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GUIDEBOOK



*Enhancing Youth
Participation through
Facilitation Tools*

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SMALL-SCALE PARTNERSHIPS IN YOUTH



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The views expressed in this toolkit are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission.



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DISCLAIMER

This toolkit, “Enhancing Youth Participation through Facilitation Tools” was developed as part of the Erasmus+ Small-Scale Partnership project and is intended to provide guidance, activities, and resources to foster active participation, inclusion, and innovation in youth work.

The views, methodologies, and activities expressed herein are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official stance of the European Commission or any affiliated organizations.

The information and activities are provided “as-is,” and users are encouraged to adapt them to suit their specific needs and contexts, with no guarantees regarding outcomes.

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While efforts have been made to ensure inclusivity, users should continuously refine practices to meet diverse needs effectively.

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Thank you for contributing to fostering active participation, inclusion, and transformative change in youth work across Europe.



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CURRICULUM

This curriculum toolkit is designed to offer resources and methods for aiding organizations and youth workers in addressing “Enhancing Youth Participation through Facilitation Tools”.

Explore how both youth workers and individuals can actively embrace citizenship, playing a role in making a meaningful difference in the world.

The toolkit is exceptionally user-friendly and easily accessible. It will be updated soon for the detailed descriptions for each tool, along with recommendations on when and how to utilize them effectively.

Additionally, comprehensive information about all necessary supplies will be included.

The content serves to people so that an ultimate inclusion can be achieved. We hope that it serves youth workers, organisations, educators and anyone who is interested.



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The Project

01. September 2022 – 01. September 2024
Germany, Türkiye, Latvia, Ireland

The Erasmus+ project, Enhancing Youth Participation through Facilitation Tools, is a transformative two-year initiative designed to empower youth workers, leaders, and organizations across Europe.

By uniting participants from four countries, the project seeks to cultivate active participation, inclusion, and innovation in youth work.

Through the use of advanced facilitation methods and non-formal education techniques, it equips individuals with the tools to tackle pressing social challenges in their communities.

At its core, the project fosters intercultural dialogue, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas, strengthening connections and promoting a shared vision for youth engagement at the European level.

The project was a transformative Erasmus+ project that brought together youth workers, leaders, and organizations across four countries.

It aimed to foster active participation, inclusion, and innovation in youth work.

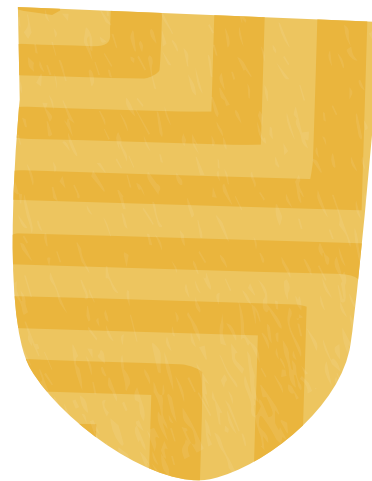
By equipping participants with cutting-edge facilitation methods and non-formal education techniques, the project addressed critical social challenges while promoting intercultural dialogue and collaboration at the European level.



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ABOUT ORGANIZATIONS



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Kultur & Art Initiative e.V. is a non-profit organization established in 2002 with a mission to foster intercultural and intergenerational dialogue. The organization brings together members from diverse nationalities, age groups, and professional backgrounds, creating a rich and dynamic environment for collaboration. With extensive expertise in youth work, refugee support, migration, non-formal education, and media production, the initiative is dedicated to promoting social cohesion, cultural exchange, and lifelong learning

In 2025, the Kultur & Art Initiative e.V. is organizing the 21st edition of the International Short Film Festival Detmold, an inclusive and barrier-free platform showcasing a variety of short films including documentaries, animations, fiction, art films, music videos and experimental works.

In cooperation and in context of the EU-Program ERASMUS+ and European Solidarity Corps programs we arrange youth exchanges and training several times a year. The focus is to build up a project together with youth from different backgrounds & countries, discuss different topics and get to know about other cultures.

