



Setting Sails for Partner-Ships  
Accra • Noer • Hamburg • Berlin



Youth workers update and  
enhance their media skills!  
Hamburg



Osallisuus nyt!  
Participation now!  
Turku



Our voice, our choice,  
our community  
Madeira • Lisbon



Let's raise our voices  
Odessa • Kiev



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



# Annual Report 2018



**e.p.a. • european play work association**

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This report shares some highlights of the work of European Playwork Association in 2018. The year was dedicated to "Participation and Diversity" and it involved over 500 young people and youth workers from 35 countries on three continents!

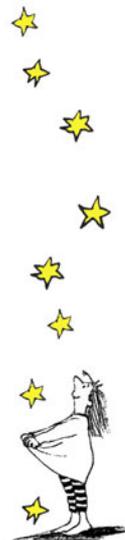
Facing the current international challenges and considering the political pressure, the Council of Europe/European Youth Foundation - and in different ways the European Union as well, are under, e.p.a. developed an even stronger bond to European values ... We are well aware that we can not take it for granted anymore, to have multilateral working institutions, which actually defend and promote Human Rights, able to invite European youth organisations to support them in this work!

A great opportunity to revitalise a cooperation with one of our West-African partners, turned to be one of our biggest challenges in 2018! We had liberated all necessary financial resources, prepared an amazing exchange programme with lots of volunteers and finally only 1 out of 12 participants got a visa to travel from Ghana to Germany. To enable young people from the Global South to create future societies, Europe must give a fair share of its wealth and create opportunities for exchange and education!

e.p.a. says thanks to everybody, who added a colour to one of our activities in 2018 by creating, participating, planning, debating, playing, sharing, funding, organising, celebrating, multiplying, managing, evaluating, documenting and working together!

We especially thank the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe, the Commission of the European Union and the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg for the continued support for our European and International network and our International Training Seminars and Youth exchange activities.

e.p.a. team  
Hamburg, May 2019



The e.p.a. network was substantially supported and funded by



Behörde für Arbeit,  
Soziales, Familie  
und Integration



Erasmus+



## Europa JUGEND Büro



All year through e.p.a. provided a youth drop-in centre - the "Europa JUGEND Büro" in Hamburg - with open access to opportunities for European youth mobility and intercultural youth co-operation, creating local visibility for current European themes, supporting youth initiatives, voluntary service, encouraged committed youth workers and organisations to become involved in international youth work informing them about European funding, training and intercultural methodology. e.p.a is an Active Eurodesk relay centre and partner within the European network.

> [EuropaJugendBuero.de](http://EuropaJugendBuero.de)

## Eurodesk Networking

e.p.a. runs the Hamburg Europa JUGEND Büro as an Active Eurodesk relay centre and is a longterm partner within the European Eurodesk network. In April e.p.a. took part in the Annual Meeting of Eurodesk network in Bonn, where strategies for the year were discussed and developed.

> [eurodesk.eu](http://eurodesk.eu)



## European Week

The European Week (02.05. - 15.05.2018) provided once again good opportunities for European Networking and for Awareness raising related to European themes. e.p.a. greeted young people at several events, each of them with a different focus, presenting various European perspectives. In a pedestrian area in Hamburg we invited people to discuss about European perspectives; a school event with workshops on European values; an open mobility information afternoon with playful methods; an online webinar to European mobility information and a network cinema event with European movies and a debate on social security with representatives of the youth organisations of political parties.

> [hamburg.de/europa](http://hamburg.de/europa)

## European Volunteers Meetings

e.p.a. hosted meetings of Young European Volunteers, who were young participants in the EVS European Voluntary Service, to agree activities for 2018, which would emphasise and publicise the idea of young people getting involved in the new EU volunteer and exchange programme “European Solidarity Corps” and promote European mobility and citizenship. Some of the activities were implemented and presented during the European Week, others later in the year.



## Structured Dialogue



e.p.a. started preparations for the next interregional large-scale Youth conference “Take Five - #yourchEUce”, taking place in 2019 in Bremen, Germany with 80 young people, representatives of local authorities and politicians from 5 Northern German “Länder”. At meetings in Hamburg and Bremen we started to prepare a big 4-days simulation game, inviting all participants to go through an EU election and it’s campaigns (as politicians, who create their own party and fight for their goals; as NGO members, who inform and try to influence politicians on their subject; as media people, who are going to cover our simulated election; as citizens, who finally have the power to vote). With this project we were aiming to encourage young people to get interested in politics, to raise awareness and knowledge of EU politics and to support active citizenship.

> [take-v.eu](http://take-v.eu)

## Young Training for SDGs

A Training Workshop (16.-17.06.) supported young people with interest in global learning and development cooperation policies. Using a mix of playful, non-formal learning and political education methods, the participants learned to create their own educational youth project using the Sustainable Development Goals as a frame and tool for communication. The training was organised together with *Engagement Global*.

