



18th e.p.a. congress

**“What’s in it for children  
and young people?”**

**How to develop opportunities  
for creative participation  
- playfully!**

9th - 16th May 2012  
Derry ≈ Londonderry



*Cead míle fáilte!*



“Youth in Action” Programme



# Welcome to The Playtrail

Liberty Consortium Visitor & Educational Centre

## OPENING HOURS

Mon-Fri 9.00 to 5.00pm

Sat & Sun by Appointment

[www.playtrail.com](http://www.playtrail.com)

**We can be contacted on  
(028) 7136 8173 or email [admin@playtrail.com](mailto:admin@playtrail.com)**



EU Programme  
for Peace and Reconciliation  
in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland



LOCAL STRATEGY PARTNERSHIP  
DERRY CITY COUNCIL 2014

## Contacts



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# START

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# 18th e.p.a. congress in Derry-Londonderry

The e.p.a. Training Course – traditionally called the e.p.a. congress – is taking place from 9<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012 in Derry~Londonderry. It will bring together youth and play workers from 30 countries to share, learn, discuss and debate issues around Youth Participation within the embrace of Human Rights.



Our main partner and host Playtrail is an NGO based in Derry, North of Ireland. They have worked closely with e.p.a. in establishing a partnership and working relationship that builds the foundation for this project.

These people from Portugal, Slovenia, Ireland, UK, Germany and Sri Lanka met in Derry in March to prepare the congress!



The Methods we use are the tried and tested e.p.a. concept of working, playing and learning together. We are all ‘experts’ in our field and during the week of this training course we will present ourselves and our projects. This will give us a great variety of ways and experiences to share and discuss. Within our theme: “What’s in it for young people? – how to develop opportunities for creative participation - playfully!”

We will prioritise effective methods of hearing the voice of young people, we will ensure these are viable and practical in promoting empowerment and combating social exclusion.



## Aims of the congress

In an atmosphere of intercultural interest and solidarity this e.p.a. seminar in Derry wants to achieve, that young youth and play workers from many countries ...

can learn and (re)confirm the rights of children and young people to be heard,



can discuss the challenges and celebrate the chances of Participation,

can exchange experiences, ideas, skills and methods of their face-to-face (play) work with young people,

can "weave" contacts, can start and continue networking between each other to build up sustainable partnerships for future youth activities,

can take away a comprehensive set of skills and methodologies focusing on playful Intercultural Learning and International Youth Exchanges on the way to empower the participation of young people,

will get to know different European youth funding programmes,

will be introduced to fund raising opportunities and evaluation techniques,

can bring forward the development of joint youth policy and practice,

get an idea of the state of youth and play work in Derry~Londonderry

and do it all playfully!

