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Loving Organisation vs Extremism

**Training Course in Malta
January 2024**



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Contextual Background

Based on our extensive experience and global research, youth radicalization often arises from diverse circumstances, including:

- Insufficient civic and social involvement.
- Limited engagement in non-political/political activities and affiliations with organizations and social networks.
- Inadequate participation of young individuals in a wide spectrum of social roles and relationships.

Challenges & Obstacles

The partners in this project, despite their diverse cultural backgrounds, have all confronted similar difficulties in recent years. These challenges have arisen due to the escalating social, ethnic, national, and religious tensions, as well as the proliferation of hate speech, violence, and even terrorism.

These circumstances have contributed to a surge in youth radicalization, resulting in the discrimination of specific groups. Regrettably, societies often relegate young people to the role of mere bystanders rather than active agents of social change. This further exacerbates socio-political exclusion and the marginalization of youth, making them susceptible to propaganda and radicalization.

According to a UN report titled "Youth, Political Participation and Decision Making," young people's involvement in institutional and political processes remains notably lower in comparison to older citizens. The UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development has highlighted that this is primarily due to the limited opportunities for effective participation available to young individuals, along with the non-inclusive nature of these processes. Consequently, this situation fosters feelings of exclusion and marginalization among young people within society.

The Council of Europe, in its document "Preventing the Radicalization of Children by Addressing Root Causes," notes that many young individuals are drawn to radical Islamist organizations engaged in violent conflicts because of the "sense of social purpose" these groups offer. The report underscores the pivotal role played by civil society organizations in promoting active participation among young people who have experienced or are undergoing radicalization.

Project Aims

The aims of this project are as follows:

- 1.
2. Enhance the capacity of the partner organizations within this coalition to advocate for acceptance and tolerance as alternatives to radicalization and discriminatory mindsets among the young individuals they engage with.
3. To realize this objective, the partnership comprises organizations from diverse geopolitical regions and cultural backgrounds, spanning across Europe and other regions worldwide.
4. As delegates representing their respective organizations, the participants will share their experiences and non-formal education (NFE) methodologies aimed at combating discriminatory attitudes and youth radicalization.



Project Objectives

The objectives of this project are as follows:

1. Enhance the awareness of participants and partner organizations regarding the mechanisms and risks associated with various radical ideologies that impact youth.
2. Implement non-formal education (NFE) activities focused on recognizing the mechanisms of radicalization and illustrating them through real-life examples, while also exchanging strategies for prevention and intervention.
3. Embrace a philosophy that seeks not to cast blame on young radicals but aims to comprehend their fears and challenges.
4. Promote the utilization of peer education by partner organizations to boost youth engagement in the pursuit of a more inclusive society. This involves involving younger or potential youth workers, young activists, leaders, and volunteers from partner organizations, empowering them to take on more active roles within their organizations and work with their peers using the methods shared in this project.
5. Equip individuals with tools for facilitating change among young radicals. This includes sharing real-life stories of individuals who have undergone redemption from radicalization, introducing methods for challenging one's beliefs and prejudices, and providing tools to assist in altering discriminatory behaviour.

Project Dates

Kindly arrange your travel schedule in accordance with the provided Arrival and Departure times:

	<p>Saturday 21st January 2024</p>
	<p>Sunday 29th January 2024</p>

The activity dates are scheduled from January 22nd to January 28th, 2024.

Profile of Participants

We extend our invitation to twenty-six (26) dedicated individuals aged 18 and above, including youth workers, youth leaders, youth managers, educators, social workers, psychologists, and other professionals from Malta, Italy, Latvia, Ukraine, Slovakia, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Georgia. The purpose of this invitation is to enhance their skills in fostering acceptance and tolerance, thereby countering radicalization and discriminatory attitudes among the young individuals they engage with.

Selection Criteria

1. All partner organizations will employ a transparent, equitable, and inclusive participant selection process. This selection will primarily consider participant needs, past experiences, commitment, motivation, and expectations. Prospective participants should meet the following criteria:
2. Age requirement of 18 years or older.
3. Proficiency in basic English communication.
4. Willingness to actively participate in all planned project activities. • Strong motivation to explore creative and innovative methods for addressing bullying.
5. Readiness to engage in local, national, European, and international activities and projects.
6. Eagerness to acquire knowledge and apply their experiences within their respective organizations.
7. Dedication to enhancing and honing their skills related to alternative and innovative learning approaches rooted in creativity.

