



YOUNG & CREATIVE

BERLIN, 5-14. DECEMBER

YOUNG . CREATIVE . INSPIRED

A TOOLKIT ABOUT CREATIVITY

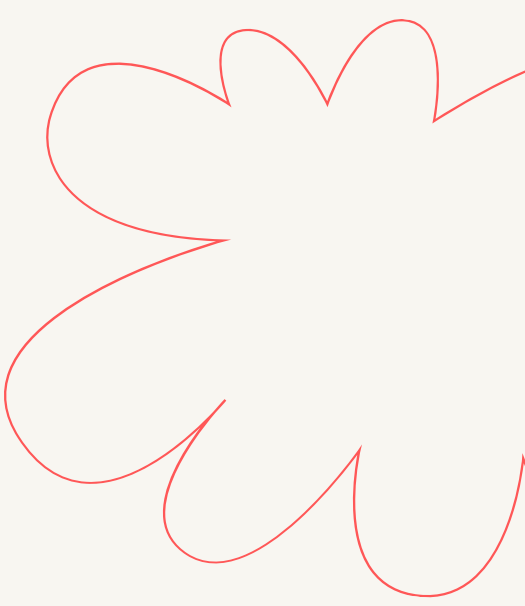
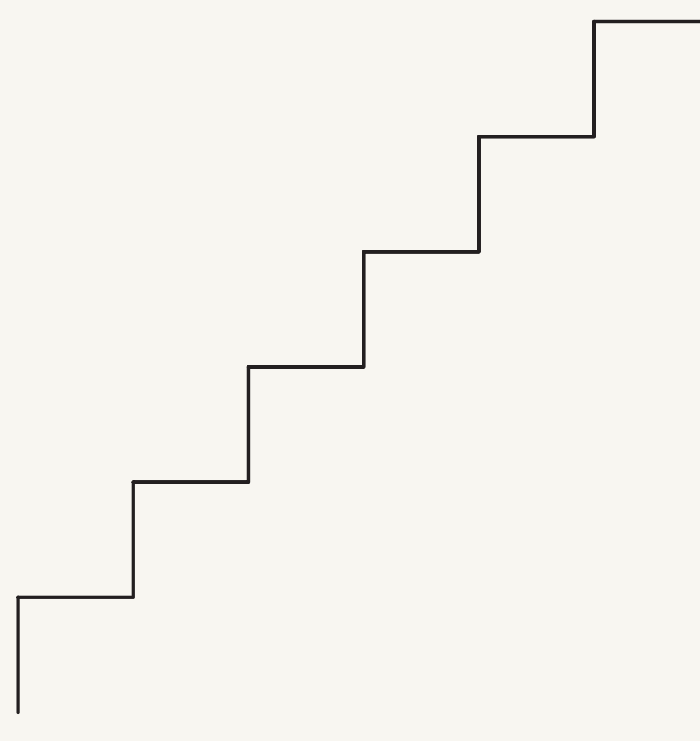


Table of Contents

- 01 Introduction**
 - 02 Articles – Why is youth work important for the community?**
 - 03 Workshops**
- 
- 



01 **INTRODUCTION**

YOUNG AND CREATIVE

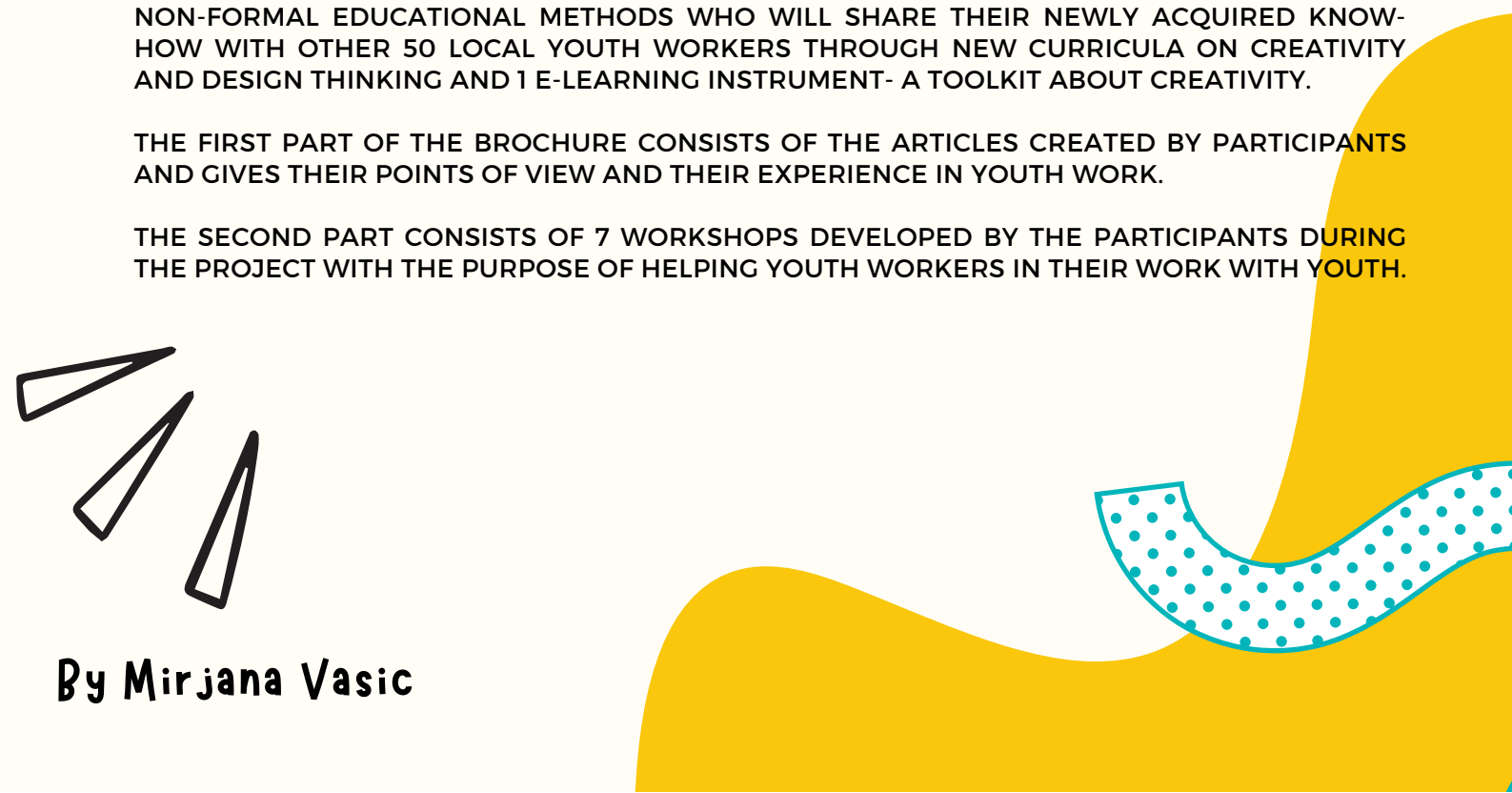
THIS TOOLKIT IS PREPARED WITH THE PURPOSE OF GIVING AN OVERVIEW OF THE TRAINING COURSE "YOUNG AND CREATIVE" AND GIVING THE LEARNING INSTRUMENT TO YOUTH WORKERS IN THEIR WORK WITH YOUTH.