**By the way: with your ideas and friendship you will also support the amazing work of our host team from Playtrail!**





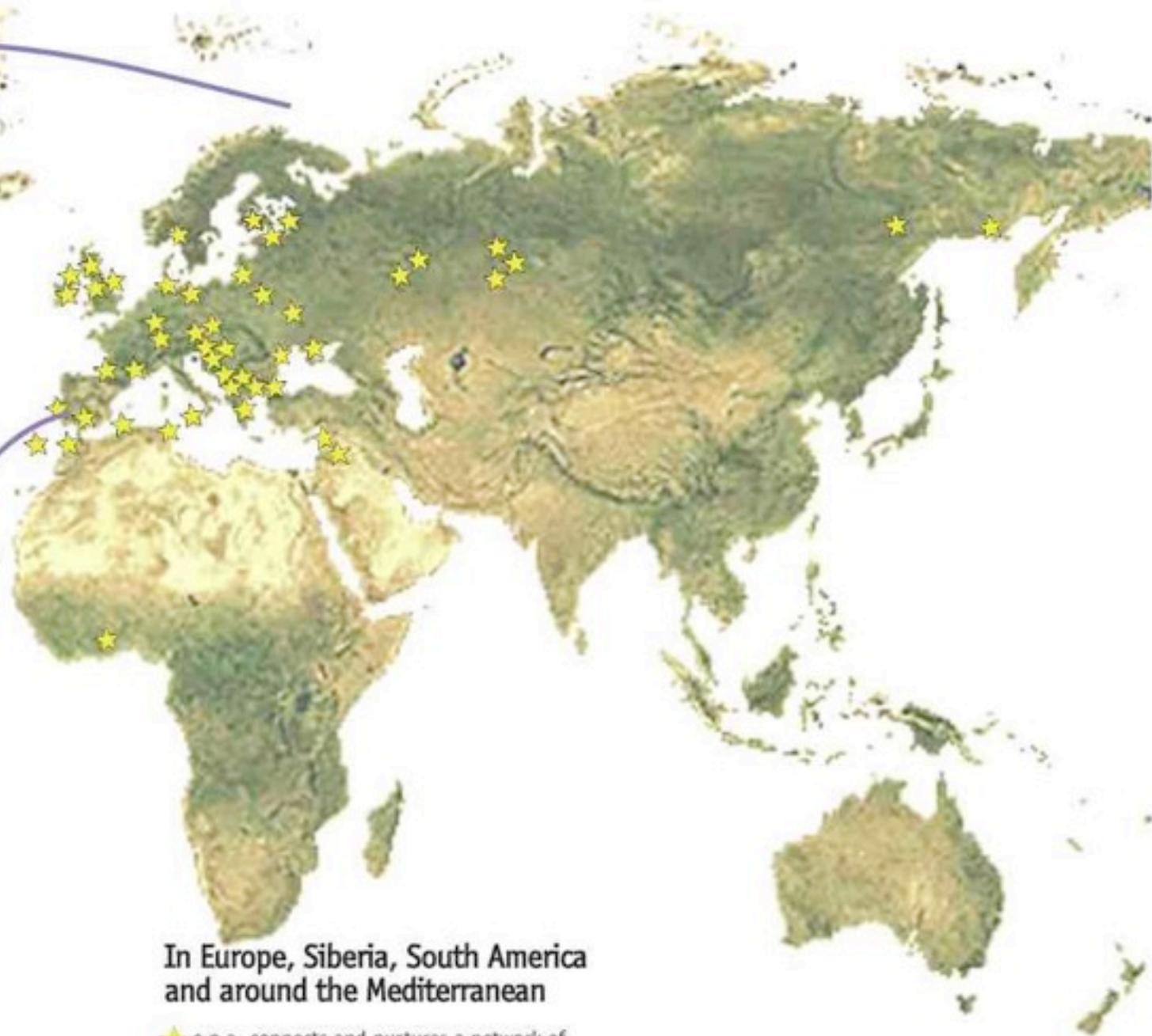
## e.p.a. - european play work association

### In Hamburg:

- ★ e.p.a. has its international base in Hamburg
- ★ e.p.a. runs the Europa Jugend Bureau, an advice drop in for young people and youth workers on European youth issues and programmes
- ★ e.p.a. is the host for EURODESK
- ★ e.p.a. is an interface for intercultural youth work and European Youth Policy.

### In Brussels and Strassbourg:

- ★ e.p.a. is a recognized INGYO by the Council of Europe (since 1976) and the Commission of the European Union (since 1986)
- ★ e.p.a. works as an advocacy for youth towards European institutions
- ★ e.p.a. promote and defend Children's and Young People's Rights as declared in the UN Convention on the rights of the child and the European Human Rights Convention
- ★ e.p.a. is respected and appreciated for creative pilot projects and innovative networking with young people and colleagues from disadvantaged communities



## In Europe, Siberia, South America and around the Mediterranean

- ★ e.p.a. connects and nurtures a network of partner organizations in 40 countries
- ★ e.p.a. accompanies and organizes International Youth Exchanges, Training Courses and Seminars
- ★ e.p.a. cooperates with youth initiatives who are committed to constructing civil society in communities facing social exclusion
- ★ e.p.a. promotes international networking and cooperation, Intercultural learning and competence
- ★ e.p.a. encourages young people and colleagues to meet, challenge conflicts, cultivate friendships and get involved in a fair distribution of chances for life beyond their own borders
- ★ e.p.a. is a "tool" for active solidarity and support



The e.p.a logo appears in beautiful ways in all activities and projects, a rainbow as a sign of hope and of differences that complete each other in their diversity.

# Contents and Workshops

The Situation in the North of Ireland is well documented: The Troubles, IRA, UVF, British Army, Internment, - particularly for Derry: the "Bloody Sunday" -, Peace Walls, the Good Friday Agreement, The Peace Proces ... and now for 2012 e.p.a. has been invited to celebrate an international congress!!