Hosting Organisation

Name of Organisation

Active Youth Malta

Experience

Our experience has been centered around the exploration of various theatrical forms, such as Youth Theatre, Theatre of the Oppressed, Image Theatre, Newspaper Theatre, and more, as tools to enrich the soft and life skills of young individuals. These efforts have been aimed at fostering self-confidence and effective participation among youth.

Through these diverse theatrical approaches, we have successfully stimulated the imagination, communication abilities, presentation skills, teamwork, vocal expression, script writing, discipline, time management, concentration, and the nuanced perception of various situations and relationships among young people. In essence, theatre has evolved into our comprehensive and potent non-formal method, igniting the creativity and innovation of young individuals as they craft their own pathways toward boosting their self-esteem, self-image, and self-confidence.

Over the past five (5) years, our involvement has revolved around the organization, development, leadership, and hosting of workshops and short courses, both locally and internationally, that leverage various forms of theatre and techniques to enhance the learning outcomes in youth work.

Motto

Our Motto reflects the philosophy of our holistic approach:
“Learn to Fall Forward”.

Mission and Vision

Our statement of mission and vision is:

To enhance youth empowerment, self-confidence and self-esteem mostly among excluded/marginalised and bullied youth and youth with additional needs through creative and innovative methods and to promote inclusion and rights of minorities in our community.

What Do We Understand By Powerless Youths

Through our observations, we have noted that a significant number of young individuals often appear to lack empowerment, motivation, and enthusiasm, primarily due to the pressures exerted by their peers and societal expectations. It has become increasingly evident that young people are consistently urged to excel at any cost, creating the impression that there is no room for mistakes or setbacks. In our perspective, this distorted perception, combined with the belief that social, economic, and educational systems primarily cater to the 'bright' or 'naturally successful' individuals, is contributing to a rise in low self-esteem and instances of bullying among youth. This situation has resulted in young people who may not achieve or do not fit the mold of the 'typically successful' community being labeled as failures and feeling disempowered.

Our approach aligns with the EU Youth Strategy for 2019 – 2027**Our Target Group**

We welcome all young individuals aged 16 to 30, without regard to their religion, creed, race, color, gender, sexual orientation, or nationality to participate in our activities.

The core of our initiatives revolves around theater skills and methods. We firmly believe that theater is one of the most effective and valuable tools for non-formal learning, particularly for empowering young people who may be excluded or marginalized. Theater serves as a versatile skill-building medium that sparks the imagination of young individuals, helping them recognize their dormant creative and innovative potential. It's essentially a form of 'drama for life development' that empowers marginalized young adults who may have had limited exposure to various social opportunities. Through theater, they can discover their own paths of personal development, breaking free from formal learning methods that often confine their creativity and collaborative abilities. Theater offers these young people a chance to pursue intrinsic goals related to their personal growth for the first time.

Our Projects Are Designed to Achieve

1. Encourage active civic, economic, social, cultural, and political involvement of young individuals.
2. Foster connections among young people to facilitate the exchange of experiences and the development of solidarity through various forms of mobility.
3. Empower young people by motivating them to assume control over their own lives. In the current landscape, young individuals throughout Europe encounter a range of challenges, and various forms of youth work can serve as a driving force for empowerment.

List of Participating Organisations

Name	Country	Role	Type
Active Youth	Malta	Applicant	NGO
Udruga Better Me	Croatia	Partner	NGO
Youth Association Droni	Georgia	Partner	Association
Youmore APS	Italy	Partner	NGO
Youth Innovation Forum Society	Jordan	Partner	Association
Young Women Christian Association	Lebanon	Partner	Association
Sociação Azes Valboense	Portugal	Partner	NGO
Associacio Programes Educatius Open Europe	Spain	Partner	NGO

Application Form

Interested individuals are encouraged to complete the online application form provided below at their earliest convenience.

<https://forms.gle/jJGw87rcaHBVjvaM7>



Application Deadline

The deadline for submission is **31st November 2023**. After this date, the selection of participants will be completed. Please be aware that if you miss the deadline, there will be an open call issued.

Participation Fee

Each participant is required to pay a €20.00 participation fee in cash during the training course days, and a receipt will be provided accordingly.

Guidance on Traveling to Malta

Malta, situated in the heart of the Mediterranean Sea, is a small island nation with a population of approximately 475,000. The official languages are Maltese and English, with Maltese being the officially recognized national language and the only Semitic language in the European Union.

Malta boasts a single primary airport located in the village of Luqa, known as Malta International Airport. Therefore, it is essential to plan your flights in accordance with the arrival and departure times indicated above. Further details about the venue and transportation within Malta will be provided shortly.

