



// Can we change something? This is always the most important challenge

Interview with Graça Castro, New Life to Traditional Stories coordinator, GAIAC president and Drums for Peace board member

What would you say it was necessary "ingredients" to make this project successful?

I think that this project can be successful as long as we, the partner organizations, bring together our best ideas and our common practice; based on local/national traditions (the stories) we try to show contemporary narratives, also using art to understand the society. Each person goes in a different journey and when we meet it will be time to share, create and transform. And to begin a new route.

How was the art-forms used in this project chosen?

The partner organizations, in a preparatory meeting, presented their work and experience. We discussed the best way to provide trainings and workshops experiences based on the traditional stories the learners collect. In Drums for Peace network, most of the organizations work with art

in social environments; in this project, we combine stories to make new stories, all the art-forms are welcome.

Is there a specific training/performance that you think it had the most powerful effect?

No, everything and everybody are important. In the network we can meet brilliant artists/workshop leaders, working with us simply because they can use the informal methodology of finding the inner creative self through music, drama, visual arts, dance. When this happens in a group, it can grow and the individuals can find new paths in life. My choice is these moments, when a group grows.

What do you consider to be the most challenging aspect in this project?

It's a challenge this combination of seven countries, seven different organizations working together to a final product that belongs to us since the beginning. We have the ingredients, the recipe is

Read more about the project on newlifeoldstories.drumsforpeace-network.org/



free! We are working with people, knowledge, creativity, communication, social effects... Can we change something? This is always the most important challenge.

How can you briefly evaluate the project until now?

Until now, we had a meeting, hosted by Comune di Cinisello Balsamo, and two trainings: in Romania, with ACTOR and in Finland, with Helsinki Pioneers. Both were great experiences, according to the evaluation from the participants. The learners created new products us-

ing art forms that they can share in their countries. All the partner organizations collected and prepared their stories and we will also launch the website, an e-book with the traditional stories and some videos relating the experiences.

What are the expectations from now?

We are sure that the following trainings, in Denmark, France and Estonia, will follow the positive balance we have from the previous. The project will be presented in Portugal, in June 2014. Everybody is invited. There will be some surprises!

New Life to Traditional Stories Upcoming Calendar



26.07-04.08.13, Denmark

27-29.10.13, Denmark

March 2014, France

April 2014, Estonia

20-25 June 2014, Portugal

Learners mobility to assist the Nordic Festival

Half way staff meeting to evaluate the project

Training on oral transmission and street movement on French and African traditions

Training on Forum theatre with traditional stories

Launch of the e-book and website with public performance