

ENTER!

**Support training seminar for local,
regional and national stakeholders
involved in youth work in Romania**

Covasna County

Youth Hostel Padureni

24-26 August 2018

REPORT |

This report gives an account of various aspects of the training seminar. It has been produced by and is the responsibility of the educational team and does not represent the official point of view of the organisers and the Council of Europe

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Rationale of the training seminar

The *Enter!* project

For the Council of Europe, social cohesion is firmly based on human rights (as codified in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Revised European Social Charter), as well as an acceptance of shared responsibility for the welfare of all members of society, especially those who are at risk of poverty or exclusion. In line with this, the youth policy of the Council of Europe aims at providing young people with equal opportunities and experience which enable them to develop knowledge, skills and competencies to play a full part in all aspects of society.

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted in 2015 the *Enter!* Recommendation on access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights. The recommendation proposes the development on policies taking into consideration the specific situations and needs of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Such policies should aim at preventing and eradicating the poverty, discrimination, violence and exclusion faced by young people.

The implementation of the *Enter!* Recommendation among Council of Europe member states seeks, among other, to:

- enhance cooperation of civil society actors and young people with local and/or regional authorities;
- develop competencies of those active in the youth work field to implement projects for access of social rights with young people.

The implementation of the *Enter!* recommendation is supported by a youth-friendly version of the recommendation, a guide for the implementation of the recommendation – *Taking it Seriously*, *Dignityland*, a game for learning about social rights with young people. Further educational resources can be found in *Compass*, the manual for human rights education with young people.

The *Enter!* project was initiated by the youth sector of the Council of Europe in 2009 aiming at the development of youth policy and youth work responses to situations of exclusion, discrimination and violence affecting young people, particularly in multicultural disadvantaged neighbourhoods. The project promotes young people's access to social rights as a means for their inclusion and participation in society. The *Enter!* project mainly responds to multilevel social and economic imbalances, which hinder young people to access their social rights.

The seminar

In this context, the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Romania, through its Covasna county office sought support in introducing ENTER! Recommendation to stakeholders involved in youth work at national, regional and local level. The Council of Europe and the Covasna County Office for Youth and Sports organised a training seminar to start the process of working with the recommendation in the country. The seminar took place in the Youth Leisure Centre Pădureni in Covasna county between 24 and 26 August 2018. The seminar language was Romanian.

Aim and objectives of the training seminar

The seminar contributed to the development of participants' skills and competences for promoting the work with Enter! Recommendation in Romania.

Objectives

- To develop participants' knowledge about the ENTER! Recommendation and to reflect how to apply them in their contexts in Romania;
- To explore, analyse and to reflect on existent forms, tools and methods for working with ENTER! Recommendation, on their accessibility, efficiency and attractiveness for diverse groups of young people in Romania;
- To contribute to improving dialogue and cooperation among participants for new initiatives that sustain and strengthen the usage of ENTER! Recommendation at local level in Romania;
- To improve knowledge and strengthen cooperation between the Council of Europe and youth policy actors in Romania, especially at local and regional level.

Participants - profile, selection and final group

A call for participants was launched by the Council of Europe and the Covasna County Office of the Ministry of Youth and Sports targeting representatives of ministries responsible for the various areas of social rights and youth, local and regional authorities, youth NGOs and groups, National Youth Council and similar umbrella youth organisations, Council of Institutionalised Youth, Roma youth organisations.

The final group included 27 participants, in their vast majority representing youth organisations and foundations active at local and regional level, including minority youth and representatives of the Council of Institutionalised Youth, as well as a representative of the Ministry of Education and Research, several teachers and representatives of social services of the municipality of Resita.

The final group lacked in representation of local and regional authorities and more presence from regional offices for youth and sports. A participant from the National Youth Council cancelled his presence in the last minute.

The final list of participants is appended to this report.

Team of trainers and organizers

The seminar was prepared by a team involving a representative of the Council of Europe Youth Department, a representative of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and three trainers selected from the Trainers' Pool of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe: Camelia Nistor, Andrei Popescu and Ruxandra Pandeia.

Educational approaches and the programme

As the ENTER recommendation focuses on access to human rights, the seminar was build on the human rights education and its educational approaches as practiced by the Council of Europe Youth Department. The seminar aimed to cover all three aspects of learning about, through and for human rights.

