





# COMPOSE YOUR COMPETENCES

basic synergy training

≥ 28th July 2012.-7th August 2012.

¥Hollókő, Hungary

# egyesek





















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#### **WHAT ARE THE THEMES?**

What are the values and concepts that influence my work and life?

How can i express my values in my daily work? What are my patterns of thinking and acting?

What are my skills? What is my working style? How do i handle unexpected events?

How do i achieve my results? What is my impact?

How can i increase my performance? How can i make my impact sustainable?

What is creativity? How can i create a new, different result in my work and life?

How do i connect to people? How can i express myself clearly? How to support people around me to understand each other?

How do i participate in a team? What is my role in a team? How can i create a team that works?

How can i involve my colleagues and my target group in my activities? How can i empower people?

How to synchronize different goals of different people?

How can i motivate myself and others?

What is accountability?

Is there a way to do it differently? How do others do it?

What is competence development? Is it a trend or an approach? What is new in it?

How to integrate this approach in Youth in Action projects and in local youth work?

How can this approach incease the employability of youngsters?

How does it work? Can i do it also? How?

7

Do you have days when these questions keep you busy?

If YES, this TC is for you















#### **WHAT IS COMPOSE YOUR COMPETENCES?**

Compose your Competences is a training course for youth workers, youth leaders, mentors, coaches, trainers, facilitators of non-formal learning processes:

- active in the youth and/or community work sector, using methods of non-formal learning
- wanting to improve their own personal and professional competences, refresh their approaches and exchange practices in order to become more effective in their work and life.
- focusing on the increase of employability of their target groups
- eager to learn, open to new, enjoy being a full-time participant

Countries:Serbia,Macedoni,Armenia,Azerbaijan,Georgia,Ukraine,Portugal, Spain, Lithuania, Romania, Turkey, the Netherlands,Hungary

Age limit: 18+

#### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE TC?

To improve your personal and professional competences in order to create the impact you want.

- skills improvement of youth workers in handling social and cultural differences, cooperation, teamwork, responsibility, communication, trust, openness, listening, self-expression, initiative, creativity, handling unexpected events, motivation, expressing values in action
- experiencing how a competence-focused learning process works and understanding how such processes can be integrated in youth work and non-formal learning as an example, introduction of YouthPass as a tool in international youth work
- creating the base and providing info for future networking and the creation of common projects within the Youth in Action Programme















#### **WHAT IS THE TRAINING APPROACH?**

Compose your competences is an individual training, done in a group context, having a strong focus on the development of your personal skills and awareness.

We will shortly deal with the "WHAT" in general, in order to have a common base in how we work with the questions of the TC. We put a lot more focus on the "WHO" and practise the "HOW" - we switch focus from general knowledge to YOUR unique composition of specific personal skills and values.

By training we mean: constant action and practicing in an accumulative cycle of learning – like sportspeople do: exercising, reflecting upon, evaluating and building on the outcome, working with specific questions and answers coming from you. We add new techniques to the ones we already have and practice, practice, practice until we acquire the action as a skill.

The trainers and the facilitators create the frame and support your learning process by questions, explanations, and a variety of activities which all provide a unique event – your role is to take part, go for the challenges, enjoy, and learn.

The program contains a full "basic synergy training". It is a training program to raise personal awareness and intensively improve personal competences. Going through this sequence you will improve your own skills, while by experience you understand how the approach works. Extra program parts are included to give you space to work onhow you can integrate this approach in your work and to facilitate future cooperation. The TC is designed as one whole process, both on individual and group levels. Participation from the beginning till the end, in each part is essential in order that each individual and the whole group gets the maximum out of it. For this purpose, it is not allowed to come later, leave earlier or miss program parts.

The program and the method has been developed by a group of trainers and youth workers of the network International Synergy Group, guided by experts of the Olde Vechte Foundation (NL). It is being delivered all over Europe, constantly shaped and updated over the past 10 years. Egyesek Youth Association brings in the expertise of 15 years of local youth work, international youth projects and networking.















