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PROJECT: PeerCivic: Strengthening the civic commitment of young people through Peer led initiative community.

Project number: 101131845-PeerCivic-ERASMUS-YOUTH-2023-YOUTH-TOG

Work Package 3: Transnational peer led initiatives.

Deliverable D3.1. Transnational Training Course.

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July 2024

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Granting authority: European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)



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1. SUMMARY

The main objective of the training course was to apply effective methods to encourage young Europeans to engage in debates and discussions on topics of interest at the EU level and its values. The course involved 28 youth workers and 3 trainers from different organisations: ANDCTR (Romania), Fondazione Comunitaria di Agrigento e Trapani (Italy), Permacultura Cantabria (Spain), Active Citizens Partnership (Greece), Future Cast (Ireland), and Walk Together (Bulgaria).

The training took place in Craiova, Romania, at the Hotel Euphoria from June 17th to June 23rd, 2024, with arrival on June 16th and departure on June 24th. ANDCTR hosted the training, which was organised with Fondazione Comunitaria di Agrigento e Trapani and Permacultura Cantabria. The course was part of Work Package 3 (Transnational peer-led initiatives) under Permacultura Cantabria's responsibility.

The training course focused on peer-to-peer (P2P) methodology, emphasising peer learning. Participants learned and shared knowledge through interactions, experiences, and mutual exchanges rather than traditional top-down teaching. This approach involved active participation in creating and leading learning activities. Participants also planned and executed projects, workshops, and initiatives to enhance group skills and competencies.

2. AIMS OF THE TRAINING COURSE

During the Training Course we aimed mainly to train the Incubators Educators (Youth Workers) in active participation methods and European values, so that they can be able to replicate and spread them in their communities. The specific aims are as follows:

- **Professionalisation of Youth Workers:** The training aims to professionalise 28 youth workers, equipping them with specialised skills to become Incubator Educators. These educators focused on developing and implementing innovative methods within a variety of youth initiatives, collaborating with partner organisations, etc.
- **Capacity Building:** The training enhances the capacity of youth workers to select, prepare, and train young people, guiding them through the process of implementing actions that aligned with the project's objectives.
- **Exchange of Good Practices:** The course promotes the exchange of best practices among youth workers in two key areas: learning experiences for young people and active civic participation. This exchange aims to build a community of youth workers with socio-professional skills capable of driving meaningful changes at the community level and beyond.

- **Enhancing European Engagement:** The training course aims to equip participants with effective methods to stimulate debates and discussions among young Europeans about EU-level topics and values. Participants gain a deep understanding of European institutions and their roles in shaping community and national policies.
- **Peer-to-Peer Methodology:** The course focuses on developing participants' abilities to design and deliver educational programs using peer-to-peer (P2P) methodologies. Emphasis is placed on fostering collaborative learning environments where participants learned from each other's experiences and actively engaged in mutual knowledge exchange.

