



## CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

### Long Term Training course (LTTC) on Outdoor Education and Experiential Learning

Training course on outdoor education and experiential learning methods for inclusion and personal development in youth work  
Georgia, Belgium and another country – 2016-2018



#### Call

The Knot in cooperation with DRONI (Georgia) and ESPLORA (ITALY) are looking for 32 participants to join the Long Term Training Course (LTTC) on Outdoor Education and Experiential Learning.

The following countries and partners can send participants:

Country	Partner Organisation	Participants
Belgium	The Knot	3 pers
Italy	Esplora	3 pers
Georgia	Droni	3 pers
Romania	Compartir	2 pers
Latvia	Baltic Youth Way	3 pers
Armenia	Armenian Progressive Youth APY	2 pers

Country	Partner Organisation	Participants
Turkey	Turkey Youth Union Association	3 pers
Spain	European Crossroads	3 pers
Portugal	Associação Intercultural Amigos da Mobilidade	2 pers
Czech Republic	Be International	2 pers
Greece	Ceipes	3 pers
Croatia	Raplection	3 pers



## Profile of participants

The target group of this training course is composed of youth workers and trainers who are directly working with young people with fewer opportunities. You should have some experience in the training field, as we want you to be able to multiply as effectively as possible during and after the training.

Motivation for the topic, motivation to join for the whole duration of 2 years, and motivation to be eager to take the chance to set up an international project with other participants within the group are more important than having a lot of experience!

Moreover you should have a strong interest in outdoor education, experiential methodologies and be willing to use it in your future youth work.

In case you are interested to participate in this LTTC outdoor training course, you should be aware that the training will follow the methodology of "learning by doing" and that means that some parts might be described as physically tough and challenging.

Furthermore, participants should:

- Be aged 20+
- Be working on a local or regional level with young people with fewer opportunities
- Have proven personal and organisational interest in this training (shown by the application form)
- Be willing to continue cooperation after the training
- Willing to continue to work with young people within your organisation and/or in close cooperation with your sending organisation
- Able to work and discuss in the English language
- In a position within the organization to apply the outcomes of the training, meaning working on issues related to human resource and organizational management
- Coming from Belgium, Italy, Georgia, Armenia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Latvia, Portugal, Spain, Romania, Greece or Turkey.
- Be fully available during the whole training course (over 2 years' time) and willing to participate actively also outside of the 3 residential training courses (individual coaching sessions every month, setting up 1 local individual project and 1 international group project about the LTTC theme).

## Overall aim and objectives of the LTTC

To **increase** the leadership skills and self-confidence of the European youth workers, using Outdoor Education and Experiential Learning method as a tool for personal growth and group development while working with their fewer opportunity groups and by using **using** nature in all its aspects.

**Overall objectives:**

- Raising ability to transfer outdoor education and experiential learning concepts into day-to-day youth work practice.
- The ability to use the power of nature for individual- and group development.
- Establishing future co-operation groups among participants that will develop outdoor training project and use experiential learning in their daily work.
- Equipping participants with concrete activities/workshops they can use back home in their daily work.
- Understanding of theoretical knowledge of the concept of Outdoor Education and Experiential Learning.



## Background of outdoor education

The practice of outdoor education has been an active part of non-formal education for years, and due to its interactive character it has experienced many stages of development: both in theoretical, conceptual, pedagogical and in practical, national and case-to-case ways. The term 'outdoor education' has been defined and used in many ways. Some time ago outdoor education was used as a synonymous with environmental education and outdoor recreation. The term, however, has transformed itself from environmental education to broader meanings and now it is frequently applied to programs or activities that can be, and usually are, conducted in the out-of-doors, and implying an interaction between the participant and the outdoor environment. The general essential characteristics of outdoor education nevertheless have stayed the same. It occurs in the out-of doors, it has its participants directly involved in the activity, it involves the interpretation of original objects, it defines relationships rather than reciting individual, apparently isolated facts, it involves as many senses as possible and it invites participation because activity is perceived as being interesting, challenging and/ or even fun. So, outdoor education activities now seek to develop values relating to group work (in-group versus out-group), leadership and self-esteem.

When it comes to experiential learning, there are quite many reliable theoretical concepts and frameworks one can refer to, probably the most mentionable of which are those developed by Kurt Lewin (1890-1947) and continuing with D. Kolb, C. Rogers, J. Dewey, and others.

On the one hand many discussions on those concepts have taken place, but on the other hand, practice of experiential learning has experienced a unique growth and development.

Gaining more recognition and popularity for non-formal education and youth work, different methods of experiential learning had been developed, used and adopted to be implemented in framework of outdoor education as well as in other kinds of youth work activities. As spread of information has valuably increased, experiential learning methods have become an extremely popular method for different kinds of youth activities. This development has both positive and negative impact on experiential learning quality, as youth work, training and youth exchange praxis in Europe unfortunately shows that experiential learning methods are being used in an unsatisfactory way, and are more likely to become 'games' than properly designed, adopted, run and accordingly evaluated learning experiences. Therefore this training course is designed aiming at quality and applicability of experiential learning methods, with a perspective on improving and including those groups of youth that are faced with social exclusion for numerous reasons (cultural background, sexual orientation, socio-economical position, etc.).

Youth work is an important way of increasing active participation of young people and integrating people with fewer opportunities in forming an inclusive society. The target group of this training course is composed of youth workers and trainers who are directly working with young people from excluded groups and/ or are from these groups themselves. They should have some experience in the training field, as we want them to be able to multiply as effective as possible after the training. Moreover they should have a strong interest in outdoor education, experiential methodologies and be willing to use it in their future youth work. The multiplying effect the participants have in conveying the idea and improving quality of experiential learning and outdoor education to youth is taken into serious consideration during the quest for and selection of participants.