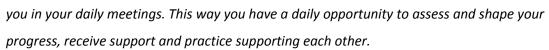
### We will use a wide variety of program elements:

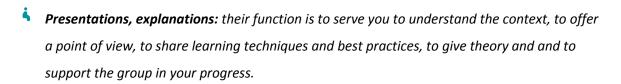
- Learning questions: each one of you will set a learning question for yourselves. It will be a question that helps you to work on the improvement of a skill a practical action that or expresses a value that is important for you. 4 of the 8 key competences will be taken as example: learning to learn will give the frame of the process, and 3 others cultural awareness and expression, social and civic competences, initiative & enterpreneurship will be areas from which you are free to choose according to your own needs and interests. Every day you will work with your learning question, assess your progress and set your daily focus in it.
- Learning processes: they are individual, couple, small- and big group exercises and assignments (groups re-mixed each time) built on methods from outdoor, dance, drama, music and creative art. Some of them you might expereince as playful, while others as deep and serious. While you fulfil the assignments, you work on your personal learning question and you go through and intensive individual and group process. In this process you can observe yourself and become aware of things you mostly do automatically. All process offer

opportunities to practice in the field of the 4 competences mentioned above.

Debriefings and sharings are facilitated smalland big group discussions, that follow the learning processes. This is the time when you reflect on your experiences, listen to the reflection of the others, come to your conclusions, raise questions and have an opportunity to clarify, realise, understand – to complete your learning.

Dialogue groups: in these groups you will support each other in your personal progress, and share experiences. A facilitator will support



















#### **WHAT WILL YOU DO FOR 10 DAYS?**

#### Arrival day:

You arrive, settle in the house and make yourselves home. We do registration, brief you about the house and the surroundings. It is important that after your journeys you take a good rest before the program starts.

#### Day 1. Introduction

We introduce participants, trainers, voluntees, and give detailed information on the program and training methods. We will lay the base of our cooperation by setting the ground rules of the TC. We create the dialogue groups, where members will support each other's learning all through the TC.

We start working with the themes of the TC: by a sequence of light group exercises we test how we create our thoughts and how we handle concepts and pre-judgements.

We introduce the competence improvement process: creativity as a way of learning, key competences, and we set our individual learning questions to work on.

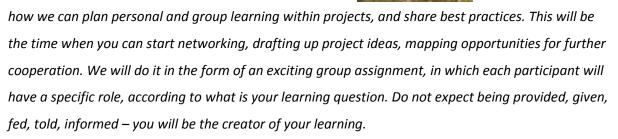
#### Days 2 - 3. How do we create our impact?

These days are built like a rollercoaster – an intensive sequence of activities, to experiement with individual working styles, how individual diversity effect cooperation, trust, self-expression, seeing opportunities, what is responsibility and how we handle challenges. Expect being inside and outside,

alone and in group, silence, music and talks, ups and downs, playfullness and seriousness, questions, insights and more questions.

#### Day 4-5. Making it practical

These days we will connect the themes of the TC to youth work on the practical level. We will look at how competence development can be focused in youth work,



*In the evening we will prepare for the upcoming event: the outdoor training.* 















#### Days 6 – 7 – 8. Outdoor training

You will spend 2 full days and 2 full nights full of adventure and surprises, with your group in nature, outside the training venue. You will fulfil advanced-level group assignments and challenges, practicing your skills, facing your own results.

When you return, we will spend time with understanding the expereince and identifying your learning outcomes.

#### Day 9. Time of understanding and planning for home

This day there will be space to raise questions and provide explanations needed to make your learning process complete. We will make plans for home, personal and professional, and there will be time to finalise ideas for projects and future cooperation, started up on days 4-5.

Int he evening we will working with the theme of motivation and how you can keep it up on the long run.

#### Day 10. Evaluation, closing

This day we will do the evaluation of the TC in several forms, written and spoken. After identifying your results, learning points and outcomes int he context of your learning questions, you will fill in your own YouthPass Certificates and evaluation forms.

We will spend the afternoon and the evening with closing the TC among each other personally and int he group, saying thank you and celebrating our results.