Our aim is to provide a non-formal environment where young people can learn to work cooperatively, to become better-informed active citizens in an increasingly media-diverse world, equip them with communication tools to enhance both internal and external communication, and engage them in reflecting on key issues that affect them, encouraging their active role in community development through video as a medium for expression and constructive debate on European citizenship



LIDOSK has been working to value nature and build a sustainable nature awareness since 2010. Their motto is "the only thing we leave in nature is our footprints." They believe that nature is our home and that we can only keep it safe with the help of young people. They want to fight against all forms of discrimination and support cultural diversity, social cohesion, sustainable development, and youth mobility across Europe.

Giving opportunities to volunteers and local youth to develop their competencies and skills together, especially communicating in foreign languages. Also raising awareness about ecological and environmental problems, with special attention to the danger in nesting areas of the sea turtles on the Mediterranean coast of Turkey, Antalya Demre.

Aiming to activate and empower youngsters from the local community with the help of volunteers. Raising awareness about the Erasmus+ youth program and the importance of volunteering, while also increasing cultural awareness, tolerance, and solidarity.

Raising awareness about ecological and environmental problems, with special attention to the danger in nesting areas of the sea turtles on the Mediterranean coast of Turkey, Antalya Demre. We are doing this because sea turtles are endangered animals, and it is important to protect them and their nesting areas.



UDUG Association is a non-profit organisation established in 2014 by active members of the community who felt the need.

UDUG provides support to migrant communities in Ireland in the areas of Youth development, community advancement and education. UDUG tends to bring/bridge the migrant and hosting community in order to map out solutions to certain challenges. UDUG is nondiscriminatory association and practices inclusive policy for all.

Promoting Intercultural Dialogue for Inclusion. UDUG prioritizes intercultural dialogue to bridge the gap between migrant and host communities in Ireland. This practice fosters mutual understanding and collaboration to address challenges faced by migrant communities, promoting social cohesion and integration. For instance, UDUG organized "Intercultural Dialogue as a Way for Integration," a training program for youth workers on immigration and mobility fields, which was held in Vilnius in 2015 supported by Erasmus+ of European Union

Capacity Building and Skills Development UDUG is committed to empowering youth and community members by equipping them with skills and knowledge through non-formal education and training. For example, the "Training for Trainers for African Diaspora Youth Workers" in Vienna in 2016 focused on social project management for youth inclusion.



Latvijas Jauniešu Attīstības Centrs (Latvian Youth Development Center) (LJAC) is a non-governmental organization with the main mission of enabling young people to develop themselves on personal and professional level. Our aim is to solve most painful problems in our society, promote equality, breaking stereotypes and fight youth unemployment by organizing different development initiatives, projects, seminars and by utilizing new media opportunities.

LJAC is skilled at using participatory and creative methods like arts, cultural activities, and interactive techniques to engage and develop young people. Their creative approaches help foster entrepreneurial thinking in an inspiring way.

LJAC has good experience facilitating international projects, cultural exchanges, and knowledge sharing through collaborations like "Digital Push for Creative Transformation" and partnerships with organizations in the EU, Caucasus region and Africa. This allows them to expose young people to global views and cross-border networks that benefit their growth.

LJAC does well in designing training programs that build essential skills for diverse groups of young people, including those from rural, poor, or excluded backgrounds. Their programs aim to empower youth with abilities and confidence for success.

Objectives

- **Skill Development for Youth Workers and Leaders:** The initiative focused on enhancing the competencies of youth workers and leaders, equipping them with advanced facilitation tools and project management skills to drive community development.
- **Promotion of Non-Formal Education:** By championing non-formal education, the project introduced innovative and engaging methods to empower young people, making learning more dynamic and accessible.
- **Fostering Intercultural Dialogue:** Through collaborative activities, the project encouraged meaningful cultural exchange, deepening mutual understanding and strengthening intercultural connections among participants.
- **Inclusive and Innovative Youth Work:** The project addressed critical social challenges, such as unemployment, discrimination, and low civic engagement, by promoting inclusive practices and innovative approaches in youth work.
- **Strengthening Organizational Capacity:** Participating organizations gained the expertise and resources needed to implement high-quality Erasmus+ projects and build long-lasting, sustainable partnerships.