In building the training programme, the team paid particular attention to several aspects:

1. Participants had fairly limited knowledge and experience on social rights and social inclusion policies and were in their vast majority unfamiliar with the recommendation.
2. There was limited time for preparation of the participants before the seminar (roughly 5 days between selection announcement and beginning of the seminar).
3. The group was diverse in terms of organisations and institutions represented, country areas, age and work experience.
4. The environment in which the training course was taking place.

Each day of the training seminar was designed to allow focus on a specific theme and to support participants competence development.

The first day began with sessions dedicated to learning about the Council of Europe and the Covasna Office of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the two organisers of the activity as well as about the Enter! Project and the institutional context in which the training seminar was organised. Furthermore, attention was given to scanning participants' expectations, getting to know each other and team building in order to create an atmosphere where cooperation and learning could take place. A 'Mission Impossible' type of team building activity was organised and also participants had the time to share about their organisations and work with young people, as well as the main challenges faced by young people in their communities in accessing social rights.

The expectations of the participants from the seminar included:

- To learn about the Council of Europe;
- To learn about human rights, especially social rights and about the Enter recommendation;
- To cooperate, network and share experiences with other participants;
- To be able to apply what is learnt during the seminar in the community and to have concrete instruments.

From these the main challenges identified by participants were:

- Lack of information about human rights, especially social rights;
- Lack of capacity to defend, access and exercise their human rights;
- Lack of involvement and motivation of young people;
- Lack of resources to participate;
- Discrimination and social exclusion of some young people;
- Limited trust in authorities, lack of communication and structured dialogue between the authorities and young people.

The afternoon of the first seminar day was dedicated to learning more about human rights, with a focus on social rights and their protection. The session started with an adapted version of 'Take a step forward' activity from Compass and continued with an introduction to human rights. Following this, participants worked with specific areas of social rights to identify and discuss the situation in Romania from the perspective of young people. The selected areas were: housing, health, social protection and work. In this activity, participants worked with the European Social Charter to familiarize them. Additionally, the protection system at European level was introduced as well as the information on the country compliance with the various articles of the Charter.

The second day of the training course was dedicated to 'Enter! Recommendation' and the ways one can work with the recommendation in setting up public policies, projects and measures. The first session was dedicated to reading the text of the recommendation and clarifying the context in which the recommendation was adopted, and participants' questions. To further work with the recommendation, the training team decided to make full use of the setting in which the seminar was taking place: the village of Pădureni. Participants worked in small groups to devise and implement a

strategy to research and learn more about the situation and needs of young people in the village, in respect to their access to social rights. Following the research in the community, the participants were asked to prioritize areas and measures of intervention as suggested by the appendix to the recommendation that they would suggest to be implemented by various stakeholders of Padureni. As Padureni village is rather small, around 350 inhabitants, participants were able to map the community and discuss with some of the young people and stakeholders that were available on the day of the exercise: the priest, the shop owners. The exercise of devising a strategy to reach out to the community and actually implementing it proved an important exercise for the participants who had to have a hands-on approach. Following the time spent in the community, participants had the chance to exchange the information collected and further work in groups to identify measures from the Enter recommendation they would recommend implementing in the village. The main issues identified were related with: lack of access to many facilities related with health, education, proper living conditions (i.e. electricity, gas, running waters), infrastructure (roads, public transport), and work. Additionally, there were limited opportunities for young people in the village who had to go to the nearby city to continue their education, they were not allowed to use the Youth Leisure Centre for activities. Moreover, the participants identified that communication with local authorities (based in another village) was almost completely lacking and resources for youth participation, as well as initiatives were inexistent. Additional challenges were related with discrimination of the few Roma families in the community. As Padureni is mostly a Hungarian speaking community, and the majority of the participants were speaking Romanian, the exercise was also relevant from the perspective of intercultural communication and reflection over minority rights and their intersection with social rights.

The day was completed by a reflection on what participants could do with the recommendations and research data collected. Some of the ideas brainstormed were: to give them to the Youth Leisure Centre and to the municipality for follow up, and to the people in the village that they have talked with.

A case study of a participatory Romanian local youth policy covering also social rights aspects was presented to the participants in the end of the day to complete the picture of the work that can be done on basis of the recommendation. The example also allowed them to reflect on the role they can take in respect to the recommendation implementation.

The third and final day was designed to support participants reflect on the follow-up to the seminar. A session dedicated to learning more about the work and partnership interests of their organisations started up the day in a form of an informal Info-Fair, and followed up with a Pro Action Cafe led by participants themselves where they designed follow-up initiatives.