In the light of the peace process and the current economic crisis, it is young people, who suffer the worst consequences of the financial crunch and still who offer the best hope for peace. e.p.a. has over the past years engaged with the issue of empowering youth participation, we will further share and support a playful and Human rights approach in Derry~Londonderry.

and empower young people to aspire to a respect of human rights and develop the wish to participate and become active citizens. Our congress will look and listen, share and develop methodologies, how to use human rights education to ensure creative youth participation!

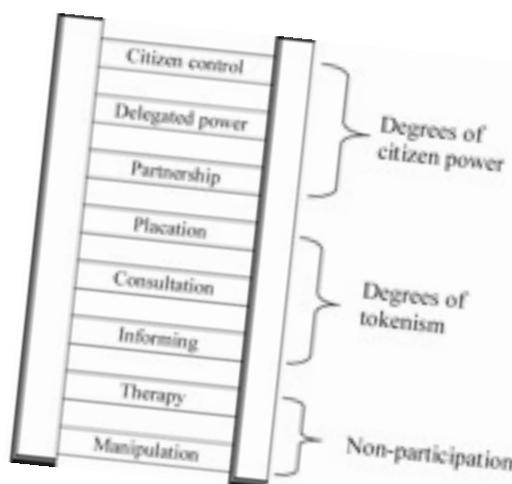
We have planned the following workshops:

**The state of play in the North of Ireland** – how do young people and children experience the "post-conflict" era?



Our hosts from The Playtrail have been working with children and young people, who have suffered societal violence and often social exclusion here in the North of Ireland.

The Playtrail and e.p.a. know from experience that a playful approach can open access to those excluded, unlock potential



**Participation** – aims, methods and misunderstandings. How to develop opportunities for creative participation and empowerment.



**“When will adults listen to young people?”** – why young people should NOT be the ones who pay for International financial mismanagement!

**Youth Exchanges** as an alternative to social exclusion. How they can work towards youth empowerment. A look at Youth in Action.



**Just play** – Why and how PLAY should be taken seriously by everyone.



**Where “peace walls” divide ...** and how fresh approaches can *playfully* work in Post conflict communities with the participation of Young People.

**The barriers in our communities:** How Social exclusion affects young people and children – and how to open doors and windows of opportunities for and with them.

**All equal – all different ...** a still valid approach to challenge traditional conflict lines in the North of Ireland and other troubled communities?



## How we work together

The work will be done in different ways: working "hands on" during play-actions and in workshops. There will be a few plenary sessions and lots of small group meetings, where we can introduce and share our ways of working, the challenges we face etc. There will be NO long boring papers or lectures.



We will meet all together for regular feedback and a final open conference and plenum meeting towards the end of the week for evaluation and proposals. The seminar success will rely on our exchange of experiences and YOUR active participation and mutual support! You are very welcome to use the Training course as a tool!

The working languages of the training course will be English – with Russian, Spanish/Portuguese, if needed in "cochichos" (in whispering corners). e.p.a. does not work in simultaneous translation, it's distant and expensive! We speak precisely and carefully, so that we can be translated easily into the other languages. We are especially grateful for colleagues, who are happy to share their linguistic skills!



Do not despair, if the Northern Irish way of pronouncing English sounds rare to you and you feel you can't speak or understand the language. We are preparing a list of keywords "Whats the crack?" and our colleagues from Derry are prepared to "teach" us some wee words ...



## How can you prepare

Everyone will want to know about the young people you work with, your community and your project. Long papers or a long verbal presentation are probably not the best way to share your experience with everybody. We want everyone to be imaginative and quick in a “speed” presentation (max. 2 minutes)!

In Derry≈Londonderry we will provide a prepared poster (A1 size) to you. You are invited to fill this poster with information, lots of colors, drawings and photos to present your project. **Can you please bring some photos, reports, a leaflet of your project, young people’s quotes, logos etc. with you to design the poster.** Pens, glue, cardboard etc. will be available. The possibilities to print photos in Derry≈Londonderry are extremely limited!



If you bring documentation like ‘power point®’, videos, CDs or DVDs, it would be helpful if these are clear and short! The opportunity to explain and describe your project will be available most evenings and the poster exhibition can be admired during the whole week of the seminar.

