



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# BLOSSOM

**SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THEIR LEARNING  
PROCESS AND SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY**



**DOMAINE DE MATENS 81 600 GAILLAC - OCCITANIE, FRANCE**

**MARCH, THE 13<sup>TH</sup> TO THE 20<sup>TH</sup> 2019**

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**A Via Brachy's initiative in cooperation with**



**Association VIA BRACHY : Voyages Interculturels Solidarité Autoformation**  
3, Place des Avions - 31 400 Toulouse – France - [www.viabrachy.org](http://www.viabrachy.org)

# SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

*“The stone has no hope of being anything else than a stone, but when collaborating, it assembles and becomes a temple”.*

Antoine de St Exupéry

Amids the tense economic and social context in Europe, notably revealed by a high unemployment rate and job insecurity, it is becoming more and more important for (young) people to **learn how to learn** and to develop their **ability to take action within complex situations**.

Many academic studies demonstrate the high potential learning mobility projects have for people – and above all young people – to get empowered. They offer an opportunity for professional training, personal development and socialization. Those experiences enable a person to secure a wide set of skills, thus increasing their ability to **thrive in complex and changing environments** and to **get involved in society**.

In order to turn this potential into actual results, the people and organizations responsible for such educational projects (especially youth and social workers) **need to build up their skills in designing and implementing educational frameworks that matches the needs of their target groups**.

Thus, the “BLOSSOM” seminar offers to gather **30 youth workers, mentors and educators** from **7 EU countries** (France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Hungary and Slovakia) so they can share their experiences and exchange approaches, methods and tools to better **support young and vulnerable groups in the trainings and/or learning mobility projects** their organization sets up..

The seminar will take place in **Gaillac**, South-West France, from **the 13th to the 20th March 2019** (included).

As a participant, you will first **discuss your specific situations** and **define the key concepts** you will address during the seminar.

Then, you will **get an introduction to three major tools and methods to efficiently support the beneficiaries of your action** - mobility and non-formal education projects – in their learning path and socio-professional journey. At this point, you will receive inputs and advice from professional trainers specialized in supporting people with non-formal educational methods.

The last chapter of the seminar will consist in a **practical workshop**: you will **work in teams to design a methodology** to support Young People with fewer opportunities, as well as NEETS, migrants, disabled people or people from ethnic minorities.

You will get immersed in a **supportive learning environment** all day long for a week, thus helping the acquisition of knowledge and soft skills. The seminar will eventually be an opportunity to **meet people and organizations** with whom you could cooperate in the future.

We will invite you to take initiatives all along the week but also to **take part in spreading the results** of the seminar after its completion (applying what you have learnt in your organization, sharing your experience with other youth and social workers through online resources or further inter-professional meetings, training courses or seminars).



# PREVISIONAL PROGRAMS

(Important: Be aware modifications can occur in the Program. It is part of the process.)

## Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>

Opening session: Set up a frame, Get to know each other

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16:15: Departure from Toulouse' train station. Reaching the venue (*Domaine de Matens* - Gaillac).

17:30 - 19:30: **Presentation of the venue, the facilitation team and the frame** of the seminar (content, program, facilitation method).

19:30 - 20h30: **Get to know each other activities.**

20:30 - 21:30: **Diner + a few more activities to get to know each other.**

21:30 - / : Self-managed evening at the *Domaine de Matens*

## Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

Supporting people in their learning process,  
Adapting one's support to young people with fewer opportunities

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9:30 - 10:00: Energizer & Today's menu.

10:00 - 13:00: **Getting into the topic: 1/ Presentation of the partners' organizations** (main objectives, activities, target groups...). **Exploring what "Supporting" means.**

13: 00 - 14:45: Lunch - Break/siesta.

14: 45 - 15:00: Energizer.

15:00 - 18:00: **Highlighting the main issues we encounter when supporting young people with fewer opportunities and vulnerable groups** (group work) + **Presentation of an inspiring experience from a participant** (testimony).

18h15 - 19:00: Meta review - Assessment of the day.

20:00: Diner & "8 o'clock News".

## Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

Analyzing a personal path,  
Identifying continuities and breaks, strengths and weaknesses

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9:30 - 10:00: Energizer & Today's menu.

10:00- 13:00: **Exploring "Experiential learning". Experimenting the "River of Life", a tool to analyze one's personal path and experiences.**

13:00 – 14:45: Lunch – Break/siesta.

14: 45 - 15:00: Energizer.

15:00 - 18:00: **Experimenting the "Explicitation interview"** (by P. Vermesch) (a tool to share with others what we have accomplished and extract the competences we have acquired through it).

**Critical analysis of the method, reflecting on how to include it into our action.**

18:30 - 19:00: Meta Review - Assessment of the day.

20:00: Diner & "8 o'clock News".

## Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>

Clarifying one's learning objectives and defining a relevant strategy with the "Hero's Journey"

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9:30 - 10:00: Energizer & Today's menu.

10:00 - 13:00: **Exploring the "Hero's Journey"** (by J. Campbell): **concepts it relies on, steps, potential applications in the youth field and in social work.**

13:00 - 14:45: Lunch – Break/siesta.

14:45 - 15:00: Energizer

15:00 - 16:30: **Critical analysis of the tool, reflecting on how to include it into our action and adapt it to our target group(s).**

16:30-17:45: **Presentation of an inspiring experience from a participant regarding supporting people in their learning journey.**

18:00 – 18:45: Meta-Review - Assessment of the day.

20:00: Diner & “8 o'clock News”.

## Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>

**Addressing our wishes, fears and contradictions,  
Setting up a strategy to get closer to our learning objectives**

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9:30 - 10:00: Energizer & Today's menu

10:00 - 13:00: **Discovering and experimenting “The dreamer, the realistic and the critic”** (by Robert B. Dilts).

13:00 - 14:30: Lunch - Break/siesta

14:30 - 15:30: **Sharing circle / Mid-term evaluation**

15:30 - 20:00: **Free time:** taking a breath, sharing knowledge, getting to know each other better...

20:00: Diner & “8 o'clock News”.

## Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>

**Designing a methodology to support young people and vulnerable groups  
in their learning and socio-professional journey**

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9:30: Energizer & Today's menu.

10:00 - 13:00: **Designing a methodology (educational framework) to efficiently support one's specific target group in its learning and socio-professional journey** (Design exercise by team - Part 1)

13:00 - 14:30: Lunch - Break/siesta

14:45 - 15:00: Energizer

15:00 - 18:30: **Designing a methodology (educational framework) to efficiently support one's specific target group in its learning and socio-professional journey** (Design exercise by team - Part 2)

20:00: Diner & “8 o'clock News”.

## Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>

**Sharing what we designed,  
Evaluating the overall experience**

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9:30: Energizer & Today's menu.

10:00 - 13:00: **Sharing our findings** (each team presents the educational framework it has designed the previous day to the others), **highlighting their assets, strengths and weaknesses.**

14:45 - 15:00: Energizer

15:00 - 18:00: **Evaluating the seminar, defining next steps** (dissemination activities, next meetings and potential cooperation).

18:30 - / : **Closing night party** at the *Domaine de Matens*.

## Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>

**Tidying up the venue, going back home**

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10:30 - 12:00: Tidying up the venue.

12:00: Departure to Toulouse

***Nota Bene:*** BLOSSOM is a seminar, which means that most of the content will emerge from you, the participants. You will share your experiences, knowledge and know-how with each other with the support of skilled facilitators, who will provide you tools and methods to address each topic using participative methods.

## WHO IS PARTICIPATING?

The seminar is geared towards **30 persons** (including trainers and facilitators) **involved** in **organizing** learning mobility projects and/or **supporting participants** (as mentors, facilitators, educators or social workers) who:

- want to acquire new skills in the fields of: **learning mobility project's design, active pedagogies, group facilitation** and **mentoring**, in order to develop the projects they are running and to better support people in their learning path;
- believe in **experience sharing** and are interested in **European networking**;
- are **available for the whole duration** of the seminar (7 days, travel days excluded).

Priority will be given to **people with responsibilities** within their organizations (educators, project leaders, coordinators, mentors for volunteers, etc.).

There will be **no age limit** (Careful: participants have to be more than 18 years old).

An **average level in English is required**: you need to be able to express yourself and debate in English.



## WHAT YOU WILL BE ASKED FOR, AS A PARTICIPANT?

We expect you to participate in the whole program which means **coming later or leaving earlier is not allowed**.

As a participant, you **commit yourself to actively participate in the whole process**, including:

- **reading all the information carefully** (especially this info-pack and all the emails we will send you before your coming) and **communicate timely** with the organizers;
- **reflecting on your learning objectives** regarding the training;
- **preparing material for some training sessions your team might be responsible for** (the topics and the pedagogical methods will be determined in January/February 2019, according to your team's skills and experience);
- **taking actively part** in the full duration of the activities;  
Besides your **active participation in the workshops**, and your potential involvement in the facilitation of some sessions, you will be **responsible of your group's dynamic** and will be invited to **take initiatives** and **responsibilities** regarding the every-day life.
- **participating in the evaluation process** after the seminar and **sharing your experience in your community** through articles writing, internal trainings or any other dissemination activities you will find relevant.

Be aware that pictures, videos and images taken at the course, as well as the materials produced during the activities, can be used to document the activity in reports or websites or social networks, or for promotional material.

We will decide together during the training **how we will share and spread the trainings' results** towards a wide audience, but consider already that your contribution will be decisive to make it more comprehensive and representative of our joint experience.

