

CREATIVE DRAMA FOR TRAINING YOUNG VOLUNTEERS IN INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

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TRAIN THE TRAINER EVENT

The Gaiety School of Acting was honoured to host the partner organisations of the Creatyv Project for the week of the Train the Trainer event from the 29th of January to the 2nd of February 2018. With the trainers flying in from Romania, the Czech Republic and Italy, GSA was tasked with planning an informative, enjoyable and inspirational week for everyone involved. The week began with a welcome session at our home for the week - The Lab on Foley Street - a creative space used by many artistic practitioners in Dublin and located at the heart of the city.

With introductions from Anna from GSA and Director of the school, Patrick Sutton, the welcome session continued with an enlightening panel of speakers including the volunteers and disadvantaged young people who took part in the piloting of the programme. Finally, trainers Seamus Quinn and Caroline Coffey elaborated on the learnings from the piloting of the project, and further explained what was to be expected from the week ahead.

We were delighted with the success of the week of training, with Seamus and Caroline both satisfied that everyone left the workshops with a strong grasp on how to deliver the training in their own countries. Throughout the week, GSA's videographer documented the workshops and interviewed the participants, the outcome of which is now available to view on Youtube.

Our project's first outcome, the E-Book 'Volunteering in The Czech Republic, Ireland, Italy and Romania - An Intergenerational Approach', sets the groundwork for all organizations that want to develop an intergenerational volunteering programme.



INTERGENERATIONAL WORKSHOPS

THE ROMANIAN EXPERIENCE

In Romania, the piloting of the CREA.T.Y.V. training program was delivered by Asociatia Habilitas - CRFP and took place in March-May 2018, in collaboration with Social Services in sectors 1, 4, 5 and 6 from Bucharest, bringing together young people and seniors volunteers, with the aim of boosting self-confidence and volunteering engagement for young people, in an intergenerational approach – having as mentors seniors volunteers. During the 4 workshops, the young and old participants experienced creative drama exercises, explored potential volunteering activities and opportunities, and understood more about each other and about themselves as active factors in community. As a final result, a bridge between generations was created, and young people and seniors volunteers formed connections that will continue in the future, opening also the way for volunteering as a life-changing and fulfilling experience.



THE CZECH EXPERIENCE

On Monday April 23, 2018 mentors from the European Development Agency successfully delivered the fourth and already the last piloting workshop. All four workshops were devoted to the topics of volunteering, its contribution to society and individuals, as well as an intergenerational exchange of experience. It was interesting to follow the participants' reactions to the discussed topics and to observe the interest of both youth and seniors in the experience of other people.

Thanks to the perfectly prepared step-by-step manual provided by partners from the Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin, young participants and seniors could enjoy all the meetings to the fullest. Participants particularly appreciated interactivity, ice-breaker games and the generally inspiring and friendly atmosphere. For many participants from both generations, it was a great surprise that the lives and fates of young people are often similar to what today's seniors once experienced. To

our joy, we have seen many friendships to form between the participants despite the great age differences.

On the other hand, once in a while it got hard to respond to participants' questions, but the mentors were carefully prepared and able to deal even with the negatively-minded participants, who openly spoke and showed their life disappointment. At the same time, it has been beneficial to meet and deal with the negative feelings of other people, who might have not been as lucky as others. In our opinion it was a valuable lesson especially for young people who hopefully became aware that it is necessary to help people who feel lost in life.

THE ITALIAN EXPERIENCE

During Spring 2018, Anziani e non solo organized 2 editions of the Creatyv Intergenerational Workshops.

The first edition was held in Carpi in mid March, involving some elderly volunteers of the local branch of Ancecaio, a National Association on active ageing, while the second edition was delivered in Bologna in early May, at Cassero – LGBT Center premises. Both editions were highly appreciated: young and elder participants were active and involved, and enjoyed spending time together. The 3rd workshop in particular, when the 2 generations met to know each other and interact, was particularly liked: many participants were surprised of having so much fun together and finding out many things in common.

More in particular, older volunteers appreciated the opportunity to share time and talk with younger persons, overcoming the stereotypes and prejudice promoted by media and better understanding their mentoring potential. On the other side, also young people appreciated the time spent with the elderly and some of them said that it have been useful for their self-development.

Warm ups, reflection exercises and creative drama techniques helped participants to get closer and deepen the topic of volunteering and active citizenship.



NEXT STEPS

International conference in Bucharest - 15th June 2018

The next step in Romania will be the organization of CREA.T.Y.V. International Conference in Bucharest, on 15th June 2018, where different speakers, such as Stuart Garland from Volunteer Ireland, Daniela Buzducea from Worldvision Romania or Florian Koleci from Estuar Foundation, as well as the project partners, will share their vision and experiences about volunteering and about the products developed within our project. See you soon in Bucharest!

Blended mobility in Italy – 24-28 September 2018

One of the next activities of CREATYV project is the study visit in Italy of 12 young people from Romania and Czech Republic. During the 5-days mobility, participants will visit volunteering institutions, youth and seniors centres in Carpi and participate to common activities with Italian young and older volunteers, sharing experiences and creating intercultural relationships.

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