The theme of this year’s seminar is: **“Youth participation – What’s in it for young people?”**. We ask you to think about your contribution to the different workshops.

An important part of our programme is the International Play Action with hundreds of children on *Ebrington field* – a converted former military base. It will make our international meeting visible in public. Please bring and prepare typical games from your city/region for this Play Action ...

The poster will include the following information about your project:

- Name of your project ...
- What we do in our project/organisation ...
- We work (and play) with ...
- This is something very, very typical in our city ...
- If you come to play with us, you will see this ...
- If you come to our city as a tourist, we would like to show you ...
- Our young people have the opportunity for creative participation in the following ways ...
- What young people need for empowering participation in our communities?



You are welcome to share in intercultural delights, when we prepare our own buffet during our International Evening, so bring a little something to share, especially your favourite music from your community and country.

# Financial aspects

Our e.p.a. congress is supported by the following funders:

- Council of Europe, European Youth Foundation, Strasbourg



- Commission of the EU, Youth in Action Programme, Bruxelles



- Derry City Council



This funding covers most costs of accommodation and food, programme, insurance and travel subsidies for those who need it!

We expect colleagues, who are employed to try and arrange their own travel costs to Derry. This can often be achieved under budget headings of "Training" or "Personal development" of your project/organisation. e.p.a. can send you an appropriate letter, if required.

For colleagues who are unemployed or on low incomes, it is possible to get support with travel costs from e.p.a.!

Participants will come from a variety of geographic, political, social, cultural and also financial backgrounds. It has always been e.p.a. policy to share: "From those according to their ability to those according to their needs". So you are welcome to share! And don't let lack of finances put you off. If you need financial support to attend the congress, please contact e.p.a. before the congress!

Seminar fees will be payable at registration. Considering the very unequal living conditions of our colleagues, you are asked to base this fee on what you would spend during the week for your meals at home (50-70€).

Transparency and accounting: Please bring all your proofs of expenditure for visa costs, your tickets and the original boarding pass with you.



*"from according their ability to those according their need."*

## Where we stay

Derry~Londonderry is a historical city in the North of Ireland, one of the finest examples of a *Walled Cities* in Europe.

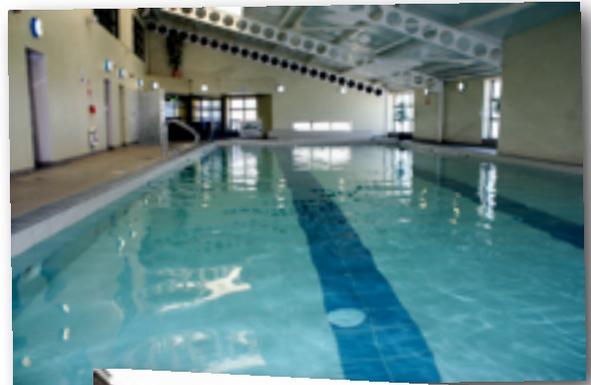


We will stay at the “White Horse Hotel” which is midway between Derry and its Airport:

68 Clooney Road  
Derry~Londonderry  
North of Ireland  
BT47 3PA  
Tel: +44.28 7186 0606  
Fax: +44.28 7186 1438

Don't forget to bring your swimming stuff, if you like to enjoy an early morning swim before breakfast!

It is steeped in history, much of it bloody. Many citizens and groups have been working to transform it into Derry: City of Peace and Reconciliation. It is City of culture - in 2013: the UK City of Culture! Our logo depicts the new peace bridge, which is connecting communities in what was once a divided city.

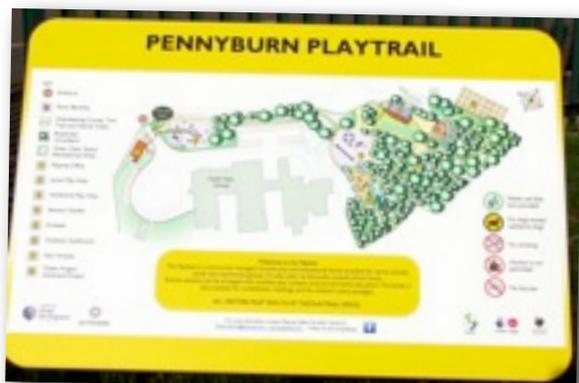


During our excursion, we will also have the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of this part of the world, the green colours, the water, the hills and especially visit the “Giant's Causeway”, a true wonder of the natural world.



