



DDP-YD/ETD (2019) 121

9 October 2019

DESCRIPTION

Long-term training course for youth trainers from the Russian Federation involved in educational activities with young people based on non-formal education

The first residential seminar to be held from 23 to 30 November 2019 in Moscow

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION IN THE YOUTH WORK OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Since its establishment in 1972, the Council of Europe Youth Sector has been a key player in the work of the Organisation, contributing to the spread of democracy among European young people through its European Youth Centres in Strasbourg and Budapest, the European Youth Fund and educational activities with and for young people in the areas of democracy, human rights education, citizenship, youth participation and intercultural learning.

Improving the quality and promoting the recognition of youth work and non-formal education has been on the agenda of the Council of Europe Youth Sector for many years. The Council of Europe Youth Sector medium-term document "Agenda 2020" states that the recognition of non-formal education and learning contributes significantly to the process of young people's access to education, training and employment. The Council of Europe Charter for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education notes that non-formal education has a central role to play in education for democratic citizenship and human rights education.

Non-formal education is now widely used as a methodological basis and a philosophy for youth educational activities, and its role and value in the context of youth policy and youth work is being actively discussed at various levels, recognising its unique learning opportunities that it provides to millions of young Europeans on a daily basis.

The importance and value of youth work and non-formal education are reflected in Council of Europe documents such as Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1437 (2000) on Non-formal Education and Recommendation CM/Rec(2003)8 of the Committee of Ministers on the promotion and recognition of non-formal education/learning of young people.

In its Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 on Youth Work, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe calls member States to give increased support to implementing the existing and future European frameworks and agendas on the recognition of non-formal and informal learning.

ABOUT THE LONG-TERM TRAINING COURSE

One of the priority areas of the Framework Programme on Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the Russian Federation in the field of youth policy for 2014-2019 is to promote the development of a training system for youth workers and youth leaders, as well as the development of quality and recognition of youth work and non-formal education in the country at various levels.

At its meeting in November 2018 in Moscow, the Management Committee of the Framework Programme stressed the need to expand the existing pool of youth trainers able to implement quality educational activities for young people, based on the values and approaches of non-formal education as practiced at of the Council of Europe Youth Sector.

Based on the positive experience of the previous *Long-term training course for trainers in the field of non-formal education working intercultural dialogue topics, held in the Russian Federation in 2014-2015*, the partners of the Framework

Programme agreed to launch a new **Long-term training course for youth trainers from the Russian Federation involved in educational activities with young people based on non-formal education**, which will be held in the period from November 2019 to October 2020.

Taking into account the needs assessment conducted and provided by the partners, this training course will involve participants who already have relevant experience as trainers in the youth work area in the Russian Federation.

Co-organisers of the training course are the Council of Europe Youth Department and the National Youth Council of Russia, with the support of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation and the Federal State Budgetary Educational Institution of Higher Education "MIREA - Russian Technological University".

AIM AND EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE LONG-TERM TRAINING COURSE

The aim of the training course is to improve the quality of educational activities in the field of youth work in the Russian Federation, through extending the network of trainers with the necessary competences for such work, sharing the principles and values of non-formal education and using the quality standards of the Council of Europe.

The strategic objectives of the training course are as follows:

- To enlarge the existing group of experienced trainers able to develop and implement quality training activities in the Russian Federation, and to support the further development of the existing trainers' networks
- To contribute to the recognition of youth work and non-formal education in the Russian Federation youth field;
- To develop and use innovative concepts and practices for training trainers in non- formal education;
- To highlight the approaches and values underlying youth work and non-formal education and to reflect on how they can best be promoted in training activities;
- To make use of the existing resources of the Council of Europe Youth Sector in the youth policy field of the Russian Federation;
- To contribute to the development of a professional profile of youth trainers in the Russian Federation by fostering the recognition of trainers' competencies in the youth / non-formal education field;
- To exemplify the beneficial interaction of youth research, youth policy and practice and its importance in the design, implementation and follow-up of any training activity.