THE TRAINING COURSE TOOK PLACE IN BERLIN, GERMANY FROM 5-14 DECEMBER 2022. AND BROUGHT TOGETHER PARTICIPANTS FROM 6 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, GERMANY, ESTONIA, LATVIA, SERBIA, ROMANIA, AND TURKEY. THE PROJECT HAS BEEN SUPPORTED BY EUROPEAN COMMISSION ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME.

THE MAIN AIM OF THE PROJECT "YOUNG AND CREATIVE" IS TO DEVELOP, THE CREATIVE AND THE INNOVATIVE POTENTIAL OF 42 YOUTH WORKERS THROUGH ONE TRAINING COURSE USING NON-FORMAL EDUCATIONAL METHODS WHO WILL SHARE THEIR NEWLY ACQUIRED KNOW-HOW WITH OTHER 50 LOCAL YOUTH WORKERS THROUGH NEW CURRICULA ON CREATIVITY AND DESIGN THINKING AND 1 E-LEARNING INSTRUMENT- A TOOLKIT ABOUT CREATIVITY.

THE FIRST PART OF THE BROCHURE CONSISTS OF THE ARTICLES CREATED BY PARTICIPANTS AND GIVES THEIR POINTS OF VIEW AND THEIR EXPERIENCE IN YOUTH WORK.

THE SECOND PART CONSISTS OF 7 WORKSHOPS DEVELOPED BY THE PARTICIPANTS DURING THE PROJECT WITH THE PURPOSE OF HELPING YOUTH WORKERS IN THEIR WORK WITH YOUTH.



By Mirjana Vasic

Why is youth work important for the community?

In any country in Europe, there are always enthusiastic young people and youth workers who are ready to take an active and active part in activities to support the youth movement, even in conditions of lack of necessary resources.

It is possible to ensure that youth work has a long-term and widespread impact on the lives of young men and women throughout Europe only if these efforts are continuous, their importance is universally recognized and the necessary resources are provided to participants.

Work with young people can be carried out at any level, in any space or dialog environment, including in the form of virtual or direct interaction. Such work can be a one-time event or a program of regular events in which young people can interact with each other. In the process of this work, young people and youth workers develop together due to the fact that, for example, they learn to resist prejudice, solve personal, social and social problems and in practice be guided by the principles of democracy.

Voluntary participation is one of the key characteristics of working with young people. It is also important that this work does not allow condemnation or evaluation. Youth workers and young people themselves act on an equal footing, building, developing and maintaining these relations by joint efforts. Participation in such work gives young people the opportunity not only to gain independence, take responsibility for their actions and independently manage their own lives, but also to show civic activism, questioning and challenging established norms in order to eventually achieve positive social and political transformations.

From a practical point of view, working with young people is the route that groups of young people who are ready for change and development choose for themselves.

The development and quality assurance of work with young people is becoming increasingly important in all European countries. Approaches to quality assurance mechanisms, systems and tools vary widely - from national quality marks and professional standards to licensing of educational service providers and evaluation of youth organizations or youth workers.



By Alina Avramchuk

Why is youth work important for the community?

Active participation of youth in any society is important and necessary. Youth is the bridge for innovation and has the potential to change the future generation towards being a more superior human being. Youths are quick learners, they adapt to new things very quickly as they have most of the curiosity regarding things happening around them. Involving youths in community support, distinct education, etc would be a nice step as it will not only help the youth work to enhance their skills but also help the society/community in general.



Young people are very creative and are very expressive in their feelings. If the community would give them more space to do their things, they will be surely amazed by the results. Youth work can make people more confident, resilient and optimistic for the future. Young people create, describe and apply their learning and skills. Youth work can make them understand better about other communities, traditions or culture in practice, their thinking becomes more broader and open to new people. It also helps them in managing themselves, looking after themselves on their own.

If youths are a part of a community, it means the community is on the right track. As per my opinion, participation in youth works really helped me grow my personality, be more expressive and open to others.

As a community we should always respect the new ideas and methods suggested by the youths because evolution is very essential for humans and if we won't change ourselves with time, we will be left behind in the race of innovation.



By Abhishek Chourasia

Why is youth work important for the community?

Youth work is aimed at all young people between the ages of 6 and 27. It includes youth association work, open child work, and open youth work as well as community-oriented programmes. The focus of youth work is on political and social education, participation, sports-oriented, media-related, intercultural and gender-reflective youth work, cultural, natural history and technical education as well as international youth work.

Due to the voluntary and open character of the youth work, the offers are based on the interests and the living environment of the young people. They promote social responsibility and encourage social commitment.

Volunteering is similar to work like this, and I have had this fever for four years. Volunteering and this work help to develop the self, the expression of desires and the development of personal passions.

Why is youth work important for the community? Youth work is key to giving young people the space, support and confidence to have their voices heard on issues that matter to them and also to provide volunteering and social action opportunities.



Why is youth work important for the community?

Youth organizations provide a safe space for young people to learn the many skills necessary for adult life. Without the support of youth workers, it is difficult for young people to reach their full potential which can result in a great loss to the young people themselves and ultimately to society.

With life becoming more and more difficult for young parents, going through many economic hardships, sometimes they just do not have enough time for their children who are often left to their own devices. This can lead to many wrong paths in life that would have been easily preventable if those kids had strong guidelines, someone they can lean on in difficult times, and the company of other teenagers finding themselves in the same situation.

Youth workers are role models to young people and are often the only adult person that a young person looks up to and places his or her trust in. In today's economic times with so many cuts to services across the country, youth work is under constant threat. This may jeopardize all the hard work spent by youth workers building relationships within communities. The loss of such an essential profession would have a great detrimental effect on the lives of young people, which would also have a negative effect on society.

This way local communities can be included in youth lives. That way they can gain more information on what are the requirements of the youth residing within those communities. At the same time following the needs of youth, innovations are usually connected with new generations, problems they are facing, and activities necessary to engage youth for work in local communities.

The interaction between youth and youth workers can greatly benefit the local community. This helps the information on youth needs to be transferred much quicker which helps transform the local society and provide the youth with the tools to cope with the challenges of growing up.



By Ivan Avramelovic

Why is youth work important for the community?

Youth work is an informal way of education that targets young adults to adolescents. This work improves the local community in many ways such as by supporting the personal development of youth, by creating awareness in social topics, and by creating a bond within the community.

First of all, by engaging in youth work projects, workshops, and different activities; young people find a place where they can meet their peers beside the school. In this way, even the aim of the youth work is not personal development, they learn to express their ideas; meet new people and new perspectives; improve their communication skills. Furthermore, sometimes the aim of the project is personal development itself and, in this way, participants can gain higher self-confidence, get more creative, etc. These youngsters who are more improved in these areas can contribute to the society better.

Moreover, some of the youth work aims to create awareness in the topics that concern society such as environmental pollution, climate change, gender equality, racism etc.. As a result, the community gains members who are more sensitive about these issues, which leads to solutions and a better future.

Finally, through the youth work the community can have a better bond. People from different generations, backgrounds, ethnicities come together as well as their peers. They become more aware of each other's needs, life perspectives, differences, and similarities. As a result the community has a better understanding of each other.



By Ceren Saglam

Why is youth work important for the community?

This is really important for young people as they learn new things and gain a lot of skills.

For example:

- The ability to communicate with people
- The ability to express your thoughts correctly



- Set certain goals and achieve them
- Set priorities
- Unlock your potential

By Darja Bondar

Why is youth work important for the community?

