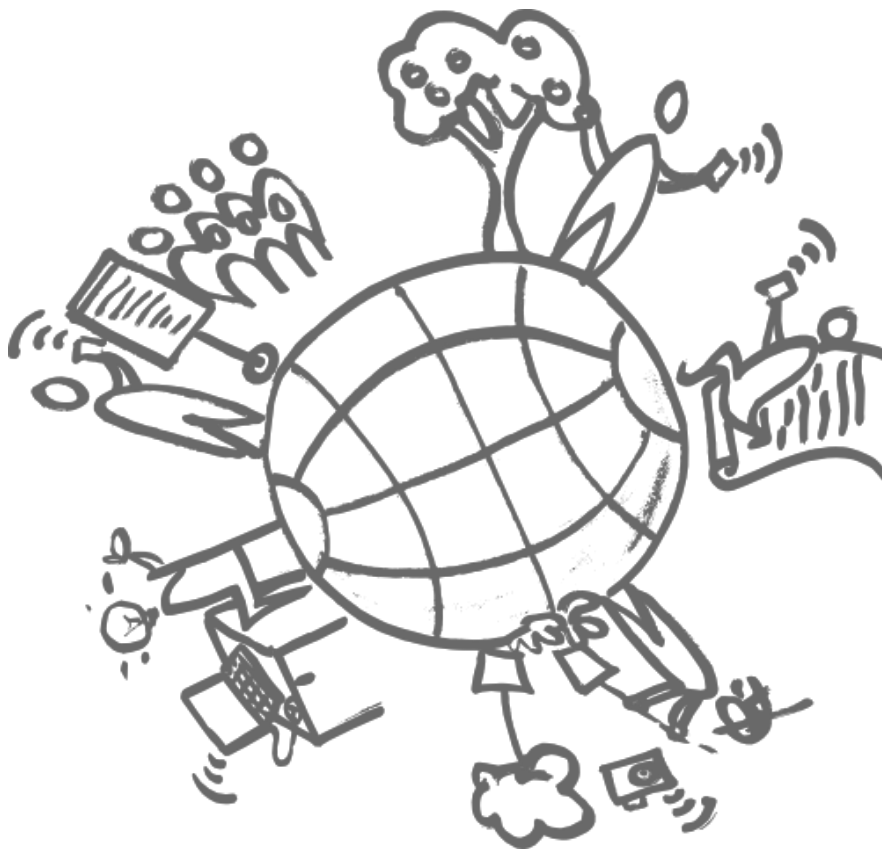


BYE *infopack

Backpack Journalism for Youth E(co)innovation "TC"

10th - 17th November 2014



Participants WP Blog: bpj.gaiaysofia.com



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Backpack Journalism for Youth E(co)innovation - Training course

A training course to explore Backpack Journalism (BPJ) competences and Eco-Innovation in rural areas, in connection with nature. We will be working on media sources and doing practical sustainable actions in a hands on and fun programme, that explores community work through a variety of different approaches.

We are looking forward to welcome you at this training course and to work together with you during six days of programme, sharing ideas and competences and exploring and reporting experiences with the stuff that fits in your backpack! That's the essence of Backpack Journalism! You take what you have - a camera, notebook, pen and paper, your smartphone, a recorder... put it in your backpack and hit the road looking for a story to tell!

We will be creative! performing small local actions, following the motto:

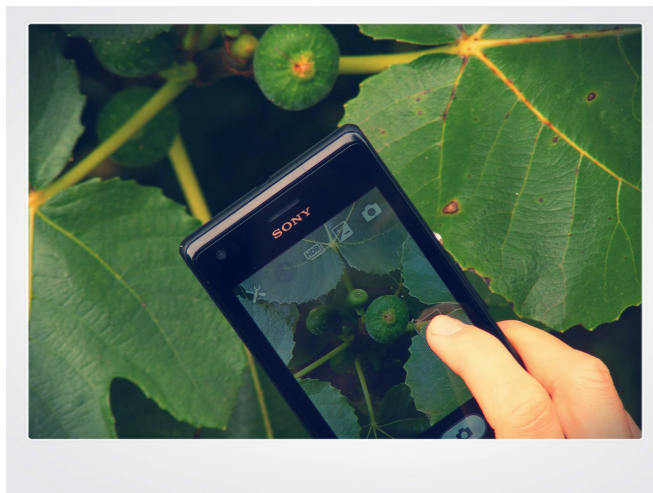
"Think Global, Act Local!"

by exploring eco-innovative projects, meeting new people and learning from each other.