#### Time schedule:

<i>8:00 – 8:45</i>	Breakfast
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9:30 – 12:45 *Program* 

13:00 - 13:45 Lunch

14:30 - 17:45 Program

18:00 - 18:45 Dinner

19:30 - 22:00 Program



Please see daily program in the attachment nr.4

#### WHAT RESULTS CAN YOU HAVE?

At the end of the TC you will

- recognise your own thinking and the impact of your behaviour better
- see more opportunities
- choose your reaction
- initiate, act proactively in unexpected and intense situations
- sexpress personal and European values through personal action
- practice inclusion and responsibility on the daily level
- improve your performance as a team member or leader in local and international projects
- motivate yourself and others
- enjoy interaction
- create the impact you want to have
- initiate future projects and partnerships
- basic understanding of the idea of "competence development" and its methodological approach

**Based on all this, you will be able to** create your own personal and professional COMPETENCE PORTFOLIO.















#### **ORGANISER**

Who we are?

A group of active young people, volunteers, youth workers and trainers.

**Our values:** 

Love, care, cooperation and synergy (when the whole is more than the sum of the parts)

**Our mission:** 

To inspire, empower and support youth in successfully taking responsibility in their lives and the lives of their communities.

#### **DATE**

Arrival days	18:00	28 <sup>th</sup> July 2012.
Start of the program	21:00	28 <sup>th</sup> July 2012.
End of the program	22:00	6 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
Departure day	until: 10:00	7 <sup>th</sup> August 2012.

#### Arrivals and departures:

We are asking you to arrive on the date given above, to the accommodation of the exchange:

Creative Space Training Centre, 31. Organa str., Hollókő, Hungary

We expect you to participate on the whole program! (It means coming later or leaving earlier is not allowed!)

If you arrive 1-2 days earlier or leave later, please arrange your own accommodation for the extra time.

A trip to Budapest or other touristic venues of Hungary is <u>NOT</u> part of the program. If you would like to visit these places, arrange your travel in a way that you can do it before or after these dates.















#### **VENUE**

The TC will be in Hollókő, the countryside of Hungary, 100km from Budapest.

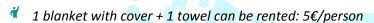
The village is situated in the north of Hungary and it is part of the UNESCO World Heritage. During the program you will see the surroundings: the Cserhát Hills and the villages of Palóc culture (www.holloko.hu).

The accomodation and the program will be in the youth training center Creative Space (<a href="www.kreativ-ter.hu">www.kreativ-ter.hu</a>). There are bedrooms for 4-6 with separate shower and toilette each. We have wireless internet, with limited access. There is NO washing machine

The house and the garden is rented as a whole for the time of the TC, in order to have it as a home

for you and to have the full privacy of the group. Light housework will be done by the group as well – a daily cleaning, keeping the house tidy, doing dishes after the meals, and the cleaning of your own rooms.

Only bedsheets and pillows with cover are provied. Please bring your own towels and sleeping bags – you need sleeping bags in the outdoor training anyway.



Sleeping bags can also be rented: 5€/sleeping bag

Creative Space has a limited number of sleeping bags, not enough for a whole group. If you need one, let us know in advance in your application form, we will inform you whether we can provide you one or not.















#### **COSTS**

#### Egyesek covers the following costs:

- accommodation
- food
- the costs of the program
- 70% of the travel costs of foreign participants, according to the conditions described in the attachment.
- part of visa costs

#### Participants cover the following costs:

- The rest (30%) of your travel costs from your living place to the program venue.
- Your own insurance

#### Participants' contribution:

- Participants who won't pay for a visa/who are coming from Eropean Union:80€
- If you have to pay for your visa document we can give to you 15 € discount so your participation contribution is: 65 €

#### To be paid in cash in € on arrival.

We organised a common bus to you from Budapest to Hollókő (on 28<sup>th</sup> July) and after the end of the training from Hollókő to Budapest (on 7<sup>th</sup> August) it has a cost. It is 2000 HUF, and this you have to pay on arrival in HUF.

