**YOUTH EXCHANGE 2023**

**Everyone on Stage – 31/07/2023 – 13/08/2023**

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| **Project title :**  **(might be changed)** | Everyone on stage ! |
| **Location :** | Harsin + Marche-en-Famenne |
| **Dates:** | The project will last 8 months, between June 2023 and January 2024 with the preparation and meetings of the youth leaders, the youth exchange itself and the dissemination of results upon return.  Period of activity: 14 days from Monday, Jul 31 to Sunday, August 13 2023. |
| **Country participants :** | * Belgium (CBB) * Spain (De Amicitia) * Finland (Allianssi) * **XXX (coming soon)** |
| **Project summary:** | This project started during our training for campleaders in the fall of 2022: A group of committed young people began to think about a future youth exchange based around storytelling as a way of approaching and addressing the diversity of the young public who bring our associations to life. The Human is a being who needs to tell stories; this is part of their essence. And they cannot live without history, it is a primary need. It is both a conscious and unconscious process. Stories allow them to escape from everyday life, whether they are told or dreamed. From an early age, human beings have been telling stories, real or fictional.  Who has never exaggerated when telling their partner about their day? Who doesn't have an uncle or grandfather who always tells the same stories which become longer and more farfetched every time he tells it? Who doesn't have a younger sibling, a nephew, a godchild who invents the most absurd stories in which they identify with the hero or princess of the narrative?  We need to tell stories!  The basis for telling a good story is communication and building a meaningful relationship with others. However, what happens if our “audience” does not speak the same language? How does, belonging to a different culture or having a different life course, affect the understanding or transmission of a story? How do you integrate everyone when the members of a group don’t share the same skills and abilities? Is speech the only way we can communicate and create stories? Are there other ways? Is it possible to create a collective and inclusive story with as many different "actors"?  These are some questions that will shape this youth exchange, and that we wish to answer together through theater and improvisation.  If you have a story to tell, no matter if real or fictional, and you want to share it with others and listen to many other stories, this project is for you.  The project aims to bring together young people from 4 different countries in order to have multiple backgrounds and cultures and to discover and promote inclusivity.  With non-formal education techniques, the young people will be encouraged to develop an open-mind and a spirit of inclusion/inclusivity. They will create, together with the help of the artistic youth leaders, of a final product, which will allow them to share the results of their exchange in a creative way. |
| **Objectives :** | The purpose of this youth exchange will be to put into perspective the different facets of inclusion in this project: whether it is about disability, values, acceptance of cultural differences, specific needs of each other. The young people will learn how to overcome their prejudices.  The objectives for this project are:   * Create a healthy open-mindedness, based on empathetic listening in order to include everyone * Live an immersive experience by bringing together young people from different backgrounds where they will contribute to the success of the project * Create together a theatre play that will be presented publicly at the end of the project |
| **Activities :** | The main tool of this youth exchange will be improvisation.  Through theatrical workshops led by a professional artist, young people will work on the topic of inclusion.  In this project they can find activities that include theatre:   * Improvisation workshops * Workshops for the expression of imposed sketches * The discovery of the festival "Statues en Marche" (<https://statuesenmarche.070.be/labo/>)   In addition to the creative approach, the project will include various workshops that will allow us to learn more about the theme of the project and enhance our discussions by sharing stories, experiences and many others.   * Moving debates (3D) * Worldcafés * Thematic debates: disability and inclusion, intercultural inclusion etc. * Presentation of inclusive projects and meeting of actors of inclusion in Belgium * Role-playing based on case studies |
| **Participants profile :** | The group will be composed of 25 people from 4 partner countries (20 young people + 5 youth leaders)  The target group is young people between 16 and 25 years old who come from various places. Each organization will ensure that its group is heterogeneous and includes young people from different social backgrounds and abilities.  Each national group will be composed of 5 young people (youth leader not included). In case a young person with specific needs is part of the group, it is also possible to include an accompanying person (the group would be then: 1 leader, 1 accompanying person and 5 young people). |
| **Groups leading :** | There will be 1 youth leader per national group, 2 for CBB.  The coordination and logistics of the projects will be provided and covered by Compagnons Bâtisseurs. |
| **Preparation and contacts before the exchange :** | The project was initiated by a group of CBB active volunteers  The preparatory phase of the project will be organized by the youth leaders and participants of the various partner organizations via Zoom meetings or other online tools (WhatsApp, Drive)  We insist on the importance of keeping regular contact and a common preparation before the youth exchange. |
| **Accommodation :** | * La Gatte d’Or à Harsin (1st week)   Located in Village de Harsin, not far from Marche-en-Famenne. It is composed of a beautiful multifunctional room, as well as a dining room with open kitchen, a chill area, small bedrooms for 2 to 4 people, amenities (showers and toilets).   * Complexe Saint-François (2nd week)   Located in Marche-En-Famenne, the complex has a large meeting room, a beautiful outdoor area, a collective kitchen and small rooms for 2 people, as well as all the necessary amenities (toilets, showers). |
| **Budget :** | To run this project, we ask for a grant of the European ERASMUS+ program (Action 1).  Lodging and activity costs will be covered by CBB.  Travel costs will be reimbursed according to the flat-rate of the ERASMUS+ program (travel distance is calculated with <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/tools/distance_fr.htm> ) |
| **Type :** | ERAMUS+ - Action 1 - Youth Exchange (European Commission) |

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