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DARE THE COMMONS !



"Commons are diverse. They are the fundamental building blocks and pre-condition of our life and social wealth. They include knowledge and water, seeds and software, cultural works and the atmosphere. Commons are not just "things," however. They are living, dynamic systems of life. They form the social fabric of a free society."

Silke Helfrich, *author* and independent activist of the commons

INFOPACK

16th - 25th NOVEMBER 2021

GITES DE FRANCK 81087 FAYSSAC - OCCITANIE, FRANCE



Association Via Brachy : Voyages interculturels Solidarité Autoformation
3, place des Avions – 31400 Toulouse – France – www.viabrachy.org

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

Since its creation, our association, Via Brachy, is fostering for people's empowerment and social change. On one hand, we support people in finding their way in society by encouraging intercultural exchange, experiencing collective living and meeting people involved in social and/or eco-friendly projects. On the other hand, we do our best to support stakeholders in the field of social and collaborative economy to develop their initiatives and take action for a fairer and more sustainable and inclusive society.

From what we experienced and from the stories we collected, we believe that there are many issues regarding the way we consider (or not) the "**commons**", the way we handle them, and more generally regarding the way we share, we communicate and we act together.

At a time of globalization and climate change we believe that addressing the topic of the Commons can lead to a new approach of our society and environment that could help us **adapt** to the new challenges we are facing.

The "DARE THE COMMONS!" training course is an attempt to address this complex topic. It will gather **30 youth and social workers** and **people who would like to get involved in collective projects** with social and/or ecological purposes, coming from France, Spain, Greece, Germany, Italy, Estonia and Finland. It will be held from the **16th to the 25th of November 2021** in a rural cottage at Fayssac (Tarn, France), which will create the proper atmosphere for an optimal learning experience and a deeper connection between the participants.

The training course is meant as an opportunity for the participants to clarify the concept of **Commons**, to **analyze** their current behaviors, take a **critical look** at their own practices and their organization's and **get inspiration** and tools to take action.

Relying on a set of relevant **academic studies**, **practical cases** and **exercises**, the participants will extract knowledge **from their own experience** and from the experience of **other practitioners**. They will point out the most common issues faced when managing the Commons collectively and trying to set up long-term cooperation within a group of people.

All along the training course, they will share their experiences - either successful or not, bring to light **what fosters cooperation**, work on their **posture** and get introduced to a set of tools and methods to make a step forward.

In addition to the working sessions scheduled during the day, they will take advantage of the time spent together to develop their **social and intercultural skills** and deepen their **relationship** in a more intimate setting.

PREVISIONAL PROGRAM

DAY 1 – 16/11/2021

Reaching the venue. Breaking the ice.

DAY 2: 17/11/2021

Getting to know each other, setting up our framework.
Defining what the "Commons" means for us.

DAY 3: 18/11/2021

Acknowledging and taking a critical look at our behaviors regarding the management of common resources.

DAY 4: 19/11/2021

Understanding the importance of knowing and trusting each other for any cooperation. Accessing tools to explore our life paths and identify what brings us together.

DAY 5 to 8 : 20-23/11/2021

Drawing on successful and failed experiences of cooperation, sharing good practices to share within our organizations and with the people / groups we support in their initiatives.

DAY 9 : 24/11/2021

Specifying our medium and long-term objectives and defining a path to reach them (working on ideas/projects that drive us, that we would like to implement in a nearby future).
Assessing the training course and our learning achievements.

DAY 10: 25/11/2021

Tidying up the venue and departure

(Important: Be aware modifications can occur in the programs.)

WHO IS PARTICIPATING?

The training course is geared towards **30 youth and social workers** or **people who would like to get involved in collective projects** with social and/or ecological purposes.



Participants have to be adults (**at least 18 years old**).

A **good level in English** will be required (level **B2**, meaning being able to express yourselves and to debate in English).

