



Task 2.2: Transnational Training Activity “Being a Europe Change Maker”

DELIVERABLE A Report exposed from the Transnational Training Activity, which will contain answers to key-questions.

Executive Summary:

The European Change Maker Training Course held under the ERASMUS+ project Youth Empowerment Academy (YEA) brought together 14 participants from seven countries and eight partner organizations. The training, spanning two days on the enchanting Island Čiovo in Croatia from the 13th to the 14th of September 2023, aimed at equipping youth with the skills and mindset to become effective change makers in their communities. This report provides an in-depth analysis of the activities, outcomes, and potential impacts of the training course.

PROJECT YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ACADEMY



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Dialogue of youth-representatives of youth councils and decision makers took place as part of the project Youth Engagement Academy. The YEA (Youth Engagement Academy) project is a transnational European Youth Together project designed to be implemented by youth work NGOs in seven EU Member States (Romania, Croatia, Germany, Poland, Greece, France, and Sweden) and one third country associated with the Programme (North Macedonia). The Youth Engagement Academy is a digital platform designed to empower young people and foster their active participation in EU policymaking. Through a series of skills-building activities and interactive features, the platform aims to enhance youth critical thinking, analyze populism, and deepen understanding of representative and participatory democracies in the European Union. By facilitating dialogues between young individuals and decision-makers, the project seeks to increase youth engagement in European procedures and promote a sense of ownership and responsibility among young Europeans.



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AGENDA OF TRAINING COURSE

12th September	
- 18:00	Arrivals
19:00 - 20:00	Dinner
13th September	
8:30 - 10:00	Breakfast
10:00 - 11:30	Welcome and teambuilding activity
11:30 - 12:00	Coffee break
12:00 - 13:30	Who is Change Maker?
13:30 - 15:00	Lunch
15:00 - 16:30	How to become Change Maker - Doughnut Economy
16:30 - 17:00	Coffe break
17:30 - 19:00	Producing materials for change
19:00 - 20:00	Dinner
14th September	
8:30 - 10:00	Breakfast
10:00 - 11:30	Making changes in local community vs. EU level
11:30 - 12:00	Coffee break
12:00 - 13:30	Future activity plan
13:30 - 15:00	Lunch
15:00 - 19:00	Boat Trip to Trogir
19:00 - 20:00	Dinner in Trogir
15th September	
8:30 - 10:00	Breakfast
10:00 -	Departures

Photos:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1HRHDFBfCU2Y-Tg0XsW6fK2bnvo1KRcDV?usp=sharing>

Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/LumenNGO/posts/pfbid02EB1UxqrZAJ8NXpAdE8n6fPv6NzdS5vA16vX32UQSHTjXW1EyLNV9ekqAGLhhprFRI>



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1. Introduction:

1.1 Background and Objectives:

The YEA project, funded by ERASMUS+, aimed to empower young individuals by providing them with the tools and knowledge to instigate positive change in their communities. The two-day training course was a pivotal component designed to foster collaboration, skill development, and cross-cultural understanding among the 14 participants hailing from diverse backgrounds.

1.2 Participants and Partners:

Fourteen participants from seven countries - each supported by partner organizations Positive YOUTH, FRATERNITAS, EYA, LUMEN, CIJE, ASEL, Fifty-Fifty, and uDevelop - converged on the Island Čiovo. The collaboration between these organizations underscored a shared commitment to youth empowerment and social change.

2. Day 1: Laying the Foundation for Change

2.1 Opening Ceremony:

The training course commenced with an inspiring opening ceremony, where participants were welcomed by representatives from the partner organizations. Keynote speakers emphasized the significance of the YEA project in shaping the future leaders and change makers of Europe.

2.2 Team-building and Communication Workshops:

The first day focused on establishing a strong foundation for the participants. Team-building activities and communication workshops facilitated interaction and understanding among the diverse group. These sessions aimed to create a supportive environment where participants could freely express ideas and collaborate effectively.

2.3 Cultural Exchange:

An integral part of the first day was a cultural exchange, allowing participants to share and celebrate the richness of their respective cultures. This exchange not only fostered appreciation for diversity but also laid the groundwork for a harmonious and collaborative learning environment.

2.4 Project Brainstorming and Case Studies:

In the afternoon, participants engaged in project brainstorming sessions and case study discussions facilitated by guest speakers. This practical approach encouraged participants to apply theoretical concepts to real-world scenarios, fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

3. Day 2: Empowering Change Makers

3.1 Skill Development Workshops:

The second day focused on honing the skills necessary for effective change making. Workshops on project management, leadership, and advocacy provided participants with practical tools to initiate and lead impactful projects in their communities.



