

# Story behind Story

*International youth exchange project*

**Erasmus+ number:** 2019-3-DE04-KA105-018753

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## **Project partners:**

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## **The objectives of the project are:**

- to contribute to working on challenges of current media reality by developing competences of young people in media and information literacy on levels of awareness, attitudes and practical skills;
- to enhance critical thinking regarding social and political issues on instances of instrumentalising history/memory and manipulating by information;
- to develop intercultural competences and raise interest in international youth exchanges and other types of mobility projects;
- to promote recognition of non-formal education as an important element of lifelong learning;
- to enrich the work of partner organisations through implementing an innovative project and to enhance the quality in youth work in Europe through the dissemination of the project results.

**The main domains to be addressed** by implementing this project are: media and information literacy, critical thinking, intercultural competences, youth participation, awareness of social and political

phenomena and processes, recognition of non-formal education and international youth exchanges, increasing capacities and competences of the partners in youth work on local and international levels.

**Participants:** young people between the ages of **18-25**; **8-9 participants** from every country for both of the youth exchanges. There is place for 1 or 2 group leaders from each country (their number and roles have to be discussed). More details on the participant profile should be discussed by the partners.

**Working language:** English

## **The project activities:**

### **1.1 APV - Preparatory meeting for the Youth Exchange 1.2**

**Location:** Berlin, Germany

**Duration:** 2 full working days + up to 2 travel days

**Participants:** 1 team leader from each country, not younger than 18 years old

It is possible to bring the second person who is not older than 30 years old (this person will be marked as a participant in the report for Erasmus+). Both persons should attend the Youth Exchange 1.2.

### **1.2 Youth Exchange "Media in my life"**

**Location:** Berlin, Germany

**Duration:** 8 full working days + up to 2 travel days

**Dates:** 22.06 – 01.07.2021 (including arrival and departure days)

**This activity is focused** mostly on the personal dimension of media and information literacy, and aims to help participants reflect their own competences and behaviours in their interactions with media. Working on their awareness of social and political aspects of the topic will be done on a basic level: introducing this perspectives to participants, evoking their interest on it (to be further explored on the second youth exchange), as well as evaluating the group's and participants' competences on this topic.

#### **We plan to work on the following domains:**

- new perspectives on controversial issues; becoming more able to identify and articulate personal points of view;
- awareness of the way media works; information skills that can be useful for employability;

- better ways to interact with media – as a consumer, mediator and producer of content;
- competences for being critical, able to analyse information, and avoiding becoming victims of fake news and propaganda;
- ability to talk about social and political issues;
- reflection on personal identities with ways to express it adequately and safely;
- new ways of learning, especially about new challenges in a rapidly changing world; demonstrating personal competences to others.

## 2.1 APV - Preparatory meeting for the Youth Exchange 2.2

**Location:** Oradea, Romania

**Duration:** 2 full working days + up to 2 travel days

**Participants:** 1 team leader from each country, not younger than 18 years old

It is possible to bring the second person who is not older than 30 years old (this person will be marked as a participant in the report for Erasmus+). Both persons should attend the Youth Exchange 2.2.

## 2.2 Youth Exchange "Media and Society"

**Location:** Oradea, Romania

**Duration:** 8 full working days + up to 2 travel days

**Dates:** 02 – 10.09.2021 (including arrival and departure days)

**This activity is focused** on the social and political dimensions of the topic of “media”, the exploring of historical aspects of the issues of propaganda, and promoting critical thinking and active participation. Participants will become able to see more layers, perspectives and interests behind every single story.

**We plan to work on the following domains:**

- what and how we can learn from the past;
- looking for more objectivity/truth in information and history, as well as ways to avoid fake news and not to take the bait of fake stories;
- relations between media and audience, power and information;
- manipulation by history and information, and ways to protect ourselves and society from it;
- the power of images;
- skills in dealing with images and video;
- skills in active participation and project management;

- recognizing of youth exchange experiences as valuable sources of learning.