Additionally, participants were presented with different opportunities and support measures they could make use of in their follow-up work. This included:

- Presentation of the educational resources of the Youth Department: Enter Dignityland, Taking it seriously, Compass, Compasito, Bookmarks, We can! And others, as well educational opportunities with the Council of Europe;
- Information on the support measures for municipalities in the framework of the Enter project;
- An overview of useful institutions/ services of the Council of Europe to cooperate and bear in mind for advocacy work;
- Presentation of funding opportunities of the European Youth Foundation, Erasmus, European Solidarity Corps, Ministry of Youth and Sports and its county offices in Romania.

Finally, an evaluation of the training course was realised with the participants involving a written evaluation form, an evaluation of the expectations and a group activity to close the seminar.

Results of the training seminar

The results of the seminar are mainly at learning and planned initiatives level. They include:

- Increased knowledge of participants of the Recommendation CM/Rec (2015)3 on access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights and reflected on how this recommendation can be used within their personal and professional contexts;
- Participants developed their competences in respect to social rights and their protection reflecting over the values, principles, protection mechanisms and the connection with social policies.
- Participants were familiarised with the Council of Europe, its institutions and youth sector activities and opportunities, as well as about the Ministry of Youth and Sports;
- Increased knowledge about various funding opportunities and support measures they could make use in the follow up to the seminar;
- Participants learnt from the practical experience of working in the community and reported a sense of empowerment and confidence to access new opportunities;
- Cooperation projects were developed and experience and networking among the participants.
- The educational materials of the Council of Europe reached out to organisations and institutions that never heard of them before

In the last day of the seminar, several follow-up initiatives were developed by the participants:

1. **Winter/spring school** - is addressed to young people from rural areas or disadvantaged neighbourhoods in the country and aims to further empower them to work for social inclusion. It is foreseen to take place in Resita, Romania and to feature cooperation with university and church.
2. **Rural leadership** - is a structured dialogue project addressing young people from rural areas and aiming to develop their leadership and entrepreneurship competences, support them in knowing, exercising and defending their human rights.
3. **I know I can** - is a seminar that will take place in 15 counties of the country and will address young people in the special protection of the state or in the transition period to train them to become life councilors for other young people going through the same experience and support them develop life skills needed for an independent living. The project also features the creation of a dedicated hotline.
4. **Tourism development in Padureni** - is a community led architectural project that aims to support the village community make full use of the touristic potential of the area and involve them in developing the project and attracting the necessary funding.
5. **“What you want to be when you grow up?”** - is a seminar for young people and their parents about education and work opportunities, as well as meetings with role models and local authorities.
6. **Information seminar** on social rights for children and their parents and the development of educational material for teachers to teach about social rights and the Enter recommendation within their classes. This is a teaching module to be included in an already existing project.

Evaluation of the seminar

The questionnaire was filled in by all 27 participants. Most of the questions were closed ones. In this case, the ranking is from 1 to 5, 1 is the lowest rank (very weak), 2 is weak, 3 is satisfactory, 4 is good and 5 is the highest rank (very good). DN/NA means - Do not know/ Do not answer.

The analysis of the main topics approached in the evaluation form revealed that they were mostly fulfilled with the following level of satisfaction at the end of the seminar:

- the objectives of the seminar: average of 4.58

- the general aspects (communication before and during the event, materials, group dynamics, personal and professional development etc) : average of 4.32
- the topics approached during the seminar: average of 4.62
- methods used and the trainers' activity: average of 4.67
- logistics (accommodation, food, working space): average of 3.98

Recommendations

- To follow up with the participants, as many of them are very motivated to work further on the theme – this could include a minimum effort to ensure they are placed on the information lists of the two partner institutions;
- For future similar activities, to consider maintaining the educational standard of minimal four days for training activities;
- Future recruitment of participants should ensure better efforts to bring in representatives of local and regional authorities;
- Better connections with other relevant programmes of the Council of Europe operating in the country could be ensured especially when they are relevant for the topic of the seminar (i.e. Romacted);
- There is a need of additional work/training on the topic of social rights, as well as generally on youth participation in policy making – this could be followed up by the two partner institutions with additional training activities at the country level;
- To advance the work on the implementation of the Enter! Recommendation in Romania it will be needed to further invest in translating relevant materials in Romanian language (i.e. Enter Dignityland and Taking it seriously);
- As the packages with relevant materials were not enough for all the participants, to ensure that the organisations receive a complete package with educational materials;
- For future similar activity to include an extra day preparation before the selection of participants and start the preparation earlier;
- For future use of Padureni youth hostel venue, it is recommended to check the training facilities needed with the trainers and consider arranging extra spaces in the local community if needed (i.e. school). Easy foldable/movable chairs and tables would be a great addition to this venue to make it more flexible to non-formal education activities.