By Anastasija Tarbejeva

Youth is an undeniably valuable part of every community, having fresh ideas, the ability to come up with original solutions to modern problems, and knowledge of the newest technologies to innovate upon them. Despite that, most young people don't have the motivation or opportunity to contribute to their local communities, and because of that it is really important for youth workers to find new and interesting ways to attract them, as well as to give them a chance to start actualizing themselves in a familiar environment.

The more we include young people in participation in innovations and inventions for fields such as education, arts, sciences, etc., the better our communities will become, at least I believe that to be the case, and because of that youth work becomes vital for today's society. Many young people can be quite ambitious if given the right idea, direction and opportunity to try something new, so it is crucial for youth workers to understand who they are working with and find the much needed approach, one that many formal institutions lack.



From my personal experience of working closely with youth workers as well as being one of the younger generation myself, I can claim that the right balance between free space and restriction is needed to get the most value out of any workshop. Young people need enough freedom to express themselves, the right environment to not be embarrassed and just enough of the push to get them started and paint a clear and understandable frame of work.

For example of youth work in my own hometown I can provide our city's self-government of young people (Jūrmalas Jauniešu dome). Even though it has its flaws like any such organization, it has brought forth many good improvements for the local community, while also being accessible to all. One of such improvements has been a newly built youth center with a kitchen, quiet rooms, working computer rooms, game zones and also sound record rooms. Being organized and operated by the members of youths self-governance, it has its way to voluntarily attract young people to come with their friends, find new people, work on new projects and organize various events for entertainment or educational purposes.



That said, being a successful youth worker means invaluable benefits to your local community, because active and ambitious young people are very likely to approach any issue or interest with passion, so if workers are able to spark that in them, then it will surely bring any progress forward.

Why is youth work important for the community?

Youth work is important for teenagers because they can accumulate a lot of information and they can learn how to communicate with other people and express their ideas.

First of all, teamwork it's important for the new generation because they can develop a lot of skills like, how to communicate their ideas, how to express themselves, how to work with more than 2 people and the most important thing, they can learn life lessons from other, and not to repeat mistakes that other people do. A good example to be better understood it's the program Erasmus because this program it's based on the personal development of young people in other countries. Here, you need to communicate with everyone and you can learn something new every day because it's a diversity of cultures and mindsets and maybe life lessons.

Second of all, working with teenagers from the local community it's important for them because they can create really good friendships and they learn how to accept each other. But we have already talked about these things above. Teamwork in your local community can help it, like making the place famous for your work and making people come on these kinds of projects to see and learn some good things. About that, I like to think that my city can be a good example. So, Focșani, it's a little city and it's not that famous, but a few teachers from my town organise a project called "Boovie". The "Boovie" project is based on reading books, and then young people create trailers based on the books studied.

In conclusion, youth work is important for the local community and for the town, but most importantly for the teenagers.



By Elena Mihaela Goga

Why is youth work important for the community?

Youth work is a valuable pillar of any local community. There are many ways in which to be a guiding hand in that whole process in which the impactful, and energetic youth are ready to bring upon change to the world.

The first reason that proves how youth work is important to the local community is the appearance of change. When one part of a community activates it impacts the entirety of that community. Similarly to how inertia works, once you get something started the youth can join in on organising their surroundings. But there needs to be it continues to move and stay in its natural state of movement, ie. change.

Another aspect that arises from the youth sector's activation within their local community is the ability to motivate and activate others around them. So when you make a move and leave an impact on your environment, the environment gives back, in the same way.

One more important thing to take into consideration is the idea of passing knowledge on. The context of this is that time and events repeat throughout history. So it is of the utmost importance that the youth sector gets a good idea on how to act and how to fight for the change they want from the generation before.

At the end it's the youth's role to bring upon change, and the best that can be done is to provide the youth sector with valuable tools on how to deal and prevail within the circumstances they find themselves and the things they'd like to change.



Why is youth work important for the community?

The best way to develop a local community is through youth since they are the spine of the community and the future builders of our environment.

They are the decision-makers future-oriented the future. Supporting youth work activities in local communities will speed up the process of development and letting the youth work access to the new generation will make the process more efficient and future oriented.

This process will also support the development of the youth workers' experience. Also, having young leaders who are interested in youth is more beneficial for local communities to improve education.

While working as a youth worker in my Erasmus project, this experience has let me combine my creativity with discipline and the whole youth work is proof that you can have both at the same time.

Local communities have always needed youth workers and it might seem like a light effect however this kind of experience will have a high return to the local communities.

Youth workers can also aim for disadvantaged few in the local communities and gain them to community so they can be an active citizen.

Also, another way to say a youth works is an active citizen in the society that shows effort to improve or benefit.

This kind of activity empowers young people in the decision making mechanism of the local community and lets them gain the feel of responsibility and how to handle it.

Finally, as a youth worker you are also responsible to present your local community to other communities to benefit them and get attraction.



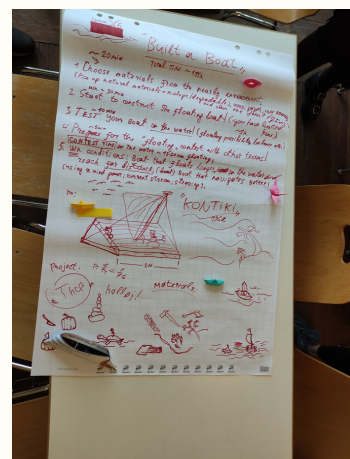
By Ibrahim Ahmedoglu

Why is youth work important for the community?

Young people are the future of the country. They come up with a lot of interesting and new things. They create unusual projects, festivals, holidays, and so on. And in this way, they support the culture and development of the country.

For example, in Estonia, young people make signs on the pavement, in front of a pedestrian crossing, signs such as: "Stop, make sure and go" or "Have a nice day." By doing this, they warn and protect people from accidents and traffic accidents. There is also a so-called USU in schools, as student self-government is deciphered. This is an organization that includes students. And their tasks are to decorate the school for the holidays (Christmas, Teacher's Day, Halloween, and so on), they also do contests (talent contest, costume contest, and so on) and they also invite different people, for example, deputies, actors, singers, and so on. Thanks to them, schools are fun and interesting to learn.

Young people help society from all areas (technologists, arts, economics, and so on). And when there is help, then young people do everything that would be good and calm in society.



Why is youth work important for the community?

Age plays an important role in our society. The number of years a person has lived shows how much experience he has. It may seem that this means that the older a person is, the more useful he will be in work.



But in practice, younger generations show themselves much better in local projects. All of this raises a question. Why is youth work important for the local community?

I think I already know the answer to this question. Passion. As simple as that.

And if you think about it, it's true, youth work is necessary to support fast growing trends and create an active and productive environment.

Adolescents are critical partners in achieving sustainable economic and social development and in identifying innovative ways to address the challenges facing countries and local communities.

Yet not many of them have a chance to participate in the decision-making process that affects their lives and the life of the local community, and their potential contribution to society is often not taken into account. In conclusion, we can say that teenagers play a very important role in our society.



By Danila Bardin

Why is youth work important for the community?

In Romania youth work has some legal priorities, such as: prioritizing the child's best interest, respecting the child's dignity, listening to the child's opinion and others like it (for 13 to 18 years old, in the 272/2004 law), as well as ensuring the participation of young people in the decisions that concern them and increasing the degree of participation of young people in public life to encourage them to assume individual or group responsibilities (for those who has more than 18 years old, in 350/2006 law).

