



Co-funded by the
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DARE THE COMMONS !



INFOPACK

DOMAINE DE MATENS 81600 GAILLAC – OCCITANIE, FRANCE

THE 27th OCTOBER TO THE 4th NOVEMBER 2020

- Dare the commons' summary
- Provisional program
- Participants' profile and commitments
- How to apply ?
- Transportation
- Venue & daily conditions
- Costs
- Contact us

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 still big 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 face.

The "DARE THE COMMONS!" training course is an attempt to address this complex topic. It is an opportunity for the participants to clarify the concept of Commons and to **analyze** their current **behaviors** from a critical point of view. From there, they will define what is preventing us to cooperate and look for **solutions** to overcome the issues they will have pinned point. They will explore the **prerequisites** for any cooperative action and highlight the **factors** that favor it and the **pitfalls** that threaten it.

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. The training course 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 **27th of October to the 04th of November** in a rural cottage near Gaillac (Tarn, France), which will create the proper atmosphere for an optimal learning experience and a deeper connection between the participants.

Relying on a set of relevant academic studies the participants will extract knowledge **from their own behaviors and experience** and 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.

After that, they will study **the success factors for taking action collectively** (mutual understanding & trust, good communication, sense of commitment & responsibility) and determine **the conditions required** for those factors to appear and last in the long run.

The participants will also tackle **self-organization and self-governance in managing the Commons**, what their prerequisites and limits are, and take **a critical look** at their own practices and their organization's.

In addition to the working sessions scheduled during the day, they will take advantage of the time spent together to develop their **facilitation skills** in an intercultural context, share knowledge and deepen their **relationship** in a more intimate setting, and strengthen a set of soft and social skills that matter in youth and social work.

Finally, they will share and learn about **practical examples** of successful cooperation and management strategies of the Commons; they then will be able to **disseminate** them and **inspire** young people, community leaders and citizen-based organizations they support.

PREVISIONAL PROGRAM

DAY 1 – 27/10/2020

Reaching the venue.
Getting to know each other, setting up a framework, building trust.

DAY 2: 28/10/2020

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

DAY 3: 29/10/2020

Understanding the importance of knowing each other for any cooperative action.
Accessing tools for exploring our life paths and identifying what brings us together.

DAY 4: 30/10/2020

Drawing attention to trust and communication issues in any cooperation.
Highlighting what creates trust and which could be the strategies to restore it after it has been broken or damaged.

DAY 5: 31/10/2020

Expressing how we feel, taking a break.
Defining the concept of "commitment". Acknowledging the consequences of our decisions and actions on the others.

DAY 6: 01/11/2020

Understanding the prerequisites and the limits of self-organization and self-governance for managing common resources.
Identifying a set of successful design principles for an efficient and sustainable management of the commons.

DAY 7: 02/11/2020

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

DAY 8: 03/11/2020

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

DAY 9: 04/11/2020

Travel Day - 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 themselves and to debate in English).

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

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

We expect from them that they actively participate in the working sessions but also that they **share the knowledge they will acquire** with the people they work with, the members of the group(s) they belong to and the people and the organizations they eventually support after their return.

WHAT YOU WILL BE ASKED FOR, AS A PARTICIPANT?

We expect you to participate on the whole program (it means **coming later or leaving earlier is not allowed**).

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

- to **read all the information carefully** (especially this info-pack and all the emails we will send you before your coming) and **communicate timely** with the organizers;
- to **reflect on your learning objectives** regarding the training course;
- to **take actively part** in the full duration of the activities;
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;
- to **give all the necessary documents to your sending organizations** (invoices, boarding passes,...) for the reimbursement of your travel costs;
- to **participate in the evaluation process** after the course and to **share your experience in your community through articles writing, internal training courses, workshops or any other dissemination activities you will find relevant**.

Be aware that pictures, videos and images taken at the course, as well as the materials produced during the activities, can be used to document the activity in reports or websites or social networks, or for promotional material.

We will decide together during the training course **how we will share and spread the training course' results** towards a wide audience, but consider already that your contribution will be decisive to make it more comprehensive and representative of our joint experience.

Our Facebook group "**Out of the Box**" will help you to get in touch with the other participants, prepare adequately and share contents: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1113159448710274/>.

HOW TO APPLY?

The training course gathers 7 European organizations active in the fields of non-formal education, social inclusion and sustainable development :



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

They will tell you about the **procedure to follow**, based on the previously said criteria, including most probably 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 Trial&Error	Rüta VIMBA ruuta.vimba@gmail.com	4
Italy	Human Rights Youth Organization	Senem KALAFAT senem.kalafat@hyro.eu	4
Finland	Metropolitan Puppets	Perrine FERRAFIAT perrine.ferrafiat@gmail.com	4
Spain	Viaje a la Sostenibilidad	Jorge VIDAL movilidad@viajealasostenibilidad.org	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 and materials are fully covered from the 27th of October to the 4th of November included. **Any expense incurred before or after these dates or linked to extra activities / leisure** (as alcohol, tobacco or tourism) **will be yours. There is no ATM nearby the cottage**, please withdraw the money you need before.

