

“Train to (He)art” and “Now let's do it” DfP training courses were carried out successfully. More on it and upcoming projects below

The first training course took place in Italy, in January 2019, while the other in Finland, in March 2019. Both of them have trained a new generation of DfP youth workers to use participatory arts methods in working with youngsters, especially with disadvantaged ones.



“Train to (He)art” training course, Italy

The two meetings, also known as mobilities of youth workers, are part of the large-scale strategic partnership project run within Drums for Peace network. It has all started in October 2018 when we had our first preparatory meeting in Copenhagen, while now the project has seen also the research and video work carried out by our professionals - Lauri and Mihai - at the last two meetings. But for now, let's see what Antti Nordin, the project manager, and Elisa Scardoni, the representative of our Italian partner, say about how the two trainings went.

“Arts Empowering Youth Work KA2 project is already approaching the midterm meeting beginning August, in Sammalniemi, Finland. The 2 training courses included in the project were held in Cinisello Balsamo,

Italy and in Sammalniemi, Finland. The first one, “Train to (He)art”, was about how to deliver an art-based workshop and was followed by hands-on training, “Now let's do it” in Sammalniemi Finland. The trainers in Italy were Pako, Luisa and Davide. The participants attended each workshop run by the trainers who shared their skills

and knowledge with the young artists aiming to run their own workshops in international youth exchanges and local youth centers/projects. “Now let's do it” offered participants a chance to practice and try their workshops in real life situation with young people and children in Orivesi and Juupajoki villages. The work was mentored by Andy from UK and Antti from Finland. Mihai (RO) has been busy shooting material and interviewing artists for the coming video tutorials and Lauri (FI) has been working on the research and writing the theory. Lauri gave a short workshop at both trainings about metaphors, time and logics of arts a.o.”, said Antti Nordin, AEYW project manager and President of Drums for Peace network.



“Let's do it” training course, Finland

“Train to (he)art was the first training planned by the KA2 project “Art Empowering Youth Work”, and it took place from the 14th to the 21st of January in Cinisello Balsamo. It was organized by Arci La Quercia association. The training involved 15 youth leaders already

experienced in Drums for Peace projects who wish to improve their competences to turn into the new generation of workshop leaders in the network. Pako, Luisa and Davide tested themselves in a new kind of workshops, both practical and theoretical, exploring the skills that an artist and workshop leader should activate in order to involve the youngsters: how can you build a safe environment? How important is the intercultural dimension? How is important to give and receive feedback in a proper way? The participants had to put all the tips together on the

last days, when they were asked to plan and simulate a workshop activity into groups. They could explore all the things they will need to take care in the activities, but also the skills and attitudes they can put into practice.

We are so satisfied about the training, because we could see the big potential of the future workshop leaders. Many of them are youngsters who we saw growing up during the exchanges that we hosted, and this makes us proud of our job. We can see the opportunities that Drums for

Peace created in the last years and the huge added value that the network's projects bring to the youngsters.

We also feel that in the future we can take a step back and leave more space to the new generations, because they are demonstrating us that they deserve trust and support!", said Elisa Scardoni who is board member of Arci La Quercia, the Italian partner in this project.

New projects ahead

"Youth Network Reloaded", lasting from June to December 2019, is a project coordinated by ACTOR (RO), in cooperation with Municipality of Cinisello Balsamo (IT) and Helsinki Pioneers (FI). According to the organizing team, the project is meant to be "revitalizing the DRUMS FOR PEACE Youth Network by increasing the professional skills in youth work for at least 24 participants (former DfP beneficiaries) from Romania, Italy and Finland, through a training course, 3 job shadowing mobilities and one intercultural exchange". The project also aims at raising funds for "at least 3 new other projects written by them [participants], amplifying to at least twice the number of

participants in the few opportunities youth category, and increasing by at least 3 the number of youth organization members of the network (one in each country). The youth exchange will be attended by 18 young people (13-18 years) with limited opportunities".

Throughout the project the participants will develop "competitive project applications, skills for youth workers to favor young people with fewer opportunities, and leadership and project management skills with their home organizations [...] communication competences in intercultural context or/and critical gender thinking and initiative spirit". Also, "in line with

the Erasmus plus objectives and priorities, YNR develops the participants' competences for their professional development, useful in the context of the DFP network for establishing relationships with marginalized young people, promoting diversity, intercultural dialogue, shared values of freedom, tolerance and respect for human rights, critical thinking and young people's initiative".

"Baltic Sea Mobility Plan" is yet another DfP and also a development project which aims to make international youth mobilities a free integrated educational tool of the curricula for 8th graders, experiment with measuring the results between the two activities it features and make

the project less costly by using ferry and bus as transportation means. The project's first activity will be happening in September this year, in Sammalniemi, Finland, while the second activity will take place in Karksi-Nuia, Estonia, in May 2020.

The project seeks to bring together participants and teachers from 4 Baltic countries, Denmark, Estonia, Sweden and Finland, and thus build up the premises of larger future cooperation between Baltic countries, based on Drums for Peace work methodology.

The project will involve around 100 youngsters aged 14 who will meet in the school time in order to learn together about European values such as environmental awareness, diversity, tolerance, freedom of speech, democracy, minorities' rights, gender equality, active citizenship, all through participatory arts as a tool of non-formal education.

The participants will actively spend together 12 days in total, during which they will carry out artistic activities meant to boost their learning motivation at school, increase their creativity, sharpen their analytic thinking, improve their communication and cooperation skills and in general the project aims at decreasing the dropout rates in schoolchildren. These measures are also meant to prepare the youth from an early

age to face to job market realities by being challenged in an international and unfamiliar environment.

"Development of art-based youth exchange" is a seminar that will take place in Örnsköldsvik, Sweden, between 9-13th January 2020, and will offer to our DfP members, Gnistan (SE), Helsinki Pioneers (FI), ARTTRAIN (DK), ACTOR (RO) and Arci La Quercia (IT), the opportunity to meet and plan ahead for the next 1-2 years of DfP projects.

The main objective is to bring an innovative contribution to youth work by developing and promoting the art-based youth exchange projects through non-formal methodology and with a wide network of practitioners. In our current partnership we have already been working with arts in our youth exchanges for more than 18 years now and the methodology we have employed in these projects has been part of Drums for Peace (DfP) working environment since 2001.

The seminar will bring together 14 youth workers and artists who are experienced DfP members and who will explore new ways in which the DfP methodology applies to the context of each of the involved country and will exchange best practices that can be promoted with their

beneficiaries. The new ideas of good practices will be collected in a guideline which will be about how to implement art-based youth exchange projects with as little resources as possible but still featuring quality learning experience for the young beneficiaries.

Eventually, the seminar will give the participants the time to develop 5 youth exchange application drafts which will be promoted with external partners/new partners for network expansion purposes and which will be further developed and submitted at the February 2020 Erasmus+ application deadline.

Apart from what has been said above, the meeting in Sweden will also give our members the time to have the general evaluation of DfP work since our last meeting that took place in Copenhagen, in October 2018. There will be held again the elections of the Chairman, board members, auditors and there will be checked out the financial aspects of the network (past and future budget), will debate over the new members' proposals and in general find ways through which we can grow our network by promoting our methodology beyond our partnership.

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