Another priority in working with young people in Romania is the promotion of strategies based on the results of current social research. For instance, researchers and popular media use the mid-to-late 1990s as starting birth years and the early 2010s as ending birth years for the zoomers. The negative effects of screen time are most pronounced in adolescents compared to younger children. That is why most of the activities in youth work should be interactive so that the community may benefit from the social skills that are acquired only through social activities. For this purpose, several volunteer programs for young people have been developed in our hometown and some of these volunteer programs were initiated from the very beginning by young students themselves (an example being "Green at the theater").

As a school counselor, I collaborated with the Youth Center in our town to run projects where older volunteers helped younger children and youth with various activities (such as "Volunteering seen up close").

But why is all of that important in our community?

When young people participate and get involved in organizing local community activities they become more responsible and less passive or actively dissatisfied with the already existing realities and they become more proactive, which is the main purpose of all forms of education.

If we add the Erasmus programs as examples of important youth work in our local community, we hope that the traditional way and the modern way of behaving (which are both included) can smooth the path to the new solution of the modern world by keeping in mind what was the resilient way of doing things in our past.

All school counselors in Romania work in schools, but are coordinated by CJRAE (County Center for Educational Resources and Assistance). In CJRAE we have many Erasmus programs and I took part in C.R.E.S.C. in Vrancea for the reintegration of immigrants. This program is very useful for creating a friendly atmosphere, for reducing cultural stereotypes and for supporting immigrants or migrants that came to our country.



By Iulia Soare

Why is youth work important for the community?

Youth work is important for the community and for the individual. It provides a chance to learn new skills, make a contribution and gain experience that can be used in a career later on. There are many different types of youth work, including: volunteering, mentoring, teaching and coaching. Youth work can happen in an organized way, such as through an NGO or school program, international youth exchanges(short term or long term), training courses on an individual basis through informal relationships with young adults.

We all start our life by asking ourselves who we are and what we want to do in our life . I still haven't received a proper answer to this but I sure do know what I enjoy doing the most . I tried different things while trying to find myself and still the most memorable ones are activities where I got to work with people around my age.



The idea of bringing up together young people from different regions is to be appreciated and such opportunities must be taken advantage of. The young people are commonly known to portray the future because they generate new ideas and bring energy to add to the already existing storage of knowledge. They deliver enthusiasm and eagerness which leads to new inventions and discoveries that can benefit societies and humanity in the long run.

As I live in a small town of southern Serbia, chances of engaging and participating in such projects and any other activity are very limited. As a final year student, I believe that this is the right time to acquire additional knowledge and experience, which is why I express my wish to take part in such events. My main motivation for participating in these kinds of programs is that I will be given the chance to meet up with new people-make long lasting friendships, exchange thoughts and ideas, learn from each other, and overall gain a new experience.



Participation in such projects for sure has countless benefits, the knowledge, skills and experiences obtained are incredibly valuable and that will serve to further expand anyone's horizons. The experience gained and the knowledge learned from this event would probably inspire anyone to take any sort of initiative and together with the young people do something better for their community as well. Perhaps the best idea would be bringing up together students and organizing seminars/conferences with the main focus on the value of education. And by doing so hopefully to inspire and be a great example for the upcoming generations as well.

By Nektar Nasufi

Why is youth work important for the community?

Youth work is important for the local community due to the fact that the identity starts to shape around the ages of 12-20. Raising awareness in young people about various topics and involving them in activities about these topics will give them a sense of competence in their society.

The workshops or activities for young people may include a huge variety of issues. For instance, educating young people about the current problems of today's society will let them improve their society. Some of these issues might include social inclusion and environmental crisis. By raising awareness about these topics, young people will be able to take action in their communities to solve these problems or raise awareness in other people. Another level of benefits of youth work in local communities is to give the young people a sense of competence in terms of their ambitions which can also develop their communities. One example for this is educating young people about entrepreneurship and how to build their business ideas, which will improve both youngsters individually and their community in in order to develop their society.



One other benefit of youth work for local communities is it enables the young people to have an understanding of how the youth work is established and they can continue working with young people generation by generation. For instance, today if a young person learns how to communicate, how to develop their ideas and how to make them real, tomorrow they can work with other youngsters and teach them how to do it. The system is more like a cycle that doesn't stop and improve young people within their local communities. It also doesn't stop with only developing in their own communities, youth work has a snowball effect. Let's say you worked with young people in a small community and helped them to have a sense of competence in a topic. With dissemination activities and sustainability aspects of youth work, they will be able to reach out more people, and the people they reach will work with many more. The little steps may become a huge effect on preserving the world we all live in and young people can innovate their future by youth work.

Why is youth work important for the community?

Youth work doesn't only have an effect on young people, but it also has an effect on adults. The young people who received non-formal education by youth work will be able to change their environment in many aspects as mentioned above. Meanwhile the adults in their the environment will be affected by the changes that young people are implementing. Many adults appreciate the young people and their improvement by trying to develop their society. In most societies it can even become a mentorship between professional adults and young adults. In addition, non governmental organizations appreciate competent young people who would like to engage in activities voluntarily and give an effort to expand the awareness about various topics in local communities. Young people become able to work with NGOs and have a chance to expand their effect on various problems in the world we all live in. For instance, in terms of my experience, after I participated in various different youth exchange projects I became more aware about social inclusion and the problems that migrants, immigrants and refugees face. I started to merge my knowledge about the topic I gained from projects and my field which is psychology and I created a business idea in another youth exchange which involved building our own business idea. I established networks with young people from other countries and we decided to make this idea real in future steps. My idea became a based, strong and applicable idea, in addition it became intercultural by my networks during youth exchange.

In my point of view, youth work is a step for local communities to grow bigger, become international and improve the world we all live in.



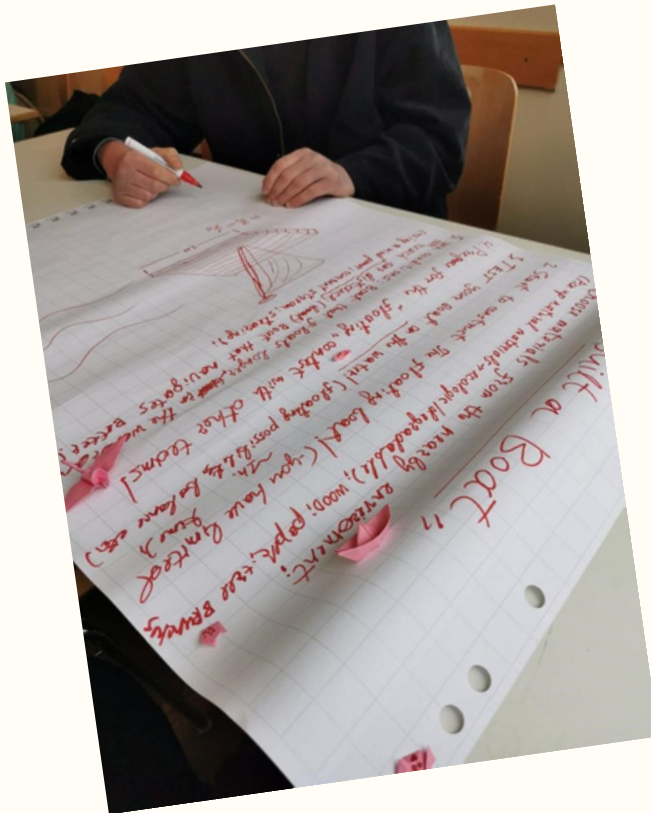
By Ilke Kocaoglu

Why is youth work important for the community?

