

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

--

DYPALL Training Course

Youth Actors in Decision Making

07 – 13 January 2017

Rezekne Municipality, Latvia

Organized by



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Agency for International
Programs for Youth
Republic of Latvia

Background & Context

DYPALL stands for **Developing Youth Participation at Local Level**, and as a network it started developing in 2011, with the purpose of fostering the potential of young people to be active citizens and actors of real social change in their local communities as well as in their regional and international realities.

Our experience strengthened our belief that involving young people in decision making is an intrinsic way to empower them and to increase their sense of belonging and active citizenship. This involvement should include not only the support by local authorities to activities aimed for young people but also a broader dimension, where youth has an active voice and is a fundamental actor of the development of their local communities.

The network itself is built on the principles of creating an effective and sustainable involvement of youth on decision-making with and in cooperation with local authority's demands willingness and commitment from both parts, but also the development of knowledge, sharing of experience and tools to create and to develop further these spaces of shared decision-making. This demands the development of strategies, building structures and relations of trust and cooperation between actors. This necessity and the similar experiences of several partners, made visible the common need to **establish a network that could work in a stable and systematic way on themes of common interest and strengthen the cooperation among local authorities (LA), civil society organizations (CSO) and young people, where the creation of mutual understanding and learning spaces are the main goals.**

Among a wide range of diverse but complementary activities implemented by and with its members, DYPALL Network has involved and strengthened the cooperation among municipalities and organisations working in the field of youth at local level. These initiatives and all the different local, national and European experiences strengthened our common understanding that it is crucial to develop a new culture of youth participation, especially regarding the decision-making processes on issues of direct concern and interest of youth. It is essential to look at youth as a forceful and creative source of solutions for our societies that can largely contribute for their sustainable development.

For more information on the network and what we do visit us at: <http://dypall.com/>

Training Course

The training will be a space for development of competences, dialogue and sharing of experiences among **36 youth workers, local authorities/municipal officers responsible for youth and youth leaders.**

The target group of the training is composed of people already involved in the youth field being those youth leaders, youth workers and municipal officers responsible for youth. While discussing with Latvian organizations, we identified the needs and problems in our organizations in the field of developing youth inclusive participation at local level.

The main issues are related with insufficient competences of youth workers concerning structures, instruments and methods on how to get young people to participate while taking into account the critical context in Europe - lack of advanced competences on how to make the participation inclusive and open for NEET youth, young people from different social, cultural and economic backgrounds, lack of understanding of local, regional, national and European Youth Policies, lack of advanced skills in developing action plans and youth policies among

different stakeholders (youth organizations and municipalities and other decision making structures). At the same time the competences and abilities of youth workers are strongly connected with the effective involvement of young people from different backgrounds in decision-making at local level and these skills and knowledge of youth leaders, youth workers, and municipal officers need to be improved.

Objectives

The specific objectives of this training course are:

- Allow the space for the participants to better understand the role of young people in the development and sustainability of our democracies (structures & processes), namely young people with fewer opportunities or different backgrounds in particular;
- Develop the competences (skills, knowledge and attitudes) in creating conditions for inclusive youth participation (including NEET youth, unemployed youth, refugees, immigrants);
- Identify different instruments, structures, methodologies of and for an inclusive youth participation in decision making processes being used, to promote a better understanding of participation processes (Youth Forum, Youth Councils, Informal spaces allowing young people to participate in decision-making processes,);
- Create a space for sharing and dialogue among participants and municipality officers responsible for youth;
- Develop competences in the usage and understanding of key concepts (such as advocacy, policy making, and partnership, inclusive participation, participative and representative democracy, effective communication with decision makers) of youth participation in decision making processes;
- Support the development of strategies and action plans for fostering youth participation processes at local level that are able to involve young people of different social, intercultural and inter-religious, economic, educational and geographical backgrounds, including NEET youth, unemployed youth, refugees, immigrants;
- Contribute in reducing the percentage of NEET youth at European level based on inclusive participation activities at local level;
- Contribute to the intercultural/interreligious understanding at European level through project activities, respectful and peaceful communication.

The project will increase youth workers' awareness about different intercultural and inter-religious backgrounds of young people and to increase their competences to involve young people of different backgrounds (including NEET youth) in decision-making at local level.