## Training day „Inclusion and International Youth Work“

e.p.a. invited youth workers and volunteers to a training day to learn how to support inclusion in international youth work. The focus was set on youth exchanges and volunteer services.

The first part of the training was dedicated to the theoretical approach to inclusion in social work and to best practice examples. Intercultural inclusive play methods used in international youth work built the basis for the second part of the interactive training concept. Participants experienced and enjoyed how “play works”!

➤ [go-epa.org/de/fachgespraech\\_inklusion](http://go-epa.org/de/fachgespraech_inklusion)



## International Training Seminar “Osallisuus nyt - Participation now!”



Our International training seminar “Osallisuus nyt! Participation now! – Respecting Diversity, Discovering Equality, Celebrating Participation” took place from 23rd till 30th of May 2018 in Turku, Finland.

This activity was hosted by two Finnish e.p.a network partners from Turku; Turun ensi- ja turvakoti ry and Globaalinuoret ry. The preparatory meeting took place in February in Turku. We discovered the venues, the conditions our host group works under and the infrastructure. The final programme and responsibilities were discussed and agreed.

The seminar searched for ways to support youth and community initiatives in disadvantaged communities in their efforts to respect and include the participation needs of young people from different backgrounds by creating equal access, opportunities and welcoming climate. Within this theme we looked at the need for rethinking concepts for participation in the present political and economic climate and how the current youth work practice and conditions in local communities offer genuine participation in diversity for the empowerment of young people.

I learned that there are different levels of participation and play, both are just as important and all levels just as meaningful.

To stay calm. To hug and touch. To appreciate my background and take another perspective towards my own work.

*TUULI, Turku*

I learned that people are not equal. But their rights. And self-respect is the first thing.

*OMAR, Palermo*

This one-week seminar was 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 contributions of young participants from 24 countries.

I gained a deeper understanding of participation in our world today. I learnt a greater understanding of the Council of Europe and EU and how to facilitate and strengthen my abilities to "activate" those I work with.

*JADE, Liverpool*

The intensive programme with interactive and playful workshops supported both the process of growing together as a group and the work on the topic "Participation, Diversity, Equality". During the week these three big words from the project title became more and more connected as a lively concept. The question of "a part of what?" received a central role in this debate. We learnt that in some languages the word participation can be

Everyone has the need to feel they are part of something. Even with all our fears, obstacles, experiences, backgrounds we all have something to learn and something we can teach.

Talking about diversity, it was really nice to see the culture from other countries that I would never have the opportunity to meet.

Being different and do new things is what makes this world better.

*JOANA, Lisbon*

translated in two ways; as well as the meaning of being active and participate but also to belonging to and being a part of something. And this made sense to us! To increase and improve youth



participation, young people need to be clear enough of what they are a part of – and feel sincerely respected in their efforts and belonging. This is where the work of youth and civil society organisations starts, by creating a climate and trust for this process.

> [go-epa.org/en/participation\\_now](http://go-epa.org/en/participation_now)

One important aspect is the “now” for me. I have to admit, that I was one of these, who thought of young people as of the future. But I learned: Those young people live now, they want to be active now. Which changes the perspective a lot.

VERONIKA, Bratislava

## Training Course “Youth workers update and enhance their media skills!”

The international Training course “Youth workers update and enhance their media skills!” took place in Hamburg from 3rd - 10th March 2018.



The activity was the first part of a larger international youth mobility project “Our voice, our choice, our community”. This activity in Hamburg had the aim to qualify youth workers to develop their media literacy skills in order to implement these results and skills in the following International Youth Exchange later in the year in Portugal.

The way the programme was organised, with people coming from different cultures was the nicest experience. The most important one was having experiences on the way we work with young people. And the moving one was the way that we all participated practically in the programme.

ERJOLA, Tirana

I understood that everybody has a voice, but you should work on it to be heard. Improving yourself and taking part in community life. With your voice you can change the world! It's possible. You only need a support and I get it here on this seminar.

DMYTRO, Kiev

The idea for this training course came from the good experience of the e.p.a. partner group “Eco-estilistas” from Lisbon to use radio and other media, as tools for youth work, encouraging young people’s participation, involving the neighbourhood and community. The training course was a cooperation project of e.p.a. and Eco-estilistas.



This Training Course gave space to “up date” own media skills, share ideas and good practice with others and learn especially about audio techniques/radio, as a tool of youth work. The focus was on ideas, how to practically implement the new knowledge in local and international youth work and how to encourage young people to become active, using their voice.



The week was full of intercultural learning, playful workshops, project visits and practical sessions – a live radio show created the highlight of the week! The participants were youth workers and qualified volunteers working face to face with young people, with an interest to work with media tools. The 22 participants came from 16 different European countries.

