



Call for participants

STRUCTURED PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

Activity 1: Euro Mediterranean Training Course

13-21 February 2015 – Barcelona, Catalonia

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Euro-Mediterranean Training Course 2015

The National Youth Council of Catalonia (CNJC) has a wide experience running training courses in partnership with youth organisations from the Euro-Mediterranean Region. For the ninth year in a row the CNJC organises a Training Course in Catalonia. This year's edition is about **Structured Participation in Democratic Processes** with a geographical focus on both shores of the Mediterranean Sea as usual.

The project

The 'Structured Participation in Democratic Processes' project has been the result of CNJC's and its partners' network active participation in the past two editions of the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (MedUni) celebrated so far (2013, 2014 editions). The MedUni is the common space launched by Euro-Mediterranean youth associations and platforms, together with the Council of Europe, European Union and Arab League support, where the key priorities for youth cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean area are discussed and agreed.

In this context, and in the light of the structural, political and social changes occurred in the region over the past three years, the network of partners do believe that it is mandatory to build capacities of youth organisations in the field of structured participation and political advocacy mechanisms, as well as to improve their capacities to shape public policy at the local, regional and regional levels.

Therefore, the 'Structured Participation in Democratic Processes' project seeks to meet this challenge by addressing the exchange of good practices and structured participation mechanisms in Europe and the Southern basin of the Mediterranean. In order to do so, the following phases and activities have been foreseen:

- **Phase 1. Preparation (July to October 2014, Tunis, already implemented).**

The partners' core network met at the 2014 MedUni Edition and agreed the needs, main goal, topic and structure of the project. CNJC's board members and officers detailed the specific goals and shape of the project (including the identification of new partner organisations) and applied for Erasmus+ support. **Key Action 1 (Exchange of Youth Workers) funding has been secured for activities 1 and 2**, which are coordinated by CNJC.

- **Phase 2. TRAINING COURSE - ACTIVITY 1 (13-21 February 2015, Barcelona, Catalonia).**

The residential training course will gather together 32 young leaders and youth workers from 21 youth organisations working in the Euro-Mediterranean area. Given the general topic of Structured Participation, participants will reflect upon key questions such as existing models of participation and how to strengthen youth councils and youth organisations in the region.

All these questions will be addressed through a framework of intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding and exchange of experiences among youth workers. Therefore, Non Formal Education tools will be used to address these topics, complemented by formal inputs such as conferences by guest speakers, institutional visits or associations' fairs. However, NFE will be the methodology used throughout the whole project.

To summarise, the course aims that participants share good practices from their community or association in the field of political advocacy and participation.

STRUCTURED PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

Euro-Mediterranean Training Course 2015

- **Phase 3. Intermediate phase centred in the implementation of local actions.**

The tangible results that stem from the course will be cooperation projects designed and planned by partner organisations that share similar needs in the field of structured participation. As a consequence, every single partner organisation has committed to implement meetings, visits or activities that are needed to carry out the aforementioned projects. Moreover, partner organisations must evaluate and collect the results of the implemented activities.

- **Phase 4. JOINT ASSESSMENT AND CLOSING MEETING - ACTIVITY 2 (June or July 2015, Tunis).**

Partner organisations are expected to meet at the 3rd Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (expected June/July 2015) for the closing of the project, to assess the key achieved results and plan future follow up activities. The activity will gather together 32 young leaders and youth workers from the partners' network.

Moreover, this activity will be a unique opportunity to share the results of the 'Structured Participation in Democratic Processes' project with key stakeholders involved in youth Euro-Mediterranean cooperation processes in the framework of the MedUni, and therefore feed into the 2015-16 Euro-Med cooperation cycle.

Expected results of the project

The immediate results of the 'Structured Participation in Democratic Processes' project will be the cooperation projects launched by partner organisations, and their subsequent local actions and results achieved throughout the intermediate phase. The expected outcomes are:

- Improved the youth workers' and partner organisations' capacities and competences in the field of political advocacy and participation (and in particular, Non Formal Education competencies as a working tool).
- Transferred good practices on structured participation to the local context of partner organisations.
- Increased the quantity and quality of the cooperation activities organised by youth organisations/platforms in the Euro-Med region.

