

AGORA

FOSTER INTERCULTURAL AND SOCIAL DIALOGUE IN YOUR COMMUNITY
BY JOINING ART, NON-FORMAL EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WORK



An European seminar in the frame of Erasmus+ - Youth Program

From 26.11.2016 to 02.12.2016
Domaine de Matens 81 600 GAILLAC



Toulouse, France



Palermo, Italy



Athens, Greece

&



Berlin, Germany

Association VIA BRACHY : Voyages Interculturels Solidarité Autoformation

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PROJECT'S SUMMARY

*L'arte rinnova i popoli e ne rivela la vita.
Vano delle scene il diletto ove non miri a preparar l'avvenire.*

Epigrafe of C.F. Aprile, Teatro Massimo, Palermo (Italia)

The seminar **AGORA** addressed the issue of **social and intercultural dialogue**, as an answer to intercultural misunderstandings, social prejudices and xenophobia. It was based on the ideas that:

- **people lack opportunities to meet each other**, to share their ideas and to confront their point of views;
- we need to **renew our methods** to address this priority concern in our communities and throughout Europe;
- **joining art, non-formal education and social sciences opens perspectives**: it is an interesting path to explore in order to achieve our objectives.

Experience sharing was at the core of the process. For 7 days, the participants (30 artists, youth and social workers, educators and people involved in social initiatives from France, Italy, Germany and Greece) **shared experience, questioned concepts, analyzed success-stories and confronted different methods** in order to develop the cultural, eco-friendly and social projects they are running (and/or they want to implement). They worked on **practical issues** and **cases** in order to acquire knowledge that **matches their needs on the field**.

The seminar has enhanced their ability to **design innovative projects** that combine art, non-formal education methods and social work. It gave them an opportunity to **take stock of their own initiatives** and to **acquire knowledge** in the fields of **cultural mediation, group facilitation and project management**. It has stimulated their **creativity** and **opened perspectives** for their work on the field.

Participants have **identified good practices** and **pitfalls to avoid** so they can implement effective and participative projects that **foster social and intercultural dialogue** and **social inclusion**. According to the current issues in Europe, practical trainings have been mostly focused on how to **foster intercultural dialogue, tackle social prejudices** and **reach out to people with fewer opportunities** (i.e. people living in remote rural areas, urban disadvantaged neighborhoods and migrants).

Participants benefited from inputs, skills and practical tools provided by professionals from various fields: cultural mediation, art, non-formal education, anthropology...

They also experimented **community living** and had thus the occasion to **create/strengthen links** between them and the organizations they belong to, leading to the development of **new projects** at both local and European scales.

May this seminar contribute to **spread relevant skills and knowledge** for social workers, artists and civil society organizations which support people with fewer opportunities and promote social and intercultural dialogue throughout Europe.

This document is an attempt to share our experience, hoping it will fit your requirements.

Wish you a nice reading!

Via Brachy's team

PROGRAM OF THE SEMINAR

Saturday 26.11.2016: Opening session: setting a frame, getting to know each other

AM: Journey Toulouse - Gaillac

Welcoming at *Domaine de Matens (Gaillac)*

Lunch

PM: Get to know each other activities

(Ice-breakers and workshops to know about the participants' motivations and backgrounds).

Reminder of the seminar's objectives, spirit and progress.

Introduction to the seminar's partners and trainers. Short introduction to the venue.

Identifying participants' learning goals (What do you expect from the seminar?)

+ Introduction to **methods to take the scope of acquired knowledge and skills.**

Diner - Additional activities to know each other better.

Sunday 27.11.2016: Why and how to join our approaches?

AM: Energizer.

Creation of each participant' "Mandala of learners" (self-evaluation method of individual learning achievements)

Which worker are you (artist/social worker/educator)? **What does it mean?**

Why should we join together social work, art and non-formal education?

Positioning exercises to identify participants' profiles and define the main concepts. Open discussion/Debate, starting from participants' personal and professional experience.

Lunch - Break/siesta.

PM: Energizer

Why is Art a relevant tool to foster social and intercultural dialogue?

Which soft / social skills can we acquire through artistic practices?

Participative and creative workshops to highlight the potential of Art regarding social and intercultural dialogue, community living, active citizenship...

Short debriefing of the day. Semi-collective assessment of the day (focus groups).

Diner - Convivial evening on site.

Monday 28.11.2016: Facilitate social interaction and intercultural dialogue through arts (1)

AM: Energizer.

Introduction to an inspiring French initiative: *Les Ateliers du Monde* (Toulouse, Occitanie):

www.lesateliersdumonde.com

1/ Introduction to the project's rationales, context, objectives, ways of action and main results.