I think that youth work is very important for the community as it brings completely new experiences and communication skills, and the ability to work in a multicultural environment. Usually, Youth organizations are full of constantly developing ideas, that is how to impact the local community in accordance.

One of the main goals of the Youth for work in the local communities is to expand the creativity boundaries and enrich each other with new experiences. As each participant usually represents different regions, cities and even countries, it is also very important to learn the collaboration skills between them, apply their own experience onto new conditions and environments.

Mastering communications skills, friendships, team work, local support and adaptation into a new environment changes the local community in a most rapid way.



By Ivar Jakutenas

Why is youth work important for the community?

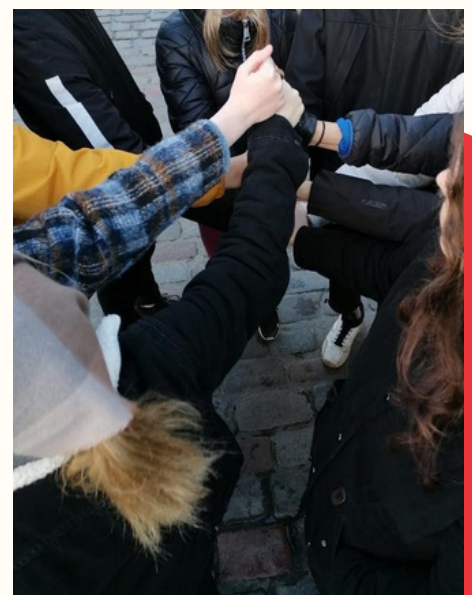
Nowadays, there is such an organization as ERASMUS+, which allows students, and not only, to study abroad, where they learn how to be more creative, learn new learning methods and how to work in a team. However, do young people really need such education?

First of all, I would like to say the obvious thing, that teenagers, thanks to this program, expand their horizons. Arriving in another country, young people get to know the culture of these countries, they learn how people live there and what traditions they have. In addition to the fact that young people learn the culture of the country they are in, they also learn the culture of other countries, as people from different countries come to study and teenagers can learn their culture from them.



Secondly, children learn to socialize. The main activities in the program will be based on teamwork and the child will have to work in a team with strangers, find a common language with them and try to work together. In addition, young people will communicate with each other all the time, because they will live in the same house all together.

In the end, I would like to say why youth work is important for the local community? Since when the child returns home after training, he will become more communicative and socialized, it will be much easier for him to work and talk with people, which will definitely help him in the future.



Why is youth work important for the community?

I think that youth work is important for the local community because it helps it to grow, change and evolve so that it is a better, more beautiful, and welcoming place for everyone. Youth work is both educational and joyful, but at the same time hard and challenging, but if there is a will, communication, and collaboration, something beautiful will certainly come out that will please, enjoy, and be beneficial for everyone. Also, youth works helps people, both physically, and through some nice gestures or things they need, but also morally, by organizing different meetings or activities. Moreover, the youth works to try and succeed in modernizing their community through their innovative and useful ideas for society.

The only youth work I have done is volunteering. The first act of volunteering I participated in was a debate held in our high school, and currently, I am a volunteer at an association called "Simbio " where we have different outdoor activities, sessions of personal development, and even drawing workshops, music, book clubs and so on. For example, an activity through which we helped some needy children, gathered more volunteers and bought sweets, food and some clothes, like Santa Clause.

I think that we need the youth to make really major changes to create a more good and beautiful world for themselves but most important, for the next generation.



By Lavinia Andreea Epure

Why is youth work important for the community?

Youthworks play an important role in local communities in different ways. Firstly, the improvement of the local people depends mostly on the perspective of the youths. Young people should be able to speak freely in any environment where their views are taken and their participation is expected, and should not hesitate to speak. However, young people may be shy about participation, they may also have hesitations about taking their opinions into account and they may have distrust of politicians.

However, in environments where participation is ensured, young people should not face condemnation for the ideas they put forward. Otherwise, young people may be pushed into a shy position in terms of participation. If they can freely express their thoughts in such a free environment, it is very useful for local community.

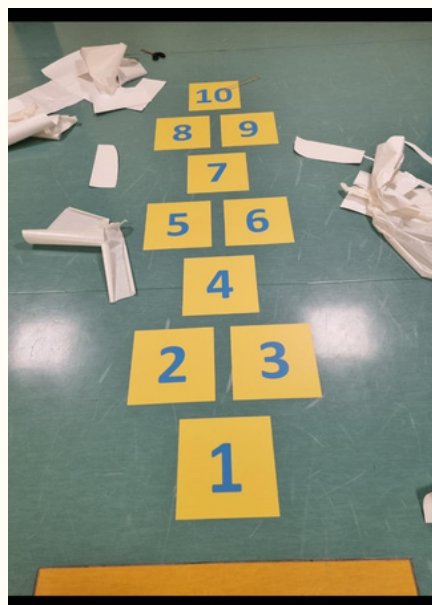


Why is youth work important for the community?

Working with young people is very important because these are the people who have the future. The younger generation should understand how the world works and for this, it is necessary to contact them.

For example, you can be a member of any community, for example, USU student self-government, which is in schools. USU is a group of students who organize events at the school themselves, as well as decorate it for the holidays and come up with something new. This gives them the opportunity to feel like adults and independent. Local deputies also organize meetings with students wanting to know their opinion about something and tell how others see it. This is a very good practice, because this is how young people become closer to understanding what is happening in their city, country, and world.

Some organizations involve students in work, thereby showing that human work is important and it is also important to take care of what surrounds us. All this, as it were, instructs and directs them to do the right things. So it turns out that communication with young people is very important.



By Kamilla Solonko

"Alternative reality"

Particular attention is paid to young people with fewer opportunities. The main mission of the organization - is a versatile development of personality, supporting young people and giving them opportunities for self-development, which contributes to the expansion of their horizons, the development of a sense of responsibility and understanding of the general objectives for the development of society.

The organization promotes a holistic approach, focusing on both the physical and spiritual development of the individual.



It mainly works by involving young people through creative methods and activities.

Here is a list of what the organization provides:

- school of fencing and self-defense
- debating youth clubs
- summer camps for children and teenagers
- youth fire theater
- Erasmus projects and volunteer projects.
- organization of social projects, annual multi-cultural festivals and long-term projects for the integration of children from orphanages.

For both Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, this organization received accreditation until 2027. In 2021, it also received an award from the Latvian National Agency for Human Rights. Alternative reality has been part of the Eurodesk platform since 2022, and regularly tell young people about opportunities to participate in various programs and projects.

Judging by my experience and contribution to this organization, so far I have only helped to organize local festivities for the project participants, and in a couple of weeks I have already got involved in the life of this organization.

Most often these were cultural evenings, where in different activities (for example - sword fights, dance battles, etc.) I was creating the vibe of particular events.

I plan to continue to invest my experience and time into Alternative reality and help it to grow bigger, so that at least within Riga, Latvian teenagers would have a place where they can spend time and develop.

By Germans Deineka

"A HERO"

Working with young people and involving them in the local community is very important and local communities must become a priority.

