

“DESIGN THINKING FOR LOCAL ADVOCACY”

TRAINING COURSE
10-19 MAY 2024 (BUSTENI, ROMANIA)

The **aim** of this training course is to offer insights into how we have the power to shape the complicated relationships between civil society, public institutions and political actors, by focusing both on necessary skills for local advocacy, and diverse methods which can be employed at the grassroots level within the design thinking framework.

More specific objectives of the training are:

- 1. To develop practical advocacy & design thinking competences among 25 Youth Workers with a focus on influencing change at the local level.**
- 2. To motivate, prepare and accompany diverse youth organizations to develop or improve their competences in using design thinking methodology in advocacy processes at the local level.**
- 3. To encourage the European civil society at large to become more active** through a collection of innovative, creative, simple and motivating examples of local advocacy practices in the youth work field.

The training will be focused on developing specific multiplying competencies and it will make use of the richness of experiential learning and non-formal education in general (it will have a strong practical approach).

We are going to work on local advocacy campaigns using the **Design Thinking methodology** - a human-centred approach that allows us to design empathic activist actions, focused on genuine needs, fears, motivations and aspirations, which we identify with community actors related to essential issues. Design thinking is especially used when looking for innovative solutions to solve complex problems in diverse contexts.

Participant Profile

- ✓ **Members or close collaborators of active Youth Organization** (*staff or active member, paid or not*).
- ✓ **Enthusiastic youth workers** who are motivated to be active, in the topics addressed by the project.
- ✓ **High personal motivation/passion for the cause of the project:** Advocacy, Grassroots work, Design thinking, Public policy.
- ✓ **Good command of the English language;**
- ✓ **People older than 18 years and with a legal residence** (proven by documents) in the country they are currently residing in.

Expenses and guidelines for participants/partners

- **Board and lodging** for the training course are fully covered by the local organizers during the period mentioned in shared rooms (2 to 3 people in one room). Food will be served as a buffet and it will provide only vegan and vegetarian options.
- Each participant is free to choose the preferred way of travelling. Due to the organizers' policies and

the main theme of the project, **we strongly encourage the use of green travel**. If flights are used for more than 50% of the travel distance the maximum budget allocated available will be from standard travel!

• [Use this website \(https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/distance-calculator\)](https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/distance-calculator) to find out your distance. Write at the START, your location, from where you will start your travel and at the END, Busteni, Prahova, Romania. You will get a km number as a result which will correspond to financial support which you may get for your travel costs.

The individual maximum budget for travel, per person, is the following:

10 – 99 km	23 EUR (Standard Travel) / No Green Travel Available
100 – 499 km	180 EUR (Standard Travel) / 210 EUR (Green Travel)
500 – 1999 km	275 EUR (Standard Travel) / 320 EUR (Green Travel)
2000 – 2999 km	360 EUR (Standard Travel) / 410 EUR (Green Travel)
3000 – 3999 km	530 EUR (Standard Travel) / 610 EUR (Green Travel)
4000 – 7999 km	820 EUR (Standard Travel) / No Green Travel Available

Responsibilities of Participants

- Fill in the application form with honest and detailed information;
- Attend preparatory online/physical meetings with their sending organization and/or coordinators;
- Involve in preparatory tasks as communicated by the coordinator;
- Communicate their travel details (if they are solely in charge of arranging their travel) or provide timely information when their sending organization is buying for them;
- Keep all the receipts and invoices for their expenses during the travel;
- Make sure to attend fully the training sessions;
- Communicate promptly for any changes that may affect their participation in the project;
- Document their learning experience to adequately ensure the transfer of their learning post-training
- Provide the travel documents in a maximum of 30 days after the training course to the coordinator/partners to ensure the timely reimbursement procedures;
- Fill in the Individual Report which they will receive at their e-mail address;
- Share their learning experience with their colleagues and/or beneficiaries online or via physical events;
- Submit evidence of their sharing to the project coordinators;
- Transfer their learning outcomes in their work as youth workers;
- Provide input in the evaluation processes (short and long) organized by the coordinators and partners in the project.