3. PREPARATION OF THE ACTIVITY

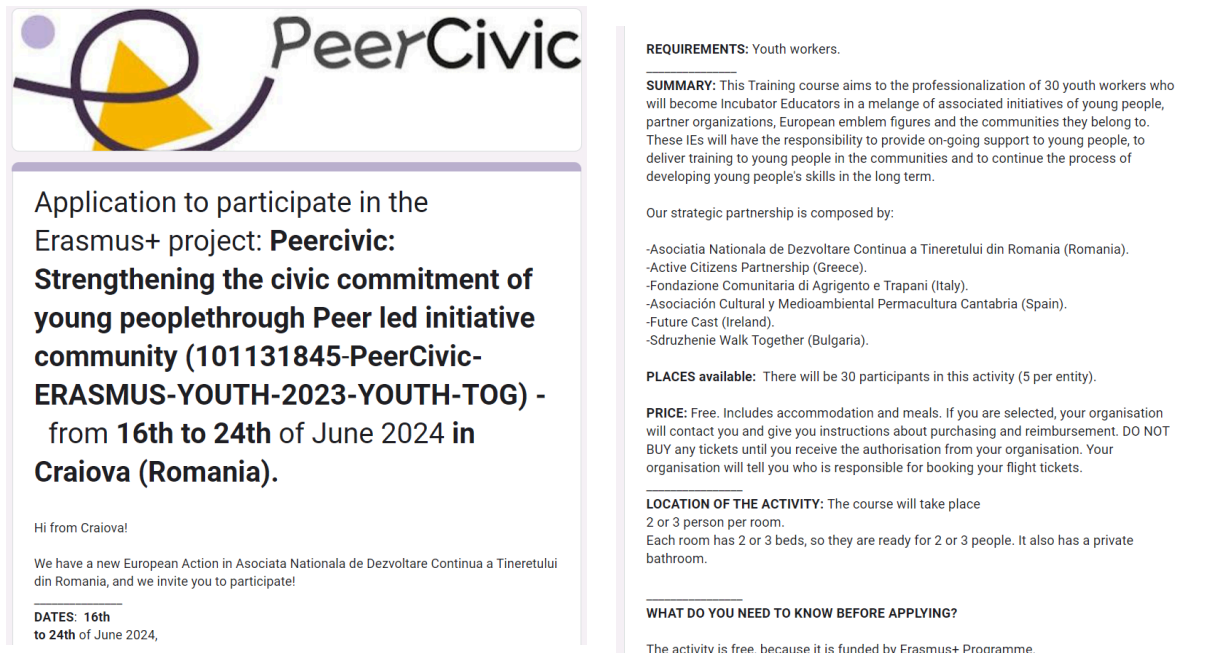
3.1. Selection of participants

The project leaders were in charge of the participant selection process.

The main tasks performed have been:

- Development and dissemination of a call among our youth workers and collaborators.
- Support for candidates.
- Pre-selection.
- Interviews.
- Final selection of participants.
- Notification.

Permacultura Cantabria developed a form for participants to apply for the participation in the selection process for the course.



PeerCivic

Application to participate in the Erasmus+ project: **Peercivic: Strengthening the civic commitment of young people through Peer led initiative community (101131845-PeerCivic-ERASMUS-YOUTH-2023-YOUTH-TOG) - from 16th to 24th of June 2024 in Craiova (Romania).**

Hi from Craiova!

We have a new European Action in Asociatia Nationala de Dezvoltare Continua a Tineretului din Romania, and we invite you to participate!

DATES: 16th to 24th of June 2024,

REQUIREMENTS: Youth workers.

SUMMARY: This Training course aims to the professionalization of 30 youth workers who will become Incubator Educators in a melange of associated initiatives of young people, partner organizations, European emblem figures and the communities they belong to. These IEs will have the responsibility to provide on-going support to young people, to deliver training to young people in the communities and to continue the process of developing young people's skills in the long term.

Our strategic partnership is composed by:

- Asociatia Nationala de Dezvoltare Continua a Tineretului din Romania (Romania).
- Active Citizens Partnership (Greece).
- Fondazione Comunitaria di Agrigento e Trapani (Italy).
- Asociación Cultural y Medioambiental Permacultura Cantabria (Spain).
- Future Cast (Ireland).
- Sdruzhenie Walk Together (Bulgaria).

PLACES available: There will be 30 participants in this activity (5 per entity).

PRICE: Free. Includes accommodation and meals. If you are selected, your organisation will contact you and give you instructions about purchasing and reimbursement. DO NOT BUY any tickets until you receive the authorisation from your organisation. Your organisation will tell you who is responsible for booking your flight tickets.

LOCATION OF THE ACTIVITY: The course will take place 2 or 3 person per room. Each room has 2 or 3 beds, so they are ready for 2 or 3 people. It also has a private bathroom.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE APPLYING?

The activity is free, because it is funded by Erasmus+ Programme.

Figure 1 Screenshot of the registration form

3.2. Preparation of the Training Course

The host organisation (ANDCTR) in collaboration with the WorkPackage 3 leader (Permacultura Cantabria) was in charge of organising and preparing the following tasks:

- Setting work teams and assigning coordinators and trainers.
- Preparation of the content of the visits and training.
- Contact with associated partners and any other related and involved stakeholders or institutions.
- Logistics management: hotel, transport, meals, special needs.
- Support for participants for the reservation of flights.
- Ensuring the process of obtaining some type of insurance for the stay in Romania.
- Language support if needed for the participants.
- Pedagogical preparation for the participants.
- Preparatory meetings with partners.
- Assistance and information for participants, and infopack preparation.
- Definition of risk prevention and Health and safety mechanisms.
- Evaluations of the training, certificates of attendance and Youthpass for the participants.

Host organisation has been constantly assessing and assisting the participants in order to engage them and respond to their needs.

The Consortium developed the following tasks:

- Selecting participants.
- Preparatory meetings for the participants.
- Assistance and support for the participants:

- o Language support when needed.
 - o Pedagogical and cultural preparation.
 - o Preparatory meetings.
- Buying the transportation and flights to Romania.

3.3. Infopack

Once the participants were selected, an email was sent to the participants with the “Infopack” in which was detailed the information related to the course as well as information about the place where the activities would be carried out, information regarding the facilities, the weather it usually does in Romania, what they should bring with them, etc.

Infopack can be consulted [here](#)



Figure 2 Infopack's cover.

3.4. Transport and accommodation

The infopack included information on how to arrive at the venue. The sending organisations organised the flights to Bucharest airport and ANDCTR organised the transportation of participants from the airport to the hotel.