The procedure and the conditions of the reimbursement is described below in the attachment nr.1. Please read it carefully and if you have questions, contact us in advance.

#### **REIMBURSEMENT:**

In the grant we will receive a certain amount of money for this purpose, which we are not allowed to exceed. These amounts are based on the costs our partner organizations told us when we wrote the application. Amounts given are for return tickets between your place of living and Hollókő.

We reimburse public transport tickets and taxi costs from Budapest or from cities where you change transportation only if they fit into your limit and you bring the invoices of them.

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Countries	Number of participants from these countries (all together)	Maximum 100% travel costs / person (€)	Maximum 70% travel costs / person(€)	
Serbia	4	50	35	
Macedonia	3	300	210	
Armenia	3	400	280	
Georgia	3	400	280	
Ukraine	3	300	210	
Portugal	2	400	280	
Spain	2	350	245	
Lithuania	2	350	245	
Romania	3	150	105	
Turkey	4	300	210	
Thne Netherlands	2	250	175	
Hungary	4	0	0	

Find more detailed information about the reimbursement in the attachment 3















#### <u>APPLYING – SELECTION – CONFIRMATION</u>

Deadline: 15th May 2012.

Send your application form(Attachment 1.) to the following address:

composeyourcompetences@gmail.com

Selection will be done and confirmation will be sent by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012.

The ones not selected in the first round will be on the waiting list and as soon as there is an empty place we will contact them.

We will take care that the age, gender and intercultural diversity of the group is ensured.

# Do not buy your tickets till you get the confirmation letter!

If you are selected for the training you will receive a confirmation letter. If you have received this letter you can start arranging your travel. In the letter you will also receive the travel information and a list of things you need to bring with you.

After you received the confirmation letter you can arrange your travel. Your registration is final when you arranged your travel and send us your arrival and departure times for the training.

Take care that you arrive before the start and leave after the end of the program. Arrival or departure after or before the program times of the training is not accepted. The training is a whole, start and closing.

If you are under 18, send also parent's consent (Attachment 2.).

















#### **WHAT TO BRING**

In case you were confirmed and you are coming to the exchange, there are certain things to bring:

- There are certain clothes we ask you to bring with you for your physical safety, personal hygiene of yourself and the other members of the group.
- Casual warm and sport clothes for outdoor and indoor activities
- Backpack or smaller bag
- Raincoat
- Waterproof outdoor shoes
- Camping mattress
- Sleeping bag that is suitable up to -5 degrees. You will need the sleeping bag for sleeping in the house too, there are no sheets provided in the house.
- **∜** Towels
- Your own medicines

#### **Documents**

- passport or other official ID
- all original bills and tickets
- insurance or your E111 card
- Hungarians: TB card
- data



The project has received for grant form the Youth in Action Programme of the European Community. Information ont he

 $\label{programme} \textbf{Programme is available at $\underline{\text{http://europa.eu.int/comm/youth/index\_en.html.}}$.}$ 

However the content of the project doesn't necessarily reflect the opinion of the EU and the Hungarian National Agency. The project is not under the responsibility of these institution















#### **ATTACHEMENTS**

#### Attachment 1. / APPLICATION FORM



1137 Budapest, Radnóti M. u. 4-6. www.egyesek.hu, info@egyesek.hu Felnőttképzési nyilvántartási szám: 00980-2008 Intézményi akkreditációs lasjtromszám: AL-2220

Compose your competences-basic synergy training 28<sup>th</sup> July 2012.-7<sup>th</sup> August 2012., Hollókő, Hungary

The application form needs to be sent to <u>composeyourcompetences@gmail.com</u> until 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

Country:
First name:
Last name:
Name you want to be called in the training:
Address:
Zip code:
City:
Date of Birth:
gender:
For people who need visa:
Passport number:
Expiry date of Passport:
Place of birth (city and country)
Mothers' full name:
Phone number - Regular:
Phone number - Mobile:
E-mail address:
Special Diet:
What is your present health condition? Detail health
problems and their present state. Specify and describe
any medication you take or have taken within the last
6 months
Contact person in case of emergency
Full name:
Address:
Phone numbers:
Relationship to you:















Do you have a medical insurance valid in Hun	aarv:				
How did you know about this training:	· ·				
Level of English (bad, medium, good, excellen	t):				
What other foregin languages do you speak?	,				
What is the level?					
Learning needs Survey	1137 Budapest, Radnóti M. u. 4-6. Felnőttképzési nyilvántartási szám: 00980-2008 www.egyesek.hu, info@egyesek.hu Intézményl akkreditációs lasjtromszám: AL-2220  yesek				
	vers, specific to you. Consider, that based on your answers				
we can develop the pro	gram in a way that serves your needs.				
General a	nswers do not support.				
What makes you interested in this TC?(min.					
50 words)					
How does the theme of this exchange relate	7.				
to your life?(min. 50 words)					
What personal skills do you want to practice					
and develop? (min. 50 words)					
What results do you expect concerning your					
personal development? (min. 50 words)					
What do you want to learn concerning the					
themes of the TC? (min. 20 – 50 words)					
In which areas of your life do you want to					
use what you learn here? (min. 50 words)					
Imagine that you did the TC and it was					
successful. What can you do now? What are					
your results?					
Questions, remarks, anything else you want to add:	OCOK				
Duranhasisting this population takes at the second					
By submitting this application I, the undersigned, confirm that I have read and understood the Information Letter and the conditions of reimbursement about the exchange Value in Youth – Skills for					
employability exchange and I know and accept	<del>-</del>				
, , , ,					

Date:

Signature:















# Attachment 2./ PARENTS' CONSENT FORM

	1137 Budapest, Radnóti M. u. 4-6. www.egyesek.hu, info@egyesek.hu	Felnőttképzési nyilvántartási szám: 00980-2008 Intézményi akkreditációs lasjtromszám: AL-2220
egyesek		
	PARENTS' CONSENT	FORM
l,		(name of parent),
the undersigned, confirm	m that I have received the ne	cessary information about the project
	(proj	ect title)
	(date	e, place of project)
and I agree that my son, participant)	/daughter	(name of
participates in the progr	ram.	
Place:		
Date:	Signature:	















#### Attachment 3. / CONDITIONS OF REIMBURSEM

Bythe Hungarian bookkeeping law and the funding rules of the grant program we must keep certain administrative procedures. We are asking for your support and cooperation in keeping these rules. Please make sure that you read and understand the conditions and the procedure.

#### **Conditions of reimbursement:**

Only if you participate in the whole program can you get the reimbursement.

<u>Save your original tickets and receipts, invoices and all related documents,</u> because you can only get reimbursement for costs of which you can prove the amounts with original tickets and receipts. Only the amount written on the ticket will be reimbursed – that is, if you want your return ticket to be reimbursed, you have to give it to us. We cannot reimburse anything that you buy after the training.

#### ALL the following ORIGINAL documents will be needed:

all your tickets and boarding passes invoices of buying your tickets described below passport or ID

Official document from the bank or travel agency stating the exchange rate from your currency to Euro and/or HUF of the day you buy your ticket.

#### What is an invoice?

This is a document, signed and stamped by the seller.

The invoice of flight ticket must contain your **name, the starting and finishing place and the date of the journey and the price of the ticket**. Whatever official is your paper, if these data are not on it, you **can not** get it reimbursed!!! Use your name from your passport, no nicknames!

For all the other tickets that you buy in Hungary you need a special invoice, called ÁFÁS SZÁMLA, you need to ask for it when you pay. It needs to be for the following address as buyer:

Egyesek Ifjúsági Egyesület 1137 Budapest Radnóti M. u. 4-6. l./14.

#### E-tickets:

An e-ticket is NOT an invoice! If necessary, call the airline/train company/etc., explain them the situation and ask them to give you a receipt/invoice with the data given above. If you buy tickets online, take care that you tick the box indicating that you want an invoice, and you fill in the address of Egyesek where the invoice has to be sent by the airline company.