> [go-epa.org/en/media-skills](https://go-epa.org/en/media-skills)

I learned what media literacy means and main theory about media. Discussions among the trainings also helped to understand a lot. Technical rules of making podcast, content and work with equipment, especially with the radio equipment.

NATALIA, Tyumen

## Youth Exchange "Our voice, our choice, our community"



e.p.a. and the Portuguese partner groups "Associação de Inter-ajuda de Jovens Eco-estilistas" from Lisbon and a self-organised youth group from Funchal-Madeira invited the e.p.a. "South-North" International Youth Exchange to come to Funchal and Lisbon, Portugal, for two weeks from 21th of July – 4th of August with 60 young people from 7

countries in Europe - Palermo (Italy), Lisboa - Madeira (Portugal), Málaga (Spain), Hamburg (Germany), Liverpool (UK), Bratislava (Slovak Republic) and (Maribor/Ljubljana) Slovenia.

I discovered that we can live miles away, have different colors, different traditions and yet we can be a community.

*TIAGO, Madeira*

I learned to be aware of the power of social media and the danger of them, for example because of fake news and manipulation.

*ELLI, Hamburg*

I learned that our voice is the most powerful "weapon" that human beings can have, our choices depend only on ourselves and nobody else, and our community is something very important for our growth.

*BRUNA, Lisbon*

During the exchange I learned not to judge people, but to get to know them and see that they can be wonderful. I learned that with a smile we can change a life, and that it does not matter where we've seen, but where we want to go.

*JOÃO, Lisbon*

Under the motto "Our voice, our choice, our community" the exchange invited us to explore the potentials of young people's voice for their community and for their own life. The exchange benefitted from the training course, which took place before in Hamburg, providing media skills for youth workers and group leaders.

Encouraged by the success of the community Radio "Zip" of Eco-estilistas, we explored our rights to use our voice and HOW to speak up, using media as a supporting tool for youth participation, how to encourage and qualify each other to strengthen and enhance our commitment in our communities, becoming aware of the chances and risks of using (social) media.





An advanced planning visit (APV) was organised in April in Portugal: Together with young representatives from all partner groups, we looked at programme, accommodation, visits, workshops, logistics, agreed on rules and transport ... and enhanced the feeling of “looking forward...”!

Our colourful programme consisted of thematic workshops and video presentations prepared by each city group, playful activities, games and energisers, project visits, a play day with children in a marginalized community in Madeira, official receptions in town halls, and different excursions to get to know Lisbon’s and Madeira’s cultural and environmental beauties, as well as some insights into Portugal’s history.

We shared experiences, worked together in international teams, learned about cultures from different countries, enhanced our social media skills and learned to communicate with media to raise our voice for Human Rights.

By creating the conditions for young people to meet and learn from each other, this project fostered youth empowerment, intercultural dialogue and international networking with partner groups, supporting their participation in the development of their communities – and all this in a spirit of international friendship.

➤ [go-epa.org/en/portugal\\_2018](http://go-epa.org/en/portugal_2018)



## Youth Exchange "Let's raise our voices - young people challenge old values and open new perspectives"

This International Youth Exchange under the theme brought together 65 young people from Liverpool (UK), Hamburg (Germany), Bucharest (Romania), Kurgan and Tyumen (Russian Federation) and hosted by our Ukrainian partners in Odessa and Kiev, 16th - 31st of August 2018.



I have learnt about cultural differences, reasons for why people don't raise their voice. I have discovered social and political factors that shapes each person from the different groups.

*NATASHA, Liverpool*

I have discovered that it is important for young peoples voices to be heard on the international human rights agenda and that we can use various tools in order to get our voices heard!

*CHELSEA, Liverpool*

From this exchange I learned the importance of being true to yourself while being able to forgive both your and other people's mistakes, I realized how much being or not tolerant, caring and focusing on people rather than things can change the atmosphere and the experiences that others go through and their overall mood. I also learned that people are less prone to support ideas if they feel restricted.

*ALINA, Bucharest*

The most important was the feeling of your own identification, acceptance of yourself and your feelings, believe in people around you, that we can handle everything. And deep conversations and workshops, that brought people to think and to feel supported.

*SVITLANA, Kiev*

Our theme and programme were dedicated to "Active Citizenship", looking at how young people from disadvantaged communities sharing and learning how to contribute to the betterment of their communities whilst living in difficult circumstances: war, propaganda, unemployment, a society of political and democratic deficit and financial chaos.

During the two weeks we had various activities: thematic presentations, workshops, plenary meetings, intercultural evening, a historical tour of Odessa, energisers, games, enhancing reflexion and self-confidence, meetings with representatives of Civil society initiatives, visiting museums as Holodomor (the great famine) and Chernobyl (Nuclear disaster), a trip to the typical Ukrainian village and other activities.

