Social Games

A Training Course for Youth Workers to Improve Skills and Knowledge through the Power of Participating in Social Games

Based on Creativity and Imagination

Sunday, April 21st – Saturday, April 27th, 2024

(including Travel days)

Woodstown, County Waterford, Ireland



Woodstown Residential and Activity Centre (WRAC)

Erasmus+

Overall Aim

This Training Course aims to equip Youth Workers with skills, knowledge and attitudes from a diverse range of organisations and countries across Europe.
The focus will be on using methodologies based on creativity, fun and games to engage and work with young people.
All of the activities will be focused on delivering and linking the games that young people play with the 7 Proximal Outcomes of Youth Work:

1. Communication skills
2. Confidence and Agency
3. Relationships
4. Planning and Problem-solving
5. Creativity and Imagination
6. Resilience and determination
7. Emotional Intelligence

Background and Theme of the Project

Social Games for young people are interactive activities designed to be played in groups, fostering communication, teamwork, and social interaction among participants. These games involve elements of cooperation, collaboration and creativity, providing opportunities for individuals to bond, build relationships, and have fun together.

Social Games play a crucial role for young people in intercultural environments across Europe by promoting cross-cultural communication, understanding, and integration. They offer a common ground for individuals from diverse backgrounds to connect, collaborate, and develop friendships irrespective of cultural differences. By engaging in Social Games, young people can learn about each other's traditions, customs, and perspectives in a relaxed and enjoyable setting, fostering empathy, tolerance, and respect. Additionally, these games provide a platform for practicing language skills, enhancing social skills, and building a sense of belonging within a multicultural community. Overall, Social Games serve as catalysts for promoting intercultural harmony and unity among young people across Europe.

Youth workers will develop new ways of engaging young people using Social Games methodologies, based around the following themes:

- Engagement:
  Developing innovative Social Games can help attract and engage young people who may otherwise be disinterested in traditional forms of social interaction or education.

- Relevance:
  Creating games that resonate with contemporary youth culture ensures that the activities remain relevant and appealing to young people, thereby increasing their participation and involvement.

- Inclusion:
  Introducing a diverse range of Social Games ensures inclusion by catering to the interests, preferences, and abilities of all participants, regardless of their background or circumstances.

- Learning Opportunities:
  Social Games provide valuable opportunities for learning and personal development. Developing new methods can tailor games to address specific social, emotional, or educational objectives, such as teamwork, communication skills, conflict resolution, or cultural awareness.

- Adaptability:
  As societal norms and technological advancements evolve, new methods allow for the adaptation of Social Games to meet the changing needs and preferences of young people, ensuring their continued effectiveness and relevance.

- Community Building:
  Innovative Social Games can strengthen community bonds by fostering collaboration, empathy, and mutual understanding among participants, ultimately contributing to the creation of a more cohesive and supportive social environment.

Overall, by developing new methods about Social Games for young people, youth workers can enhance their effectiveness in engaging, supporting, and empowering young individuals in various social and cultural contexts.

Approach and Methodology

This Training Course will be based on non-formal and informal education with a self-directed learning approach.

During this Course, participants are responsible for their own learning and the facilitators provide activities, and guide the participants through their own learning process.

The Training Course will be characterised by highly participatory, interactive and experiential methods.

Some sessions will be complemented by theoretical inputs, and all of them will be followed by group reflection or self-reflection.

Two Really Important Things to Think About

1. THE WEATHER –

We'll be out in the natural environment of forests, coastline and mountains a lot of the time, so it's important that participants will be prepared for all weathers. Ireland is in the North Atlantic and is not in the Mediterannean, so even though the weather could be lovely, it could also be not so lovely.

So be prepared for all 4 seasons (although it is unlikely to snow!)

2. PREPARATORY WORK –

Each participant will be asked to bring a Social Game from their own country, which they feel is a good example of work that they do with theoir own young people in their own country.

The Trainers will explain more about what will be needed nearer to the time of the Training Course.

Profile of the Participants

Participants will be youth workers, project leaders and educators involved in youth work. The participants will have a multiplier role - in other words: they will adapt what they learn in this training course to their own context of working with young people. In their future projects and daily work they can incorporate tools, methods and theories which they have learned during this Training Course. They can also use their personal learning and development in their daily work with their own target groups.

