark
HORUSOCOD - Norway
FAYO Foundation - United Kingdom
UDUG ASSOCIATION - Ireland
ASOCIATIA HAIR REDIVIVUS BUZAU - Romania
XERACION VALENCIA - Spain
MINE VAGANTI NGO - Italy

	15:00 - 16:30	Exploring Local Community through Tools of Creative Writing	Creative writing in youth practices	Creative Writing as Tool to Address Community Challenges: Work on Ideas, Presentation of Ideas, Feedback.	Creative Writing as Tool for Working with Young People with Fewer Opportunities	Creative Writing as Tool to Fight Discrimination		Presentation of New Project Ideas	
		Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	
	17:00 - 18:30	Discussion on Role of Reflection and Evaluation in Learning Process. Presentation of Youth Pass and Key Life Learning Competencies	Writer's block and tools for breaking it	ERAMSU+ Program as Way of Increasing Mobility of Young People.	Creative Writing as Tool for Working with Young People with vulnerable youth	Creative Writing as Tool for reconciliation		Final Evaluation of the Project. Giving Youth Pass Certificates	
		Reflection time	Reflection time	Reflection time	Reflection time	Reflection time	Reflection time		
Dinner	19:00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
	21:00	Host night	Intercultural night	Intercultural night	Intercultural night	Intercultural night	Intercultural night	Saying Goodbye in non-formal atmosphere	

Accommodation

The Training course will be held in Struga, a town situated in the south of Macedonia, near the Ohrid lake. Participants will be staying in hotel "Solferino" through the whole duration of the training course. Sleeping area, activity rooms and the restaurant are all in the territory of the hotel. Rooms for 2-3 people will be provided for the participants. Toiletries will be provided as well. Wi-Fi works in all the facilities of the hotel. Accommodation, food and lodging will be covered by the project for the days of the training course as well as three meals per day and two coffee breaks.



Tickets & travel reimbursement

Travel costs of all participants will be covered by the budget of the project in accordance with the distance calculator of the European Commission.

Country Amount

Finland 360 EUR

Norway

Sweden

Ireland

UK

Spain 275 EUR

Denmark

Italy

Romania

Macedonia 180 EUR

Travel reimbursement will be done in maximum 90 days after the end of the activity through bank transfer to one of the participants or the sending organization, after sending all the original tickets and filling the Participant Mobility Report. In order to reimburse the travel costs, we will need original tickets, invoices and boarding passes. We can make the reimbursement based on these documents, so please keep your tickets/boarding passes in a safe place, during the whole travel, to Struga, Macedonia and back home.

After returning, send all your travel documents to:

[strugacreative19@gmail.com!](mailto:strugacreative19@gmail.com)

Insurance

Participants are responsible for getting their own travel insurance and any medicaments and treatment that they use. The project does NOT cover the insurance and medications.

Please fill in the registration form so we know more about you!

Important!!!

Before buying the tickets, please send us your travel plans for double-checking!



Important

1. Check if your travel documents (passport or ID for participants from countries that can enter Macedonia with ID) are valid.
2. Remember about travel documents. Do not forget to collect your boarding passes and any other bills/tickets from your travel.
3. Take medicines that you use.
4. Pack cosmetics.
5. The electricity is standard European: 220V, 50Hz, 2 pin plugs.
6. Feel free to bring information about your organization and activities that your organizations are doing.
7. The program of the seminar will include intercultural evening thus you are welcome to bring with you something to taste, some music or anything presenting your culture.

Currency

The currency is Macedonian Denar. 1 EURO = 61,5 MKD. You can find an exchange office at the airport, bus station and in the city. In shops (especially bigger ones) you can easily pay with credit card. Before leaving, do not forget to exchange Macedonian denars back to Euros or your currency, because Macedonian denars can not be exchanged outside of Macedonia.

If you are curious about the prices check out following link:

https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/country_result.jsp?country=Macedonia&displayCurrency=EUR

Weather

Weather in December can be quiet rainy and cold - around 0-8°C.

More about the city and hosting country you can find on the following links:

<http://www.exploringmacedonia.com/>

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/macedonia>



Travel and transport issues

When you will buy a ticket to Macedonia, please let us know ASAP, then we will be able to figure out who is coming when - and hopefully at least for some of you organize the transport directly from the airport.

When you will arrive to Skopje International Airport (SKP), exchange no more than 20 euros at the airport, it should be enough for both of your bus tickets. Take a bus to Skopje Transport Center, the ticket is 180 MKD (3 Euro) and you can buy it in the bus or at Manola Shuttle store on airport. Check the timetable for more information:

<https://www.manoragroup.com/en>

Then - check for the next bus from Skopje to Struga. One way tickets cost around 500 - 600 MKD (8 - 10 Euro) and you can buy it from the Skopje Transport Center. Buses to Struga from Skopje, please check the [website](#) or contact us to be sure.

Hotel Solferino - Struga, is located on street "Partizanska", number 22. The city has no airport, nor railway, so you can reach it only by bus or car. From the main bus station you can reach the hotel by taxi. Or if you arrive at the bus stop nearby the hotel DRIM, you are in the center of the city and after only a 10 minutes walk on the main street you will see on your right side the yellow/green hotel with parking place. The price of the taxi from the bus station in Struga to the hotel should be around 50 - 80 MKD (around 1 - 1,50 EUR) (1 EUR=61.5 MKD)



This project will be organized with our partner Puntland European Associations Network (PEDAN) ry from Finland who is the applicant organization and Volunteers Centre Skopje who will be the hosting organization. The project will take place in Struga, Republic of Macedonia from 9th (Arrival day) until 17th (Departure day) December 2019.

Macedonia:

Volunteers Centre Skopje
www.vcs.org.mk
www.voiceskopje.org
www.facebook.com/vcs.skopje
Instagram: @vcs.skopje
Twitter: @contact_vcs

Finland:

Puntland European Associations
Network (PEDAN) ry
http://www.pedan.eu
e-mail: info@pedan.eu

For any information and questions don't hesitate to contact us:

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