Also, the following benefits are expected in the long term, since the project is part of the broader Euro-Med youth cooperation process:

- Increased the mutual awareness and knowledge on the realities and common challenges of youth at both sides of the Mediterranean.
- Increased the youth exchanges, mobility and cooperation projects in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Activity 1 - The course at a glance: its international context and specific goals

It has to be noted that this course is part of CNJC's broader international strategy to build bridges of dialogue and understanding between youth councils, international organisations and youth associations based in the Euromed Region. In this context, CNJC would like to sincerely thank the support received from the Youth Council of Italy (FNG) and the European Youth Forum (YFJ) throughout these years; and also emphasise the commitment of agencies such as the Council of Europe, the North-South Centre or the Arab League. All these organisations have been key promoters of these type of training activities and exchange within the framework of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

The first edition of the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (MedUni) in 2013 was the result of the action of several stakeholders to promote youth cooperation in the region. In this context, CNJC co-organised with the Youth Council of Italy (FNG) a meeting with youth leaders and youth workers from European youth councils, international organisations and organisations from the South of the Mediterranean.

This meeting enabled youth organisations and platforms to set the priorities and strategies of youth cooperation in the region. Furthermore, it was agreed that strengthening organisations and their networking relations should be a key guideline of future activities. The aforementioned goals would help youth organisations to boost their social influence in youth policies at local, national and regional levels.

In the second edition of MedUni (June 2014), CNJC has further promoted stakeholders meetings and participated in courses where the key priorities for youth cooperation in the region have been identified and agreed amongst the involved organisations, in order to guide future activities of partners and participants. This project you are reading right now is in line with the conclusions of these two editions of MedUni; namely, the need to strengthen youth organisations participatory and advocacy mechanisms, as well as their cooperation strategies in order to improve their social influence in youth policies at local, national and regional levels.

Therefore, **the specific goals of the course** are in line with the existing mechanisms of Euro-Mediterranean youth cooperation:

- To analyse the new participation and youth associativism trends that have flourished in the region, paying special attention to direct participation and structured participation mechanisms.
- To explore tools and strategies that can improve the advocacy tasks undertaken by youth councils and youth organisations in the region.
- To explore advocacy strategies that may allow youth organisations to work in network with other institutions (i.e. schools, universities, political institutions...).
- To promote networking and think about new cooperation strategies between youth councils and organisations in the region at the local, national and international level.
- To explore Euro-Mediterranean diversity by the promotion of intercultural dialogue and understanding among youth leaders and youth workers active in youth associations and national youth councils.

STRUCTURED PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

Euro-Mediterranean Training Course 2015

- To reflect on the Human Rights situation in the Euro-Mediterranean area.
- To promote non formal education as a working tool in the training course itself and in further activities of the partner organisations.

Last but not least, this course provides its participants with an excellent opportunity to meet other Euro-Mediterranean cultures, as well as to become aware of the diversity of the region. Also, it opens up a space to address human rights' issues otherwise neglected by society; while it effectively establishes an intercultural dialogue among youth organisations and civil society from the Euro-Mediterranean area.

Methodology of the course

This course has been designed to enable participants to experience and reflect upon activities and concepts central to a human rights-based education, youth policies, participation and youth organisations. Since it is based on experiential learning approaches, reflections and meta-reflections on the methodological aspects will be specifically addressed as a key aim of the Training Course.

The course has been conceptualised as a space for mutual learning, where participants do exchange their approaches to training and share best practices across the Mediterranean Area within a dialogical intercultural environment.

The previous experience of participants in formal and non-formal educational sectors will be the starting point of the learning process.

The training course will be **fully implemented in English**. *Please note that the entire course will be facilitated in English and CNJC cannot assure interpretation services. Participants are expected to have a good command of oral and written English. Therefore, those candidates who are not fluid in English will not be eligible for the course.*

Profile of the participants

The Training Course is designed for youth leaders, educators and multiplier agents working with young people in the Euro-Mediterranean Area. Participants are expected to come both from Formal and Non Formal education sector.

They should be ready to act as multipliers and are requested to be able to fully participate in English language.