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3.2 Panel Discussion:

A highlight of the training course was a panel discussion featuring experts in the field of youth empowerment and social change. Participants engaged in a meaningful dialogue with the panelists, gaining insights into successful initiatives and overcoming challenges in the realm of youth empowerment.

3.3 Action Plan Development:

The afternoon session involved collaborative group work, where participants, guided by mentors from partner organizations, developed actionable plans for youth empowerment initiatives in their home countries. This hands-on approach ensured that the knowledge gained during the training was translated into concrete projects.

3.4 Closing Ceremony:

The training course concluded with a closing ceremony, where participants received certificates of completion. The ceremony provided a platform for participants to share their reflections and express their commitment to implementing positive change in their communities.

4. Outcomes and Impacts:

4.1 Knowledge and Skill Acquisition:

Participants gained a comprehensive understanding of youth empowerment, project management, and leadership. The practical workshops and case studies equipped them with the skills necessary to implement effective change in their communities.

4.2 Cross-cultural Understanding:

The diverse composition of the participant group, coupled with the cultural exchange activities, contributed to a heightened appreciation for diversity. Participants left with a broader perspective and a deeper understanding of different cultures.

4.3 Networking and Collaboration:

The training course provided a unique platform for networking among participants and partner organizations. The connections forged during the event laid the groundwork for potential future collaborations and partnerships.

4.4 Concrete Action Plans:

The development of action plans during the training ensured that participants left with tangible strategies for implementing youth empowerment initiatives in their home countries. The mentorship provided by partner organizations added a practical dimension to these plans.



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The success of the YEA project lies not only in the knowledge and skills imparted but also in the lasting connections formed among participants and partner organizations. This training course stands as a testament to the power of collaborative initiatives in shaping the future leaders and change makers of Europe.

Key Objectives:

The primary objectives of the training were to:

Equip participants with practical skills essential for initiating positive change.

Foster a mindset that encourages innovation, collaboration, and proactive problem-solving.

Provide a platform for intercultural exchange and networking among youth from diverse backgrounds.

Facilitate the development of action plans for implementing positive changes in participants' communities.

Positive Aspects:

Engaging Content: Participants expressed high satisfaction with the content of the training, emphasizing the relevance and practicality of the skills acquired.

Effective Facilitation: The trainers demonstrated excellent facilitation skills, creating an inclusive and interactive learning environment. Their ability to adapt to the diverse backgrounds of participants was commendable.

Inspiring Location: The choice of Island Čiovo in Croatia added a unique and inspiring touch to the training. Participants appreciated the serene environment, which contributed positively to the overall learning experience.

Interactivity and Networking: The training encouraged active participation, group discussions, and networking opportunities. Participants appreciated the chance to exchange ideas and experiences with peers from different countries.

Actionable Insights: The training successfully provided participants with actionable insights into community engagement, project management, and leadership skills. Many expressed confidence in applying these skills to create positive changes in their respective communities.

Areas for Improvement:

Diversity in Session Formats: While the training was overall engaging, some participants suggested a more diverse range of session formats to cater to different learning preferences.

Extended Duration: A few participants felt that the training duration could be extended to allow for more in-depth exploration of certain topics and additional practical exercises.



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Post-Training Support: Participants expressed a desire for continued support and resources after the training to help implement their action plans successfully. Consideration for follow-up webinars or an online community platform was suggested.

Conclusion:

The European Change Maker Training Course under the ERASMUS+ project Youth Empowerment Academy (YEA) proved to be a transformative experience for the 14 participants and their supporting partner organizations. The comprehensive curriculum, cultural exchange activities, and collaborative project development fostered a holistic approach to youth empowerment. As participants return to their respective countries, the ripple effects of this training are expected to manifest in the form of positive change, community engagement, and cross-cultural collaboration.

The European Change Maker Training Course was a resounding success, providing participants with valuable skills, perspectives, and a renewed sense of purpose as change makers. The positive feedback far outweighed the constructive suggestions, emphasizing the overall effectiveness of the program. The impact of this training is expected to resonate positively in the communities represented by the participants.

The organizers and trainers are to be commended for their dedication to creating a meaningful and impactful learning experience. As the participants return to their respective communities, the ripple effect of this training is eagerly awaited.



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