The importance of a young person and the contribution they can make to their local community is huge, they can use their creative imagination, lateral thinking, and skills to make positive changes in their lives and have a positive impact on the lives of others.

The young people of the Allons-y Association participate in a non-formal education program based on volunteering, entitled "Un HERO", a personal development program that aims to increase self-confidence and acquire integrity as a principle of life, stop emigration to more developed countries of the European Union and finding meaning in life.

Increasing self-esteem and self-confidence, cultivating a sense of friendship and solidarity, understanding the importance of collaboration, and personal development as active citizens by stimulating civic participation are some visible results of the project.

The young people do volunteer activities for the "Red Cross" Vrancea organization, they organize blood donation campaigns, visit and entertainment campaigns of Elderly Care Centers, where they present plays. During the Christmas holidays, young people make hand-made decorations and with the money collected buy supplies and gifts for vulnerable children, who come from disadvantaged families. Also, during the school year, they become monitors and help disadvantaged children with their homework.

Each young person keeps a journal that contains principles, real-life stories, and introspective exercises that they complete. It is a tool that leads to personal development, an educational tool that builds character through practical application.

Motto „ A YOUNG-A HERO!"



By Larisa Harabor

Why is youth work important for the community?

There are many youth work project opportunities these days and youngsters are curious about these projects. It provides so many benefits. We can divide it into a few parts.

Firstly, this kind of self-confidence of the project includes many public speech chances and it increases the level of self confidence. It affects your whole life.

Secondly, people meet with their peers and have a very good chance to know other cultures. They can improve their language skills by having fun and gaining a friend.

Last but not the least, these kinds of projects provide so much network from around the world. In the future they can easily achieve their goals.

To sum up, according to my experiences, I improved my English, I gained so many friends from around the world and also network. My self confidence has increased and i trust myself more. I believe myself about my achievements. Also, i travelled and explored many places. I appreciate that.





Why is youth work important for the community?

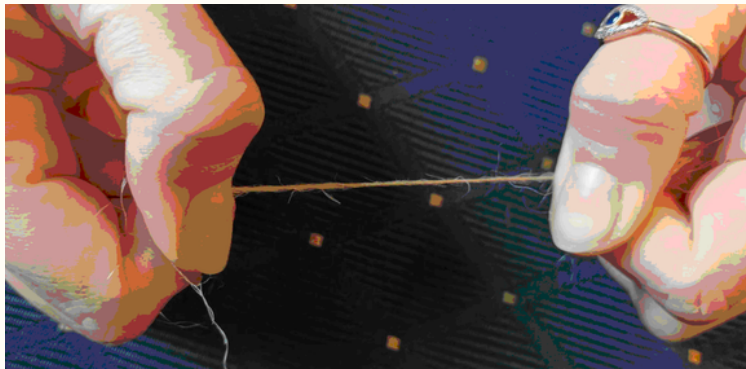
Our school in Estonia has a student self-government. Anyone can join there, starting from the 8th grade. It's voluntary. There we come up with and organize various events. To somehow diversify school life.

In fact, it's very cool and interesting. This is important because young people have a lot of interesting ideas. At school, students get very tired, and these activities help to distract from the school routine. Teachers like it too, because they are also very tired. This is important for students, because in this way they develop a lot of skills. They can understand what they like the most. Constant communication with both teachers and students. At the same time, students of USU (student self-government) travel a lot to various events. They are thinking about how we can improve our school and so on.

By Maria Justsenko

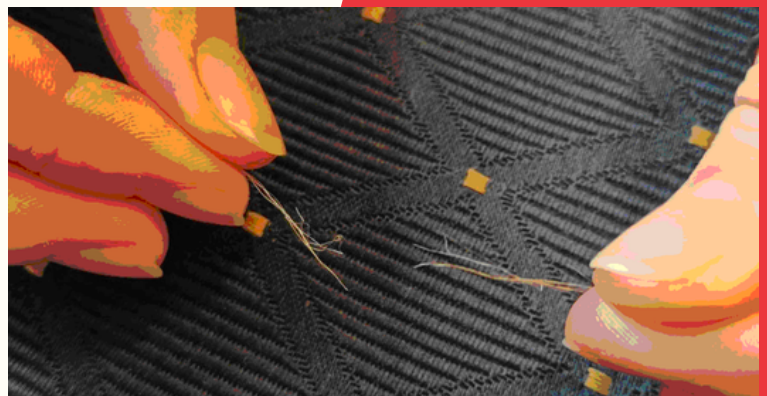
Why is youth work important for the community?

Man is the existence of society, and any interaction between people is important for the development of society. Children have the confidence that everything is possible in this world, they have no limits in fantasy and use it to achieve their goals. Adults have experience in solving many problems and have confidence and independence. Youth is an intermediate link when society does not yet force them to spend a lot of time on it, but they already have an independent adult life, a vision of the world, and course a great appreciation! Their ideas for this world are often fresh and unusual. The interaction of individuals adds trust to the group, reveals features, reveals and regulates character defects, and develops sociability rarely among its members. In addition, interaction with each other gives a sense of the power of group intelligence, when a friend supports in solving problems, and he is also a support. A society in which there are many group associations is more survivable in search of a more fragmented way of development. This phenomenon is well described by the parable "about the strength of one thread and a thick rope"



The questions that the group seeks to answer tend to arise from the very process of life, and the answers to them are of a practical nature. The positive result of solving problems allows you to change the state of things in the world that have become obsolete. A negative result helps to look at your activities from a different angle, find flaws from the inside and still get positive results, but not for society, but in the opposite direction - for the current group. Young people who train their minds today by solving applied problems will tomorrow be self-confident adults who know their capabilities, have a broad outlook and, as a result, a high tolerance for the world around them. They show by their example the positive results of interaction, and also have ready-made cases for presenting themselves in the labor market.

Currently, there are well-known youth associations that are very popular among children and young people, such as the World Organization of the Scout Movement, the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the International Union of Students and so on. All of them are united by the interests of their members and are actively involved in public or political issues. Thus, youth associations are useful both for society and for individual members of these groups. The world is changing thanks to these people.



By Natalia Kudinova

Why is youth work important for the community?

Youth work is a broad term covering a wide variety of activities of a social, cultural, educational, environmental, and/or political nature by, with, and for young people, in groups or individually. Youth work is fun and educational at the same time.

One reason why I think that youth work is important in the local community is because the activities within it are much closer to what we find around us, the participants learn useful things that they can put into practice in society, with those from around them. The given tasks help personal development and the acquisition of skills within a community, for example, volunteers get to communicate without emotions with those around them, express their opinions and ideas more easily, to be able to solve different problems that arise along the way or existential problems, the temptation to organize creative or relaxing educational activities or games, such as games related to sports, music, visual arts, etc.

A second reason why the youth camp is important is the fact that it is built, and designed in such a way that you participate in social, cultural, and/or educational activities, such as:

1. Environmental protection activities where volunteers learn to value the environment and take care of it by planting trees or collecting garbage etc.
2. Personal development activities where they can gain negotiation techniques or in terms of communication, cooperation techniques and assuming responsibilities, learn to manage conflicts and work against time.
3. Educational activities, for example, in Romania in my city, volunteers go to villages far from the city to children and schools with a precarious financial situation where they encourage and help children to learn to read, to like reading through interactive games suitable for their age .



By Raluca Nistoroiu

Why is youth work important for the community?

Youth works play a significant role in local communities. There are some advantages to it such as improving communication skills.