All participants stayed at the same hotel in Craiova (Hotel Euphoria, Iancu Jianu, Nr. 6, 200142 Craiova, România), where the training took place.

The Hotel also organised all the meals for the participants during the whole training.

3.5 Special needs

ANDCTR took care of all the special needs that the participants could have during the course, regarding food needs, allergies, etc. The special needs were gathered through the application form. ANDCTR was in charge of communicating them to the Hotel.

4. PROGRAMME OF THE TRAINING COURSE

Participants arrive on 16th June, with warm-up activities starting around 17h. The structured program from 17th to 23rd June included daily sessions starting with breakfast and icebreaker activities. Mornings were dedicated to presentations by participants, partners, and representatives of European institutions such as the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, and the Court of Justice of the European Union. Emotional management workshops and discussions on project toolkit and platform were also carried out.

Afternoons featured practical sessions and visits to the surrounding areas and city, along with sessions on effective listening and participation tools. Each day ended with evaluations, dinners, and optional evening activities. Special evenings included an intercultural night on the first day and a farewell party on the last day. The program emphasised both educational content and cultural exchange, concluding with a farewell party on 23rd June, followed by departure on 24th June after breakfast.

During the Training Course different materials were used, specially presentations concerning the European Institutions, activities, evaluations, etc. Materials can be consulted [here](#).

The weekly planning can be consulted on the infopack, while the complete agenda of the Training Course can be checked [here](#).

TRAINING COURSE IN CRAIOVA

PROJECT: "PeerCivic: Strengthening the civic commitment of young people through Peer led initiative community"

Agreement number: 101131845-PeerCivic-ERASMUS-YOUTH-2023-YOUTH-TOG

Venue of the visit: Craiova, Romania

Date: June 17th-23th, 2024

Participants:
Asociatia Nationala de Dezvoltare Continua a Tineretului din Romania (ANDCTR) (Romania),
Active Citizens Partnership (Greece),
Fondazione Comunitaria di Agrigento e Trapani (Italy),
Asociación Cultural y Medioambiental Permacultura Cantabria (Spain),
Future Cast (Ireland) and
Walk Together (Bulgaria).

Figure 3. Agenda's cover.

5. PARTICIPANTS

28 youth workers and 3 trainers in total attended the Training Course.

It was planned that 30 young workers from each organisation would attend the Training Course. However, two participants from Fondazione Comunitaria di Agrigento e Trapani (Italy) couldn't attend at the last moment. On the other hand, the number of trainers that attended the course was as expected.

Accordingly, the relation of youth workers and trainers per entity forming the Consortium is as follows:

- ANDCTR: 5 youth workers + 1 trainer.
- Fondazione Comunitaria di Agrigento e Trapani: 3 youth workers + 1 trainer.
- Permacultura Cantabria: 5 youth workers + 1 trainer.
- Active Citizens Partnership: 5 youth workers.
- Future Cast: 5 youth workers.
- Walk Together: 5 youth workers.

Participants signed an attendance list everyday and a final list the last day of the course. Both of the lists can be checked [here](#).

6. ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES

Permacultura Cantabria prepared the certificates of completion for all participants who successfully completed the training course. Each certificate was crafted to reflect the hard work and dedication of the attendees. The certificates featured the organisation's logo, the participant's name, and the specific course details, along with signatures from the hosting director.

These certificates were not just formal acknowledgments but also tokens of the participants' commitment to the Training Course, symbolising their readiness to apply their newfound knowledge in real-world scenarios.

Signed certificates provided to the participants can be consulted [here](#).

7. LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE TRAINING COURSE

- **Knowledge Acquisition:** Participants gained in-depth knowledge of innovative methods for youth development and community engagement, including understanding the roles of partner organisations and European figures in fostering community change.
- **Skills Development:** Participants developed practical skills in mentoring and supporting young people, including the ability to design and deliver effective training programs tailored to community needs. They also honed their capacity to manage youth-led initiatives and the PeerCivic platform effectively.

- **Capacity Building:** Participants enhanced their ability to select, prepare, and train young people, guiding them through the process of developing skills and implementing community projects aligned with specific project objectives.
- **Exchange of Best Practices:** Participants actively contributed to and benefited from a vibrant exchange of best practices among a community of youth workers. They leveraged this exchange to continuously improve their approaches to learning experiences for young people and strategies for promoting active civic participation.
- **Long-term Impact:** Participants demonstrated their capability to create sustainable impacts within their communities by influencing decision-makers and driving social progress related to addressing youth needs effectively. They continued to apply their skills and knowledge beyond the training, ensuring ongoing positive outcomes for young people and communities.
- **Comprehensive Understanding:** Participants gained a comprehensive understanding of European institutions, policies, and values, enabling them to effectively engage in discussions and initiatives at local, national, and EU levels.
- **Emotional and Interpersonal Skills:** Participants developed emotional management skills and enhanced their interpersonal communication abilities, crucial for fostering inclusive and supportive learning environments.
- **Expertise in EU Topics:** Through presentations and activities, participants acquired in-depth knowledge of specific EU institutions, enhancing their ability to critically analyse EU-related issues and advocate for informed decision-making.
- **Cultural and Social Awareness:** Engagement in cultural and socio-political activities heightened participants' awareness of local and global challenges, preparing them to contribute positively to their communities and broader society.