WHAT IS THE COURSE ABOUT?

In this course, the Backpack Journalism methodology will be presented as a tool for social change, for Youth & Youth workers to make use of powerful instruments such as the social media and free internet resources to show the world what is going on!

It is a training course to encourage participants to create and tell stories about those eco-innovative actions that are happening around them and could benefit from an international visibility.



– such as a new community vegetable gardens, a new environmental friendly business, your group of friends creating a community kitchen, or a consumer group, an animal sanctuary, a tree nursery, permaculture projects and many more...

We will explore what can be done as a group; but also what you can do by yourself!



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MAIN OBJECTIVES

- * **To explore and identify** how Backpack Journalism (BPJ) can be used as a tool for promoting eco-innovation initiatives; and inspire participants to develop BPJ and eco-innovative projects in their organizations and their youth work.
- * **To discuss and share** how BPJ can increase employability of young people, even in rural or remote areas and communities, through developing skills such as media literacy, communication skills, responsibility, critical thinking, team work and sense of initiative.
- * **To practice** Project Based Learning focused on the performance of sustainable actions which directly contribute to the environmental and social welfare, and how these actions can contribute in the sustainability field of learning mobilities.
- * **To develop** partnerships between organizations which wish to develop BPJ projects in the future, as well as to develop practical ideas and promote the use of eco-workshops on CO2 compensation, and food awareness along the ERASMUS+ programme.

WORKING METHODS



We will use a wide variety of **non-formal learning methods** such as group work, games, creative methods, discussions, reflection time, etc.

Experiential learning will have a big emphasis in the programme, with some **innovative activities** founded on the principles of nature based education, deep ecology workshops, Way of Council or individual and practical workshops outdoors.

Participants will be active at three levels, at an individual level, in a team and as a whole; and there will be three learning dimensions: **Learning by thinking critically, learning by empathy and learning by doing**.

“Head, Heart and Hands”.



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We will be exploring **Backpack Journalism** as a tool for social change and empowerment.

More about Backpack Journalism: <http://bpjournalism.eu/>

We will **perform small** actions in the local ecology of the place and the landscape, along with workshops on food awareness; in this way, exploring our sense of place, self and community with various methodologies.

We will use "Service and Care" groups as a tool for community work, dedicating some time every day to taking care of the place we all share, the group and ourselves.

**** Important: This will not be a course on Journalistic skills! ****

We aim to explore how simple online tools such as blog, web, social media etc.. can give visibility to projects and establish new collaborative networks; and exploring its potentiality in youth work. We will have a few workshops as an introduction to some technical skills (e. g. blogging, social media), but we do NOT aim to train participants in journalistic skills.

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

This might be a course for:

- those who work or volunteer with youth projects and organizations, or currently unemployed and planning to do so.
- those who live in rural areas and/or are interested in small sustainable projects and eco-innovation.
- those who are interested in the use of social media and BPJ tools to promote and support local sustainable projects and initiatives. Technology friendly :) people!
- those who are interested in nature based learning, sustainability and systems' thinking.
- and those who are interested and willing to learn about nature and community-based approaches: guided learning processes through spending time in nature, sharing experiences and emotions in a group, methods based on "deep ecology" (connecting with nature at different levels).



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HOW TO APPLY:

Application online only, please find the form in the following link:

<http://goo.gl/mnwHG7>

Please apply as soon as possible and before the 5th October.

The team will make a selection based on the received applications and participants will be informed about the results by the second week of October.



