

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Active youth – step ahead to joint changes

Young people must have the opportunity to lead changes within their own communities. They have to understand and defend their rights and take lead roles in a community life that will allow them and us to shape our environment according to our needs and imagination. YOUTH ACTIVISM is the main concept for advocating for the change we want to see. It is very important that young creativity, inspiration and active participation in all aspects of life tailor community and the world according to desired standards and needs.

Youth active participation without barriers should contribute to widening of the perspective. Unfortunately, today we have less and less young people who accept this form of "responsibility", according to the lack of time, but also rapid development of online social community, which is moving their life and functioning in cyber space.

In relation to this, if we want to empower changes in our communities and shape our environment for the better, we need to stimulate on spot youth activism. We need to create innovative methods that will bring back youth energy and creativity in our everyday life. Want to help us to reinforce real youth activism and adjust it to circumstances of current momentum and developments?

BACKGROUND

Europe and its youth are facing serious challenges now days, both economic and social ones: some of them refer to the field of employment and housing, which are preventing young people to become independent and develop their own life perspective, while the other ones are linked with the atmosphere of immigrant crisis, rise of extremism and antipathy. In most of the European countries, young people are facing apathy and lack of initiative to influence the social processes and their daily life. Economic instability, populist leaders and immigrant waves are changing the face of European societies. Now days, young people are the most important and less active part of our societies. In parallel, they are not familiar enough with their rights to be active part of community life, importance of electing, being elected and having their say; they are not aware why citizens's activism is so important and why they need to be proactive enough in order to put their needs and priorities higher on local and national agenda.

Having the passive youth, not involved in different decision-making processes, leads to the situation that only 10% of young people in general takes part in the elections and expresses their opinion about the social issues of importance.

In many countries, coping with immigrant crisis and challenges in the field of housing and employment, key stakeholders neglected the importance of raising awareness about civic activism and elections among youth. As a result, Europe is now facing the unpleasant situation where young people are apathetic and uninterested in decision-making processes that directly affect them. This is the main problem that was sidelined for some time, but now we need to re-awake that issue and focus on it.

Taking all above mentioned into account, partner organizations started some time ago their individual efforts to make young people more active on the local and national level, above all teaching them why the active public and political participation is important for them. And all of us faced certain challenges and difficulties, achieved certain results and small victories, made certain changes in our communities. Now, we decided to join our efforts, exchange our experiences and see how we can work on this together. Gathering various spectrum of states involved in this project, we are trying to represent the Europe in small, with all its national specificities and joint objectives.

Considering that current problems are affecting not only individual states, nor one specific region, but the Europe in its entirety, we will thus strive to discover the mechanisms, channels, instruments and activities through which we will try to influence these problems jointly and this is why we decided to work together.

AIM

To provide the platform for participants – experienced youth workers to exchange knowledge/information/experience they possess and come to common understanding on how to jointly deal with the issue of youth participation in public and political life of the community on all levels, from local to European.

OBJECTIVES:

- to establish the network of 30 youth activists/multipliers coming from 10 participating states/entities for joint work on the project issue
- to prepare the joint publication „Active youth – step ahead to joint changes“ as a compendium of collected information in relation to the topic, good-practice examples and national experiences, as well as set of conclusions and recommendations
- to disseminate previously mentioned publication „Active youth – step ahead to joint changes“ to wider number of actors of different profile related with the project topic
- to create the joint online platform for posting news, information of relevance, researches and available data, photos and videos in relation with the topic
- to make a joint video in duration of 3-5 minutes, bringing the project topic closer to wider audience.

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

If you are:

- engaged and active youth worker already familiar with the basics of youth participation in its different forms and aware of its significance for the general well-being of youth
- possess experience in peer learning, acting as peer educator/trainer with different groups of young people

- supported by youth organization/structure (local youth office, youth information center, etc) you represent to implement your activities during the project and once the project is over
- motivated to learn, network and share with other training participants and beyond, in local community you represent
- able to express yourself in English
- aged between 24 and 35 years (exceptions are possible)
- resident of one of 10 countries/entities involved: Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, Kosovo*, FYROM/Macedonia, Albania, Greece, Slovak Republic and Czechia,

you are the right person for us. Use application below to explain to us why we should choose you to participate in this training.

Project team welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil above mentioned profile, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

TECHNICALITIES

Dates: June 2018

Place: Belgrade, Serbia

Participants: 30 young people coming from 10 above mentioned countries/entities

Venue: Belgrade, Serbia

Working language: English

Project is supported by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe.

FINANCE AND TRAVEL REFUNDS

Organizers will cover all costs related to accommodation and food (full board and accommodation in double rooms).

Organizers will provide travel refund, inviting participants to use **the most economic way of transport** and **obtain previous approval from the organizers** when making travel arrangements.

HOW TO APPLY?

Please send your application via

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSech8skb18TpMxiEVgZe2e2DpiiFy3N_Vu8YScvs2CjOPeX5g/viewform