Participants will range from **20 to 35 years old**. However, occasional exceptions can be done in specific cases. The preparatory team will ensure a balanced group with regards to gender, geographical, organisation of origin and cultural background criteria.

Participants will come from Euro-Mediterranean countries such as Spain, Italy, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunis, Israel, Palestine, Morocco, Tunisia, Western Sahara, Romania, Greece, Syria, Turkey, Macedonia and Belgium. Likewise, representatives from political and social organisations from the Euro-Mediterranean region will attend the course.

STRUCTURED PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

Euro-Mediterranean Training Course 2015

As said before, the geographical and gender balance will be specially taken into consideration in the selection procedure. Furthermore, criteria such as prior experience on the topics covered, follow up development and the motivation statement will be specially taken into account.

Participants are expected to be ready for a meaningful intercultural learning experience, as well as to display a high degree of tolerance, respect and empathy with each other.

Youth Pass recognition

Youthpass is a newly developed tool of validation and recognition of non-formal learning within the Youth in Action Programme framework. Participants of the Training Course are therefore eligible to receive a Youthpass Certificate.

Application procedure and selection of participants

Please find the enclosed **Application Form** to apply. Applications should be sent to the mentioned address (at international@cnjc.cat) together with their **Commitment Form** and the support of their sending organisation or institution (**Endorsement Letter** document). The latter has to confirm the added value of its candidate's application to participate in the course.

The application documents must be sent by e-mail to the National Youth Council of Catalonia (CNJC) until **Friday the 9th January 2015** the latest (for further details please see the application form).

The preparatory team will select the participants on the basis of the profile outlined in the application form. The team will ensure a balanced group with regards to gender, geographical, organisation of origin and cultural background criteria. Occasionally, a waiting list may be established. Candidates will be notified whether their application has been accepted, rejected or put on the waiting list **at mid-January 2015**. Afterwards, course documentation and further technical and educational information will be sent to the accepted candidates by the organisers (the so-called Info-Pack and preparatory materials).

Last, the CNJC would like to emphasise that candidates **must not book their flight until their participation is confirmed by CNJC.** The Council will explicitly let them know when they can do it.

Financial and practical conditions of participation

Travel expenses: Travel expenses will be reimbursed following the travel distances parameters included in the funding rules of Erasmus+ (conditional on the presentation of the relevant receipts). Participants must choose the cheapest travel option – Under 500 km: 2nd class train; Over 500 km: 1st class train (provided it is cheaper than economy class plane ticket) or plane (APEX, PEX fares). **The organisation only reimburses public transport costs.** No taxis will be reimbursed. Visa costs will be fully covered. Only the travel costs of those participants who attend the entire training course will be reimbursed.

STRUCTURED PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

Euro-Mediterranean Training Course 2015

Arrival and Departure: Participants are expected to arrive to the venue the evening of the 13th February the latest. The departure will be on the 21st February after breakfast.

Accommodation: Board and lodging will be provided and paid by the Host Organisation.

Host Organisation: The National Youth Council of Catalonia

The **National Youth Council of Catalonia (CNJC)** is a platform made up of 95 national youth associations and local councils of the youth. In particular, the National Youth Council of Catalonia is a public institution born in 1979 which enjoys its own legal status. Its main goal is to promote the youngster's interests and needs in front of the public administration, and more broadly, in the Spanish and European policy spheres. More than 175,000 Catalan youngsters participate in the organisations which in turn are members of the Council. These are, among others, educative associations; students' and workers' unions; cultural, exchange and/or social associations; political youth organisations and local councils of the youth. The National Youth Council of Catalonia is a full-rights member of the European Youth Forum since 1985.

The National Youth Council of Catalonia is a non-governmental, plural and democratically-based organisation. Among its key goals, the CNJC:

1. Promotes associativism and democratic participation among the youth,
2. Promotes partnerships and coordination among the Catalan youth organisations and also with Euro-Mediterranean youth associations,
3. Establishes a channel of communication between the youngsters and public administrations and promotes the interests of the former in front of the later,
5. Stands up for the rights of the young people,
5. Fosters reports and studies about the youth and/or related subjects,
6. Disseminates and spreads internationally the activities undertaken by Catalan associations and the Council itself.

Additional Information

If you need further information do not hesitate to get in touch with us:

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