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

According to the Erasmus+ Program regulations, the financial contributions to your travel costs will be as follow:

Country	Sending organization	Max € reimbursed
France	Via Brachy	0 € per participant
Germany	Kulturlabor Trial&Error	275 € per participant
Italy	Human Rights Youth Organization	275 € per participant
Finland	Metropolitan Puppets	360 € per participant
Spain	Viaje a la Sostenibilidad	180 € per participant
Estonia	Seikejate Vennaskond	360 € per participant
Greece	Colab House	275 € per participant

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.

Coming by car is also possible but only if you ask for it in due time before coming, so that we can obtain an authorization for it from the French Agency of Erasmus+. There would be a specific list of documents that we will require from you in order to pay you back for your travel costs (i.e. proof - gas ticket + toll - of the city of departure and the city of arrival, toll tickets of all the journey, photocopy of the certification of registration of the vehicle, itinerary of the trip, written testimony of the people traveling and declaration of honor from the driver).

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 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 passenger(s) and, very important, the price of the ticket. Usually all this information is available on the e-tickets for flights, trains, boats or buses. If not, please ask the air/train/bus/boat company to edit you a proper invoice.

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

The **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 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 links expire and you won't be able to use it some weeks after the trip, and we will not be able to reimburse you.

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). We only accept **good quality scanned documents with a blank background**, we don't accept bad quality pictures with any other kind background.

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

Only when the sending organization has all the documents, 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 they will provide you before and after the training course.

(For example, Via Brachy will ask for a 50€/week contribution from the French participants).

Please contact your sending organization to know about their policy.

WHERE WILL WE STAY?



The training course will take place in **Gaillac**, South-West France.

All activities will take place in the lovely vineyard of Matens: *Domaine de Matens* (<http://matens.free.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.

WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING?

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



For your stay, you must also bring with you:

- a single bed sheet and a pillow cover
- your **sleeping bag**
- a **towel**, your soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.

The sleeping bag is not a substitute for a bed sheet. The hosting venue requires us to **use both**. **Please, take it into consideration and bring yours.**

At the same time, as we will exclusively use public transports and private cars to reach the venue, we advise you to **limit the size of your luggage**.

HOW TO REACH THE VENUE?

The training course will take place in the countryside, **1 hour far away from Toulouse**. To be able to attend it from the beginning until the end is one of the basic conditions for participation, so **please arrange your travel to be there on time**. In case of any complications, please let us know as soon as possible.

As a participant, you may arrive **on the 26th of October or on the 27th before 14:00 at Toulouse airport**, according to the available transportation.

The **meeting point** will be on the 27th :

- at **Toulouse's train station** (Matabiau / Metro line A – Stop Marengo SNCF) at the departure **Hall 2 at 16:15 PM** if you go by train. A member of our team will wait for you there and bring you to Gaillac ;
- at **Marengo's "depose minute"** (Metro line A – Stop Marengo SNCF) at **15:30** if you go by car with members of our staff.

We will send you few days before your arrival a **"Welcome pack"** with the phone numbers of our staff, the address of the 2 meeting points, pictures, maps and other practical information so that you will easily reach them.

If you arrive the day before the training:

Unless you have friends in Toulouse who can welcome you, you will have to **find a hostel for yourself**. The cheapest one we know is called "La petite auberge de Saint Sernin" : <http://lapetiteaubergedesaintsernin.com/> . The fee can be covered by the EU travel cost amount if you haven't exceeded it with your flights.

You will reach the meeting point **by your own means** on the 27th of October.:

From the airport, the best (and cheapest) way is to take **the tramway line T2 towards "Palais de Justice"**. You will stop at "Arènes" to take the subway line A towards "Balma Gramont" and will stop at "Marengo SNCF".

The transportation is about 1 hour long. For the tickets, **you will only need one single ticket (1,70€/unit) for the whole transportation (tram+metro)**.

If you are more than 5, we encourage you to take a "Tribu ticket" (8€/unit) that you need to validate as many times as the number of people travelling.

Whatever the case, **ask for a receipt and keep the used tickets**. We will need them to pay you back (**max 2 tickets per person**).

If you arrive at the bus station, take it easy. The train station is 2-3 minutes walking from the bus station.

For more information on the itinerary and on the time schedule, please consult the transport company's website: <http://www.tisseo.fr/en/home>

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

DEPARTURE TIME

Please, do your best to **take flights after 4:00 PM on the 04th of November**.

In case you take a flight earlier, be aware that there is no way to reach Toulouse' airport on time from Gaillac before 10:00 (for a flight leaving at noon). This means that you will have to leave on the 03rd of November and that you will miss the last festive night and accommodation will not be provided in Toulouse.

If you decide to leave on the 5th of November, bear in mind that you will have to **find a hostel for yourself**. As for the 26th of October, the fee can be covered by the EU travel cost amount if you haven't exceeded it with your flights

DIET

Please inform your sending organization about your diet **on the latest 3 weeks before** the training course so that we can take it into consideration in the cooking.

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 if you get sick or wounded but we will not cover your fees.

NO WIREFIRE

Be aware that there is **no wirefire in the place we will be**. You can connect to the internet through 4G but the signal is not always at his best.

Please, make your arrangements and inform your colleagues, family and partners you would not be easily available for a week.



ANY OTHER QUESTION? CONTACT US!

Our team is available to answer any question you may have. Do not hesitate to contact:

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 look forward to meeting you,

Best regards,

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, seminars, 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: development of low energy cooking tools and solar dryers, 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



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