Target Audience

Special attention is given to participants with fewer opportunities or those exposed to challenges such as economic hardship or violence, ensuring a broader reach and inclusivity.

01.

Youth workers, project coordinators, and leaders from partner organizations.

02.

Policymakers and stakeholders involved in youth development initiatives.

03.

Young people from varying socio-economic and cultural backgrounds, with an emphasis on inclusion and diversity.

04.

Local communities benefiting indirectly from the knowledge and activities implemented by trained participants.

Activities and Methodology

1. Concepts of Learning and Non-Formal Learning (Germany)

Purpose: To introduce foundational concepts of non-formal education and create a collaborative environment.

Activities: Icebreaker games, group discussions, and interactive workshops to define expectations, contributions, and fears. Participants also engaged in an NGO fair to learn about partner organizations.

2. Learning Styles (Türkiye)

Purpose: To explore diverse learning approaches and their practical applications in youth work.

Activities: Interactive workshops, icebreaker games, and group discussions. Participants created organizational profiles at an NGO fair and engaged in non-formal learning exercises sourced from the SALTO Youth platform. A treasure hunt at a local historical site and a “Secret Santa” activity fostered cultural engagement and personal connections.

3. Methods in Facilitation (Latvia)

Purpose: To develop advanced facilitation techniques and strengthen leadership and teamwork skills.

Activities: Simulations, role-playing, guided imagery, and case studies. Participants researched facilitation techniques, presented their findings in interactive sessions, and received feedback. A collaborative video project and debriefing sessions highlighted the event’s impact.

4. Facilitation Methods – Study Case and Mind Map (Ireland)

Purpose: To apply practical tools such as case studies and mind mapping to enhance problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

Activities: Interactive workshops, experiential learning exercises, and group projects. Participants explored advanced facilitation techniques tailored to diverse group needs.

Germany, Detmold: February 6–10, 2023

The program began in Detmold, where participants engaged in icebreaker games and group activities to foster a collaborative environment. They defined expectations, contributions, and fears, and participated in an NGO fair to learn about partner organizations. Using the SALTO Youth platform, participants practiced facilitation techniques and led non-formal learning activities. Leadership and teamwork were emphasized through group discussions and interactive exercises. The activity concluded with a reflection session, where participants shared their insights and experiences.

Türkiye, Antalya: May 24–28, 2023

In Antalya, participants explored diverse learning styles through interactive workshops, icebreaker games, and group discussions. They created organizational profiles at an NGO fair and participated in non-formal learning exercises sourced from the SALTO Youth platform. A treasure hunt at a local historical site fostered cultural engagement, while a “Secret Santa” activity strengthened personal connections. The event concluded with a reflection session and the presentation of Youthpass certificates.

Latvia, Riga: December 1–5, 2023

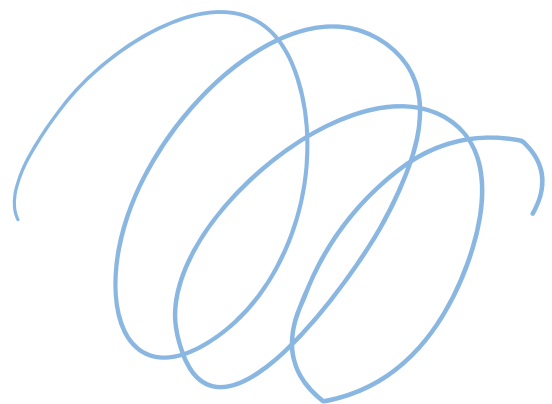
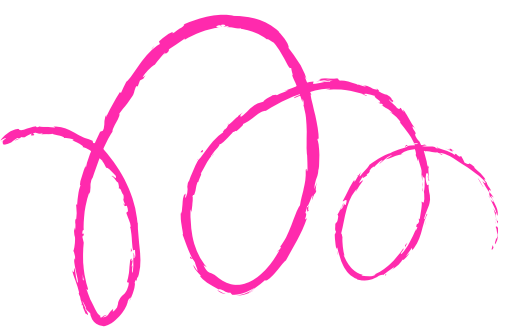
The event in Riga focused on advanced facilitation methods, including simulations, guided imagery, and case studies. Participants researched facilitation techniques, presented their findings in interactive sessions, and received valuable feedback. Debriefing sessions and a collaborative video project highlighted the event's impact. Youthpass certificates were awarded, recognizing participants' newly acquired facilitation skills.