We are looking for people who would like to better **understand the current issues at stake** concerning the Commons and **explore** ways to better work together, to take action.

Participants should also be interested in **meeting people** from different countries and backgrounds and willing to **share** their experience and knowledge.

Last but not least : If you join us, we expect from you that you actively participate in the working sessions but also that you **share the knowledge you will acquire** with the people you work with, the members of the group(s) you belong to and the people and the organizations you eventually support after your return.

WHAT YOU WILL BE ASKED FOR?



As a participant, you **commit yourself to actively participate in the whole process**, including:

- o **to read** all the information carefully (especially this infopack and all the emails we will send you before your coming) and **communicate timely** with the organizers;
- o to **reflect on your learning objectives** regarding the training course;
- o to **take actively part** in the full duration of the activities (it means **coming later or leaving earlier is not possible**);
- o to **be involved in the community living** all along your stay (besides your active participation in the workshops, you will be responsible of your group's dynamic and will be invited to take initiatives and responsibilities regarding the every-day life);
- o to **give all the necessary documents to your sending organization** (invoices, boarding passes, tickets...) for the reimbursement of your travel costs (+ covid tests);
- o to **participate in the evaluation process** after the course and to **share your experience** in your community through any dissemination activities you will find relevant.



To get an idea on what has been done in previous training courses we organized, you can take a look at our Wiki site : <http://outofthebox.viabrachy.org/doku.php>

WHERE WILL WE STAY?

The training course will take place in the village of **Fayssac**, South-West France (1 hour away from Toulouse).



All activities will take place in the rural cottage : *Les gîtes de Franck* (<https://www.gitesdefranck.fr/>).

You will be accommodated *in situ* in **small dormitories**.

The house will be **self-managed by our group**, which will be responsible for living together during the course. It is a **normal part of our educational approach**, as we believe it strongly encourages community spirit, responsibility and sharing.

Everyday tasks like cleaning, setting tables, sorting garbage and washing up will be shared by participants, as part of the "sustainable living" experience, making it feel as a good place for us.

DIET & SPECIFIC NEEDS

Please inform your sending organization about your **diet**, potential **allergies** or **other specific needs** on the latest 3 weeks before the training course so that we can take them into consideration.

Good to know :

- We will mainly adopt a **vegetarian diet** during the training course to keep in line with our objectives of reducing our ecological footprint. But if you feel like eating meat is something you can't stop doing for so long, don't worry: We will also have a few meat-based meals during the journey ;p

- As the venue is not near a town, please also take with you **anything you usually need** (medication or if you are a smoker: **take your tobacco with you**) as well as **some cash for your personal expenses** (such as wine, beers...).



HEALTH and SECURITY



Obtaining a full insurance (travel risks, medical, injuries) **is your responsibility**. Providing us information on your special needs does not remove your personal responsibility for ensuring your own health and safety.

Therefore, we strongly recommend you to **subscribe to a European medical insurance** to cover your medical expenses if needed. We will contact skilled doctors and bring you to the pharmacy or to the hospital if needed but **we will not cover your fees**.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD YOU BRING?



Consider the weather will most probably be cold and rainy and choose your clothes accordingly.

We strongly advice you to take **warm and waterproof shoes and clothes** for the outside activities we will propose.

For your stay, you must also bring with you:

- your **sleeping bag**
- your **towel, soap, shampoo, toothpaste**, etc.

HOW TO APPLY?

The training course gathers 7 European organizations active in the fields of non-formal education, living arts, social inclusion, human rights and/or sustainability.

To attend the training course, you have to **contact the organization** from the country you live in (your nationality doesn't matter) (link URL to their website and contact address below).

They will tell you about the **procedure to follow**, based on the previously said criteria, including an **online form** that will allow us to better know you, your experience and expectations.