Programme and methodology followed the principles of non-formal learning approaches, with participative and playful activities. The activities put the focus on participants' own contributions: the preparation of an interactive workshop on the theme "Active Citizenship" as well as a presentation of their own community, organisation and their group on a poster and video. An Inter-cultural Evening invited the groups to cook and share their favourite dishes and perform dances, songs and sketches.



The impacts of the exchange for young people were new insights and confident understanding of thematic aspects like Active Citizenship, Participation, Democracy, Diversity, Equality, the reflexion of own prejudices, new skills and gaining competences, experiencing and valuing of multicultural friendship.

All participants received a Youthpass Certificate as recognition of acquired competences. They returned to their countries with more experience, knowledge, tools and enthusiasm that they can use, share and multiply with their friends, youth groups and European communities.

➤ [go-epa.org/en/ukraine\\_2018](http://go-epa.org/en/ukraine_2018)

## Youth Exchange "Setting Sails for Partner-Ships"



The e.p.a. "A different Triangle" youth cooperation project (2007-2010) – supported by the EU and the Council of Europe's European Youth Foundation – encouraged young people in Europe, West Africa, South America and the Caribbean to become even more active in their communities and taking over responsibility. Many months ago these new "leaders" wished and proposed to revitalise and activate our international cooperation with another exchange project, to create opportunities for the "new" young people! This was the initial motivation to propose our new exchange project "Setting Sails for Partner-Ships".

Act for Change in Accra (Ghana) and e.p.a. put their heads together, identified topics of mutual interests and looked for possible funding opportunities. Finally we achieved to receive a *weltwärts* grant (extracurricular exchange projects in the context of Agenda 2030) – established by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.



Our bi-lateral youth exchange project looked into concepts for fair global partnerships, based on equal rights and solidarity, essential for sustainable development and develops participative, playful methods, working with youth in the communities, e.g. interactive theatre.

During the project we work on the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals – especially on goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals. We want to explore the Goals – also with a critical look –, we want to find answers to our questions and inform many other people about the SDGs!

Unfortunately all 11 young people from Accra/Ghana were refused a visa to participate in the first part of the project: an International Youth Exchange 29th April – 14th May 2018 in Germany. Only the group leader was allowed to travel!

How come that a German ministry is supporting youth exchange projects with African countries - and a German embassy refuses visas for all young participants - explaining that the "Justification for the purpose and conditions of the intended stay was not provided"? We protest against the refusals of the visa and urge the German government to coordinate procedures between ministries, put in action the SDGs, supporting young civil society commitment and treat partners - especially young people - with dignity!



The Hamburg group decided to welcome the Ghanaian group leader and to make his stay as fruitful as possible. We modified our planned programme. Due to the visa refusals we put our efforts into sharing information with decision makers (politicians, ambassador etc.) and the public. One observation: It was

quite difficult to get some positive attention for our issue, whilst everybody in power or in charge were asked to find solutions for the so called "refugee crisis" and how we should protect European borders? We tried to extend and maintain our network of supporters and will probably see in the future, if these efforts will have sustainable impacts.

Because of the modified "exchange" that was dedicated to analyzing, understanding and improving our situation, it became a lesson on civil society and participation. The Hamburg participants will probably not forget, what happens within 2 minutes, if you stay in front of a German federal ministry with a protest banner (police came immediately!), but they also experienced: if you take action as a young person, as a member of civil society, there will be response and solidarity ... and there's hope for change. We are working hard to create the conditions for our friends from West Africa to have the chance to come to Germany next year!

➤ [setting-sails.net](http://setting-sails.net)

## *e.p.a. in brief*

e.p.a. is an international network of youth and community initiatives and associations with partner in over 40 countries: in Europe (including Middle-, Eastern and South Eastern Europe) in South America, CIS countries and Africa. (See also e.p.a. partner map attached).

e.p.a. is an INGYO, registered and based as a “Freier Träger der Jugendhilfe” and charity (e.V.) in Hamburg – Germany.

e.p.a. aims to highlight, confront and challenge the problems of young people living in some of the most disadvantaged cities, areas and regions of Europe. e.p.a. endeavours to provide an opportunity for these young people to discover their potential, experience international friendship and fight against apathy, poverty and neglect.

e.p.a. achieves these aims through the activities of International Youth Exchanges, Study Visits, Training workshops, Seminars, Voluntary Service and International Meetings and in the publication of papers and activity sheets as well as advocacy of the local, regional and national governments of Europe and Europeans Organisations. e.p.a. has been involved in international Youth Exchanges for over 40 years and was one of the first to instigate the EU YOUTH programmes.



**The e.p.a. network was substantially supported and funded by**





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