**“Fa-silly-tators! Exploring humour in non-formal**

**Education and youth projects”**

**24th to 30th of November, 2019 in Vienna, Austria**

**Background of the project**

Non-formal education can seem pretty silly: We make participants run around a room and shout the sounds of animals. We make them pretend like they are ninjas or space aliens in order to energize them in the morning. But even though we all use humour, when we coordinate volunteering projects, run youth exchanges or facilitate seminars – we almost never stop for a moment and reflect deeply on what that actually means. This seminar will be a space for that.

"Fa-silly-tators" is a 7-day seminar that will take place in Vienna from 24th to 30th of November 2019. The seminar will bring together 32 participants from 20 countries in Europe (Austria, Ireland, Greece, Slovakia, Turkey, Italy, Estonia, France, Spain, Serbia, Portugal, Albania, Moldova, Romania, Germany, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Switzerland and Hungary). By experiencing non-formal education methods such as drawing challenges, speed dating, brainstorming techniques and silent discussion, the participants will get to explore humour and jokes. They will learn and exchange methods and best practices on how to use humour to empower youth with fewer opportunities and marginalized groups, how to do humour from a feminist/antiracist/queer/etc. lens, when to use humour and how to deal with conflicts around it.

The project has the following objectives:

- Understand how laughter can support learning

- Reflect on humour in connection to teambuilding and a seminar group owning the space that they are working in

- Exchange (the silliest) energizers and point out sexism, racism or other stereotypes in energizers

- Identify conflicts around humour, e.g. when it comes to humour in relation to stereotypes and marginalized groups

- Reflect on the challenges and potentials of intercultural humour in creating an intercultural team as well as awareness on Europe among young people

- Understand the importance of finding the right timing for humour

- Discuss how humour can be used to create a safe learning and exchanging space as well as destroy it

- Come up with certain rules and conclusion about humour in NFE that in the future will help us and others identify whether a joke, game etc. they were using was timely and appropriate or not

- Create a collection of (non-formal education) tools and guidelines for youth workers and NFE practitioners for the usage of humour in NFE

- Networking between organisations and networks

**Participant’s profile**

The participants will be trainers, facilitators, project and volunteering camp coordinators, educators and youth workers.

All participants will be expected and stimulated to contribute to the activities and discussions. They are very welcome and invited to come up with their own ideas and present some methods or workshops they are experienced in and they want to share. Please contact us in advance to tell us about it and we will see how it can fit in the seminar agenda.

All participants selected for this project must meet the following criteria

be 18 years old or older

have experience as a trainer, facilitator, project coordinator, educator and/or youth worker

be active in their sending organization

be able to work in English

be interested in the seminar topics and have a strong motivation to act as a multiplier

commit to implement the learned knowledge and skills in practice back home

commit to actively participate from the beginning to the end of the seminar

We explicitly encourage participants of all genders, sexual orientations and ethnic backgrounds to apply.

Please note that there will be opportunities to visit the Vienna, but that this is not a “getting to know the city” project. On some days, the seminar also foresees evening sessions.

**Financial conditions of participation**

All essential costs of the program in Vienna (including food, travel costs, accommodation and seminar) will be covered by SCI Austria through a project grant by Erasmus+.

**Application**

Applications should be sent to your sending organization, which will each select their own participant(s) and then forward the application(s) to SCI Austria. All those accepted will later receive a detailed infosheet (incl. info on how to get to the venue, how to book your travels, more info about the agenda of the project). Deadline for applying is **10.09.2019.** (**Attention:** Even if you feel sure of your selection, no tickets can be purchased before the 1st of september!)

**Contact**

If you have any questions regarding the project and your application, don't hesitate to contact us at [val\_weidinger@yahoo.com](mailto:val_weidinger@yahoo.com).

We are looking forward to your application :-)

The coordinating team,

Valerie, Thomas and the SCI Austria team

**Application form**

**“Fa-silly-tators”**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Surname  (as written in passport) |  | | |
| First name  (as written in passport) |  | | |
| Is this not the name you use/ identify with? Please let us know the name you feel comfortable with: |  | | |
| Birth date |  | | |
| Nationality |  | | |
| Personal Address |  | | |
| Phone Number |  | | |
| Email |  | | |
| Emergency person |  | | |
| Contact Emergency person  (phone / email) |  | | |
| Special food needs?  (Allergies, intolerances, diet, etc.) |  | | |
| Passport Number  (if visa required) |  | | |
| English skills | Very good | Good | Poor |
| Speaking |  |  |  |
| Writing |  |  |  |
| Understanding |  |  |  |
| Name of your sending organisation |  | | |

For the following questions, please write briefly your most important arguments. This will help us to design of the seminar according to your and the whole group‘s needs.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Experiences** | |
| How long have you been involved in your organisation and what have been your roles and tasks? |  |
| What is your previous experience as a trainer/ facilitator/ educator/ project coordinator/ youth worker? |  |
| How would you describe how you use humour in your work?  Can you think of examples from your past work in which humour was either very useful to trigger learning/ resolve tensions/ etc. or counterproductive e.g. creating conflict or endangering the safe space of your group? |  |
| **Motivation and expectations** | |
| What are the main reasons you wish to participate and what are your expectations for the seminar? |  |
| How do you want to use the acquired tools and knowledge in your organisation in the future? |  |
| Do you have an idea for a method or session that you could share at the semianr?  Please give details, if possible: time needed, number of participants, kind of method, topic, materials needed |  |
| **Further information** | |
| Do you have any special needs or requirements (e.g. disability, medical condition)? Please specify: |  |
| You can state here any other information you would like to share: |  |

**Declaration and commitment**

I am fully aware that my participation in this activity is an investment of the organisers (in terms of logistics, finances, time and personal involvement of all people engaged) in my personal learning experience.

1. I declare that the information provided in my application is true and I commit myself to participate actively in the whole duration of the project.

2. I promise to share the experiences gained in the course with other fellows from my sending organisation and/ or other persons in my professional/ private / volunteer environment;

3. I promise to implement learned experience at the local level;

4. I commit to attending the seminar in full, with no late arrival and early departure or leaving sessions;

I read and understood text of the declaration.

Date:

Signature\*:

\* can be electronic signature