

## PROJECT DATA SHEET

### HUMAN LIBRARY

#### Erasmus+ Programme

6-day training course (from 18/11/2019 till 23/11/2019) in Pescara (Italy) for educators and youth workers. The training course is intended to teach methodologies and techniques of the Human Library approach.

**Participating countries:** Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Polonia.

**Applicant Organisation:** Movimentazioni – Italy

#### Partner Organisations:

- Ticket2Europe (Spain),
- Asociacija Tavo Europa (Lithuania),
- Sdruzhenie Profesionalen Forum za Obrazovaniето (Bulgaria),
- Stowarzyszeie Sztukater (Polonia),
- Sprar (Protection System for Asylum Seekers and Refugees) of Montesilvano (PE, Italy),
- Arci Pescara (Italy).

**Place:** Pescara, Abruzzo, Italy

**Language:** English (B2 level)

**Project description:** Human Library is a project from the Erasmus+ Programme, intended to develop an international 6-day training course. The training course is designed to teach non-formal methodologies and techniques of the Human Library approach. It will be held in November 2019.

**Participants:** 6 trainers (2 from Italy, 1 from each partner organisation), 20 participants (4 from each partner organisation), and a group of migrants and refugees hosted in Abruzzo.

**Objectives and scopes:** the objective is to improve and implement strategies for intercultural communication and mutual understanding at an international level, to foster greater awareness and knowledge of migratory phenomena in the current European context, and to acquire new and effective skills in working with your people, in order to combat discrimination and prejudice. Although many positive aspects emerge from the migration phenomenon – such as, for example, the contribution to the economy and to the demographic and employment needs of the EU – the current economic crisis favours the spread of hatred and intolerance and the ever-increasing return to nationalism and anti-Europeanism, especially among the younger generations. This is also due to the perception of the refugee emergency on the one hand, and the problem of terrorism on the other. The very idea of Europe is undermined by this unprecedented humanitarian emergency. Those who work with young people need to acquire new practices and methods, capable of overcoming the limits of prejudice, mistrust and discrimination. Challenging stereotypes, removing prejudices, and promoting intercultural dialogue: these are the objectives of the Human Library approach. In other words, to experience first-hand the overcoming of prejudice against those who are different, helping to create a society that is more inclusive and open to dialogue, that does not discriminate on the basis of ethnic origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. This project also aims to build an international network of long-lasting collaboration on this innovative approach, through the creation of transnational Living Library events (for example, on December 10th, on the occasion of the Human Rights Day), and an ethnographic web archive of living books, to spread and enhance the Human Library approach among young Europeans.

**Human Library – What is it about?** Human Library is a library with librarians, catalogues, books, readers, and reading rooms. The difference is that reading is not done by browsing through books, but by conversing with a real person for about half an hour. Readers enter the library, consult the catalogue, and borrow a living book based on the title that summarizes the story of a stereotype. The living book enters the scene, tells its

story, and answers the reader's questions. There may be a story about a refugee, an illegal migrant, a prisoner, etc. Living books are aware of being subject to prejudices, and therefore, with their stories, they contribute to fighting them.

**What is the format of the training course?** The training modules of the course are the following:

1. Knowledge and sharing: Human Library in Europe and in partner countries;
2. Training workshop: Catalogue of xenophobic stereotypes and clichés – Human Library approach: books, booksellers, and living libraries;
3. simulation/experimentation.

The methods used will be of the following type: dialogical/participatory, for the knowledge and sharing part; workshops/simulations, for the training of librarians and living books; experiential/experimental for the final open day step.

**Selection of participants:** professional/volunteer youth educators interested in the training course can submit their application through the downloadable form at: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/zf4nnhr3j39hqol/Application%20form%20Human%20Library.pdf?dl=0>

The selection will be made by each partner organisation by examining the forms submitted, and subsequent interview. Priority will be given to women and participants with fewer opportunities, who come from peripheral geographical areas and small rural places and/or with economic disadvantage. At least one of the participating operators is selected among people with minor opportunities such as migrants, refugees or people belonging to ethnic minorities. It is important that all partners who intend to learn and promote the Human Library approach as a socializing and empathic practice among local and foreign young people, also have migrant workers among their facilitators to guarantee a real horizontal integration that takes into account mutual cultural diversity.

**Group leader:** each partner organisation will select a group leader with experience in training and youth exchanges and/or with skills in the field of intercultural and/or linguistic mediation. The group leader will facilitate learning processes, relationships, and intercultural dialogue.

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