The trainers' team will ensure that the training is challenging, with innovative approaches and methodologies, to raise the quality of outdoor education in youth work, linking 12 countries together.



## Steps and time schedule of the LTTC

- **Step 1** : 1<sup>st</sup> training course in Georgia with a focus on what is outdoor education and experiential learning is and going through and outdoor educational and experiential learning program itself as participant. **(31 August – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016)**
- **Step 2** :
  - monthly coaching of participants by trainer team + coaching of project development teams with a focus on the implementation of the projects developed in participant groups.
  - individual implementation of a local/regional project/workshop/training session on the topic.
- **Step 3** : 2<sup>nd</sup> training course in Belgium with a focus on outdoor education as personal development of individuals and groups. **(winter – spring 2017)**
- **Step 4** :
  - monthly coaching of participants by trainer team + coaching of project development teams with a focus on the implementation of the projects developed in participant groups.
  - implementation of the international project groups.
- **Step 5** : 3<sup>rd</sup> training with a focus on personal and group learnings, follow-up, establishing a trainers network among the organizations. **(end 2017 – spring 2018)**



## Aims and Objectives of Step 1 : training Georgia

Improving quality of inclusive youth work by rising trainers' competences and youth workers to use and know the limitations of outdoor education and experiential learning methods, as renewed ways to reach a more diverse group of youth.

**The objectives below make this aim more specific:**

- Giving the target group tools to deal with quality experiential learning in outdoor education.
- Exchanging and sharing experiences, concepts and methods of outdoor education and experiential learning.
- Exploring ways to incorporate diversity management into the work and trainings the participants do.
- Developing cross-cultural awareness by providing structured space for sharing, experiencing and addressing intercultural learning.
- Increasing knowledge of the theoretical and pedagogical background of outdoor education and experiential learning methods.





- Developing teamwork, leadership and cooperation skills of the participants.
- Setting basis for positive future cooperation within the Erasmus+/Youth in Action program.

## Travel, finances and accommodation

**A participation fee per participant is foreseen for each travel of 50 euro.** This fee will be deduct each time from the travel costs.

The travel costs are subsidized for by the Erasmus+/Youth in Action program. You are obliged to travel as cheap as possible.

**The maximum amount we can reimburse per participant for the travel to Georgia is:**

- Georgia, Armenia : **180 euro**
- Greece : maximum **275 euro**.
- Italy, Croatia, Latvia, Czech Republic : maximum **360 euro**.
- Belgium, Turkey : **530 euro**.
- Spain and Portugal : **820 euro**

From this money you need also to take into account approximately 20 euro for local travel costs.

*If you succeed to find you travels within the above range we can reimburse you 100%, if your travels are a bit more, we only can give you the maximum reimbursement amount as mentioned above.*

Furthermore all other costs related to the training course are covered by the Erasmus+/Youth in Action program:

- Food and Accommodation of the training
- Visa costs for 100% those who need.
- Materials-, organization- and training costs.

Our plan is to apply for the 3 trainings through Erasmus+ program.

The first 1 has been already approved, the 2nd is applied and the 3rd will be designed by the participants.

We'd like participants to know in advance the commitment to the 3 phases, although they are not approved yet. Logically for the other 2 seminars, the Erasmus+: Youth in Action Key Action 1 rules for travel reimbursement would apply when being granted by the Programme.

## Application procedure

Interested people have to :

1. Get in contact with the sending organisation.

<b>Belgium</b>	The Knot	<a href="mailto:theknotweb@gmail.com">theknotweb@gmail.com</a>
<b>Italy</b>	Esplora	<a href="mailto:lorenzo@esploriamo.org">lorenzo@esploriamo.org</a>
<b>Georgia</b>	Droni	<a href="mailto:nika.bakhsoliani@gmail.com">nika.bakhsoliani@gmail.com</a>
<b>Romania</b>	Compartir	<a href="mailto:compartir.ro@gmail.com">compartir.ro@gmail.com</a>
<b>Latvia</b>	Baltic Youth Way	<a href="mailto:sveiki@balticyouthway.org">sveiki@balticyouthway.org</a>
<b>Armenia</b>	Armenian Progressive Youth APY	<a href="mailto:erikghazaryan@apy.am">erikghazaryan@apy.am</a>
<b>Turkey</b>	Turkey Youth Union Association	<a href="mailto:elifce10@gmail.com">elifce10@gmail.com</a>
<b>Spain</b>	European Crossroads	<a href="mailto:gilbertomtnez@gmail.com">gilbertomtnez@gmail.com</a>



<b>Portugal</b>	Associação Intercultural Amigos da Mobilidade	<a href="mailto:mobilityfriends@gmail.com">mobilityfriends@gmail.com</a>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Be International	<a href="mailto:info@beinternational.cz">info@beinternational.cz</a>
<b>Greece</b>	Ceipes	<a href="mailto:elizabeth_tsigara@hotmail.com">elizabeth_tsigara@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Croatia</b>	Raplection	<a href="mailto:dianagrgat@yahoo.com">dianagrgat@yahoo.com</a>

2. Fill out the application form correctly and send to the above contact address - add in the subject line of your email : "APPLICATION LTTC on OUTDOOR".
3. Your sending organisation will make the first selection.
4. The steering committee and trainers team will have the final approval.

**Deadline for sending in application forms : 1 APRIL 2016**

**Hope to see you soon!**

**The trainers team**