Country	Sending organization	E-mail address of the contact person	Nb of participants
France	Via Brachy	Cecilia RESTREPO cecilia.restrepo@viabrachy.org	6
Germany	Kulturlabor	Rüta VIMBA ruuta.vimba@gmail.com	4
Italy	Human Rights Youth Organization	Senem KALAFAT senemhryo@gmail.com	4
Finland	Metropolitan Puppets	Perrine FERRAFIAT perrine.ferrafiat@gmail.com	4
Spain	Viaje a la Sostenibilidad	Anna Rossi movilidad@viajealasostenibilidad.com	4
Estonia	Seiklejate Vennaskond	Kristi REILENT seiklejate.vennaskond@gmail.com	4
Greece	Colab House	Kostas MAVRIAS Zoi TRANTALIDOU colabhouse.info@gmail.com	4

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?



The training course is funded through Erasmus+ Program. Thus accommodation, food, planned workshops and pedagogical equipment are fully covered from November, the 16th afternoon to the 25th at midday. **Any expense incurred before or after these dates or linked to extra activities / leisure** (as alcohol, tobacco or tourism) **will be yours**.

Good to know: Alcohol is not included in the daily diet. Your drinks will be at your charge.

Likewise, your **travel costs** to reach the venue and go back to your country, up to the maximum allowed amount, are fully covered.

Bear in mind that **you can also use the remaining money from your travel costs to cover your expenses to get a Covid test** or for your potential accommodation in Toulouse on the 15th and/or on the 25th in case of need (upon presentation of invoice).



Via Brachy will not provide any accommodation in Toulouse.

According to the Erasmus+ Program regulations, the financial contributions to your travel costs (+ covid tests and extra accommodation) will be as follow:

Country	Max € reimbursed per participant
France	0 €
Spain	180 €
Greece, Italy, Germany	275 €
Estonia, Finland	360 €

You can come **either by plane, train, boat or bus**, depending on your availability and ethics, but remember that we can reimburse only public transportation, 2nd class fares. Taxi is not refundable.

Transportation with private cars is possible but please ask us as soon as possible so that we can explain you the specific procedure you will have to follow in order to be reimbursed. (We will require from you a specific list of documents in order to pay you back for your travel costs).

Whatever your mean of transportation, you are **allowed to arrive or depart max 2 days before and 2 days after** the mobility. In case you decide to use that extra time, bear in mind that **it will NOT be supported with food or accommodation**.

Should your stay be longer than 2 days, **we will NOT be able to reimburse part of your travel costs**.

IMPORTANT: For the reimbursement, you will need to give to your sending organization:



1/ An invoice with the itinerary of your trip, the names of the passengers and, very important, the price of the ticket. Usually when purchasing your plane/train/bus ticket you can ask for **an invoice**. If the company doesn't give invoice, we will accept the e-tickets.



2/ All your original travel tickets and receipts (train, boat and bus tickets with the price on it, boarding passes, etc.).

The stamped ticket/boarding pass is a **very important document**, the only evidence that you took the flight / train / bus / boat, and is required by National Agency of Erasmus+ for reimbursement.



If you use your mobile phone (so you don't have to print the ticket/boarding pass) **don't forget to print screen it**, because the link will expire and you won't be able to use it some weeks after your transportation, and we will not be able to reimburse you.

Likewise, you have to provide an **invoice of your Covid tests or potential accommodation** (if it doesn't exceed the maximum amount provided by the program) to be reimbursed.

Your sending organization needs to give us all the boarding passes, tickets and invoices of your travel costs. **It will be your responsibility to take good care of those documents and to give them on time to your sending organization** (cf. contact of the coordinators p.5).

Be aware that we cannot **provide reimbursement** if a document is missing.

Only when the sending organization has all the documents from all the participants from your country, money transfers will be done, from your sending organization to you. This can take from one to three months depending on how fast you are in providing the relevant documents.

ADDITIONAL FEES:

Your sending organization might ask you for a small financial contribution according to the administrative work it represents and to the support it will provide you before and after the training course. *(For example, Via Brachy will ask for a 50€ contribution from the French participants).*

Please contact your sending organization to know about their policy.