Participants Profile

The training course will involve **36 participants comprising of** youth leaders, youth workers and youth municipal officers

The participants must:

- Be able to work in English;
- Be willing to contribute with their experience to the training course;
- Be coming from Greece, Italy, Latvia, FYROM, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Turkey (No other counties can be accepted at this stage);
- Be able to attend the whole duration of the training;
- Have relevant experience in the topic of youth participation at local level;
- Highly motivated towards learning about decision-making processes in youth work.

In order to apply to this training, you must apply together with another participant from the same town/region:

1. One being a local youth policy representative (in either youth, social, education and/or employment policies, depending on the local organizational structure of the municipality), working within the municipality.

2. And the other one being a local professional youth work manager or senior professional working with and for youth and young people with fewer opportunities.

Pair of participants should not belong to the same organization/Municipality, but represents both parts. They should have already work together within their own local setting, have expertise in above-mentioned fields and be able to work together after the training in order to implement the lessons learnt.

In the application form, do not forget to mention the participant you are applying with!

Practical and financial conditions

Venue and accommodation

The training course will take place in the guesthouse "Rāznas līcis", about 20 km outside of Rezekne, Latvia. For more information regarding the venue please visit http://raznaslicis.lv/about_en.htm

Arrival day is 7 January 2017, and departure day is 13 January 2017. Accommodation and meals will be provided by the organizers. Any particular need should be communicated at the moment of registration.

Travel expenses

Rezekne is 250 km from the capital Riga. The easiest way to get to Rezekne is to fly to Riga or Vilnius and then get a train or a bus directly to Rezekne.

Long-distance train connect Rezekne to Riga, the schedule is available at www.1188.lv

Bus lines connect Rezekne to Riga, Daugavpils, Vilnius, and other cities. The information on the bus schedule from Rigas SAO to Rezeknes AO is available at www.1188.lv, from Vilnius to Rezekne at <https://ecolines.net/lv/en>

Flights and train/bus tickets shall be bought only after agreement and confirmation with the organizers. Travel expenses to and from the venue will be reimbursed up to a maximum pre-agreed with the organizers, according to the Erasmus + Key Action 1 rules:

- Italy, Romania, Poland, Greece, Sweden, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: 275 €
- Turkey: 360 €
- Portugal: 530 €

Call For Participants: Youth Actors in Decision-making

Reimbursement will be done via bank transfer after the training.

According to the arrival time of the flights, one collective bus may be made available by the organizers.

Visas

DYPALL Network will issue an invitation letter that should facilitate the delivery of visas to attend the training course. Visa costs will be reimbursed upon previous agreement with the organizers.

There is no participation fee

Registration Procedures

To **apply** for participation in this training course, please **fill in the online registration form** here: <https://goo.gl/zi12td>

The deadline for application is **28 October 2016**, latest by 23:59 Central European Time.

SELECTION WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY 7th NOVEMBER 2016

Organizers

Within DYPALL Network, **Rezekne Municipality** (Latvia) has the lead role in organizing this training course.

Rezekne Municipality is a local administration in Latvia that has 25 rural areas with 40 different education institutions (primary, secondary, special schools, school of art, music and sport). To this day it has 16 youth centres and 17 youth workers in different points of its district.

Each year the Municipality coordinates more than 70 youth projects for local young people (youth initiative, training courses, non-formal education, entrepreneurship, etc.). There are 9 active Youth NGOs.

Rezekne Municipality develops several projects for youth such as training courses, youth exchange, and non-formal education based activities. In the last 5 years the Municipality has been involved as a partner and an organiser in more than 20 different projects, with relevance in youth entrepreneurship, non-formal and formal education, tradition and culture.

The Municipality was also involved in various Structured Dialogue activities during the European Presidency in Latvia in 2015 as well as in other activities related to youth participation in decision-making like, among other, the “Café with Politicians”.

For more information

<http://rezeknesnovads.lv/en/novada-pasvaldiba/>

Funding

The training course is co-funded by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union, as implemented by the Latvian National Agency. For more information <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/> and <http://www.erasmusplus.nl/>

Contacts

In case you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at training@dypall.com