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THE TRAINERS

Bára Blahová:

Bara comes from Ostrava, in the Czech Republic. She has a huge passion for non-formal education, as opposite to her traumatic educational experience of studying medicine. Her big interests at the moment are personal development, coaching and using nature as environment for learning, and is developing an addiction for social networks – not only as working tools. Uses backpack journalism as an educational method for young and adults, since 2012.

Carmine Rodi Falanga:

Born near Napoli, southern Italy, after a master degree in business administration, started working in non formal education since 2002.

Former journalist, he loves storytelling through all sorts of media, communication, group dynamics, games of all sorts; his next big project is to start a blog about travels and journeys of all kinds.

Lidia Fanjul:

Lidia was born in Asturias, green Spain. After studying Nature Conservation, she decided to get involved in a social coop its main mission is to practice and promote nature based learning, since 2011. She is interested in rural ecology, creativity and non-formal education. She loves nature! working close to the Earth on local and multicultural projects, mainly in a supporting role and developing art e(co)workshops. She is participating in training courses as facilitator since the beginning of 2014.

Sebastian Burch:

Sebastian completed his MSc in Holistic Science in 2008. In 2011 he co-Founded Gaia y Sofia, a small social company with a group of friends to create a shared economy that cares for soil, soul and society. He works part time as a farmer & IT support at Posada del Valle. He is passionate about the role of non formal education in the field of change. Inspired by great teachers and mentors as facilitator and communicator Seb has a theatrical style that shares rituals, symbols and challenges with the intention to start a group living story on new meanings in life.



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THE VENUE AND THE AREA



We will be staying at Hotel Posada del Valle (www.posadadelvalle.com), an eco-hotel with its own organic farm in Collia, Arriondas, in the region of Asturias, Spain.

It is placed in a rural area, a green valley close to Picos de Europa National Park. It is a mountain area, although the Hotel is only at 200 meters above sea level approx., and 20km. from the sea.

The closest cities are Oviedo and Gijón, and there is a small town only 2 km away, Arriondas. If you need to buy food or any other stuff, this will be the closest place to do so.

We will be sharing rooms, with on suit bathrooms.

The meals during the week will be wholesome vegetarian cooking, with occasional meat for those who want it. All type of food diets will be fulfilled. The cooks have experience with many special diets, you don't need to worry, Just let us know before hand!



The common places of the hotel and rooms will be self-managed by our group, which will be responsible for living together during the course. It is an essential part of our educational approach called "**SERVICE & CARE**", and encourages community spirit, responsibility and sharing. Everyday tasks like clearing up, setting tables, sorting garbage and washing up; will be shared by participants, as part of the sense of community we will be creating.

The hotel has internet connection. We will be using it, but take into consideration that it is a rural internet connection and although we have a good service, we will be 28 people; so please, be conscious about this, don't get frustrated and expect to be patient.



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About Asturias:



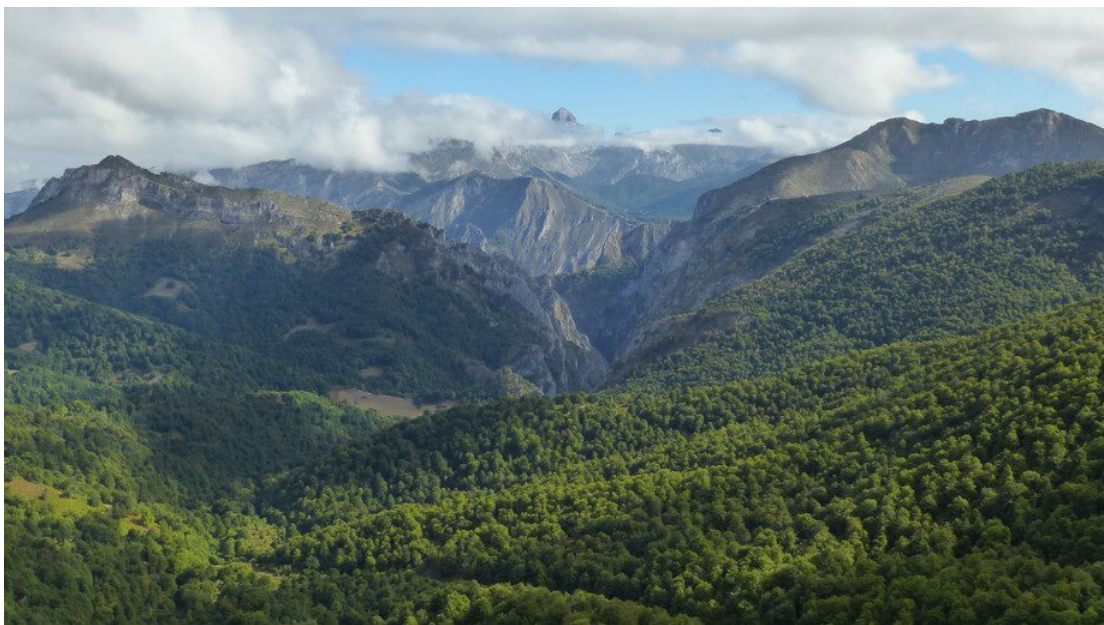
It is a small mountain region in the North-West Coast of Spain.