A simple receipt printed by the cassa, only containing date and amount is NOT an invoice, amounts proved by such receipts WILL NOT be reimbursed..















Reimbursement will be done after the training, by bank transfer. We do not reimburse any costs on spot.

The exact procedure is described below. The exchange rate we will be the rate of the day we receive the grant.

#### Reimbursement limits per country

In the grant we will receive a certain amount of money for this purpose, which we are not allowed to exceed. These amounts are based on the costs our partner organizations told us when we wrote the application. Amounts given are for return tickets between your place of living and Hollókő.

We reimburse public transport tickets and shuttle bus costs from Budapest or from cities where you change transportation only if they fit into your limit and you bring the invoices of them for both way (retour tickets).

#### Countries/limits

Countries	Number of participants from these countries (all together)	Maximum 100% travel costs / person (€)	Maximum 70% travel costs / person(€)
Serbia	4	50	35
Macedonia	3	300	210
Armenia	3	400	280
Georgia	3	400	280
Ukraine	3	300	210
Portugal	2	400	280
Spain	2	350	245
Lithuania	2	350	245
Romania	3	150	105
Turkey	4	300	210
Thne Netherlands	2	250	175
Hungary	4	0	0

#### Reimbursement procedure:

The amount of the reimbursement will be calculated as follows:
 We take the 70% of your travel costs between your hometown and Hollókő, only those costs of which
 you have the tickets and invoices. From this we will calculate your reimbursement with the €/HUF
 exchange rate of the day we receive the grant.

In case your costs exceed the limits given below, the maximum amount you can get is calculated from the 70% of your allowed limit. Limits are given above. Based on the invoices you give us, we will exchange your costs into euros and from euros to HUF.

In case you want that we exchange your currency directly to HUF, <u>you</u> need to bring an <u>official</u> <u>document</u>, signed and stamped original from the bank or the travel agency, showing the official exchange rate from your currency to HUF of the day when you bought your ticket/visa/insurance.

2. **You will check the calculation and sign a document** stating that you checked and you accept the amount, you give the bank account number where it will be transferred and that you agree that the















bank costs are covered from the amount of the reimbursement, and that you will send us back the original tickets, documents and invoices within 1 week from your arrival home, by registered post.

- 3. You will **leave with us all the original documents** that you don't need for your journey home. During the training we will make copies of your documents, so that you can still use your ticket for the way home.
- 4. You send us back all the original documents within 1 week from your arrival home by registered post.

As soon as we receive all original documents from your country and the grant arrives from the funder, we send you your reimbursement by bank transfer. We will **do 1 bank transfer/country**, either to your sending organization or to the account of one participant from that country. Bank cost is approx 10€ /transfer from our bank, you need to check yourself if it costs anything from your bank or not. Bank cost will be taken from the amount by the bank. We have no separate funds to cover them, so this bank cost is yours.

For the bank transfers we need these data from each country:

bank account number, IBAN number, account owner name, bank name and address, SWIFT/BIC code

















## Attachment 4./ DAILY PROGRAM

PROGRAM DRAFT / COMPOSE YOUR COMPETENCES									
day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8	day 9	day 10
29th July / Sun	30th July / Mon	31st July / Tue	1st Aug / Wed	2nd Aug / Thu	3rd Aug / Fri	4th Aug / Sat	5th Aug / Sun	6th Aug / Mon	7th Aug / Tue
					Outdoor	Outdoor	Outdoor	Planning	Loveday
breakfast	breakfast	breakfast	breakfast	breakfast	breakfast	breakfast	breakfast	breakfast	breakfast
intro of the day	intro of the day	intro of the day	intro of the day	intro of the day				intro of the day	intro of the day
	dialogue groups	dialogue groups	dialogue groups	dialogue groups	12:3			dialogue groups	
purpose - themes - program - method - ground	Creation time						returning from the outdoor training		evaluation of the TC
rules	Trust and cooperation Cooperation activity	Competence development & project planning	Youth in Action Mosaic				questions, themes raised by the group	dialogue groups: filling in the YouthPass Certificates &	
froming dialogue groups									evaluation forms
lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch	Outdoor	r training	lunch	lunch	lunch
Personal filters	Decision-making & responsibility	Tools of inclusion	Map of opportunities: sharing best practices,	Map of opportunities: sharing best practices,			debriefing of the outdoor training	planning for the future: personal and project plans, networking, learning	personal and group closing
key competences	Decision-making in cooperation		networking	networking	100		dialogue groups	opportunities	
dinner	dinner	dinner	dinner	dinner			dinner	dinner	dinner
setting learning goals	Handling challenges	Diversity is our mirror: self expression	results of the day	Intro and preparation of the outdoor training			learning outcomes	workshop on motivation	closing event
closing of the day	closing of the day	closing of the day	closing of the day				closing of the day	closing of the day	















