

OPEN CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS



TC: Youth work as a school of democracy ? - Democracy education revisited

CONTEXT

PROJECT DETAILS

One of the ongoing challenges and tasks for a democracy is to develop a democratic culture among its citizens. Democratic institutions certainly form an important base but without the development of corresponding attitudes among the people, they are running the risk to remain an empty shelf.

For the field of youth work the question therefore appears **to what extent it can contribute to the development of democratic competences** among their target group. This is of special importance as adolescence is a phase where basic features of the personality are formed and intensive reflections on one's own position in society are taking place.

With the use of the term democratic competences it is also implied that **democracy education** can't be limited to provide abstract knowledge about the political system. To close the gap between the theoretical teachings and democratic practices it rather needs approaches, which allow young people to go through an experiential learning process. These formats should give them the chance to get into deep reflections on their own explicit and implicit attitudes towards democracy and the consequences for their personal life.

Apart from the question of how youth work can contribute to the development of a democratic culture an interrelated question is **to what extent, youth work itself can be democratic**. This question is of crucial importance for the task of democracy education as an inconsistency between the desired learning outcomes and the youth work framework can harm its good intentions. The possible ideal of **youth work as a 'school of democracy'** therefore needs to go beyond the question of the right methodology and to critically discuss the traditional power relations between educators and young people.

Taking into consideration the described context the proposed project "**Youth Work as a school for democracy? - Democracy education revisited**" therefore wants to give youth workers and youth leaders from program and EECA + Russia partner countries the chance to gain new competences in facilitating experience based democracy education activities, while at the same time reflecting about the challenges and chances of a further democratization of youth work approaches.

Dates	12-20 March 2016
Place	Aghveran, Armenia
Type	KA1, Training course
Working language	English
Coordinating organization	DIALOGOS (Germany)
Hosting organization	National Pool of Trainers (Armenia)

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OBJECTIVES

- To give youth workers and youth leaders the chance to explore the connection between youth work and democracy on different levels
- To equip participants with innovative and experience based methods of democracy education, which they can use with their target group
- To reflect about the challenges and chances of a further democratization of youth work frameworks and the concrete consequences for the work of participants
- To develop follow up projects for young people, which will take the outcomes of the project into consideration

COSTS

Accommodation and board will be **fully covered**. Travel costs can be reimbursed up to the following amounts:

Russia	520€
Germany, Denmark, Italy	360 €
Greece, Romania, Ukraine, Belarus	
Moldova	275 €
Georgia	180 €

PARTICIPANTS PROFILE

Youth workers and youth leaders ...

- ... interested in exploring new ways of democracy education
- ... motivated to critically reflect on their own concepts and attitudes regarding democracy in youth work
- ... having the possibility to make use of their newly gained skills in their work with young people afterwards
- ... interested in setting up cooperation with similar organizations from other European countries
- ... being able to communicate **fluently** in English

APPLICATION

Please fill in the following online application form until **7th February**
<http://tinyurl.com/j3j7tdr>

CONTACT

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