It is very green, which means that it rains a lot! but we also have lots of lovely sunny days.

Be prepared for maybe experiencing the 4 seasons in one week, so we recommend you to bring all-weather-clothing.

Autumn is usually a gentle season with lovely warm wind and not cold temperatures. The temperatures are very mild all over the year in the area. During this week in November, we may have something like 0-8 degrees during the night and up to 18 during the day, if it is sunny.

For more info about the place, take a look at the hotel's website: www.posadadelvalle.com



check this other wonderful website about the region: www.whereisasturias.com.



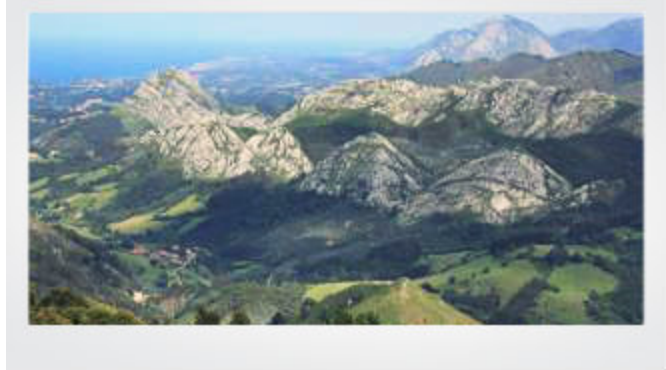
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HOW TO GET HERE

We will pick you up from Arriondas and take you to the Hotel.

- You can come by plane to **Asturias airport** or **Santander airport** (both are more or less at the same distance)
- You can come by train through France (the north coast train in Spain is very slow, prepare to spend at least 2 days to arrive here)
- You can fly to **Madrid**, and come by train to **Oviedo** (5 hours train) or bus.



Find detailed info following this link:

<http://www.posadadelvalle.com/hotel-farm-food/hotel/how-get-here>.

Suggestions

- Check Vueling.com to Asturias airport! there are also connections via London Stansted to Asturias Airport (Easyjet) or Santander Airport (Ryanair).
- People coming from Italy, you can have direct connections from Rome Ciampino or Milan Bergamo to Santander airport with Ryanair. Then, you can take a bus or train to Arriondas (there are only 2 or 3 per day)

In all the cases bear in mind you might have just a few buses to get to Arriondas, and they take time! From Asturias airport you have to go to Oviedo (there are buses and trains from there to Arriondas. The stations are on the same high street. Just ask). From Santander airport, there are only 2 or 3 buses (or trains) a day to Arriondas (final destination Oviedo)

NOTICE: please try to arrive to the venue place by 16.30 p.m on the arrival day, the 10th. On the departure day, avoid if possible, flights earlier than 11.00 a.m (flying from Asturias airport) or earlier than 14.30 a.m (if you fly from Santander), so you can have enough time to get there by bus.

Inform us as soon as you have a travel plan. For info and assistance, please email us (see "contacts" below).



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COURSE FEE AND TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Food and accommodation will be provided free of charge for the full length of the course.

