



Erasmus+

DU GRAIN À MOUDRE



CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS - TRAINING COURSE

NARRATIVES AND CRITICAL THINKING IN GEOPOLITICS



TC - FRANCE - 22/01/20256 to 30/01/2026



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GENERAL BACKGROUND

"It takes a village to raise a child." This African proverb reminds us that a child's development thrives on diversity—of perspectives, experiences, and practices. But in today's fragmented world, where information floods in from every direction, **what is our role as youth workers in nurturing independent, critical thinkers?**

How do we guide young people without imposing our own biases? How do we teach critical thinking in an era of relentless media saturation, where algorithms shape perceptions and misinformation spreads faster than truth? The challenges are immense: polarization over questions like migration, climate crisis, and armed conflicts can fuel radicalization, while the sheer volume of information makes discernment harder than ever.

Yet, the **ability to analyze, question, and contextualize information** is not just a skill—it's a necessity for young people to navigate the world and for society to remain cohesive.

That's why this training will use a real-world case study (such as the U.S. elections or the war in Ukraine) as a guiding thread, helping youth workers deepen their geopolitical knowledge while honing their critical analysis of media narratives.

Through writing exercises, storytelling techniques, and narrative deconstruction, we'll explore how to articulate complex realities—giving young people the tools to name, **understand, and challenge the world they inherit.** Because true empowerment begins when they can **put words to the present.**

DESCRIPTION

This 7-day **Erasmus+** training brings together **25 youth workers** from France, Czech Republic, Greece, Portugal, and Estonia. Its goal is to strengthen their skills in **critical thinking** and **geopolitical awareness**, using tools like **storytelling**, educational games, and media analysis.

Participants will explore the historical links between past events and their impact on today's global landscape. Through a series of **case studies**, they will deepen their understanding of contemporary geopolitical dynamics and learn to apply an analytical framework that helps unpack the multiple dimensions of a conflict.

They will delve into key issues such as **misinformation, international conflicts (including Ukraine and the Middle East), and media bias**, using dynamic **non-formal education methods**—such as **structured debates, world café discussions, and immersive simulations.**

The program blends **theoretical insights with hands-on practice**, featuring interactive workshops and guided reflection to tailor tools to their specific local realities.

A core focus will be **sharpening critical thinking skills**, crucial for navigating today's complex and often polarized media landscape. Participants will gain **practical, ready-to-use tools** to help young people recognize disinformation, propaganda, and fake news, along with **engaging pedagogical approaches** to address these challenges effectively. By the end, they will be better equipped to **empower young people to analyze, question, and understand the world around them** with clarity and confidence.

OBJECTIVES

We wish more specifically to:

- interrogate critical thinking awareness
- analyse our practice and our posture
- acquire knowledge about geopolitics
- develop skills on the tool of comics
- exchange good practices of each organization on the different topics of the project

FRAME OF WORK

Participants will come from diverse backgrounds, experiences, and levels of knowledge. We expect each person to have enough distance from their own experiences to talk about them, share insights, build upon them collectively, and be open to constructive challenge. **This training is a learning space, and each participant is invited to adopt a pedagogical mindset throughout the process.**

We ask everyone to remain respectful and attentive to the sensitivities and perspectives of others, especially when discussing complex or emotionally charged geopolitical topics.

As part of this training, we will reflect on our professional posture, which includes examining our own assumptions, biases, and the narratives that shape our understanding of global events.

All participants are expected to be on time and actively engage in every session.

We will also live collectively during the training period, and participants will be asked to contribute to some daily tasks to support the group's well-being.

The training will be conducted in English. A good level of English is required for this training (understanding and being understood).

METHODOLOGY

The training will be based on methods and tools of **non-formal education**.

Participants are active in the training, and they will be proposing energizers and workshops, as we can learn better by experiencing tools and being in action.

Theoretical content will be proposed by the trainers with a participative methodology, but most of the training will be based on knowledge sharing and mutual enrichment between the whole group where participants will bring and share their experience on the topic.

Methodologies used (fish-bowl, moving debates, skim reading, etc.) are all **participative and developing collective intelligence**.

Centred on individual and group learnings, the planning will be adapted to the needs of participants.

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

We are looking for professional youth workers who have an interest in geopolitics and global education.

It is important that participants are able to integrate the learning outcomes of this training into their professional practice and contribute with their own experience during the sessions.

Suitable profiles may include social **workers, teachers, community educators, trainers, youth leaders, NGO staff, or any professionals involved in projects related to global citizenship, international solidarity, media literacy, or conflict analysis**.

We encourage the participation of individuals with diverse profiles, experiences, and learning needs, as this variety enriches the collective process.

The training will be conducted in English. A good level of English is required for this training (understanding and being understood).

LOCATION / ACCOMODATION

FRANCE - CORNUS



ACCOMODATION



The TC will take place in **Cornus**, a small village located in a **rural area**, just a few kilometers from Montpellier.

Accommodation will be in a gîte with **shared rooms**. The venue has a simple and cozy atmosphere with a touch of countryside character. Rooms will host up to **4 people each**. Every room has its own private bathroom. If needed, we can also organize non-mixed dorms. All meals will be fully provided and prepared by a professional cook. We will of course take into account everyone's dietary and allergies.

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

- Travel costs will be covered based on the unit costs of the program. Please note that participants will be reimbursed the real costs of their transport fees up to a certain limit as per information below.
- 100% lodging and food are covered. **Du Grain à Moudre** would like to encourage participants to buy travel tickets ASAP to enjoy economical prices.

Please do not buy travel tickets until Du Grain à Moudre has approved your participation.

All the travel costs will be reimbursed the earliest 3 months after the end of the training course. Please note that the process of reimbursement will be carried out directly with the applicant organizations and not with the individual participants.

Contribution to the travel costs of participants, from their place of origin to the venue of the activity and return.

Travel distance	Green travel	Non-Green travel
10 – 99 km	56 EUR	28 EUR
100 – 499 km	285 EUR	211 EUR
500 – 1999 km	417 EUR	309 EUR
2000 – 2999 km	535 EUR	395 EUR
3000 – 3999 km	785 EUR	580 EUR
4000 – 7999 km	1188 EUR	1188 EUR

Based on the travel distance per participant. Travel distances calculated using the distance calculator supported by the European Commission

**Green travel = Environmentally responsible means of transport - A trip that uses low-emission transport for the majority of the journey, such as bus, train or carpooling.*

**Please note that green travel is only available for certain partners. Please wait for confirmation from Du Grain à Moudre to check your eligibility.*

You are interested? Apply here!



<https://forms.gle/6qWZGr6LA5TYTvRQA>

ATTENTION: Please note that your application does not constitute acceptance.

The Grain à Moudre team will probably be able to contact you for a short discussion regarding your application.

Please wait for confirmation from the Grain à Moudre team!

