



International Training Seminar

# “Η δύναμη του ανοικτού κύκλου - The Power of the Open Circle! Young people discover active citizenship”



Thessaloniki | Greece

8th -15th June 2019



This project is funded by  
the European Youth Foundation  
of the Council of Europe



# e.p.a. | european playwork association

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## **What is this International Training Seminar about?**

The theme of this international training course hosted by ARSIS Thessaloniki is "active citizenship". Youth workers, volunteers and youth activists from 20 countries discover together the potentials of the non-formal learning and active citizenship education for their local and international youth work, especially when working for and with young people from disadvantaged communities.

Under the "Power of the open circle" we collect ideas for a thoroughly active citizenship, which at the same time respect the rights of young people and encourage them to take initiative. We discover interactive methods like social circus, mobile school and activities from the Human Rights Education manual "Compass" and develop playful games and exercises for a pocket play manual.



This one-week seminar is a mix of theoretical, interactive and practical sessions, working with methods of playful non-formal learning and always in a spirit of intercultural learning and mutual understanding, stressing the experiences of participants.

This seminar is part of e.p.a. project "Power of the open circle! – Young people discover active citizenship!", which includes training, networking and study seminars, the first one in Ceuta, Spain in March 2019, the second one in Thessaloniki/Greece in June and the third one in Hamburg, Germany in October 2019.

This project is funded by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe and the City of Hamburg.

## **Workshops and Programme activities**

- Introduction Active Citizenship
- Active Citizenship and Youth work: Focus on young people
- Active Citizenship and society: How to support and challenge the society to see the potentials of young people for active citizenship
- With facts and empathy against Xenophobia and Prejudices
- Exchanging and getting to know each other as a method of intercultural youth work for more bridges and to challenge xenophobia
- Socio-cultural activity and method training: Play action, social circus and mobile school
- The Rights-based approach: Human Rights Education as a part of the concept of active citizenship
- Utopia, dream or reality? European and global citizenship
- Getting to know Council of Europe/European Youth Foundation
- Project Visits – Youth and Community Work in disadvantaged areas
- Walking Tour: Thessaloniki Excluded – urban places of Exclusion and Negligence
- Participation on the activity at the International day against the child labor





"Η δύναμη του ανοικτού κύκλου - The Power of the Open Circle! Young people discover active citizenship"  
Thessaloniki, 8th - 15th June 2019  
preliminary programme

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
08.06. Saturday Σάββατο	09.06. Sunday Κυριακή	10.06. Monday Δευτέρα	11.06. Tuesday Τρίτη	12.06. Wednesday Τετάρτη	13.06. Thursday Πέμπτη	14.06. Friday Παρασκευή	15.06. Saturday Σάββατο

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## Partner in Thessaloniki

ARSIS – Association for the Social Support of Youth is a Non Governmental Organization, specializing in the social support of youth, who are in difficulty or danger and in the advocacy of their rights. The main targets are the prevention of youth marginalisation, the elaboration of policies, which defend youth rights and the active social support towards disadvantaged young people.

ARSIS was established in 1992 and since then it operates in Athens, Thessaloniki, Volos, Alexandroupoli, Kozani and Tirana due to the active participation of members, volunteers and young people.



ARSIS in Thessaloniki has plenty of actions and services. ARSIS runs two youth support centers, shelters for unaccompanied minors from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, Algeria and other nationalities and for young people with Roma background, accommodation of vulnerable individuals and families and protection action in refugee camps. It organizes mobile school, human rights education, actions against human trafficking and street work for unaccompanied minors, homeless people and other vulnerable social groups.

Arsis was responsible to translate the "Compass", Manual of Council of Europe for Human Rights Education in Greek language.



## How we work together

e.p.a. promotes methods of non-formal education. Our activities don't include boring papers or frontal lectures. We will work "hands on" through workshops and play-actions. There will be a few plenary sessions for introduction and essential inputs – as interactive and playful as possible – and lots of small group meetings, where the participants can share their ideas, concerns and ways of working. At the end of the week, there will be an evaluation and a feedback session and time for considerations about follow-up activities.



The working languages of the training seminar will be English – with some other languages if needed in "cochichos" (whispering corners). e.p.a. creates conditions to experience and share. We speak carefully, so that we can be translated easily into the other language. We are grateful for colleagues, who are happy to share their linguistic skills! There will be a list of keywords for our theme and debate and our Greek-speaking colleagues are prepared to "teach" us some new words. Please don't hesitate to tell us if you need any other language support.

All participants are welcome to take responsibility for energizers, workshops and our inter-cultural programme! If you have good ideas and unhidden talents or you would like to share something with others: we are looking forward to your contribution! The seminar success also relies on your active participation and mutual support.