The course will have a **participation fee** to be paid before hand by bank transfer or paypal, in order to confirm your participation in the course. The exact amount will be of your choice, depending on your financial possibilities, **from 30 € to 60 €**

The course is co-funded by the ERASMUS + programme. As such, each participant will get **70%** of travel expenses reimbursed, **up to 275 €!** Please note: We can reimburse only the cheapest transportation possible and only public transport, 2nd class fares. Taxi is not refundable, as well as private cars.

For the **reimbursements**, we will need:

1. An **invoice** with the **itinerary** of your trip, the **names** of the passengers and, very important, the **price** of the ticket. Usually all this information is available on the e-tickets for flights.
2. All your original **travel tickets and receipts** (train and bus tickets, boarding passes, etc.). The **boarding pass** is a very important document, the only evidence that you took the flight, and is required by National Agency for the reimbursement. We cannot provide reimbursement without these documents, and it will be your responsibility to take good care of them.

***Important notice:** to determine where you are from, **residence** is the counting factor, not nationality. We can give you a reimbursement **as long as you travel to and from that country (country of residence)**, no matter what nationality is shown on your passport.

The reimbursement will be done **after** the end of the project, after we successfully get all the tickets and boarding passes from the trip back home. Consider 4-6 weeks while we process all the documents and organise the transfers. More information about when and where to send the tickets, and the relevant reimbursement form will be given during the training course.



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WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

Clothing:

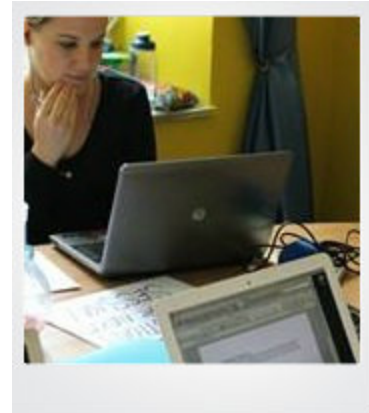
We recommend you to bring comfortable and suitable outdoor shoes for walking in the fields and maybe under the rain. Comfortable shoes for indoors are great too! Take into consideration we don't have carpets in Spanish houses or Hotels, so the floor can be cold. Bring also a raincoat and all-weather-clothes (something warm, something light..)

Equipment:

Bring all kind of devices you may use to report and tell a story, a camera, a voice recorder, a laptop or tablet or phone, a note book, etc., and a waterproof bag to carry the equipment.

You will need to bring your brain with you, but not only that, your whole body!

And be prepared to get your hands dirty!



Food:

We would like to create a small space for a multicultural activity, let's say it would be a soirée!, where you can share traditional food or drinks from your community or place, but if this doesn't motivate you, we will also be sharing songs, stories, music, you don't necessarily need to bring food.

Don't forget to..

- Pack your phone and other devices' chargers, including electrical adaptors for Spanish standards (if needed: see for more details:

<http://www.travel-adaptor.com/countries/travel-adaptor-plugs/Spain.php>)

- Bring your EU health care system card (it needs to be valid in Spain. If you are not sure, please check with your National Health Care System)

- I.D. or passport (in Spain it is compulsory to carry an identification document with you at all times)

- Euros!



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OTHER INFO

We invite you to be active from the beginning!

We will give you access to a Wordpress site where we together will create content and share our BPJ reports and resources. You will also be invited to become part of our Facebook group, with up to date info and resources about the course, where you can meet the rest of the participants, and some little challenges or tasks will be waiting for you. Prepare to be Backpack Journalised!

Our programme includes half a day free and we will offer some options for sightseeing, limited to the surroundings. **No trip will be organised!** If you want, organise yourself and take a few days extra for your own leisure time. **You can take up to extra 2-3 days and still be eligible for a travel reimbursement, not** more (because of the travel reimbursement arrangements within the Erasmus+ programme).

The participants commit themselves to actively participate in the whole process, including: to read all the information carefully, communicate timely with the organisers, prepare adequately for the training course; to take actively part in the whole program of activities and to participate in the evaluation process after the course.

CONTACT US

For any further questions, possible unexpected problems or changes in your journey to get here, etc..

Please contact us at:

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