After summarizing the learning outcomes of the project, participants will work on ideas for further activities in their community, as well as work on their project management skills. For this we are going to use a method called "Future Lab" which was elaborated for solving real problems in real communities. The method helps to move from dissatisfaction (seeing problems) through dreams to concrete realistic actions to contribute to community development.

### **Methodology of the youth exchanges:**

The activity will be implemented with methods of non-formal education that promote interaction and reflection. Participant will be invited to take part in discussions, simulation games, meetings and visits, opinion sharing and other interactive methods.

In order to ensure joint work, create a safe atmosphere for opinion exchange and encourage participants to have new experiences, we are going to make special efforts for getting to know each other through ice-breaking, group building, and the establishing of communication on a personal level. Relative flexibility of the programme, attention to topics and aspects especially interesting for the group, the creation of a space where every participant can express themselves (e.g., enough time to think, working in pairs and small groups, different ways of expression etc.), as well as not judging opinions should facilitate a productive joint work, just as the individual learning process of every participant.

Some of the sessions will be based on tasks for participants: they will be invited to discover and research specific issues by using media tools, then prepare presentations of the results for the whole group, and finally, share their opinions and reflect on their attitudes.

There will be sessions where participants will be challenged by controversial statements or questions, and asked to take a position and argue in favor or against it.

Presentations offered by trainers or experts will be done in an interactive manner. The role of the presentations is to point out problems, bring new perspectives and act as input for discussions and opinion sharing that will follow.

### **Teams of the youth exchanges:**

The teams will consist of **trainers** (ideally 3 persons) and **team leaders** (one for each country). The trainers are responsible for the programme design and its implementation. **The role of team leaders** may vary, but it will necessarily involve the following: participating in discussions regarding general

objectives, programme design and practical issues; being the contact person for participants from their countries; taking care of organizational and safety issues during the youth exchanges – not only concerning the participants from their own countries but the whole group. **It is important that group leaders don't divide participants into national groups but support the whole team of the trainers and other team-leaders.**

### **Recruitment and selection of the participants:**

The partner organizations are responsible for the recruitment and selection of the participants from their countries. There are **two important conditions in this process**: the participants should match the participant profile, and they should be well informed of the project's topic, approach and all practical issues. The partner organizations should try to ensure diversity and gender balance within the group, as well as to include young people with fewer opportunities.

The coordinator will prepare a "Call for participants" document which will be discussed and agreed upon by the partners. After that, the document will be published online so all potential participants can read it before applying. By applying, they express their consent on the terms of participation.

**All participants should fill in the application form** which includes personal data and questions concerning their background and motivations. They will be informed about their selection only after completing the form. This measure ensures that potential participants apply in a more conscious way, and it also gives some extra information for the team to help adapt the programme to the needs of participants.

The strategy of recruitment and the criteria for the selection of participants will be discussed by the partners beforehand. If such need arises, partners can consult with each other and the coordinator on the selection process.

### **Activities for the dissemination of the project results:**

1. After the first youth exchange, participants will organize **local workshops** in their communities involving interaction with mass media outlets such as newspapers, radio, television or news web portals. Local experts (e.g. journalists, PR-managers) will be invited to share knowledge and some insider tips regarding media. The workshops will include the presentation of this current project.

2. On the second youth exchange, participants work out **project ideas** related to the topic of the project that they would like to implement on a local or international level. **The partner organizations will provide consultations and other means of support for the teams implementing the project.**

3. Partners will offer a brief **presentation** regarding the project and its results to members of their own organizations.

4. Relying on existing contact with local schools and student organizations, the partners will **visit open events offered by them** and make presentations about the project and its results.

5. An important part of the dissemination process will be the **distribution of the following media products**:

5.1. **A short movie entitled “Stories behind a Story”** made by participants in the second youth exchange which will feature different interpretations and perspectives on some given situations. On one hand, the movie will present the concept of the project so it can be brought to wider audience, and on the other, it will demonstrate the work done by the partners, as well as advertise youth exchanges for young people.