The learning objectives of LTTC are to develop the following competences of the participant-trainers:

- To competently design, implement and evaluate training activities, based on an adequate needs analysis and using appropriate methodologies;
- To be able to find common ground between the needs and interests of the institutional partners and those of the trainees;

- To understand the current realities of Council of Europe youth field (in link with youth policy, youth research) and the Russian Federation youth policy agenda, and to put training activities into this perspective;
- To be able to use in the youth work different Council of Europe educational publications, especially COMPASS, the manual for Human Rights Education with Young People;
- To guide and facilitate individual and intercultural group processes and to deal effectively with ambiguity and crisis;
- To be able to co-operate in multicultural teams of trainers and to manage a training project effectively;
- To be able to create an appropriate learning environment, by reflecting about learning to learn, different learning styles and how to address them in training;
- To be able to plan own learning and development (including self-assessment of competencies, setting learning objectives, designing one's own learning plans and self-directing one's own learning, taking advantage of mentoring and peer-learning);
- To reflect on the key trainers' competences, as well as on the learning path of trainers conducting trainings at different levels.
- To be able to build the cooperation between youth organizations and state authorities in the Russian Federation.

Expected results:

- ✓ At least 25 trainers capable to plan, implement and evaluate quality educational activities *with and for young people* at local, regional, national and international levels have been trained;
- ✓ Quality standards for youth educational projects/activities based on non-formal education have been developed/adapted for its further applying in the Russian Federation;
- ✓ Actions to further promote the recognition of non-formal education as one of the main approaches in youth work the Russian Federation are discussed, developed and proposed to the Russian youth policy stakeholders;
- ✓ The community of like-minded people and the number of organisations sharing the values and approaches of the Council of Europe youth work is increased;
- ✓ Thematic priorities of cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, such as: democratic citizenship, youth participation, human rights education and intercultural learning, have been promoted.

TRAINING COURSE PROGRAMME AND METHODOLOGY

The long-term training course is a complex activity for the development of competencies of participants which combines different forms and methods of work for personal and professional development, as well as the opportunity to implement the practical experience of participants.

The long-term training course implies a continuous open learning process. Its concept was developed by a team of trainers and experts of the Council of Europe and the Russian Federation, taking into account the experience of organising long-term training activities for youth trainers at international and national level. The training course programme is designed to ensure the maximum participation of the group and each individual participant, to provide an opportunity not only to learn the theoretical background and receive knowledge, but also to practice the skills of youth trainer in the format of non-formal education.

The training course programme includes the following steps:

- **Initial residential seminar, 23-29 November 2019, Moscow**

This training seminar will allow participants to get involved in the educational process, get acquainted with the principles, approaches and practices of non-formal education as practiced in the Council of Europe Youth Sector, to formulate their own learning objectives, to create the motivation to improve the quality of non-formal education and develop trainers' competencies. The projects for the practice phase will be planned and developed.

- **E-learning, November 2019 – September 2020**

The focus of the e-learning stage is to support development of common competencies on key thematic areas of the course, as well as specific learning needs of individual participants, with an emphasis on deepening knowledge and understanding. It will thus consist of mandatory and optional modules. E-learning will be mostly delivered at the Moodle e-learning platform of the Council of Europe Youth Department.

- **Practice phase: initiating and preparing activities from December 2019 to March 2020, implementing activities from March till September 2020**

One of the key components of the training course is the possibility of practical application of knowledge and skills gained during the initial residential seminar and the e-learning stage. Participants will be able to implement their own educational activities, taking into account the principles and approaches of non-formal education. The projects should be developed within, or with the support of, participants' sending organisations and in accordance with the criteria detailed below. Educational advice and institutional support will be provided to all projects

- **Mentoring, November 2019 – October 2020**

In between the meetings, each participant will be assigned a trainer-mentor to support and monitor the personal learning process, advise and where necessary link with the course organisers.