These learning outcomes reflect the comprehensive professionalisation and skill development intended for participants in the training course, aiming to equip them with the tools and expertise necessary to make meaningful contributions to youth development and community empowerment initiatives.

8. EVALUATION

Daily and final evaluation of the course were conducted. The participants were asked to answer the daily survey every day where they could reflect their impressions about that day's activities, what they liked or not, as well as to evaluate the trainers, the activities, etc.

On the other hand, the final survey was conducted on the last day. It is composed of 27 closed questions and 7 open questions related to the contents of the training, the

trainers' team, the personal experience during the training, the organisation of the training and the application process, assistance, welcome, etc.

The details and concrete answers of participants to both questionnaires, as well as conclusions for the evaluations are gathered in the Evaluation Report which can be checked [here](#).

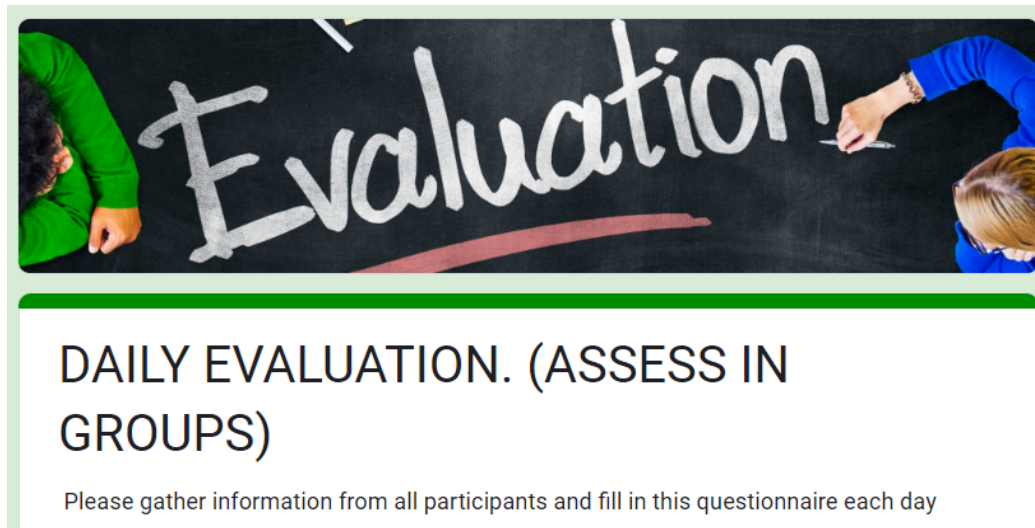


Figure 4. Daily Evaluation.



Figure 5. Final Evaluation.

9. PHOTOS

During the training course, many photos were taken to chronicle our diverse range of activities, workshops, and interactive sessions. These photos encapsulated the dynamic

atmosphere of our learning journey, from insightful discussions on emotional management to lively cultural exchanges during city tours and group outings. They serve as visual reminders of our collaborative efforts, personal growth, and the vibrant community spirit that characterised our time together. These captured moments not only document our achievements but also reflect the camaraderie and shared experiences that made the training course a memorable and enriching experience for all participants.

Photos can be checked [here](#).

10. CONCLUSIONS

The training course has been a transformative journey for all participants involved. Over the course, youth workers from diverse backgrounds and experiences came together to delve into the intricacies of European institutions, foster collaborative learning environments, and develop practical skills essential for promoting active citizenship and community engagement.

Throughout the program, participants demonstrated a commendable commitment to learning and growth, actively engaging in discussions, workshops, and practical activities aimed at deepening their understanding of EU-level topics and values. The use of peer-to-peer methodologies proved to be instrumental, not only in enhancing their professional capabilities but also in cultivating a sense of solidarity and shared responsibility among the group.

Moreover, the cultural and socio-political activities provided participants with invaluable insights into local contexts and societal challenges, reinforcing their role as informed advocates for social progress and inclusivity.

We recognise the lasting impact of this training course on the professional development of youth workers and their capacity to influence positive change at local, national, and European levels. Moving forward, it is our hope that the knowledge, skills, and experiences gained here will continue to inspire participants to champion the values of active citizenship, democratic participation, and European unity in their communities and beyond.