Appendices

1. Programme of the training seminar

Friday, 24 August 2018

10:00 Official welcome and introduction to the institutional background of the training seminar with:

- Marius Jitea, Programme officer, Council of Europe
- Cătălin Lazăr, Adviser to the State Secretary on Youth, Ministry of Youth and Sports of Romania

10:45 Mission impossible ?!?! - team building, programme review and expectations of participants

11:30 Break

12:00 Mission impossible (continued) and working together guidelines

12:30 Exploring participants' realities

13:30 Lunch

15:00 Exploring social rights

16:30 Break

17:00 Exploring social rights in local realities of participants

18:00 Protection of social rights at European level

19:00 Dinner

Free evening

Saturday, 25 August 2018

10:00 Recommendation CM(2015) 3 Access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights

11:30 Break

12:00 Access of young people to social rights - devising a strategy to assess the needs of young people in Pădureni

13:30 Lunch

14:30 Field -work in Padureni - to implement the assessment strategy

16:30 Group work to devise a plan of measures based on Enter recommendation to apply in Pădureni

17:30 Group presentations

18:00 An example of good practice in development of a participative youth policy at municipality level in Romania

18:30 Reflection

19:00 Dinner

Sunday, 26 August 2018

- 10:00 Exploring Council of Europe educational resources - introduction to Enter! DignityLand, Taking it seriously, Have your say, Compass, Compasito, Bookmarks, We Can!,
- 10:30 Exploring participants' organisations and institutions and their interests in cooperation
- 11:30 Break
- 12:00 ProAction Cafe focused on project ideas by participants focused on implementation of Enter! Recommendation
- 13:30 Lunch
- 14:30 Support available for initiatives focused on access of youth to social rights:
- Support to municipalities available in the framework of Enter! Project
 - Cooperation with Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
 - Romacted programme of the Council of Europe
 - European Youth Foundation
 - Erasmus + and European Solidarity Corps
 - Ministry of Youth and Sports, County Youth Directorates/Services and local authorities
- 15:30 Evaluation of the training seminar
- 16:30 Closure of the training seminar

2. List of participants

First and last name**Nume și prenume**

Anastasia Ciuperca
Andreeas Novacovici
Anghel Dimitrie Nicolae
Anghel Oana-Elena
Arvinte Gabriel
Bodor Erzsebet
Bolohan Mihaela
Burada Anamaria
Buran Claudia
Butnaru Raimond Eduard
Cozanu Adriana
Cristina - Irina Pistică
Dobrița Gabriela
George Lăpădat
Gurică E. Crina-Adriana
Herman Madalina- Andreea
Hoaghea Adriana
Ioana Sandu Nicoleta
Ion Gabriel Florinel
Iulia-Ioana Radu
Marina Gîrbea
Nedelcu Ana
Negoita Diana
Nichifor Simona
Nusfelean Malina
Olivia Macovei
Pândei Maria-Georgeta

Preda Ana Maria
Radics Anita Elisabeta
Sociu Elena-Roxana
Sonia Manasses

Numele organizației/instituției:

Asociația Umanistă Română
Consiliul tinerilor instituționalizati
Asociația Junii
Ministerul Educației Naționale
Asociația JUNII
Asociația Young Europe Society
Asociația The Social Incubator
Casa Corpului Didactic Constanta
Asociația Avram Iancu Beiuș - ONG,
Federația Tinerilor din Bacău
Go Free – Asociația pentru Sprijinirea Societății Civile
Școala Gimnazială Nr.1 Sohatu, jud. CL
Școala Gimnazială "Nichita Stănescu" Mereni (Constanta)
American Councils for International Education Romania
Asociația Victoria Internațional
Asociația Tinerilor din Cleja
A.I.V. for Mioveni
Fundatia pentru tineret ELMİ
A.S.C.O.R Constanța
Colegiul Național „Dragoș Vodă” Sighetu Marmăției
Federația Tinerilor din Cluj
Fundatia Jud. pentru Tineret Prahova
Let's Do It Romania
Serviciul Public Direcția de Asistența Socială Resita
Asociația Impact Bistrita
Societatea Științifică Cygnus-Centru Unesco
Primăria Reșița Direcția de Asistența Socială Reșița - Centrul de Zi "ABC"
Consiliul Tinerilor Instituționalizați
Asociația "Centrul de tineret Moniom"
Federația Tinerilor din Bacău
PRIDE România