The mentoring component will focus on more specific needs of the participant. This communication and exchange process should give the mentor the opportunity to transfer and share knowledge, materials, trainer's experience, support and guide the development of a participant's individual learning plan within the training course.

One of the tasks of the mentorship is to support the participant in the development, preparation, implementation and evaluation of the educational project during the practice phase.

- **Peer Support**

During the training course participants will have the opportunity to work with each other, implement joint initiatives and to fulfil joint tasks, supporting each other.

- **Consolidation and evaluation seminar, October 2020 (European Youth Centre Strasbourg, France)**

The seminar will be dedicated to the evaluation of participants' learning through the practice of their projects. The programme will also include additional training elements in order to consolidate participants' knowledge and understanding of the human rights and non-formal education standards of the Council of Europe. Plans for follow-up and possible creation of a pool of trainers will also be addressed.

MEANING OF PRACTICE PHASE

The main purpose of the practical phase is directly related to the purpose of the training course: improving the quality of educational activities in the field of youth work in the Russian Federation.

In the period from December 2019 to February 2020, the participants will be invited to develop and implement educational activities for young people which should be based on the principles and approaches of non-formal education, focus on the topics relevant for young people and youth workers in the Russian Federation, and meet the quality standards of educational activities, as practiced in the Youth Sector of the Council of Europe.

The training practice can have several formats:

- The participant initiates the training at youth organisation/institution/for informal group at the local or regional level, independently raising funds if required;
- The participant can independently offer an educational activity to organisations/institutions at the local and regional levels;
- The participant can apply to be as co-trainer at one of the National Youth Council of Russian activities.

About criteria to youth educational project

Each participant of the training course must prepare a training project to allow them to go through the full cycle of a training activity (from its planning and preparation, implementation and evaluation). Based on a "learning by doing" approach and keeping in mind the importance of experiential learning as one of the key aspects of non-formal education, this practice will allow participant-trainers to put into practice their learning from the initial seminar and to further consolidate their own learning as trainers. Each project must comply with the following criteria:

1. Be designed for young people, youth workers or other specialists in the youth field
2. Consist of at least 4 working (training) days

3. Be based on specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-framed (SMART) objectives and taking into account (the) learning needs of the learners/participants
4. Aim at introducing or training participants about non-formal education approaches and reflect the realities, issues or concerns of young people
5. Address learners in a specific region, town or community of young people in the Russian Federation
6. Connect to local or regional youth policies or projects of youth organisations and/or public authorities
7. Be carried out or implemented within and with the support of the participant's sending organisation
8. Be prepared and implemented with the LTTC participants in a direct role as trainer or co-trainer
9. Be open for input by other participants-trainers of the Compass LTTC
10. Be evaluated and reported

The Council of Europe will not provide direct funding for the participants' projects: this is the responsibility of the participants and their sending organisations. Information and advice about potential funding opportunities will be provided to the participants in the introduction seminar. The sending organisations of the participants have a crucial role in supporting them to develop, implement and evaluate their practice / training projects.

The sending organisations of the participants play a crucial role in supporting them in the development, implementation and evaluation of their practical activities / educational projects.

CERTIFICATION AND RECOGNITION

In accordance with general practice in non-formal education principles, the co-organisers will provide the participants who complete the LTTC a certificate of attendance and a portfolio with the personal achievements and learning, based on the self-assessment of participants and the evaluation of the course.

By completing the training cycle, the participants should be sufficiently qualified and experienced to contribute to the implementation of future education and training activities for youth work and policy in the Russian Federation organised by various partners. However, by organising the course and providing the certificates, neither the Council of Europe or the co-organisers can be expected to contract or hire the trainers-participants in their future activities. Similarly, they cannot be held accountable by participants or their organisations for any unmet expectations in this regard.

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

The training course brings together 31 participants who have already relevant experience in youth work and as youth trainer in non-formal education.