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HOW CAN THE ERAMUS+
PROJECTS INFLUENCE THE LIFE
OF EUROPEAN YOUTH ?

COOPERaction:

How can the Erasmus+ projects influence the life of European youth?

International seminar, 25 February - 2 March 2024 in Madrid (Spain)

About the Project

This Seminar "COOPERaction: How can the Erasmus + projects influence the life of European youth?" is a 7-day seminar that will take place from the 25th of February to the 2nd of March 2024 in Madrid, Spain. The countries involved are Albania, Armenia, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Ukraine, North Macedonia, Azerbaijan and Turkey. It will be attended by 23 participants (including the coordinating team). At SCI Madrid, we are aware of the importance and magnitude of Erasmus+ as a programme that supports education, training, youth and sport in the European Union. Despite all that this wonderful initiative offers, we at SCI found that it does not have the impact it should have on the European Youth. We identified 3 main reasons why we believe that, through this seminar, we could help to boost attendance and awareness.

The first and most common is the lack of knowledge of this programme. We have detected that most of the people have knowledge of Erasmus+ because they have a direct link with an organization that develops and implements the programme. Secondly, even if people know about it, they are often not aware of the importance that it can bring to their lives, both on a personal and professional level. Finally, we believe that organizations need a more effective and solid strategy to disseminate the programme, which really conveys the opportunities, importance and experiences that Erasmus+ can bring to people's lives. It is thus essential that those who have had first-hand experience of Erasmus+ at both the organizational and participatory levels become aware of this and engage in the dissemination and, why not, generation of projects linked to Erasmus+.



Therefore, our aim is to raise awareness and deepen the opportunities of the Erasmus+ programme through innovative and appropriate educational and informative solutions for young people to understand the importance and necessity of the implementation and participation of Erasmus+ programmes both on a social and personal level.

During the seminar we are going to use a broad variety of non-formal education methods, such as world café, snowball discussion, research, silent exhibition, theater, visual harvesting, arts, energizers, self-reflection, team building games and more.

The team

The seminar will be facilitated by an experienced team of trainers of SCI Madrid: Isabel McLean & Juliana Constain. They are active trainers in the field of anti-discrimination, gender, climate justice, Agenda 2030 and ERASMUS+ project.

Our objectives

- To provide participants with the necessary information to understand Erasmus+ projects .
- To raise awareness of the importance of participating in these projects both on an educational level and to be able to live new and enriching experiences as well as to promote a change towards habits of active European participation among the young population.
- Sharing learning stories, tools and knowledge.
- To integrate cooperation in the field of youth work with different methodologies to be presented by the participants themselves.
- To motivate and give tools to the participants to develop critical thinking both during the seminar and in their future projects in order to be able to face current phenomena with more judgment, which is often affected by too much information or traditionally accepted negative behaviors.
- To share knowledge and tools to inform or raise awareness, inspiring and motivating to live a more inclusive and active life at all levels.
- To create an international network of youth workers interested in supporting, collaborating, co-creating and cooperating.
- To create a basis for supporting young people in developing visions and understanding of the importance of and involvement in Erasmus+ projects.
- Understand how Erasmus+ is a support base to fulfill the 2030 Agenda.
- To get to know organizations that are engaged in supporting young people and young workers who want to participate, apply or simply inform themselves about Erasmus+ projects.
- Learn from each other's experiences: best practices as well as strategies for improvement.
- Create an annex to the toolkit and disseminate it to youth organizations all over the world.
- Promote non-formal education, Erasmus+ and Youthpass.



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The venue

The seminar will take place in the youth house **Albergue Juvenil San Fermín** <https://san-fermin.org/>. It is located in Avda de los Fueros 36, 28041 Madrid.

Participant's profile

The project aims to gather **21 participants** (up to 1-2 per partner organization). The participants will be youth workers, trainers as well as staff, activists, camp coordinators and active volunteers from volunteering organizations. The seminar is open for all genders. All participants selected for this project should meet the following criteria:

- Belong to one of the following profiles:
 - Youth workers and staff active in youth centers, youth initiatives, international exchange organizations, volunteer organizations, etc. international exchange organizations, volunteer organizations, etc.
 - Coordinators of international exchange programs, volunteer exchanges.
 - Coordinators of international youth projects, such as youth exchanges.
 - Facilitators and trainers of youth worker mobility or other educational staff training.
- Be 18 years old or older.
- Be able to work in English.
- Be interested in the seminar topics and have a strong motivation to act as an active agent.
- Attend for the full duration of the seminar.
- Commit to spreading their new skills and competences to their sending branches, e.g. via a workshop or a camp coordinator training.
- As far as possible, avoid traveling by plane and choose green travel options (eg. train or bus).

We explicitly encourage participants of all classes, educational backgrounds, genders, sexual orientations, abilities and ethnic backgrounds to apply. For this project you should either have the nationality of one of the following countries or live in one of them: Albania, Armenia, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Ukraine, North Macedonia, Azerbaijan and Turkey.

Please note that there will be just a few opportunities to visit the region, but this is not a “sightseeing” project. This seminar is a serious commitment, and it needs to be taken as such. Thank you!



SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS:

Upon confirmation of the project, the coordinating team and the partner organizations will work closely together in the selection of participants based on:

- Their experience with the main themes of the project;
- Their experience working with young people;
- Their willingness to learn and share;
- Their eagerness to create and implement a follow-up;
- Their involvement in their sending organization.

They will be evaluated on the basis of a letter of motivation, a questionnaire and the sending organization's experience with the potential participant.

Selection will be based on the common goal of creating a diverse group. Participants with fewer opportunities will be explicitly encouraged to apply and will be provided with a structure for their participation (e.g. members with disabilities will not encounter problems in accessing the project site).

Logistics, financial conditions and sustainability



Simple life: The seminar will take place in a seminar house with simple living conditions. You will sleep in a shared room with a few other people.



Money, money, money: We can cover all essential costs of the program, including vegan food, travel costs up to a maximum amount per distance (maximum travel reimbursement amounts: 10-99 km = 20 Euro, 100-499 km = 180 Euro, 500-1999 km = 275 Euro, 2000-2999 km = 360 Euro), visa costs, accommodation and seminar, through a European project grant by Erasmus+. Your sending organization might ask for a small participation fee.



Sustainable food: The food we provide will be plant-based (vegetarian/vegan). This is not just a practical decision, but also an ideological one: SCI believes in the values of sustainability and climate justice – and if we want to contribute to a more peaceful planet, we need to give up on industrialized animal agriculture and its destructive effects on our planet.



Sustainable travels: This is also why we ask you to come to this seminar through more sustainable means of transport rather than flying (e.g. by train or bus), if somehow possible. There are good train and bus connections to Madrid from many places. We will give you more guidance on how you can reach the venue, once you are accepted to the seminar.



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How to apply?

Registrations can be made directly via the following link: <https://forms.gle/1oxEA4jB1dLr7EwLA>

Deadline for applying is 08TH January 2024.

All those who are accepted will subsequently receive a detailed information sheet (including information on how to get to the venue, how to book their travel and further information on the project program) after the deadline.

Contact

If you have any questions regarding the project and your application, don't hesitate to contact the SCI Madrid team: oficina@ongsci.org.

We are looking forward to your application! 😊

SCI Madrid Team