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Labyrinth of Senses, Art & Cultures

A project under Erasmus+ Youth Key Action 1: Mobility of Youth Workers

CALL FOR PARTNERS

A project of 4 phases

„Labyrinth of Senses“ in St. Petersburg, Russia, 15-22 April 2017

„Labyrinth of Art“ in Tbilisi, Georgia, 8-15 August 2017

„Labyrinth of Cultures“ in Partner countries, August – October 2017

„Getting Out of the Labyrinth“ in London, UK, 11-17 October 2017

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Call for partners: we are 4 managing organisations (UK, Croatia, Georgia, Russia) searching for 2 partner organisations from Erasmus+ programme countries + 2 organisations from Eastern Partnership region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine) to join the project.

Participants: for each activity NGO will have to select 3 participants, so in total there will be 24 participants. For every activity there will be a new selection of participants.

Participants contribution: we will expect participants to make a small financial contribution to each activity.

Place of trainings: St. Petersburg in Russia, Tbilisi in Georgia, London in UK

Target group: We want to gather youth educators and workers, project leaders, facilitators, trainers, NGO representatives, teachers, volunteers, staff members and other multipliers, who are already involved in non-formal youth education, art and community projects and in social work, who want to share and learn artistic methods (theater, dance, painting, music, poetry), and also new ways how to approach youth and motivate them to be active in their community and contribute to the community.

What to expect: This project is aimed to equip the youth workers with the innovative art methods to help in their work. This project consists of four parts: a training course „Labyrinth of Senses” in St. Petersburg in Russia, a second training course „Labyrinth of Art” in Tbilisi in Georgia, a third stage will be the implementation of the methods in local communities in each of the partner countries and thus is called „Labyrinth of Cultures”, finally the project ends with the conference and study visits, where participants will share their experience, will disseminate the results and at the same time will get study visits and see how the methods are applied in practice in local organisations in London, UK, thus it is called „Getting Out of Labyrinth”.

We want to start with going deep into five senses. We want to share all the methods that would address multisensory experience. We want to pass all the methods that would enhance youth to delve from the technologies and from the overload of information back to the basics. Start from the essence and slowly climb to build something more than the sum of elements. In order to develop and survive in the complex societies, we feel it is important to return and understand fundamental sensations. Already in the first training we would like to share the methods of improvisation theater, oppressed theater, forum theater and finally sensory labyrinth theater, which is a form of live immersive performance. At the end of the training we seek to create a performance to the community, inviting audience to experience a piece through sensorial journey developed by participants. By this we want to show that returning and exploring basic senses and needs is the first phase of knowing yourself. The second important part is the use of the senses. We think that artistic methods are excellent in empowering individuals to express authentic character. Youth as a rule struggle to express their true self and artistic methods are very helpful as a non-verbal and creative communication tool. That is a second stage. Unfortunately, expressing with arts or other creative forms are insufficient. What is needed, it is the feedback and the interaction from and with the audience, the community. Nowadays audience needs not only to watch the art, but also would appreciate much more to experience themselves, be part of the play, what we call participatory forms of art. We believe immense theater play will give this unique opportunity for participants and ultimately youth to bond with the audience and feel more connected.

Second training course grows from the labyrinth of senses to labyrinth of art, an advance form of expression. We would like to transfer the methods of dance and movement improvisation, sensory



movement, participatory music creation, collaborative drawing and painting, poetry and street art. At the end of the training youth workers are expected to create an immersive performance to the community in Tbilisi.

Third stage is the application of the learned methods in partner countries, in the context of local culture. This is a very important stage to get the support from the partnering organisations. We would thus emphasize that partners should be willing to cooperate and help to implement at least one disseminating event for the target group to use the methods learned.

Fourth and last stage is the conference event, where participants from the previous training courses and other experts come to share their experiences in implementing the methods, visit local organisations and artists to see how the artistic methods are applied in London, participate in the workshops, network among themselves and with London organisations and individual artists and youth workers, and finally develop follow-up projects. We see this event as a disseminating and summarizing event of the activities that happened before and at the same time a window of opportunities for the future activities.

We want not only to draw the line individual – senses – art – communities, but also add two other layers: a mix and interplay with different forms of art themselves and cultures. We believe that art combined and mixed gives more sensorial effect. We also believe that cultural diversity creates another layer that adds complexity and interesting angles to explore.

This project is developed with an intention to connect different cultures, represented by balanced number of partners from Eastern Partnership region and the Programme countries. Art methods are not so often used by youth workers in Eastern Partnership countries comparing to Programme countries, thus it is a good opportunity to spread the methodology across the region.

Partners: We are searching for pro-active partners, who are connected to art projects and preferably participated in the projects related to immersive, participatory, improvisational, forum, oppressed theater, contemporary dance and moves, contemporary and participatory music creation. We would like to have long term partnership, which would outgrow the current project to other projects. As a result, we would like to see active dissemination of the results.

Organising team:

- Olga Bykova (Russia) at BykovaOA@gmail.com
- Tamta Berianidze (Georgia) at tamta.berianidze.1@iliauni.edu.ge
- Zvončica Kučanda (Croatia) at z.kucanda@yahoo.com
- Justinas Brikys (UK) at hello@abroadship.org.

If you want to be partners:

1. Fill the Application form before **12th September 2016**, we will let your organisation know by **16th September 2016**;
2. If selected, we will ask to send the Mandate signed and scanned (if project gets approved, it will be necessary to send the Mandate by post);
3. We will ask for an active collaboration and further actions with the selected partners.