# How can you prepare

## The Poster

Everyone wants to know about your community, your project and the young people you work with. To present your project, we will provide a prepared poster and material (e.g. pens, glue...). You are invited to fill the frame and boxes with information, lots of colours, drawings and photos from your city and daily work:

- Name of our project
- What do we do? Who we work and play with?
- If you come as a tourist to our city, I would like you to discover...
- Challenges young people face in our community...
- Our favorite tool to active young people...

Please bring photos, reports, a leaflet of your project, young people's quotes, logos etc. with you to create your poster. The possibilities to print photos are very limited in the hotel.

## Pocket Manual - Share your games

During the week we will test games and small exercises in the spirit of "power of the open circle" and collect them for a pocket manual as a helpful and nice output and a memory of the week. Please bring with and share your favourite games with us!

## Play action

A vital part of our programme are International Play Actions, as opportunities to prepare and share a typical or favourite game with other participants, children and young people taking part in the play action.

## Intercultural evening

We are welcome to enjoy intercultural delights together. Please bring a little something to share – a piece of music, a sketch or some typical food.

## Best practice Methods

If you are interested to present us your preferred, tried and tested non-formal learning method connected with the topic, please contact us!



## Financial aspects

Our e.p.a. International Training Seminar is supported by the Council of Europe, European Youth Foundation, Strasbourg.



Accommodation, food, programme, local transport and insurance will be covered – you don't have to take care of that during the week. As the EYF will support a max. 2/3 of the activity costs, e.p.a. needs to raise 1/3 of the finances. Participants contributions are welcome and needed. So you are welcome to share, but not let lack of finances put you off. If you need financial support to attend the seminar, please contact e.p.a. before the activity!

For accounting: Please bring all your proofs of expenditure and original boarding passes with you!!!

The participant fee is between 50 and 150 Euro, depending on your possibilities. If you or your organisation is able to pay a part of the travel costs, this would be very good in order to support other participants from financially weak backgrounds. Seminar fees will be payable at arrival, in €uro, please.

Participants will come from a variety of geographic, political, social, cultural and financial backgrounds. It has always been e.p.a. policy to share: "From those according to their ability to those according to their needs".

## Travel

Please let us know if you need help with your travel arrangements and inform us about your connection and arrival time, so that we can greet you and pick you up/ collect you from the airport/bus station, when you arrive. If there are any delays or problems, please let us know.



## Where we stay - Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki is the second- largest city in Greece and is located at the north part of the country, on the Thermaic Gulf, at the northwest corner of the Aegean Sea. The municipality of Thessaloniki is a historical center and it is a major transportation hub for Greece and southeastern Europe, notably through the Port of Thessaloniki. The city is renowned for its festivals, events and vibrant cultural life in general, and is considered to be Greece's cultural capital. Thessaloniki is also well known for its multicultural population. Throughout its history, Thessaloniki has been home to many different ethnic groups, including Jewish, Muslim, Greek, Bulgarians, Roma, Armenian and other minor groups.

During the project visit day we will have the possibility to see some parts of Thessaloniki such as Navarinou, Rotonda, Agia Sofia, Hippodromio, Aristotelous Square, Ladadika and we will have a play day at the White Tower!



## Accommodation

Our seminar takes place in "Santa Beach Hotel", which is situated 20 km from the city centre of Thessaloniki and 9 km from the airport. It is located directly on the Neoi Epivates beach, where even some workshops will take place, offering the possibility to go to swim in the morning or during the breaks.

Address:

Hotel Santa Beach, 2 Lambraki str.,

Agia Triada, Thessaloniki, 570 19.

[www.santahotel.gr](http://www.santahotel.gr)



# **Presentation e.p.a**

e.p.a. - european playwork association - is a network of partner organisations in more than 40 countries in Eastern, Southern, Western and Northern Europe, South America, around the Mediterranean and in Africa.

e.p.a works with children, young people and initiatives from communities in areas of poverty and social exclusion. e.p.a. respects and values the culture and diversity of all young people and their communities and fights against oppression, disillusion, racism and xenophobia.

e.p.a. colleagues create conditions for free play and intercultural understanding and through networking combine cooperation and action. Not just lamenting, but challenging the problems, which young people face, encouraging and empowering them to use their own voice. Not only waiting for solutions but taking initiatives.

e.p.a. as a tool can be used by children, young people and those, who work and play with them. e.p.a. meets the needs of young people and network partners through international youth exchanges, study seminars and training activities.

e.p.a. promotes intercultural learning and the rights of children and young people as declared in the UN Convention of Rights of the Child, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the European Social Charta.

e.p.a.'s logo is a rainbow – incorporated into all our activities in beautiful ways, a sign of hope and of differences, completing each other in their diversity, if one colour is missing, it's not a rainbow!

e.p.a. is a recognized INGYO (International Non-Governmental Youth Organisation) by the Council of Europe, Strasbourg and the EU in Brussels. The main e.p.a. office is based in Hamburg, Germany.

For more information: [www.go-epa.org](http://www.go-epa.org)



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