



*CAPACITY BUILDING ON YOUTH
COUNCILS AND YOUTH
ORGANISATIONS*

Euro Mediterranean Training Course 2014

14th – 20th February 2014
Coma-Ruga - CATALONIA (Spain)

In brief

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 eighth year in a row the CNJC organises a Training Course in Catalonia. This year's edition is about **Capacity building on youth councils and youth organisations** with a geographical focus on both shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

Aims of the course

This residential Training Course will gather together young members from youth organisations from the Euro-Mediterranean region. The course seeks to explore the development of empowering strategies in order to strengthen youth councils and organisations in the Euro-Mediterranean sphere. These goals will be pursued through a framework of intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding and experiences exchange among young people.

This course is a key activity within the CNJC wider International and Cooperation strategy. In particular, the Council aims to create channels of dialogue and spaces of encounter among youth councils, international organisations and youth associations from Euro-Mediterranean countries.

The Council would like to point out its collaboration with the Youth Council of Italy (FNG) and the European Youth Forum (EYF) throughout all the phases of design and implementation of this Training Course. Likewise, the CNJC would like to thank the commitment of the Council of Europe, the North-South Centre and the Arab League, who are key stakeholders in the promotion of training and exchange activities within the broader framework of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

The first edition of the Global Citizenship Mediterranean University resulted from the pressure of several stakeholders in the field of youth Euro-Mediterranean cooperation. More than 100 young people from several countries of the region attended the event. In this context, the CNJC co-organised in partnership with the Youth Council of Italy (FNG) a meeting with leaders from European youth councils, organisations from the Global South and other international organisations. 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.

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.

Specific goals:

- To explore the tools and strategies that can strengthen youth councils and youth organisations of the region,
- To analyse the current trends of participation and youth associativism in the region,
- To promote networking and cooperation between youth councils and organisations of the region in a multi-level dimension (local, national and international),
- To promote intercultural dialogue and diversity,

CAPACITY BUILDING ON YOUTH COUNCILS AND YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

Euro-Mediterranean Training Course 2014

- To generate a multiplying effect to strengthen the participants' and partners' benefits,
- To promote non formal education as a working tool in the training course itself and in forthcoming activities of the participant organisations.

Methodology

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**.

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 select 16 partners as to 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 and Palestine. Likewise, representatives from political and social organisations from the Euro-Mediterranean region will attend the course.

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

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.

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.

Application procedure and selection of participants

Please find the enclosed application form to apply. Applications should be sent to the mentioned address (post, fax or E-mail) together with the support of their sending organisation or institution. The later has to confirm the added value of its candidate's application by **signing and stamping the endorsement letter required at the "Organisation / Institution's Profile" Section** of the application form.

CAPACITY BUILDING ON YOUTH COUNCILS AND YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

Euro-Mediterranean Training Course 2014

The preparatory team will select 24 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 the beginning of January 2014**. Afterwards, course documentation and further technical and educational information will be sent to the accepted candidates by the organisers (the so-called Info-Pack).

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.

Deadline for applications

The application form and the support letter of the organisation must be sent by post, fax or e-mail to the Catalan National Youth Council (CNJC) until **Sunday the 5th January 2014** the latest (for further details please see the application form).

Financial and practical conditions of participation

Travel expenses: The 70% of travel expenses will be reimbursed (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. Only the travel costs of those participants who attend the entire training course will be reimbursed.

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.

Additional Information

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

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