First of all, I'm organizing meetings for young people to improve their communication skills in advertising every Tuesday at my university.

Last weekend I organised "ADhere Advertisement Days". We invited lots of ğerson who are working and skilled in the advertisement area, such as the CEO of Havas Agency, CEO of TBWA agency. 500 people attended our organisation for 2 days.



By Uygur Mert Ozluk

Why is youth work important for the community?

Youngsters and their interest and knowledge about work is really important to the community.

Our youth can bring a lot of positive changes in the world in future and even now to our community.

They are the future of our country's and I think that we need to educate them more about the things that are happening in the world and give them the freedom of speech to express their opinions and views on issues that our governments and us as a community are facing.

If we educate them more and take them more seriously they might even be more interested in learning, speaking freely to express their thoughts and understand more about the things we usually don't talk about with them.

For example:

- * Politics and why voting is so important
- * Business
- * Culture of our country
- * Culture of different countries

In my opinion to achieve these things there needs to be a place outside school where they can go and learn about this and discuss this with other youngsters in a "FUN" way like non-traditional learning . A place like a "Youth House" .

"Youth House" can also be a place where they can get together and plan activities or write different kinds of projects together , like Erasmus+ or a project for the council to build a park next to the "Youth House" (for example).

This house can also be a way to find new friends with whom you share similar interests.

In conclusion, our youths' work and interest in it is really important for the future. As well as the way we educate them and what kind of opportunities we give them.

By Lasma Ozola

Why is youth work important for the community?

Youth work supports education recovery

Because of the influence of strong role models, young people who have access to trustworthy adults are more ambitious with their educational expectations and goals. Providing young people with outdoor learning experiences increases their motivation to pursue an education. For this reason, youth work puts efforts to provide access to nature for kids and teenagers from underprivileged homes. Youth workers generally have a different dynamic than teachers in their interactions with young people because of the voluntary engagement and participation that a youth work approach enables.

Youth work boosts youth employment

Youth work and youth activities, such as outdoor learning, are crucial in giving young people the relationships and skills they need for life and work as well as a place to brainstorm solutions to problems they may face. Youth workers support young people during employment and training as well as between jobs by giving them emotional support, social capital, and practical support.

Youth work helps to improve mental health

Youth work emphasizes the important role that youth workers, as trusted adults, can play in supporting young people when formal mental health support is not appropriate but when some kind and considerate listening is a critical intervention that stops problems from getting worse. It has been demonstrated that when children and adolescents have a network of close, trusting relationships with peers and trusted adults outside of their immediate family, they report fewer mental health difficulties. Several youth organizations are collaborating with local health agencies to give programs that include support for mental health and wellbeing.

In conclusion, youth involvement in the workforce and interest in it are crucial for the future.

By Paula Danciga

"A WAY TO A FUTURE"

Goal: Exploring different approaches to problems and practicing communication negotiations

Result: Improving communications skills, public speech, research information and critical thinking

Duration: 100 Minutes

How it should be implemented?

Ages	16-30 years
Size	20+
Materials	1.Devices to research like laptops or smartphones, 1 per group 2.Two Tables for Group A and B 3.Cardboard and markers for Group D 4.Notebooks for journalists 5.Warm hearts :)
Steps:	
1.	The facilitator divides participants into 4 groups: A, B, C and D Group and explains the workshop (5 min)
1.1	Group A: Environmental friendly product owner
1.2	Group B: Traditional companies
1.3	Group C: Journalist
1.4	Group D: Activists

"A WAY TO A FUTURE"

2.	Research (30 min): Every group needs to research the topic and take short notes which will be presented during the debate. Group A presents an Environmentally friendly product owner who takes care of nature. Group B represents Traditional companies that care only about profit. Each group should find the arguments which are supporting their ideology. Group C is representing the press. They should search for information about both groups and ask them questions about their work and how their work influences the economy, the environment and what consequences it has on society. Group D supports one of the first 2 groups A or B and makes noise and annoys the all debate process.
3.	Presentation: After the research work, the presentation starts. Each group gets 10 minutes to present ideas, group C is required to prepare questions, and Group D is required to decide on which ideology to support and annoy the debate process. (20 min)
4.	1. Break (15 min)
5.	Debate5.1: Two-sided discussion and debate between the group A and B5.2: Journalists turn to ask the questions and Group A and B are required to submit an answer according to the representative of the question.5.3: Group D Finding a creative way to protest an idea that they don't support.It can be Posters, speeches etc.(20 min)

"A WAY TO A FUTURE"

6.

Debriefing and evaluation (20 min) The Facilitator leads the evaluation and asks questions to participants: Was it difficult to take the different roles? What was the most interesting thing you learnt? What made the best arguments? How hard was it to see the other side of the argument? How hard was it to accept it? In real life, how hard is it to accept other people's practices that participants find either rude, incomprehensible or unethical? How difficult is it to be open-minded about differences?

7.

The workshop has been created by:

- Lasma Ozola
- Jelena Maletić
- Ibrahim Ahmedoğlu
- Ceren Sağlam



"BUILD A BOAT"



Goal: The goal is to educate young students on how to protect the environment by constructing a boat from recycled materials that might be found in the surrounding environment.

Result: Improving practical skills, spending time in nature and raising awareness on environmental protection.

Duration: 100 Minutes

How it should be implemented?

Ages	13-30 years
Size	20-30 youngsters
Materials	• wood, paper, leaves, tree/bush brunches, vegetables (pumpkin), used items (rope); clothes; etc.
Steps:	
1.	The facilitator divides participants into groups of 6- 7 people; each group has to find recycled materials in the surrounding environment (60 min)
2.	After the collection of materials, the participants designed a boat that can be able to float on the water; the boat has to be sustainable on the water, to be able to float longer distances and to stay afloat as long as possible. (40 min)

"BUILD A BOAT"

3.

At the end of the contest, there will be announced to the most sustainable and well-designed boat, and also the amount of used recycled materials. Meanwhile the collection of recycled materials for the boat construction, participants also picked up garbage litter, like plastic and any environmentally harmful waste on the way.

4.

The workshop has been created by:

- Iulia Soare
- Larisa Hărăbor
- Ivar Jakutenes
- Alina Avramtchuk
- Kamilla Solonko



"CHRISTMASTERS"



Goal: Cooperation, Practicing patience, Having fun, Spreading the Christmas spirit

Result: Social experience, Improving verbal and nonverbal communication, Relaxation, Exchange of cultural customs

Duration: 180 Minutes

How it should be implemented?

Ages	13-30 years
Size	15 youngsters
Materials	• For the dough x5) 1 cup golden syrup 1 tbs ground cinnamon 1 tbs ground cloves 1 tbs ground ginger 1 tbs ground cardamon 1/2 tbs allspice 250g butter 4 eggs 1 cup sugar 1 tsp bicarb soda 5 1/2 cups flour (plus extra for rolling • Full set game of Bingo
Steps:	
1.	The moderator takes a group of 15 people and separates them into 5 smaller groups of 3. The goal for each team is to bake Christmas cookies, but there is one catch in the process. Each member of the team should divide themselves into roles. One cannot talk, another one cannot see, and the third one cannot hear. In such a combination they are creating the cookie from scratch, so from the basics, then baking, and decorating (putting sprinkles on it). At the end of this activity, all of the members will try their final cookies, and decide who made them the best. Then, as an additional activity, all the members will play the Christmas version of Bingo and just relax after such an intense cooking process.

