# CALL FOR PARTNERS
# EUROPEAN SEMINAR
# IN THE CASTLE OF «LE CRÉNEAU»

# «LEADING TOGETHER!»

## UNDERSTANDING AND FACILITATING GROUP DYNAMICS

Come and meet other youth workers and group leaders from different countries to share experiences, explore group dynamic and create tools together

**16-20 NOVEMBER 2026**
**MONTCOMBROUX-LES-MINES**
**03130, ALLIER**
**FRANCE**

Le Créneau
centre d'accueil international
Château des Prureaux

Erasmus+

Solidarités JEUNESSES
RÊVER. CONSTRUIRE. TRANSFORMER

# LE CRÉNEAU - SOLIDARITÉS JEUNESSES

## CONTEXT

Working with groups is at the heart of many youth and international projects. Youth workers and group leaders navigate different personalities, needs, expectations and group dynamics every day.

Creating a safe and welcoming environment, building trust, encouraging participation and dealing with tensions are all part of this work.

But facilitating a group is not about finding one right method. It is about observing, listening and adapting to the people and dynamics within the group. Each group is different and constantly evolves. The facilitator's role is therefore not simply to lead, but to support the group while being attentive to both individual needs and collective life.

This seminar brings together youth workers and group leaders from different countries to explore these questions through exchange, experimentation and collective reflection.

## THE AIM OF THIS SEMINAR

The aim of this 3-day seminar is to explore what it means to **lead** and **support a group** – from the first welcome to moments of tension, cooperation and collective decision-making.

Through **exchange**, **experimentation** and **practical tools**, participants will reflect on how to understand **group dynamics**, adapt their facilitation and create the conditions for everyone to find their place.

Rather than looking for one "right" way to lead a group, we will **learn from each other**, **test** different approaches and **share** what works – and what does not.

Together, we will **create a practical resource** gathering the tools, ideas and experiences developed throughout the seminar, to take back to our organisations and future projects.

Participants will also experience Le Créneau, a **social and international hosting centre** located in the rural Auvergne region. The setting reflects the **values of collaboration**, **diversity** and **collective living** at the heart of the seminar.

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## OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

## MAIN OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

- **Creating a welcoming and safer environment**: exploring the facilitator's role, participants' expectations and how to build trust.
- **Understanding group dynamics:** exploring how groups form and evolve, and how to recognise different needs, personalities and roles.
- **Getting to know and involving the group:** sharing tools to build connections and encourage active participation.
- **Sharing organisational values:** exploring how our values can be experienced through activities, daily life and collective decisions.
- **Dealing with challenges**: sharing experiences and approaches to safety, tensions and conflicts.
- **Exploring practical tools:** testing different methods and reflecting on when and how to use them.
- **Learning from each other:** sharing experiences, proposing activities and facilitating short sessions.

**Producing a collective resource:** gathering the tools, ideas and practices developed during the seminar into a shared resource.

***The program will follow the different stages of group life while remaining flexible to participants' experiences, needs and contributions.***

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## METHODS

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***The programme will combine:***

- ***exchanges of practices and experiences;***
- ***participatory discussions;***
- ***practical experimentation of activities and facilitation tools;***
- ***small group work;***
- ***collective reflection;***
- ***Opportunities to propose and facilitate short sessions;***

The seminar is based on **non-formal education**, peer learning and active participation. It is not conceived as a formal training course. Partadreicipants will not simply receive ready-made methods or tools. They will be invited to bring their own experiences, practices and questions and to contribute actively to the learning process.
The seminar will **leave space** for participants **to experiment**, question practices and **adapt tools** to different groups and contexts.

The objective is to **learn with and from each other**, rather than to provide a single approach to group facilitation.

## TEAM

**T**he seminar will be led by the team of Le Créneau - Solidarités Jeunesses.
The team will facilitate the collective process and provide a framework for the exchanges.
Participants will also be invited to contribute their own experiences, activities and tools.

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PARTICIPANTS

## PARTICIPANTS

We would like to gather a group of **12 participants aged 18 or more**, composed of youth workers, facilitators and group leaders from different countries.

The seminar is aimed at people who have experience working with groups, particularly in international, intercultural, youth or non-formal education contexts.

**JOIN US IF ...**

*... You work with young people and groups*

*... You have experience to share and are willing to actively contribute to the seminar;*

*... You are interested in learning from others and developing European cooperation*

**The seminar will be conducted in English. Participants should be able to communicate and actively participate in English.**

**Eligible countries : https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/part-a/eligible-countries**

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## INFORMATION

Le **Créneau** is one of the regional delegations of Solidarités Jeunesses. It has been acting for 33 years for **social**, **educative** and **cultural** local development.

### PLACE

Le Créneau is located in a very isolated area surrounded by nature in Montcombroux-les Mines.The main build is a 200 years old castle which hosts all the accomodations, activity rooms and offices. The place also offers a tiny farm with animals and an ecological garden.

### ACCOMODATION

The participants will be accommodate in the castle, in bedrooms of 3 to 6 people and will have at their disposal all the facilities of the hosting centre (dining room, showers and toilets).

### DAILY LIFE

Seminar participants will share meals and evenings with the facilitators, employees and residents of Le Créneau. As far as possible, everyone is invited to take part in some of the daily tasks (meals, washing up), which is a way of getting to know the different people on the site.

### FOOD

We aim to provide **sustainable** and **balanced meals**, using seasonal and locally sourced fruits and vegetables whenever possible, and mainly organic groceries.
For environmental reasons, **meat is served twice a week**. Other sources of protein, such as legumes and dairy products, are provided throughout the week.

We do our best to accommodate different dietary needs.
**Please inform us as soon as possible of any specific diet or food requirements.**

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## INFORMATION

**Location of the seminar**
Le Créneau
Château des Prureaux
03130 Montcombroux les Mines, France

**Dates**
16-20 November
arrival on Nov. 16th
departure on Nov. 20th
(including up to 6 days of eco-friendly traveling)

**Participants**
12 European participants
(or from program countries)

**Participation cost**
Accommodation and meals will be provided by the organization.
Travel costs will be partially covered according to the Erasmus+ calculator.

**Contact**
Aleksandr (Sasha) Nefedov
sr.creneau@gmail.com
+33 4 70 99 60 35

**PLACE AND TIMING**
The seminar will last 3 full days starting from November 17th to 19th.
The participants should arrive on November 16th in the evening and leave on the 20th in the morning.

A meeting point will be organised at Moulins train station on Sunday 16th Nov. around 6:00-6:30pm.
For departure, shuttles will be organised between 8h00-9.30am on Thursday 20th Nov. to Moulins.

**TRANSPORTS / REIMBURSMENT**
The closest train station is Moulins-sur-Allier. It receives trains from Lyon and Paris.
.
You can check train time tables on https://www.thetrainline.com/en/train-times

If you come by car, please take a detailed map !
You can arrive straight to Montcombroux-les-Mines.
Check out the advice roads on : www.mappy.fr

**Reimbursement scale**
100 - 499 km - 285€/participant
500 - 1999 km - 417€/participant

**Visa fees**
For participants from countries associated to the programme: 200€/participant for visa fees

Keep all original tickets, boarding passes, invoices : we won't be able to pay you back without them.

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