Our Facebook group "**Out of the Box**" will help you to get in touch with the other participants, prepare adequately and share contents: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1113159448710274/>.

## HOW TO APPLY?

The seminar gathers 7 European organizations active in the fields of non-formal education, social inclusion and sustainable development:



To attend the training, you have to **contact the organization** from the country you live in (link URL on the organization's names on the map to their website and contact address below).

They will tell you about the procedure to follow, based on the previously said criteria, including most probably an online form that will allow us to better know you, your experience and expectations.

Country	Sending Organization	E-mail address of the contact person	Nb of participants
<b>France</b>	Via Brachy	Cecilia RETREPO <a href="mailto:cecilia.restrepo@viabrachy.org">cecilia.restrepo@viabrachy.org</a>	<b>6</b>
<b>Greece</b>	European Village	Marina SIGALA <a href="mailto:marinasigala@gmail.com">marinasigala@gmail.com</a>	<b>4</b>
<b>Italy</b>	Forme	Dora DEAK <a href="mailto:forme.palermo@gmail.com">forme.palermo@gmail.com</a>	<b>4</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	NEW LOOPS	Joana DE MELO SAMPAIO <a href="mailto:joana@newloops.org">joana@newloops.org</a>	<b>4</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	Fekete Sereg	David UREGI <a href="mailto:feketevs@gmail.com">feketevs@gmail.com</a>	<b>4</b>
<b>Slovakia</b>	Land of Harmony Foundation	Sonia HOLUBKOVA <a href="mailto:nkh@slovanet.sk">nkh@slovanet.sk</a>	<b>4</b>
<b>Spain</b>	Viaje a la Sostenibilidad	Jorge VIDAL <a href="mailto:jorge@viajealasostenibilidad.org">jorge@viajealasostenibilidad.org</a>	<b>4</b>

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

THE TRAINING IS FUNDED THROUGH ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME.

Thus accommodation, food and materials are fully covered from March, the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> included. **Any expense incurred before or after these dates or linked to extra activities / leisure (as alcohol, tobacco or tourism) will be yours.**

Country	Organization	Max € reimbursed	
France	Via Brachy	0 € (per participant)	Likewise, your travel costs to reach the venue, up to the maximum allowed amount, are fully covered.  According to the Erasmus+ Program regulations, the financial contributions to your travel costs will be as described in the adjacent table.
Greece	European Village	275 € p/ participant	
Italy	FORME	275 € p/ participant	
Portugal	NEW LOOPS	275 € p/ participant	
Spain	Viaje a la Sostenebilidad	180 € p/ participant	
Hungary	Fekete Sereg	275 € p/ participant	
Slovakia	Land of Harmony Foundation	275 € p/ participant	

Remember that we can reimburse only the cheapest transportation possible and only public transport, 2nd class fares. Transportation with private cars can only be refundable if you ask for it in due time before coming, so that we can obtain an authorization for it from the French Agency of Erasmus+.

You are **allowed to arrive or depart max 2 days before or 2 days** after the mobility. In case you decide to use that extra time, bear in mind that **it will NOT be supported with food or accommodation**.

Should your stay be longer than 2 days, **we will NOT reimburse part of your travel costs**.

IMPORTANT: For the reimbursement, we will need to give to your sending organization:

1/ An **invoice** with the itinerary of your trip, the names of the passengers and, very important, the price of the ticket. Usually all this information is available on the e-tickets for flights. If not, please ask the air company to edit you a proper invoice.

2/ **All your original travel tickets and receipts** (train and bus tickets, with the price on it, boarding passes, etc.).

The **boarding pass** is a very important document, the only evidence that you took the flight, and is required by National Agency for reimbursement.

**If you use your mobile phone (so you don't have to print the boarding pass) don't forget to print screen it**, because the links expire and you won't be able to use it some weeks after the flight, and we will not be able to reimburse you.

Your sending organization needs to give us all the boarding passes and invoices of your travel costs.

**It will be your responsibility to take good care of those documents and to give them on time to your sending organization** (cf. contact of the coordinators p.6).

**Only when the sending organization has all the documents, money transfers will be done, from your sending organization to you.** This can take from one to three months depending on how fast you are in providing the relevant documents.

Be aware that we cannot **provide reimbursement** if a document is missing.

### ADDITIONAL FEES:

Your sending organization might ask you for a small financial contribution according to the administrative work it represents and to the support they will provide you before and after the seminar. (*For example, Via Brachy will ask for a 50€/week contribution from the French participants*).

Please contact your sending organization to know about their policy.

## WHERE WILL WE STAY?



The seminar will take place in Gaillac, South-West France, from March, the **13<sup>th</sup> to March the 20<sup>th</sup>** (included).

All activities will take place in the lovely vineyard of Matens: *Domaine de Matens* (<http://matens.free.fr>).