Ireland, Dublin: June 3–7, 2024

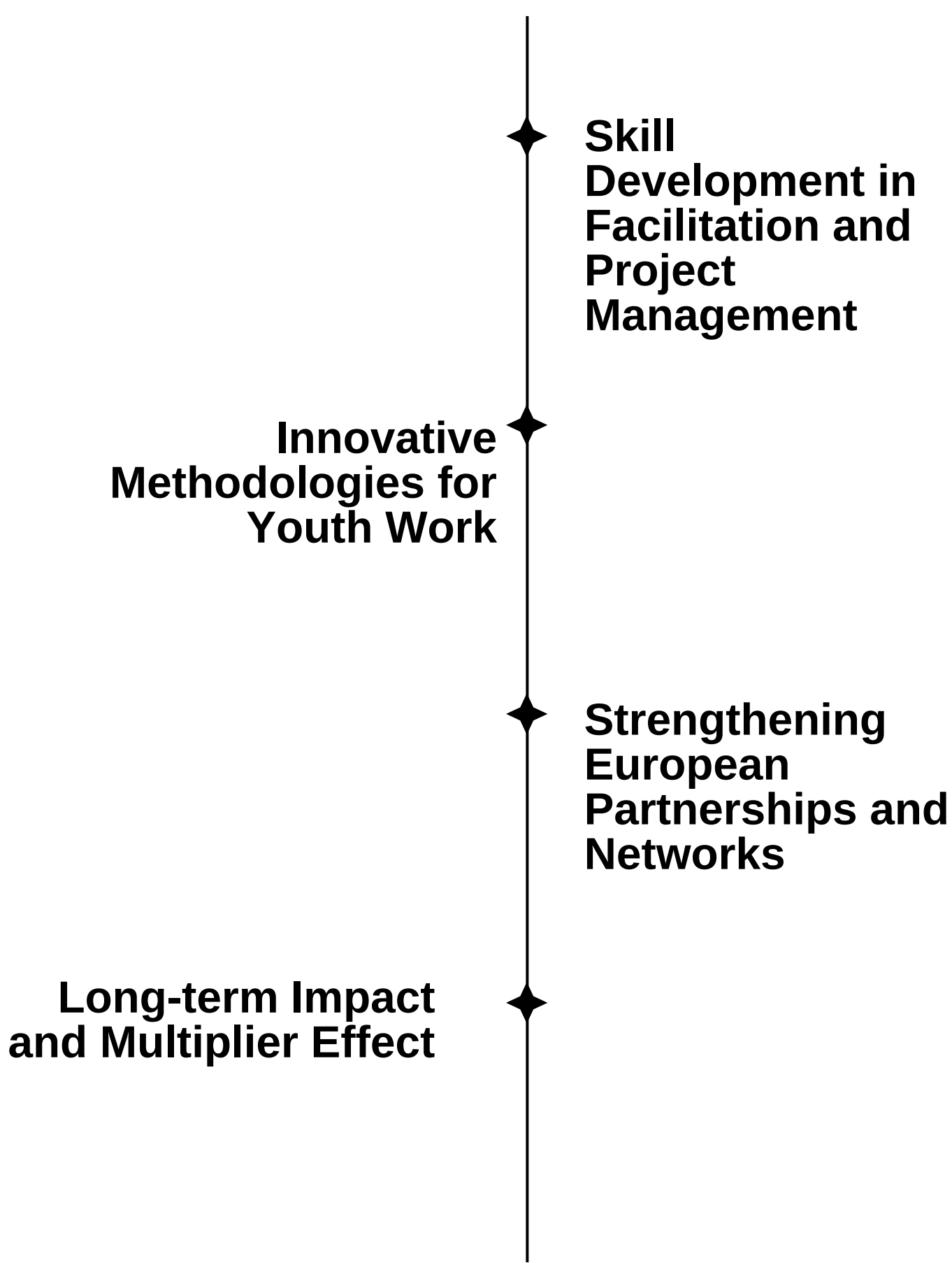
The final activity in Dublin emphasized advanced facilitation techniques, such as case studies and mind mapping tools. Participants explored practical facilitation methods tailored to diverse group needs through interactive workshops and experiential learning exercises. This event equipped participants with innovative tools and techniques to apply in local and international projects.



