

Y  **U** **T** **H**

FARO | PORTUGAL

29th November
6th December





TRAINING COURSE

29 November - 6 December 2013 | FARO - PORTUGAL

**“A TRAINING COURSE ON HOW TO INCREASE
YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING”**

Background

“If it comes to your mind that youth should be more actively involved in our society”

“If you believe that young people and youth organizations should contribute to influence the local policies that affect their lives”

“If you believe that we need to develop innovate approaches and create spaces where young people and local authorities can work together”

“... so you should definitely register in this Training Course!!!!”

The training course “Youth takes the floor” aims to allow youth leaders, youth workers and local authorities officers to work together developing their competences to create spaces where youth can work with local municipalities authorities in the development of local youth policies and strategies for the development of their communities.

The activity will have the duration of 7 days, where participants with the support of a team of experienced trainers will experience an intense learning process that will enable them to develop the necessary competences to efficiently plan, implement and sustain local youth councils, youth forums and/or other spaces of permanent structured dialogue and co-management at the local level. It will be composed by a mixed group of youth leaders and youth workers from the partners’ organizations and municipalities’ officers working in the youth departments.

The event will take place in the south of Portugal in the beautiful and welcoming city of Faro. There we will find a privileged space for mutual learning, where participants will be gathered to learn, discuss and



find new ways to involve young people to actively participate and contribute to local policies development in their communities.

Context

The recent changes and movements happening in the North Africa and South of Europe, but also occurring in many other parts of the world, has made us reflect on the “health” of our current democracies! It makes us reflect on how much youth is actually involved in shaping and contributing for more and better democracy in our societies! And on the urgent need to develop policies that create the conditions for this participation to become real and effective.

For this we believe that is crucial to develop a new culture of youth participation, specially when it regards the decision-making processes in the issues that are of direct concern and interest of youth. We should first look at youth as a source of solutions for our society problems; with their extraordinary energy, creativity and potential for change they can largely contribute for the development of our communities.

We also consider that the involvement of young people in developing youth policies and in decision making is fundamental to increase the sense of belonging and active citizenship of young people to their communities. And this involvement should not be only seem has our local authorities support to activities aimed for young people. We see this involvement in a broader dimension, where youth has an active voice and is a fundamental actor of the development of their local communities. We see youth actively contributing in shaping and developing local policies and this way the life of people in their communities.

It's therefore fundamental to involve young people in the decision-making process. This will enable municipalities and regional authorities to address the needs and interests of youth, at the same time that will contribute to engage youth as active actors of the solutions for their problems, increasing the level of ownership, compromise and involvement of an important part of our communities that is many times neglected on this level.



Objectives

The activity aims to reach the following specific objectives:

- ▷ Create a space for sharing and dialogue among youth organizations (youth leaders&youth workers) and local authorities' officers (staff responsible for youth&youth workers);
- ▷ Allow the space for the participants to better understand the role of young people in the development and sustainability of our democracies (structures&processes);
- ▷ Promote a better understanding of the happening in both sides of the Mediterranean and the roles and impacts of youth in such processes;
- ▷ Reflect about key concepts (such as advocacy, policy making, partnership, participative and representative democracy) of youth participation in decision making processes and to develop a common understanding;
- ▷ Identify different instruments and structures of and for youth participation in decision making processes being used in both sides of the Mediterranean in our partners countries, and debate about their potential and challenges;
- ▷ Develop competences (skills, knowledge and attitudes) in creating conditions for youth participation, in fostering partnerships and the establishment of co-management structures and instruments at local and regional level;
- ▷ Support the development of strategies and action plans for fostering youth participation processes and the development of structures and instruments of structured dialogue and co-management at local and regional level.

Methodology

The programme will be structured with a balanced combination of introductory plenary discussions, round tables and working groups supported by invited experts on the different fields approached during the five working days.

The use of non-formal education methodologies will ensure the active participation of all individuals involved. Working groups and active methods will be also used in order to create an environment that



encourages a dynamic involvement of all participants. The diversity of approaches will be used in order to address the group various ways to better engage and contribute to the discussed topics.

The presence of experienced trainers, facilitators and moderators during the all programme will definitely contribute to create a productive and efficient working environment to enable us to take the best out of our working days.

Participants Profile and Conditions

The training course will be a space for development of our competences, dialogue and sharing of experiences among different actors in the youth field, public officers, youth leaders and youth workers, experts and researchers on youth policies development, co-management and structured dialogue.

The organizers will fully cover board and lodging during the activity days and will reimburse till a maximum 70% of your travel expenditures.

An enrolment fee is payable by each participant: 30€ for participants coming from non EU countries **and** 50€ for participants coming from EU countries. This amount will be deducted from the amount to be reimbursed for travel expenses.

Venue

The seminar will take place in the city of Faro, situated in the heart of Algarve region. Faro is located between the mountains of Serra do Caldeirão and the inspiring Ria Formosa.

Registration Procedures

So if **you** are interested in taking part in this training, please **fill in the enclosed registration form, sign, stamp and send** to the following email sofia.martins@ecos.pt.

The **deadline** to receive the registration form is the **22th of October, 2013 at 6 pm (CET)**.

In case you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us!



Coordinating Organization

ECOS – Cooperativa de Educação, Cooperação e Desenvolvimento, is an organization run by professional youth workers and educators active on the development of youth programs and Structure Dialogue on local, national and European level. ECOS has as its main goal of action the promotion of non-formal education and social integration. Through our activities, we try to contribute to the development of a more human, sustainable, fair, inclusive, participative, democratic, equitable, cooperative, dialogical and integrated society.

Our **Mission** is to contribute to the development, nurturing learning, the construction of trust bonds and fruitful alliances among social actors, entrepreneurs and institutions (through dialogue and cooperation) and articulating agendas of action.

Our scope of **intervention** are on the following axes:

1. Creation of spaces for structured dialogue, cooperation and collective construction among diverse social, business and institutional actors;
2. Promotion, design, implementation and evaluation of playful, educational, social, cultural and sustainable development projects, in formal and non-formal spaces, through non-formal education, always in a way that it complements formal education and contributes to lifelong learning;
3. Development of organizations capacity to do a more efficient management of their resources and projects through training and new technologies of information and communication;
4. Monitoring, support, assessment and consultancy to individuals, organizations, institutions and respective educational programs and social intervention projects;
5. Promotion, recognition and validation of non-formal education and other alternative pedagogical methodologies that contribute to social transformation.

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