You will be accommodated *in situ* in **small dormitories**.

The house will be **self-managed by our group**, which will be responsible for living together during the course. It is a

**normal part of our educational approach**, as we believe it strongly encourages community spirit, responsibility and sharing.

**Everyday tasks like cleaning, setting tables, sorting garbage and washing up will be shared by participants**, as part of the "sustainable living" experience, making it feel as a good place for us.

## WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING?

Consider the weather will most probably be cold and rainy and choose your clothes accordingly.



For your stay, you must also bring with you:

- a single **sheet** and a pillow cover
- your **sleeping bag**
- a **towel**, your soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.

The sleeping bag is not a substitute for a bed sheet. The hosting venue requires us to **use both**. **Please, take it into consideration and bring yours.**

As we will exclusively use public transports and private cars to reach the venue, please try to **limit the size of your luggage**.

## HOW TO REACH THE VENUE?

The training will take place in the countryside. To be able to attend it from beginning till the end is one of the basic conditions for participation, so **please arrange your travel to be there on time**. In case of any complications, please let us know as soon as possible.

You may arrive **on the 13<sup>th</sup> before 14:00 at Toulouse airport, bus or train station**. The **meeting point** will be at **Toulouse's train station** (Matabiau SCNF) **in the departure hall at 16:15 PM in front of "Le Relay" store**.

If you arrive the day before the training: Unless you have friends in Toulouse who can welcome you, you will have to **find a hostel for yourself**; knowing that the fee can be covered by the EU travel cost amount if you haven't exceeded it for your transportation (either by flight, train or bus).

Whenever you arrive at Toulouse, you will have to **reach Toulouse's train station by your own means**. Cecilia will be waiting for you there in order to bring you to Gaillac.

From the airport, the best (and cheapest) way is to take the tramway line T2 towards "Palais de Justice". You will stop at "Arènes" to take the subway line A towards "Balma Gramont" and will stop at "Marengo SNCF".

The transportation is about 1 hour long.

For the tickets, you will only need one single ticket (1,70€/unit) for the whole transportation (tram+metro). If you are more than 5, we encourage you to take a "Tribu ticket" (8€/unit) that you need to validate as many times as the number of people travelling. Whatever the case, **ask for a receipt and keep the used tickets**. We will need them to pay you back.

If you arrive at the bus station, take it easy. The departure hall of the train station is 2-3 minutes walking from the bus station.

For more information on the itinerary and on the time schedule, please consult the transport company's website: <http://www.tisseo.fr/en/home>



## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### DIET

Please inform your sending organization about your diet on the latest 3 weeks before the training so that we can take it into consideration in the cooking.

### HEALTH and SECURITY

**Obtaining a full insurance** (travel risks, medical, injuries) **is your responsibility**. Providing us information on your special needs does not remove your personal responsibility for ensuring your own health and safety.

Therefore, we strongly recommend you to **subscribe to a European medical insurance** to cover your medical expenses if needed. We will contact skilled doctors if you get sick or wounded but we will not cover your fees.

### NO WIREFIRE

Be aware that there won't be **any internet access in the place we will be**, except for emergency need. Please, make your arrangements and inform your colleagues, family and partners you would not be available for a week.

## ANY OTHER QUESTION? CONTACT US!

Our team is available to answer any question you may have. Do not hesitate to contact:

**Caroline FERRAFIAT** for any question regarding the contents

⇒ @mail: [caroline.ferrafiat@viabrachy.org](mailto:caroline.ferrafiat@viabrachy.org) - Tel : +33 6 98 12 10 89

**Cecilia RESTREPO** for administrative matters

⇒ @mail: [cecilia.restrepo@viabrachy.org](mailto:cecilia.restrepo@viabrachy.org) - Tel: +33 6 74 91 87 41

**VIA BRACHY's phone number**: Tel: +33 6 89 44 48 20

We look forward to meeting you,  
Best regards,  
Via Brachy's team

## A FEW WORDS ABOUT US before we meet

Via Brachy is a French non-profit organization. Since 1998, we are organizing **learning journeys** dealing with **sustainability**, **community living**, **intercultural dialogue**, **social inclusion** and **active citizenship**.

We believe that mobility projects are a powerful tool for people to **enhance skills** and to **find their way in society**. We design trips as **inclusive learning experiences** which impact a person at several levels, so that she can become a **key player in the change** she wants to witness for herself and for the society.

We provide **specific support** to participants **before**, **during** and **after** the mobility projects we organize, so that they can **define their personal** or **professional projects** and **take action**.

After years of practice, especially in the youth field, we would like to share with other practitioners a set of tools and methods that we successfully experienced to **support people** in their **personal development** and **socio-professional journey**.

More info: [www.viabrachy.org](http://www.viabrachy.org)