**LeaD**

**in Practice**

**A blended-learning project on**

**Learning Design in Practice**

**Online phase:**

**September – November 2017**

**Training course:**

**November 25th – December 3rd, 2017**

**Athens (centre), Greece**

**Follow-up phase:**

**December 2017 – May 2018**

**Note:** This infopack is meant to give information to those who are interested in applying to participate in this project. A second infopack will follow for those who are eventually selected to participate.

**Project description:**

“LeaD in Practice” is a blended-learning project (combining distance with on-location training) that has been set up to address all the unprocessed, unspoken and unresolved issues and “hot potatoes” that repeatedly emerge during Erasmus+ youth exchanges and training courses and that are usually missed in Training of Trainers courses.

**Project Aims:**

Improve the competences of youth trainers/learning facilitators in areas which are typically left untouched in training processes, so that they can develop and offer high quality learning projects to their organizations’ learners, while employing principles of Intercultural Dialogue to do so. And at the same time, using an innovative, blended learning format in order to engage the participants and achieve as much a greater learning impact as possible.

**Project Objectives:**

* Improve trainer competences on successful Learning Design when developing, leading/facilitating and evaluating training projects, with a special focus on the particular qualities, values, ethics and style which are typically missed in other training-of-trainer courses
* Share good practices (and deconstruct bad practices) of Learning Design in order to improve the quality of mobility activities offered through Erasmus+ and other local initiatives in the partner organizations’ countries
* Explore observations, experiences and emotions which remain unprocessed and become "hot potatoes" during training mobilities, so that the participants can learn to identify and deal with them in their future work
* Advance the participants’ knowledge and skills on how the principles of Intercultural Dialogue can support the learning process
* Allow the participants time and space to receive feedback from their peers on their learning design competences
* Formulate, together with the participants, a Model Evaluation Questionnaire that will serve as a necessary step of any future projects the partner organizations will undertake and serve as a tool for any other European organization that wishes to use it
* Advance the participants’ knowledge and skills in using online educational platforms and distant learning tools in their work

**Represented countries and organizations:**

**Greece**: EDRASE - Eteria Drasewn Epimorfosis (Educational Activities Society) [host organization]

**Slovenia**: Glotta Nova (center za novo znanje, d.o.o.)

**UK**: Momentum World Community Interest Company

**Latvia**: European Educational Circle

**Cyprus**: Cyprus Youth Council

**FYROM**: Association of Volunteering (Volonterski Centar Skopje)

**Spain**: Asociación La Rotllana

**Austria**: Europäische Bildungsinitiative

**Participants’ profile:**

* 24 persons (3 from each country)
* 22 years of age and above
* Already have a role as a youth trainer, youth worker, project manager, trainer or trainer of trainers (to be able to fully engage in sharing good practices, support the learning of the other participants and replicate the gains from the project in their future work)
* Interested in engaging in this project in line with the course aims and objectives
* Able to communicate well in English
* Available and willing to engage fully in the blended learning format of the project (September 2017 – May 2018)

**Application and Selection process:**

Those interested may apply through the application attached.

**The deadline for applications is August 24th, 2017.**

The selection of applicants will be done by the project organizers, with the contribution of the partner organizations. Priority will be given to those applicants that are associated with the partner organizations, to ensure the full implementation of the project and the partner organizations’ involvement.

**Successful applicants will be informed on September 8th**. Confirmation of participation by selected applicants must be given by September 14th.

**Project timeline:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Dates** | July -August 2017 | September 2017 | September - November 2017 | **26/11-2/12****2017****Travel days: 25/11 + 3/12** | December - January2018 | February -April 2018 | May 2018 |
| **Action** | Applications received  | Official start of the project | First phase of distance learning | Training coursein downtown Athens | Finalization of Model Evaluation Questionnaire | Dissemination of project results and testing of the Questionnaire | Final evaluation and closure of the project |
| **Main input****players** | EDRASE | All partners | EDRASE +Participants | EDRASE +Participants | EDRASE +Participants | All partners +Participants | All partners +Participants |
| **Support** **players** | Partners |  | Partners | Partners | Partners |  |  |

Following the selection of participants, the whole group and the trainers will begin interaction and exchange of information through an online platform (Edmodo). The participants will be expected to present themselves and asked to fill out short self-evaluation questionnaires related to the content of the project. The trainers will also upload and introduce the course program and background documents to prepare the ground for the training course in Athens.

The ETS Competence Model for Trainers and the Toolkit for Conducting Intercultural Dialogue will be used as background documents that will inform the content and process of the project.

The on-location training course will take place in central Athens. Staying true to a non-formal learning methodology, the trainers will propose energetic and engaging activities with the purpose of bringing out and maintaining a high participation level by all the participants. Various methods of learner-centered, individual and group learning will be used to support and achieve the objectives of the project. Self-evaluation, peer support and reflection will place a key role in the project content and process.

Following the completion of the training course, the participants will return to their base and will remain connected to the trainers and the rest of the group for another 6 months, for the purposes of developing a Model Evaluation Questionnaire, the dissemination of results, the implementation of newly-gained or improved training skills and the evaluation of the project.

**Travel reimbursement:**

The project is funded by the Erasmus+ Program and travel costs are calculated according to the European Commission distance calculator. The participants are expected to use the most economical means of transport (i.e. economy flight tickets, public buses or metro). Use of taxis is not covered. Expenses incurred by participants before or after the official duration of the training course cannot be covered.

To attend the training course, the selected participants will be expected to arrive in Athens by 7pm on Saturday, November 25th and depart after 11am on Sunday, December 3rd. The training course will take place in downtown Athens (the specific location and all other relevant information will be indicated in the 2nd infopack to selected participants).

Travel costswill be refunded at the end of the training course, after providing all original tickets and receipts. We will cover 100% of actual expenses, up to the maximum amounts listed below.

The following maximum travel reimbursement limits apply:

**Greece**: 180 euro (only if travelling between 100-499km to reach Athens)

**Slovenia**: 275 euro

**Cyprus**: 275 euro

**FYROM**: 275 euro

**Spain**: 275 euro

**Austria**: 275 euro

**UK**: 360 euro

**Latvia**: 360 euro

**Participation fee:**

Selected participants are expected to contribute **50 euro** towards the costs of the **entire project**, payable in cash on the first day of the training course in Athens.

**Host organization:**

EDRASE (<https://www.edrase.gr/en/>) is a private, not-for-profit association that works mainly with trainings and projects, both on national and on European level. It’s main aim is to promote Natural and Social Sciences and ICT in Greece and the EU, through seminars, lectures, courses and the production of educational material. Special interest is given to e-learning and distance/blended learning. EDRASE’s members have been organizers or educators in on-location or distance learning courses and have been coordinators in various successful national and international projects. Since the beginning of Erasmus+, EDRASE has been involved as a partner in several KA1 projects in the Youth sector.

**Project Trainers:**

**Ms. Charis Charalambous** (Cyprus) (SALTO Profile: <http://trainers.salto-youth.net/CharisCharalambous/>)

**Ms. Akrivi Anagnostaki** (Greece) Educator , Coursera Mentor

**Contact info:**

For any questions or clarifications, please contact Mr. Michail Filioglou at **micfilioglou@hotmail.com****.**

**\* For the curious:**

Athenian graffiti art can be quite impressive! The watermarked image at the background is one of the most iconic wall art pieces in the center of town. (Artist: Pavlos Tsakonas)