## What is the Playtrail?

The Playtrail is an adventure ground for local kids and as a community facility managed by the Liberty Consortium in a unique partnership with Western Education and Library Board. It incorporates a 1km accessible trail network, linking the Playtrail to five areas of play and discovery. These areas include a unique sensory garden, an adventure play facility, a large junior play area, an impressive outdoor auditorium and an embankment slide. The trail also incorporates an orienteering course, trim trail and nature walk. The ethos behind the development of the Playtrail is centred on promoting the creative involvement of all children and young people through play and informal education.



We, the Playtrail invite e.p.a and youth and play workers to celebrate the next congress in the City of Derry~Londonderry, North of Ireland in May 2012.

The Playtrail have been using play as tool in carrying out community relations work, children's rights and youth participation. As we have just come out of a conflict situation we believe that play and youth participation is vital in moving forward as a way of sharing ideas and developing new programmes. We also believe that this congress will help shape a process that will involve local council.



The City of Derry has also won UK City of Culture for 2013 and this congress will help promote youth participation within the city. Play is vital for the development of every child in the world and is an excellent tool that builds positive relationships.

Some of the examples of how we have used PLAY, are that we have delivered a play programme and workshops near one of the peace walls, which resulted in the decline of interface violence. We have also used play to bring together children from different religions in a safe environment and to work together. We have also delivered youth participation workshops, using play for ILEX, which was set up by local government to help shape the City of Derry after the conflict. Our work over the past 4 years has proved to be so very successful, that we have been asked by councils to deliver our programmes across the North of Ireland. This is very strong evidence and we are happy to share this with e.p.a and youth and play workers from many countries.



## What is e.p.a.?

e.p.a. stands for European Play Work Association, is a recognised INGYO (International Non Governmental Youth Organisation) by the Council of Europe, Strasbourg and the EU in Bruxelles.

e.p.a. is network of partner organisations in 40 countries in Eastern, Southern and Western Europe, South America, around the Mediterranean and in Africa.



e.p.a. campaigns for 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 Convention on Human Rights.



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 facing young people, encouraging and empowering them to use their own voice. Not 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. promotes a programme to meet the needs of children, young people and our colleagues through international Youth Exchanges, Study Seminars, Training Activities and a wide network of contacts.

e.p.a. is happy to join with children, young people, women and men, who want to get playfully involved for a life in dignity and enjoy worldwide friendship.

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.

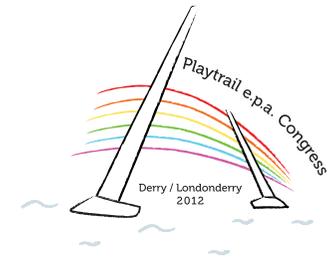


“What’s in it for children and young people?”  
 - how to develop opportunities for *creative participation - playfully!*

PLAYTRAIL & e.p.a.

European Training Course for Youth & Play Workers

DERRY 9<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> MAY 2012



### Preliminary PROGRAMME

	9. Wednesday	10. Thursday	11. Friday	12. Saturday	13. Sunday	14. Monday	15. Tuesday	16. Wednesday
BREAKFAST								
		Playtrail ① The state of Play in Derry. PROGRAMME.	 WALK AROUND DERRY 	 DAY OUT TO ... 	WORKSHOP ④ ⑤	WORKSHOP ⑦ 	CONFERENCE ⑧ 	WORKSHOP ⑧ LOOKING FORWARD
LUNCH	ARRIVALS			GIANTS CAUSEWAY				DEPARTURES
		②  PREPARATION	PROJECT VISITS △ □ ○ ◇ ☆	 OLDEST WHISKEY DISTILLERY	FREE TIME ⑥	EVALUATION ⑧ 		
DINNER	Cead míle Fáilte WELCOME ① INTRODUCTIONS	PRESENTATION OF POSTERS 	③ CONTINUATION OF POSTERS	INTERCULTURAL EVENING ① ② ☆	Preparation for PLAY ACTION ① ② ③	Preparation for Conference ①	Final PARTY 	Beidh muid chailleadan tó