This Training Course will be an emotionally challenging Project for trainers and trainees. That's why we expect from trainees at all times to the best of their abilities to…

- be fully committed to the process - to reflect, share, experience and participate in ***all*** activities
- keep a clear mind, that is neither intoxicated nor distracted
- have taken care of important personal and professional matters beforehand, so that these do not intervene with the Training Course (being completely present with the group)
- be on time for all of the deadlines, sessions and appointments
- challenge themselves to step out of their comfort zones
- be willing to look into themselves and reflect on their professional and private life
- join us on an intensive, immersive and unforgettable journey

More about the Trainers



Dominique Verschuren: His expertise is Inner leadership and non-formal learning. Dominique believes that awareness and a practical understanding of our identity serves all of our relationships, learning experiences and talent development. He delivers high quality Training Courses using innovative activities and coaching methods, building real commitment with the participants, giving attention to ambiguity. Topics: vulnerability and confidence, powerless feelings and resilience, transition and accountability, timing, curiosity and creativity.



Elena Serrano: Professional actress and musician, she works as a trainer using applied theatre techniques such as the Theatre of the Oppressed, Immersive Theatre and Labyrinth Theatre. Elena believes that play is an innate instinct and every human being is theatre; we produce actions and observe those actions and their effects on the outside world. Topics: presence, space, imagination, sensorial experience, self-consciousness and collective creation.

Practical & Travel information

Venue

The Training Course will take place at:

Woodstown Residential and Activity Centre (WRAC), Woodstown Beach, Co. Waterford, Ireland (X91FX29)

WRAC is a Project of the Waterford and South Tipperary Community Youth Service, based at the Manor Street Youth and Community Multiplex, Manor St., Waterford City, Ireland.

The Centre is situated on the beachfront around 10km from Waterford City – it offers tranquility and privacy in a quiet rural area, and is set on 2 acres of its own grounds.

The accommodation is mainly aimed at sharing the space as one large group. Keep this in mind when you decide to join this Training Course. Practically this means:

- The Centre operates on a self-catering basis, and has bunk-bed type accommodation for up to 32 people.
- **Please note that the sleeping space involves two shared 16-person dormitories.** For this Training Course, we limit the rooms to just 8 people in each. So you still share the sleeping rooms with many other people!
- There is a fully equipped kitchen, a large dining room, a living room and a TV/Training room with a fireplace.
- Bed linen, duvets, pillows and towels are provided

Meals

All food will be provided by the organizers, either at the venue or in the restaurant next door. It will be self-catering for breakfast and lunch, and dinner will be provided.

(NB. If you have any allergies, or other dietary requirements, please let us know)



WRAC Training Room



Woodstown Beach

When & How to Get There:

Participants are responsible for booking their own travel – it's up to the partner organizations to support them in the process.
Depending on where you're travelling from, the two closest airports are Dublin and Cork, which are both around two hours travelling time from Waterford City. You can take either a train or a bus from Dublin Airport (www.irishrail.ie, www.buseireann.ie, www.jjkavanagh.ie) but only a bus from Cork (www.buseireann.ie).

If you let us know what time you'll be arriving into Waterford City, we'll arrange to collect you and transport you to Woodstown.

Other Practical Details:

- Participants will be accommodated in bunk beds in shared, dormitory-style rooms.
- There is a wireless internet connection available at the venue, but the quality varies
- The weather in Ireland is 'changeable'. Don't forget your umbrella, as there might be rain, but you might also need sunscreen. Half the fun of being in Ireland will be guessing the weather! You can follow the weather forecast here: http://weather-finder.com/Ireland/Waterford/
- The currency is Euro. If you need to change money: Please use the Airport Exchange Office.
- **Insurance:** Insurance is each participant's responsibility. You need to have travel insurance and the European Health Card.
- **Working language** Working language of this training course is English. Don't be afraid, your English doesn't need to be perfect, neither is ours! What is important is that your English is good enough to actively participate.
- **Contact details in case of emergency** If you are ever in any trouble, you can call Declan at 00 353 86 3889723



The Copper Coast



WRAC Dining Room

Financial Considerations:

1. The food and accommodation will be completely provided and paid by Erasmus+.
2. Visa costs (if needed) will be reimbursed by the organizers after the Training Course, once receipts are received.
3. Travel costs include plane, train or bus costs from your home country to Woodstown.
4. ALL costs must be receipted.

Reimbursement of travel costs:

Travels costs (plane, train and bus) will be counted by distance calculator provided by European Commission and reimbursed by bank transfer directly to the participant within 4 weeks of the Course finishing. The reimbursement is determined by the Erasmus+-guide.

The participants have to give the receipts for the travel costs to the organizers. The reimbursement will be made through bank transfer after the training course after Waterford & South Tipperary Community Youth Service have received the travel tickets.



The Process of 'trusting the process'

Communications:

Contact us anytime if you have any questions, concerns or feedback.

Let us know of any changes that are relevant to the running of the Training Course as soon as you can, such as:

- Your (non) participation in the course
- All travel related issues, including costs and the exact itinerary
- Your contact details
- Anything else we need to know for a smooth functioning of the Training Course – all information will be treated confidentially



Woodstown Beach, County Waterford