



CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS: Youth Exchange “Queer Summer Camp”

Registration form [HERE](#) - DEADLINE for applications: 26th April 2024

We're looking for **participants** for the youth exchange called "**Queer Summer Camp**" that will take place from the **2nd to the 10th of July 2024** in the beautiful place called "[La Città dell'Utopia](#)" located in Rome.

About the project

The LGBTIQ+ community is constantly exposed to a strong LGBTIQA+fobia (directly or indirectly) that causes stress, trauma, loneliness, isolation, lack of self esteem, anxiety, etc. Young LGBTIQ+ people are especially vulnerable to that and face additional difficulties such as rejection from their own families, distrust in opening up with others (which makes it difficult to make friends and or to find peers in similar situations), discrimination and bullying during school years, and so on.

There is a need for safe spaces where LGBTIQ+ youngsters* can share experiences and feelings, explore reality and themselves through different artistic methods, improve their leadership skills and create a stronger community consciousness that promotes diversity and civil engagement for an active citizenship.

*(We define as LGBTIQ+ youngsters those who identify with one or more categories inside the acronym LGBTIQA+. We are talking about persons who suffered or are suffering discrimination because of their sexual orientation, sexuality, gender expression or gender identity).

Objectives

A group of 25 young people from Italy, Spain, Ireland, Greece and France will participate in a collaborative program designed to reinforce international community bonds among young people who have faced discrimination due to their gender identity or sexual orientation with the aim of:



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- To create a safe, creative and playful space of personal and mutual care (from a transfeminist perspective) where peers can connect and exchange good practices on the topic of dealing with LGBTQIA+phobia (through the workshops that will be facilitated, through an Open Space, through a possible project lab/networking session etc).
- To develop a community in the form of a network/local group, where peers can develop strategies against LGBTQIA+phobia (through creating a social media group/page, through setting up meetings and discussing strategies, resource sharing etc).
- To raise awareness about LGBTQIA+phobia and its consequences through the creation of an online campaign/final event/artistic results (a comic book, a book, posters, songs, videos, a theater piece, comic stand up, drag race, living library, etc.) that can display their dreamed reality as LGBTIQ+ young people and present and future european citizens.

As a final result, participants will be able to go back to their countries with an international network of peers from the LGBTIQ+ community, with tools in order to create movements and awareness in their own countries and having found inner resources to deal with discrimination and loneliness.

Methodology

Different methodologies will be used:

- Use of positive adult references
- Empowerment through sharing experiences, awareness of structural violence, collective caring and confrontation with negative and limiting beliefs.
- Self-connection and inner transformation through meditation, breathing, music and dance.
- Artistic creation as a tool of self expression, healing and transformation.

Since the community is a major target of society's hate, frustration and phobia, sharing with equals, positive adult references, self-connection and inner transformation are all very important parts of the process.

To heal is possible through life in community, spiritual practice, artistic creation, therapeutic spaces and connection with the ones who fought before us. To heal is essential in order to be able to create a healthy and effective change in our society.

Through personal life stories and presenting some successful projects from different countries, youngsters will have the chance to be inspired and to connect with their own desires and ideas.

Since they will come from different countries and contexts, we will create spaces for them to share from their own perspective and from a local point of view.

The project has 3 main components:

BEFORE the Youth Exchange

- Attending one preparatory online meeting which will take place ***in June***.
- Be in touch with your Group Leader



DURING the Youth Exchange “Queer Summer Camp” (2nd to the 10th of July 2024)

- Active participation to all the sessions
- Participating in community daily life (keeping clean the place, taking care of the space)
- Be flexible and open minded towards others and the space
- Be proactive towards the agenda
- Have fun!! :D

AFTER the Youth Exchange

- The participants will help and contribute to share the results of the project together with their sending organizations
- Attend the follow-up workshop in which they will share what they have learned as well as their outcomes from

PROFILE OF THE PARTICIPANTS

- Be between 18 and 25 years old
- Has the interest, motivation, and willingness to follow the project from its beginning to its end
- Be able to communicate in English (the working language of the exchange)
- Having a positive and proactive attitude
- Be tolerant, and open minded (we are following vegetarian diet, and we will live in a basic accommodation in which we share rooms (but wonderful))
- Team player
- Willing to contribute to the community living
- Being resident in one of the association’s countries (living in Italy, Ireland, France, Spain or Greece)

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

This project is granted by Erasmus+, meaning that all the essential costs of the activities are covered: food, travel costs up to a maximum amount per country, accommodation.

Maximum travel reimbursement:

Servizio Civile Internazionale - Agedo	Italy	180 €
Servei Civil Internacional	Catalunya	275 €
VSI Ireland	Ireland	275 €
SCI France	France	275 €
SCI Hellas	Greece	275 €



APPLICATION

If you are interested in participating in the Youth Exchange “Queer Summer Camp”, please fill out this [google form](#) before the 26th April.

For any questions or doubt, you can write to formazione@sci-italia.it



DRAFT AGENDA: Here you find a draft of the program to give you an idea how the youth exchange might look like. Please be aware that the program might still change quite a bit!

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9
Morning	(arrivals)	Getting to know each other, introduction to the program	Who are they? LGBTIQ+ activism in history and collective empowerment	Me as a changemaker: my relation with LGBTIQ+ movement Drag queen and king workshop. Play with gender performance!	Study visit / Free time	Queer creativity lab (1)	creativity lab outcome	Open space	Departure
Lunch						Lunch			
Afternoon	La città dell'utopia: welcome session	Creating a safe space: yoga meditation and chanting Group agreements reflection groups	My story: mindful storytelling	Queer artistic expressions: trans poetry, dance, comics, etc.		Queer creativity lab (2)	creativity lab outcome	Evaluation Closure party	
Dinner									