2/ Workshop in small groups (4 x 7 persons) on 2 specific issues encountered in the implementation of the sub-action "*Les Ateliers Rencontres*" ("*The Meeting-Workshops*") (each group is looking for solutions to overcome the difficulties encountered and develop the project's potentials, using different methods).

3/ Sharing of each group's conclusions. Open discussion (plenary session).

Lunch - Break/siesta.

PM: Energizer.

Introduction to an inspiring Italian initiative: *Ballaro Buskers* (Palermo, Sicily): www.ballarobuskers.it

1/ Introduction to the project's rationales, context, objectives, ways of action, main results and outcomes.

2/ Workshop in small groups (4 x 7 persons) on 2 specific difficulties encountered in the project's implementation, using different methods.

3/ Sharing of each group's conclusions. Open discussion.

Short debriefing of the day. Personal assessment.

Diner & Expression Box - Convivial evening on site

Tuesday 29.11.2016: Facilitate social interaction and intercultural dialogue through arts (2)

AM: Energizer.

Introduction to an inspiring Finnish initiative: *Joutava Ruuhi* ("The idle row boat") of Le Royal Joutava (Carelia, South-Est Finland): <https://joutavaruuhi.wordpress.com/tarinoita-saimaalta/>

1/ Introduction to the project's rationales, objectives, ways of action and main results.

2/ Workshop in small groups (4 x 7 persons) on 2 specific difficulties encountered in the project's implementation, using different methods.

3/ Sharing of each group's conclusions. Open discussion.

Lunch - Break/siesta.

PM: Energizer.

Introduction to an inspiring German initiative: the *Recycled Creativity Festival* (Berlin):

<http://www.trial-error.org/projects/recycled-creativity-festival/>

1/ Introduction to the project's objectives, ways of action, main results and outcomes.

2/ Role-play Game regarding the Festival's management.

3/ Workshops in small groups on a specific difficulty encountered in the project's implementation.

4/ Sharing of each group's conclusions. Open discussion.

Short debriefing of the day. Personal assessment.

Diner & Expression Box - Convivial evening on site.

+ *Participants who have a project they would like the group to work on write it down for the 30/11's workshops.*

Wednesday 30.11.2016: From the concept to the project (Part 1)

PM: Energizer.

Create or develop your project to foster social and intercultural dialogue or to reach out people with fewer opportunities or facing exclusion (Part 1)

Participants select 5 projects among a collection of initiatives that they are already running and need improvement or that they want to develop in a short term. Each working group looks for creative and effective propositions to develop the project it is dealing with, using participative methods.

Lunch - Break/siesta.

PM: Energizer.

Create or develop your project to foster social and intercultural dialogue or to reach out people with fewer opportunities or facing exclusion (Part 2)

Participants go back to their working groups to pursue the design and prepare a presentation to share their findings with the others.

Mid-term evaluation. Personal assessment.

Diner & Expression Box - Convivial evening on site.

Thursday 01.12.2016: From the concept to the project (Part 2)

AM: Energizer.

Presentation of each group's outcomes / findings in front of a friendly jury. Propositions for improvement.

Lunch - Break/siesta.

PM: Energizer.

What we would keep in mind and share with others back home.

Reminding the most significant outputs of the training.

Definition of a range of activities to share the experience after the project end.

Diner & Expression Box.

Living art performance: *Pulcinella* from *The Royal Joutava*.

Dances and songs from here and there.

AM: Energizer.

Storytelling “AGORA story”.

Personal evaluation of the seminar (self-evaluation, using the Mandala of learners)

Collective finale evaluation.

Definition of the next steps: next meetings, new projects to run together, defining appropriate ways of communication and cooperation.

Lunch

PM: Cleaning of the place. Departure from Gaillac to Toulouse.

Guided visit of the Local du 36, a co-working place dedicated to social and solidarity-based economy (Toulouse).

Diner - Convivial evening on site.

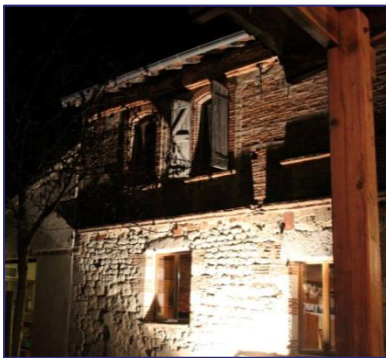


THE HOST VENUE

The **Domaine de Matens** is a small-scale organic vineyard in Gaillac. It includes organic wine and cereal production, sheep breeding and cheese making and group accommodation.

It regularly sets up cultural and social events, gathering local inhabitants, farmers, craftsmen, artists and non-profit organisations.

Its members advocate **sustainable development**, **alternative organisational models**, **intergenerational dialogue** and **social inclusion**.



More on: <http://matens.free.fr/>