Please note that it is of utmost importance that ALL participants attending the training course must travel directly from their country of residence to Malta. This is a requirement set by the National Agency and ERASMUS+. We are unable to accommodate individuals traveling from a different country other than their country of residence. However, you are welcome to fly from a different country if your journey commences and concludes in your country of residence.

Malta Map: <https://www.google.com.mt/maps/@35.9006349,14.4360406,12z>

Malta Public Transport Planner: <https://www.publictransport.com.mt/searchresults>

Participants also have the option to utilize private taxi services like Bolt, Ecabs, and Malta Taxi. These services are available through a mobile application that can be downloaded in advance on their phones.



Visa Requirements

Participants who require a visa to enter Malta are kindly requested to inform us as soon as possible and specify their requirements. Visa processing can be time-consuming, so we recommend that you initiate the process once participant selection is finalized. Please ensure you keep us updated on the progress.




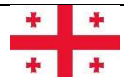



European Health Insurance Card

The organizers do not provide coverage for insurance expenses. Participants are required to arrange their own travel and health insurance for the partner countries, and they have the flexibility to choose any insurance provider of their preference. For participants from Program countries, the European Health Card E 111 is available and recognized in all European Union member states. This card can be obtained at no cost from your home country. However, participants are welcome to opt for any other private insurance coverage that suits their needs.



Travel Refunds










Travel expenses from your place of residence to the project venue and back will be reimbursed in Euros, following the guidelines provided by the ERASMUS+ program's financial regulations, as indicated in the table below:

	Country	Number of Participants	Max Refund (Per Person)
	Croatia	5	€221
	Jordan	3	€343
	Italy	3	€230
	Georgia	3	€433
	Lebanon	3	€343
	Portugal	3	€295
	Spain	3	€230

Intercultural Nights

To enhance our intercultural evening, we invite you to create an engaging presentation showcasing the uniqueness of your country. Feel free to highlight aspects such as your country's culinary delights, musical heritage, traditional dances, games, and more. We encourage you to infuse your presentation with creativity. Additionally, participants will have the chance to introduce their organizations and their missions. If you have any materials like brochures, posters, films, or photos, please bring them along to help foster strong collaborative connections.

Average January's Temperatures in Malta

TEMPERATURE		13°C	55°F
HIGH TEMPERATURE		16°C	61°F
LOW TEMPERATURE		13°C	55°F
DAY TEMPERATURE		13.5°C	56°F
NIGHT TEMPERATURE		12.1°C	54°F
SUNSHINE HOURS		5 HOURS	
RAINFALL		94.7 MM	
RAINFALL DAYS		12 DAYS	
SEA TEMPERATURE		17°C	63°F

What to Pack?

In order to ensure that everyone has an enjoyable experience and contributes to the success of the Training Course, we kindly request that you bring along several essential items:

1. Essential documents such as passports and travel documents.
2. Comfortable clothing suitable for various weather conditions.
3. Swimwear and towels should the weather permit beach or pool activities.
4. Personal care products, including shower gel, shampoo, a comb, and so on.
5. While our winters are relatively mild with temperatures around 17°C, please pack a few warmer clothing items along with some lighter attire in case of sunny weather.
6. A typical or traditional representation of your country's taste, such as a typical drink, food, sweets, or snacks, to share during the "intercultural evening."
7. Cameras and any other equipment that might make your stay more convenient.
8. Please remember to bring your laptops or tablets, which will be necessary for the training sessions.
9. Some enjoyable pieces of music and games from your country to share with others.
10. Information about your country in the form of books, brochures, posters, postcards, or videos.
11. Any necessary medications you may require regularly.
12. Most importantly, bring your enthusiasm, a joyful spirit, and an abundance of positive energy! Approach the event with a positive attitude, a desire to learn, and an eagerness to meet new and interesting people. Let's make this event memorable and cheerful together!

Additional Information

- Driving is on the left-hand side of the road.
- We use AC power, so you will need a power adapter. The voltage in Malta is 240 Volts, and we use 3-pin plugs, so please bring a plug converter for your charging adapters.
- Malta follows GMT + 1 for the time zone.
- The currency used in Malta is the Euro (€).



A red megaphone is positioned at the bottom left, with a red speech bubble extending from its mouth. Inside the speech bubble, the text 'ARE YOU READY?' is written in bold, black, uppercase letters.

ARE YOU READY?

Contact Details

Feel free to reach out to us at the following contact points:

Email: active.youth@live.com
Mobile Number: +356 79221133