"CHRISTMASTERS"

2

The workshop has been created by:

- Germans Deineka
- Danila Bardins
- Uygur Mert Özlük
- Natalija Božić



"NEW YEARS TRADITIONS"



Goal: Overall goal is to socialize young people by learning about other cultures. Also, learn how to express themselves in a creative way. Learn something new about the food, drink, traditional dance, and songs of other countries. Also how to make decorations for Christmas trees.

Results:

1. 24 young people learned how to prepare traditional food, learn how to make decorations for Christmas trees.
2. 24 young people learn about other cultures.
3. 24 young people learned about how to accept something new, be open-minded, and respect people regardless of their ideas. Young people learn about how to give and how to receive gifts/ share between themselves.

Duration: 100 Minutes

How should it be implemented?

Ages	16-30 years
Size	24
Materials	• Kitchen (master chief), • food ingredients, • papers, • pens, • scissors, • glue, • markers, • chairs, • laptop, • decoration paper, • the band for presents, • speaker.

"NEW YEARS TRADITIONS"

1.

The explanation for moderator:

First step: Find 24 young people, then find a place for this workshop. It will be 4 young people from 6 countries.

Second step: Make 6 groups, and each group has to pick one youngster to act as a Christmas tree.

Third step: Explain the main rules and roles in the groups.

Forth step: Implementing idea (1. First, prepare cookies, and when they finish that they continue to make a decoration for the Christmas tree, 2. Decorate the Christmas tree (one picked from each group), 3. Competition between each group (what is the best decorated Christmas tree), 4. After the competition, they will give presents to each other that they have already made. 5. Each group will present traditional songs and dances. 6. Present prepared food and after that presentation, they can all eat and enjoy. 7. After degustation they may debate the differences between traditional food, dance, songs, culture, and decoration.

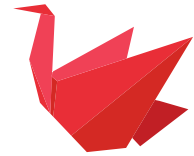
2.

The workshop has been created by:

- Igors Savcenkovs
- Nektar Nasufi
- Mehmet Erdem Yilmaz
- Miljana Nikolic
- Elena Mihaela Goga



"ORIGAMI STORY"



Goal: Teaching disadvantaged youth how to create origami from raw materials. This is a relaxing activity to release anxiety and get the feeling of family during Christmas time. It will be challenging due to the fact that they will have to get out of their comfort zone.

Result: Participants will learn how to create origami. The skills they will gain from this activity will be

- How to cooperate with people
- How to express themselves
- Being productive
- How to overcome their fears
- Make new intercultural relationships

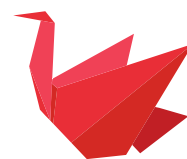
Duration: 90 Minutes

How should it be implemented?

Ages	16-30 years
Size	15 participants
Materials	• Pencils, markers,pens • Post-it notes • Stickers • Christmas tree • A string • Some Christmas snacks



"ORIGAMI STORY"



Steps:

1.

Step by step informing what is going to happen during the workshops. The first activity will be a lecture about the history of origami. Three of the organizers will explain the history of origami. During the second step, they will learn about different types of origami (so that later they can choose whichever they prefer). Afterwards, they will have the chance to create their own origami so that they can gain a sense of self-competence. Two of the organizers will be instructors. Finally, they will merge their origami into one (it will be challenging because they will not be allowed to use glue). They will learn how to cooperate during this step. At the end, youngsters will together decorate the Christmas tree with origami and take a group picture for the memories:)

2.

The workshop has been created by:

- Ilke Kocaoglu
- Ravza Saglam
- Paula Danciga
- Alina Avramchuk
- Ioana Stan

"LABYRINTH GAME"

Goal: To develop team building

Result:

- 1) Trustfulness between team members
- 2) Problem-solving
- 3) Critical Thinking
- 4) Working in teams (Better collaboration skills)

Duration: 60 Minutes

How it should be implemented?

Ages	16 – 25
Size	8 (2 teams) or 16 (4 teams)
Materials	• Chairs • Paper • Pencils
Steps:	
1.	In order to begin this activity, there should be at least 8 participants so we can divide it into 2 groups/teams. Teams should be choosing one person that has to be blindfolded throughout the activity. Once both teams choose the person, the activity can begin.

"LABYRINTH GAME"

2.

One team will be starting the game in one direction and the other teams from the opposite direction. The team which finishes the game first will win, to win in this game they should have to go through the labyrinth which consists of 2 questions each and in total there are 4 trials if the team answers the one question correctly they will eliminate one of the trials and if they answer both questions correctly they will have only 2 trials to do. Also, the questions have one more role, if the team answers the questions correctly they have shortcut through the Labyrinth, otherwise they have to choose the long path.

3.

Explanation of the trials:

Trial 1: Stairs (The team has to guide the blindfolded person to navigate the stairs)

Trial 2: Step on stones (If someone steps out of the stone, the whole team has to start the trial again)

Trial 3: Crawl Under the obstacle

Trial 4: Jump over the obstacle

4.

Trial Eliminating Questions :

Q1: Say 6 German words.

Q2: Draw the German Flag.

5.

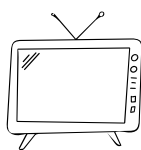
How to build the Labyrinth :

You need open space, and do the fencing with the resources you might have such as sticks, wood, stones, and blocks. You can make the obstacles with the help of chairs, big stones, Tables or old furniture. A scarf or a big Ribbon for the blindfold.

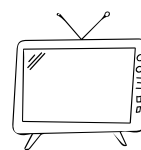
6.

The workshop has been created by:

- Irem Gültepe
- Natalia Kudinova
- Abhishek Chourasia
- Lavinia Andreea Epure



"CRAZY TV"



Goal: Expression of feelings on a wide range of topics; Improve creative/new way of thinking (solve problems); To share and find out about new cultural traditions

Result: Develop an assertive way of communication

Duration: 100 Minutes

How should it be implemented?

Ages	16-30 years
Size	Size 6 competitors, plus moderator, public unlimited
Materials	• Chairs • Paper • Pencils
Steps:	
1.	The moderator divides the teams into groups of 3. For the first game (debate) a topic is provided by the moderator and they are to decide which team is against or for the given topic. Teams will have 10 minutes to discuss the debate strategy for themselves. After the time is up moderator picks the team to start first

"CRAZY TV"

2.

Riddle

3.

Superstitions

The workshop has been created by:

- Nistoroiu Raluca-Alexandra
- Ivan Avramelović
- Andreea Larisa Frunză
- Tamara Mihajlović

Organizer:

Zentralrat der Serben in
Deutschland



Zentralrat der Serben in Deutschland
Централни савет Срба у Немачкој

Partners:

Baltic Youth Way



EKO MLADENOVAC



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ASOCIATIA ALLONS-Y



Modern Gençlik Akademisi Derneği

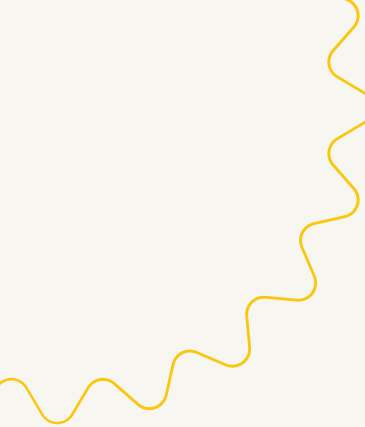


Youth Planet

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