#### Attachnt 5./ THE TRAINING METHOD of the International Synergy Group

#### The training method of International Synergy Group

#### Learning to play, playing to learn

Learning by experience, outdoor training, and theatre plays are working methods which all have one thing in common: playing. Playing allows us to access a state of freedom, creativity and exploration that is associated with the natural learning of childhood. Roleplays, structured experiments, simulation, and theatre are examples of games with experiential learning opportunities. Games can create a play frame, which makes the act of learning a dynamic and enjoyable process, which recalls the carefree playing time of childhood.

Experiential activities can transform learning into adventure. Learning in this way is an emotional, physical as well as a cognitive experience. Movement and feelings stimulate the learning process. Playing involves both mind and body and can provoke an emotional response during the exercises. The exercises are designed to use social skills and make clear / illustrate concepts and theories. Almost any topic can be explored through games. Learning processes that involve the development of skills and behavioural change, such as group dynamics, communication, leadership, problem solving, teamwork, coaching, co-operation and decision-making are very suitable for gaming.

Gaming is a working method which might create a paradoxical situation in which participants or a group might loose themselves. The objective of using gaming in this kind of training is to get more knowledge and skills to work with groups in the field of youth work and social work.

Although this working method may seem enjoyable, it is not "only a game". It allows the players to use the freedom to experiment with new approaches and new behaviour and to acquire skills and knowledge. The players are asked to look at how they behave in the play. Therefore feedback and reflection are an essential part in this way of working. Playing games as a tool for learning is a serious play or 'playful seriousness'.

The Olde Vechte Foundation has developed this working method in a specific way. Since the founding of the "Olde Vechte" foundation in 1966 we used a group accommodation for the training- and education activities. Working with groups in a hostel situation became part of the working method.

Our training method is based on learning by experience. In our approach we invite participants to point out where they find themselves at that moment in the learning process, what they want to learn and how they want to develop themselves. It is focused on the experience of the individual and it is connected to the specific needs and the level of learning of the participant at that moment. The programme is a tool for the participant and not the other way around. No matter how logical this may sound, in many formal learning situations the usual form of acquiring knowledge is 'learning from lessons'. The knowledge should be reproduced / copied by the student, without any personal interaction. 'Learning by experience' is different since it starts from the person him/ herself, his/here behaviour, reactions and emotions. This method is often used in youth work and informal education. And more and more this method is being used in formal education and trainings for companies.

The way, in which we like to organise and perform this international training, means that main objectives of the training have to be clear to the participants, as well as the outlines of the programme and the target group. In this way we create a playing field for participants and trainers where we can play to learn and learn to play.

Within the given group, you participate in the training for yourself and with yourself as an individual. The exercises (called 'processes' in our training context) will be done alternately alone, in pairs or in a group. The















trainer will prepare the ground by giving plenary lectures. Some processes may involve talking, others listening or visualising certain thoughts with your eyes closed. Exercises will be provided in combination with music, dance or play. Many processes will contain an element of surprise, the exact nature of which is not known in advance. In this way questions can only be answered by the participant him/ herself, namely by experiencing his own reactions.

With this training approach there is room for the experiences and wishes of the participants to influence the content of the programme while it is taking place. We create the playing field and the participants make the play.











