

Training & Activities Community

Concept Note

Written by:

Adéla Smejkalová (Vice President for Training and Development 2022-2023)

Sara Vrbán (Training & Activities Community Manager 2022-2023)

Introduction

In 2021 the new Vice President position was approved at the GA Brussels and the term 2022/2023 is the first one where the Board has 6 members. One of the responsibilities of the new Vice President for Training and Development is to focus on event management, training, development and impactful activities in the network. In order to provide the network with more space for sharing practices, exchanging ideas, learning and networking, the new community for Training & Activities is being created along with the implementation of the new Board position.

The new community is created by dividing the original HR & Network Community which used to be very diverse and broad, both in terms of positions and topics covered. By having two communities of both Vice Presidents, we aim to provide the network with more capacity and also interconnect the members with more Support Structures on the international level, which will lead to strengthening the network overall.

Main fields of focus

The vision is for the new community to cover the fields of:

- **Event Management** - Mainly non-statutory events, their content, organisation, quality and sustainability
- **Projects and development** - International, national and local projects with the support of the Social Impact Team and the International Erasmus Games Team
- **Social Impact** - Learning cycle of volunteers and students who participate in ESN events and activities, with the focus on the impact on participants and society.

- **Training** - Preparing quality content, creating and implementing National Pools of Trainers with the support of Eduk8
- **Support and activities for international students** - in terms of the above mentioned fields, such as National Events

Members of the Community

The Training & Activities Community will welcome both the National Board members and National Coordinators who are involved in the above mentioned fields. We understand that the network is very diverse and not all the National Organisations have positions connected directly to the activity of the new community and, therefore, **more emphasis is put on the fields and topics rather than specific positions.**

The new Community is led by the Vice President for Training and Development together with the Training & Activities Community Manager and the following positions are **recommended** to join, based on the covered fields and consultations with the network:

- Vice Presidents
- Event Managers or Coordinators
- Project Managers or Coordinators
- Training Coordinators
- Causes Coordinators
- Activity Coordinators
- Network Managers

Work of the Community

The main topic of the T&A Community for the year 2022/2023 is **Quality events and content.** At least in the year to come we would like to focus on making the ESN events more impactful, sustainable and accessible.

The work of the community will be divided according to the fields, for example event management, training and facilitation, project management, etc.

But no matter the different fields or the people in the community, the point is the same for everyone - provide the safe and open space for members of the community to connect, share their struggles, good practices, experiences and more. Also, it is a way to connect the NOs and encourage more collaborations between them.



The main tools to bring the Community together are going to be online meetings and communication channels. Meetings will be organised monthly where everyone will have an opportunity to put topics in the agenda. Most of the meetings will have an overall theme, especially because of the variety of the topics of the Community. Next to monthly meetings, each NO has an opportunity to have meetings one on one with the Community Manager where they can go deeper in a subject they are having challenges with. We also aim to offer enough open space for the Community members during the meetings based on the specific field or topic in between monthly meetings when Community members or Community Manager see the need for it.

The main communication channel in between the meetings will be Slack, a formal one, where the Community Manager will send all important information and where also everyone will have an opportunity to share. Next to the main channel, where all members of the community should be present, there will be open channels based on the fields where anyone interested in the given topic can be present. For informal communication, there is going to be a WhatsApp chat.

An important part of the new Community will be sharing knowledge and information about the topics that have not had that much space until now. Because of that focus will be to organise online sessions with different people as session holders in certain topics. There is a big potential of cooperation and connection to the relevant Support structures as guests and facilitators.

Implementation and timeline

The consultation process has taken place in August and September 2022. We kicked off the consultations with the original HR & Network Community which was followed by sharing the materials with the whole network. At NBT Burgas 2022, we had a face to face session with the National Boards. After that, some individual consultations both with the members of the network and international Support Structures followed in September. The conclusion of the consultations is this Concept Note that will lead to forming the community by the beginning of October 2022, after our very first Community Meeting. From November onwards, the new Community will work on its own, separated from the HR & Network Community.

Collecting data of members of the Community is going to happen by the 20th of November. At the same time Slack will be prepared and members will be invited to join so the community is fully prepared to work on its own by the end of November. The Community Manager will have individual calls with the members in November and the first full Community call should take

place in the first week of December. After that, next to everything planned, we will see what the Community needs the most and based on that make more specific plans that will help each of them in making our Network more impactful and sustainable.