5.2. **A short video made of feedback from the participants** that can highlight the value of non-formal education and the learning dimension of international youth exchanges, as well as arouse young people’s interest in taking part in such projects.

5.3. **Storytelling about participants’ experience** done in different formats (comics, diaries, photo-reportages etc.) by participants, either individually or in small groups.

**These media productions will be distributed through social media platforms and websites of the partners**, or media platforms of participants’ organisations, schools, communities, other stakeholders involved in the project, or groups/events organized specifically for this project. These products will also will be integrated in presentations made by the partners and participants in relevant situations/events.

6. **Press releases before and after both youth exchanges** will be sent to local media and local authorities by all of the partners.

7. **News about the project** will be published regularly on **websites and social media platforms of the partner organisations**.

8. **An informative project report**, including its context, short description of the partners, aims, content, methodology and results will be upload to Erasmus+ project Results platform, SALTO-Youth web-portal, as well as on the websites of all of the partners.

9. **A shorter version of the report** will be included in the **annual reports of the partner organisations**, as well as sent around to their networks and local authorities.

10. **An article focusing on the description of the project**, reflection of its implementation and analysis of its educational concept and results will be prepared and published by the project coordinator.

## Finances

**Participation fee:** On the one hand, a participant fee supplements the project's budget; on the other hand, by paying a small fee, participants become more conscious about and more committed to their decision to take part in the project. Collecting a participant fee is up to the partners, taking in consideration the financial background of their countries and the individual participants.

All participants must have a **medical insurance** valid in the country of the exchange for the entire period of the meeting, including travel days. **It is the responsibility of the partners to ensure this.**

"Solidarus" will provide the third party liability insurance (for any cases of accidental damage caused by participants) for the youth exchange in Berlin.

**All costs for both meetings in Berlin will be covered:** accommodation, 3 meals per day including dinner on the arrival day and breakfast on the departure day, materials and public transportation and other costs of visits within the programme. The services will be chosen taking in consideration the project budget. The cost of public transportation tickets from the venue to Berlin airport will be reimbursed later, upon receiving the original tickets.

**All costs for both meetings in Romania:** accommodation, 3 meals per day including dinner on the arrival day and breakfast on the departure day, materials and public transportation and other costs of visits within the programme, **provided that these costs are agreed in advance between the Romanian partner and the coordinator.** The payments can either be done directly to the service providers by the coordinator, or the needed sum will be transferred to the Romanian partner based on payment requests to accompany the report and copies of the bills.

**Travel costs** for all project meetings will be covered for all participants, with the following conditions:

- the participant takes full part in the activity (from the beginning to the end, without skipping any parts of the programme), with acceptance of illness or other *force majeure*;
- the original copies of the tickets (including the name, dates, routes and prices if applicable), boarding passes and signed reimbursement forms (to be sent out by the coordinator) will be provided in one package to the coordinator;
- the prices of the tickets and travel routes have been agreed with the coordinator in advance to ensure an optimum price-value ratio;
- the tickets are bought at least **1 month before** the meeting begins.

In case some participants need to travel on other dates or not from/to their home cities, that should be discussed with the coordinator in advance.

#### **Options for the purchasing and reimbursement of the tickets:**

- Participants purchase their own tickets and get reimbursed via bank transfer within 2 weeks after providing **all necessary paper documents**;
- The partner organizations purchase participants' tickets and get reimbursed via bank transfer within 2 weeks after providing **all necessary paper documents** (in addition to the copies of all tickets and boarding passes, a request for payment will be necessary)
- The coordinator buys flight tickets for the participants directly if the partner sends a guarantee letter to cover all non-refundable costs in case a participant will not take part in the meeting. This option is reserved for larger sums, such as plane tickets. Smaller travel costs should be covered using one of the two methods mentioned above.

**Attention!** Reimbursements can only be made in Euro and by bank transfer to the account of the person or organisation that paid for the ticket.