HOW TO REACH THE VENUE?

The training course will take place in the countryside, at Fayssac, **1 hour far away from Toulouse**. One of the conditions to participate to this training course is to attend from the beginning (the 16th of November at 17:00) until the end (the 25th of November at 11:00) so **please arrange your travel to be there on time**.



If you come by plane, you may :

- **arrive on the 16th of November before 14:00** at Toulouse airport
- **leave on the 25th of November after 14:00** from Toulouse airport.



If you come by bus, train or carpooling, you may :

- **arrive on the 16th of November before 15:40** at Toulouse bus or train station
- **leave on the 25th of November after 12:00**.



In case of any complications, please let us know as soon as possible.



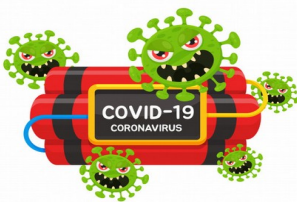
If you arrive the day before the training course or if you leave on the 26th of November:

Unless you have friends in Toulouse, you will have to **find a hostel for yourself**. **Via Brachy will not provide any accommodation in Toulouse.**

The fee can be covered by the EU travel cost amount if you haven't exceeded it with your flights and the Covid-19 test.

The **meeting point** to go to Fayssac on the 16th will be at Toulouse train station "**Toulouse Matabiau**". You will reach the meeting point **by your own means**.

We will send you few days before your arrival a "**Welcome pack**" with more details information.



EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES - COVID19

We deeply enjoy in-person meetings. But as you can imagine, the Covid-19 could easily disturb it... ;(That's why we invite you to help us reduce the risk of contamination by following a set of basic common rules during the training course.

First, vaccinated or not and no matter which country you are coming from, we will ask you to come with a **negative Covid test carried out within 72 hours** before your arrival. In addition, we kindly ask you not to come if you have any Covid-symptom or if you know that you were recently in contact with a person who is sick from the Covid-19, even if your test is negative.

We will also invite you to **sign a term of responsibility** where you declare that you will **respect the security measures** recommended by the French Ministry of Health and that you will be held responsible for any consequences for yourself which result from the non-compliance with these safety rules.

We will take the time needed to **talk about how we can all feel safe and at ease** at the beginning of the training course. A discussion will be open for **sharing comfort or discomfort** in relation to these measures and to define together our **security framework**.

All the training course long, our organization will **provide alcoholic solution** dispensers in common spaces. We will also have extra masks available if necessary, but you will be responsible for **bringing your own masks**.



CONTACT US

Any question ? Feel free to ask and contact us !

Caroline FERRAFIAT - @mail: caroline.ferrafiat@viabrachy.org

Cecilia RESTREPO - @mail : cecilia.restrepo@viabrachy.org

Clémence BIZON - @mail : clemence.bizon@viabrachy.org

Tel: +33 6 89 44 48 20

We will do our best to answer you in short delay.

Waiting to welcome you soon
Warm greeting from France

VIA BRACHY's team



A FEW WORDS ABOUT US

Via Brachy is a French non-profit organization. We aim to **empower people**, to enhance **social and ecological projects** run by citizens and to foster **knowledge exchange** and **cultural dialogue** between persons and organizations from various backgrounds and cultures.

We organize **mobility projects** and **non-formal educational activities** in order to encourage **social inclusion** and to help people find their way in society. We believe that traveling opens people's minds to new realities and encourages them to share ideas, knowledge and experiences. We promote **eco-friendly living**, **social economy** and we advocate for **social change**.

In practice:

- We organize youth exchanges, training courses and journeys as catalysts for people's empowerment and social change in France, Europe and Senegal;
- We support our partners' initiatives in Senegal: settlement of income-generating activities based on local resources ;
- We organize public events on social issues in order to raise awareness and to promote alternative ways of living.

More info: www.viabrachy.org