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Expected Results and Long-term Impact





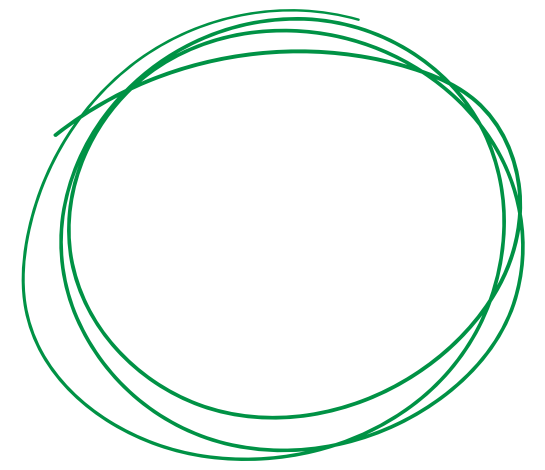
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Outcomes

- **Enhanced Facilitation Skills:** Participants gain practical tools and techniques to lead non-formal learning activities effectively.
- **Stronger Leadership and Teamwork:** Improved ability to lead groups, resolve conflicts, and collaborate across cultures.
- **Increased Cultural Awareness:** Greater understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures and perspectives.
- **Expanded Networks:** New connections with NGOs, youth workers, and organizations across Europe and beyond.
- **Innovative Youth Work Practices:** Adoption of creative and modern approaches to address social challenges.
- **Personal Growth:** Increased confidence, self-awareness, and motivation to drive change in local communities.
- **Sustainable Impact:** Participants apply their learning to local and international projects, creating a ripple effect of positive change



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Feedbacks

Touching many lives through project...

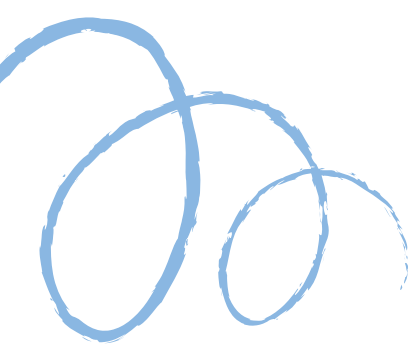
Participating in all four activities of the “Enhancing Youth Participation Through Facilitation Tools” project was an incredibly enriching experience for me.

Elif


I had the chance to engage in diverse non-formal education methods and experiential learning approaches across different countries. Each session, from interactive workshops to real-life scenario-based exercises, deepened my understanding of facilitation tools and youth participation.

The cross-cultural exchange was particularly valuable, as it allowed me to compare different perspectives and best practices from other organizations. This project has not only improved my facilitation skills but also strengthened my ability to work in international settings. I now feel more confident in designing and implementing non-formal education activities that can have a lasting impact on my local community.





