



Facilitarium 2 - art of visual facilitation of learning

Arrival Date: 14th Sept 2016 Departure Date: 22nd Sept 2016

Worcester, United Kingdom

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

The following project idea was inspired by numerous conversations with fellow trainers, facilitators, youth leaders and those responsible for organising learning/teaching/training spaces. To be more precise, the inspiration came from such simple comments as: 'I am not very creative', 'Sorry, my handwriting is not very good', 'I hope you are able to read that' (comment of a trainer after completing a rather messy flipchart), etc. Working with colleagues from around the world we have already heard many of these. This, in turn, made us reflect on why many of us, facilitators of learning, prefer to complain and come up with excuses, rather than work on our teaching/training/facilitating capacities? Do we really believe that we are not creative at all or enough and that there is no hidden potential deep down underneath our overall competences?

The answer to the question became clearer once we discovered so called '**visual facilitation**' - a way of combining graphics, text and all types of images so as to convey meaningful and goals-oriented messages. Want to know more? Simply google visual or graphic facilitation and you will be blown away ;)

AIM and OBJECTIVES:

Facilitarium 2 will see the implementation of a highly practical, hands-on training course aimed at improving the quality of communication and educational activities of youth NGOs by means of providing their staff with a set of tools and practices for enhanced visual facilitation when organising educational or informational activities in the youth field (training courses, seminars, partners meetings, study visits, exchanges, presentations, meetings etc.).

In order to reach the project aim, the following objectives have been set:

- to explore and better understand the need for visual facilitation of learning in the youth activities nowadays (note: it is important that each of the organisations and participants engaged in the course discover the context in which VF can be used in their own everyday work)
- to equip participants with the variety of tools and methods applicable in visual facilitation and mapping of educational and informational activities in the youth field
- to develop practical skills in using important components of visual facilitation (e.g. shapes, colours, composition, hand-writing, visual metaphors, analysing and summing up of information)
- to set up the basis for further development of these skills on individual and organisational level in order to ensure the exploitation of newly gained knowledge for the benefit of NGOs and a variety of learners we work with.

METHODOLOGY:

The working methods of the training will include typical non-formal education methods, focused on individual and group exercises, workshops, live presentations, discussions, quests for experience and tests for skills, by which we are going to cover all the components of visual facilitation process. Most importantly, though, training course is a hands-on activity which means that project's agenda includes a lot of creative practical tasks allowing participants to reveal their talents and master facilitation skills.

FOR WHOM:

The very project is looking at intensive capacity building of youth work practitioners and skills development in **visual facilitation**. Therefore, it is necessary that the attendees are related to the fields of education and youth e.g.

- through the delivery of teaching/training opportunities
- organising workshops
- creating and facilitating development spaces
- leading youth groups, etc.

Each of the partner promoters is asked to select their attendees accordingly, choosing from among the following capacities: trainers, facilitators, teachers, coaches, youth work practitioners, volunteers as well as all those engaged in conducting educational activities (either local or international).

EXPECTED IMPACT:

The proposed project offers a great learning and capacity building potential for participants involved, partner promoters as well as target groups we all tend to work with back home. These are typically young people, as well as occasionally children and adult learners. Here, those attending will be provided with the unique opportunity to develop a set of highly creative and by far innovative competences in visual facilitation of learning. As such, the skills and knowledge gained can be used broadly across various fields, encouraging creativity within meeting rooms, board rooms, workshops, training courses, classrooms and any other places, where visual facilitation of learning is deemed useful. This means that the effects of our joint work are likely to not only target direct partner involved but may stretch out to our local communities as well as any other work carried out by the partners at the regional, national and international level.

We expect that also the proposed project will have significant impact on the participants and partner promoters, thus leading to new ideas and future projects being planned. Here, the process of taking next steps after the project shall be skilfully facilitated and will be incorporated in the training course daily timetable.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

The following project is financially supported by the **ERASMUS+ grant**. Hence, **100%** of the food and accommodation expenses will be covered by the organisers, as well as **up to 100%** of the overall travel costs (please see the max. allowances per country listed below). Also, due to some extra resources required and attractions being planned for the course, **participation fee** has been set as **50 EUR/participant**.

PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS:

All participants will be accommodated in **basic triple rooms (single sex)** at the **Travelodge Hotel**, situated in the very centre of Worcester. Please visit: <http://www.travelodge.co.uk> and check the photos of the hotel. Additionally, all meals will be provided at the hotel or other workshop venues, depending on the daily programme.

The address of the hotel:

Travelodge, Cathedral Plaza
3 High Street
Worcester, WR1 2QS

United Kingdom

Tel: 0871 984 6277?

Fax: 01905 22584



Directions to the hotel from Worcester Foregate Street Train Station:

When arriving to Worcester, please get off at **Worcester Foregate Street Train Station** (there are two stations in Worcester– please do not get off at Worcester Shrub Hill Train Station).

Next:

- 1) When you exit the train station, turn left and walk towards the city centre (the road is called High Street)
- 2) At the end of High Street, there is a statue of Edward Elgar (the Cathedral is on the opposite side of the road) – if you turn left here and walk about 40 meters you will find the entrance to the Travelodge Hotel (to your left under the covered walkway).