Daniel






I always enjoy these types of events. What is most important for me is that people from different countries who see each other for the first time communicate without any barriers at all. I even managed to joke with someone. The group tasks were interesting. It was possible to show different qualities, teamwork and creativity.

The methods they talked about were really well explained. Not only did we just describe it in words, but we also tested everything in practice. My favorite thing is the role-playing game and the back games in the corridor for trust



Joschi

Participating in this project was a remarkable experience. Being part of the German team, we engaged deeply with other participants, exchanging ideas and practices that have broadened our perspectives. The training sessions on the VAK learning system were eye-opening and have equipped us with practical skills to enhance youth participation in our activities. This collaborative effort has strengthened our network and opened up new avenues for cross-cultural youth work.





The opportunity to collaborate with other participants from different countries was enriching. We shared experiences, learned new facilitation tools, and developed our competencies in youth work. The activities focusing on different learning styles were particularly beneficial, allowing us to better understand and support diverse learning needs. This project has undoubtedly enhanced our capabilities and will have a lasting impact on our future initiatives.



Levent



Şevval

Attending the Ireland training was a great opportunity to engage with experienced facilitators and fellow participants from different backgrounds. The hands-on approach of the sessions, especially the World Café discussions, allowed me to reflect on the role of non-formal education in youth work and how facilitation techniques can be adapted to different learning environments. I particularly appreciated the structured yet flexible design of the training, which encouraged open dialogue and collaboration. The final discussions helped us consolidate everything we had learned throughout the project and set clear steps for future applications. This experience has not only enhanced my facilitation skills but also motivated me to integrate these methods into my work with young people.





The project provided a fantastic platform for learning and collaboration. As part of the German team, we thoroughly enjoyed the interactions with our international counterparts. The training on the visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learning dimensions was especially impactful. It has helped us to better understand and cater to different learning styles, thereby enhancing our facilitation skills. This experience has been instrumental in our professional growth and has prepared us to implement more effective youth programs in the future.

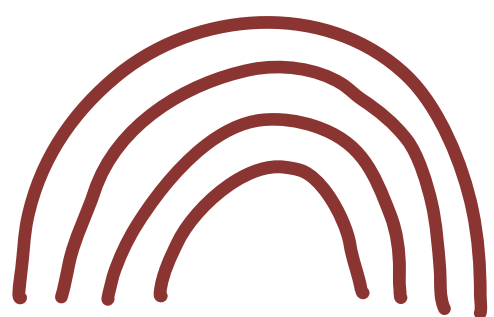


Ekinsu

This project has been incredibly beneficial for our team. We appreciated the chance to interact with participants from various backgrounds, which fostered a rich exchange of knowledge and practices. The focus on developing competencies through practical exercises was particularly effective. As a German team member, I feel that we have gained valuable insights and tools that will greatly improve our approach to youth facilitation and engagement.

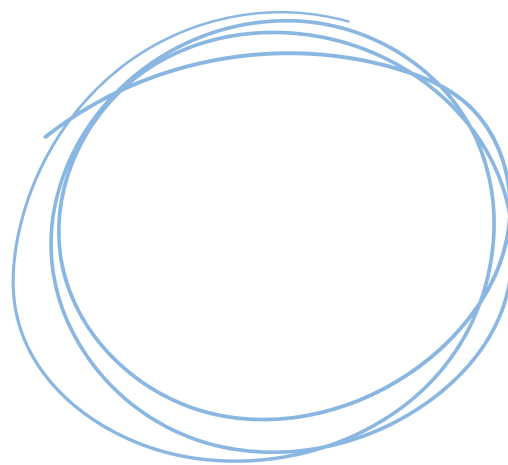
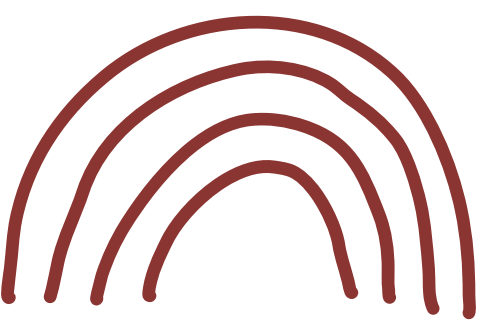