Link to the google map map: <http://goo.gl/maps/evDr3>

TRAVELLING TO THE UK

Wednesday 14th Sept – Please arrive to Worcester by **6pm at the latest**. Closer to the training course we will confirm the exact meeting place in the city. Most probably it will be the Travelodge Hotel, where we will all stay.

Thurs 22nd Sept – To allow time to get to the airports, your return flight must be after 9 am from Birmingham Airport, or later from other airports. If unsure, please consult us before purchasing any tickets.

The nearest airports are listed by distance/convenience:

- Birmingham Airport – this is the easiest airport to use and is only 1 h away from Worcester
- East Midlands Airport (1 h 30 min)
- Luton Airport (2 hours 20 minutes)
- Manchester Airport (2 hours 20 minutes)
- Heathrow Airport (<3 hours)
- Stansted Airport (<4 hours 20 minutes)

In order to find suitable connections between your airport of arrival and Birmingham please check:

- trains - <http://www.thetrainline.com>
- coaches - <http://www.nationalexpress.com> or <http://uk.megabus.com/>

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- You are allowed to arrive or depart max. 2 days before or 2 days after the training course. Extra stay will not be supported with food or accommodation, yet you can use this time to visit some places around the UK. Should your stay be longer than 2 days (unless necessary!) we do reserve the right not to reimburse part of your travel costs.
- In line with the rules of the ERASMUS+ Programme, we would like you to make your travel arrangements using the cheapest travel options. Also, before purchasing any tickets, please make sure that your travel times/cost are approved by us in advance!
- In order to have up to 100% of your travel reimbursed, please make sure you fit into the travel budget allocated per country:

Country	Partner promoter	Pax number	Max. travel costs
UK	Consilium Development and Training	2	0
Estonia	Estonian UNESCO Youth Association	2	275 EUR
Austria	Institute of culture resistant goods	1	275 EUR
Poland	My Dreams Come True Association	2	275 EUR
Italy	Jump in Associazione Culturale	1	275 EUR
Italy	Associazione di Promozione Sociale Joint	1	275 EUR
Latvia	Express Yourself	2	275 EUR
Malta	Malta UNESCO Youth Association	2	360 EUR
Lithuania	Asociacija 'Apkabink Europa'	2	275 EUR
Romania	Caddru	2	360 EUR
Romania	Support for Youth Development Association	1	360 EUR
Spain	Ticket2Europe	1	275 EUR
Spain	NEXES Interculturals de Joves per Europa	1	275 EUR
Bulgaria	Association ARABIS	1	360 EUR
Bulgaria	The Change is in You	1	530 EUR
Hungary	Share	2	275 EUR
Greece	Green Spirit	2	360 EUR
TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS		26	

**Should you have any problems or need advice you can always contact us.
We'll be happy to help!!!**

SOME PRACTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE UK ...

Weather:



British people always talk about the weather because it is very changeable and unpredictable. September is usually warm with 20-25°C. It is also very likely to be raining...hey! Never heard about the rainy British weather? ;) Therefore, **when packing your suitcase make sure you have enough clothing to wear during warm, mild or rainy days.** Also, do not forget about a **raincoat and/or umbrella.**

Typical Food:

Because the British diet is so varied and multi-cultural it is difficult to define a typical meal. Britain is quite famous for its fish and chips, which is cod or haddock deep fried in batter and served with chips (fries). Food served in pubs is also popular because it is cheap and is the most representative of what British people like to eat. In large cities and towns you can eat anything from Lebanese food to Sushi. For more information about the British food, please check this website:



<http://www.iamintheuk.com/957/british-foods-favourite-drinks/>

Money and Currency Exchange:



British currency is **Pound Sterling (GBP or £)**. You can easily exchange foreign currency into sterling at banks, post offices, travel agents and exchange office. All towns have at least one facility where you will be able to exchange your money. Exchange rates for the most popular currencies will be displayed on a board and travel agents tend to have this board on display in their shop window.

Electricity

When coming to the UK make sure you **buy a special adapter** for all your electrical appliances e.g. Laptops, driers. The sockets here are different than in other parts of Europe and use standard 3-pin square plugs.



Traffic Rules

In the UK we drive on the **left side of the road** ... but we also have one-way streets so here traffic may be travelling from the right or the left! Please make sure you **pay attention to the traffic** and always look both to the right and to the left before crossing - we want you to arrive safely!

HEALTH INSURANCE:

Health insurance will not be provided or reimbursed by the organisers. All participants are required to purchase health insurance individually. If you live in an EU country and use a national health insurance system there, please apply for a FREE European Health Insurance Card: <http://ehic.europa.eu>

PREPARATIONS:

Closer to the training course, a list of things to prepare/do before the course shall be sent out to all participants along with the provisional timetable.

CONTACT:

In case of any queries please contact the project coordinator **Basia Ligas** on: eu.consiliumdt@gmail.com or call **0044 7411322252**.

We'll appreciate any **ideas and suggestions** of yours that could be incorporated at the time of preparations to the project or during the activity itself. This is going to be a **training course** which we wish to implement in **NOT FOR YOU but TOGETHER WITH YOU!** Let's make it an exciting learning journey!

We're looking forward to hearing from you 😊