Zekiye



Taking part in the “Enhancing Youth Participation Through Facilitation Tools” project in Germany, Türkiye, and Latvia was a great experience. The non-formal education methods used throughout the activities allowed me to engage in hands-on learning, making the topics much more accessible and applicable to real-world scenarios. I particularly enjoyed the interactive workshops, role-playing exercises, and storytelling sessions, which challenged me to think creatively and approach facilitation from different angles. The diverse learning environments in each country provided valuable insights into how youth participation can be encouraged through innovative facilitation tools. I feel more equipped now to contribute to youth work initiatives and apply these methods in my own projects.

Boğaçhan



Sustainability and Future Steps

The outcomes of the "Enhancing Youth Participation through Facilitation Tools" project are designed to ensure long-term impact beyond its conclusion in September 2024.

To sustain these achievements, participants are encouraged to integrate the facilitation methods and non-formal education techniques into their daily youth work practices.

By fostering ongoing partnerships among participating organizations, this project lays the groundwork for future collaborations at both national and international levels.

Additionally, users are urged to explore further opportunities within the Erasmus+ programme, such as applying for new projects that build upon the skills and methodologies developed here. Engaging in regional or European networks focused on youth development can also amplify the reach of these initiatives.

Ultimately, the sustainability of this project depends on the continued commitment of all stakeholders to promote active participation, inclusion, and innovation in youth work.



Conclusion

The Enhancing Youth Participation through Facilitation Tools project has demonstrated the transformative power of non-formal learning, collaboration, and intercultural exchange.

By equipping youth workers with advanced facilitation skills, the project has not only modernized youth work practices but also inspired a new generation of leaders committed to driving social change.

The outcomes of this project—ranging from enhanced facilitation skills to stronger intercultural connections—highlight its potential to create lasting impact at local, European, and global levels. As participants return to their communities, they carry with them innovative tools, fresh perspectives, and a renewed sense of purpose, ready to tackle pressing social challenges and build inclusive, vibrant communities.

This project serves as a model for future initiatives, proving that with creativity, collaboration, and a commitment to learning, we can empower youth to shape a brighter, more inclusive future. Let this be a call to action for organizations and individuals alike to invest in youth work and harness the potential of young people as catalysts for change.

As you conclude this guidebook, we invite you to take the next step toward meaningful change. The tools, methodologies, and insights shared here are not merely resources—they are catalysts for action. Use them to design impactful youth initiatives that address critical social challenges in your community. Advocate for greater inclusion, champion non-formal education, and strengthen partnerships across borders. Remember, the legacy of this project lies in your hands. Together, let us continue to empower young people, foster active participation, and drive transformative change across Europe and beyond. Your efforts today will shape the leaders of tomorrow.

Thank You

We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to the creation and success of the guidebook. This project would not have been possible without the unwavering dedication, collaboration, and shared vision of our partners, contributors, and participants.

To our partners and organizations, thank you for your commitment to fostering inclusion, breaking barriers, and empowering individuals through sport. Your invaluable input and support will shape this toolkit into a practical and meaningful resource.

To the youth workers, facilitators, and educators, thank you for your efforts to inspire and support young people. Your dedication to creating spaces ensures that everyone, regardless of ability, can feel a sense of belonging and community.

To the participants, thank you for your enthusiasm, feedback, and willingness to engage in these activities. Your experiences and insights have provided the foundation for continuous improvement and have shown the profound impact of inclusive sports.

Lastly, we express our gratitude to the Erasmus+ Programme for supporting this initiative and empowering us to create meaningful change through collaboration across borders.

Together, we will create a resource that reflects the values of empathy, inclusion, and active citizenship. We hope this toolkit serves as a source of inspiration, guidance, and positive change in your communities and beyond.

Thank you for being part of this journey.



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Thank you very much!



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