"SPICE UP YOUR LEADERSHIP!"

Study session on leadership for youth workers and volunteers
16 - 23 May 2010
European Youth Centre, Budapest, Hungary

Are you looking for guidance in developing your leadership role? Do you need inspiration and innovative tools and methods? Are you keen to learn more from other youth leaders from various European countries, from both urban and rural areas?

Rural Youth Europe (RYEurope) and the European Confederation of Youth Clubs (ECYC) are co-operating together to offer an action-packed week on leadership and intercultural learning. With this study session we are offering youth leaders from our member organisations the possibility to develop their leadership skills, knowledge and competencies through non-formal education.

We aim to:

- Provide youth leaders and current/potential board members from across Europe with the skills, knowledge and tools to become effective leaders of their organisations
- Support our member organisations through capacity-building and explore together how to lead youth organisations
- Exchange good practices on leadership in youth organisations
- Provide youth leaders and current/potential board members with a European perspective on youth work
- Strengthen the co-operation between RYEurope and ECYC and develop future activities

Our objectives are to create the space to:

- Support the participants in building confidence and forming a cohesive group
- Promote a better knowledge of youth networks and management structures on the European level
- Identify key personal characteristics and qualities and explore aspects of effective leadership in youth organisations
- Empower participants with practical skills in good communication, group dynamics, negotiation and decision-making
- Provide youth leaders relevant tools for problem-solving, crisis management and conflict resolution in their organisations
- Put into practice the learning outcomes of the week
- Assist participants in the personal self-development of their leadership competencies
- Utilise a wide range of tools and leadership methodology between RYEurope and ECYC
- Encourage RYEurope and ECYC member organisations to combine resources to achieve common goals on the international, national and local levels.

Working methods and programme

The study session will use a variety of methods to achieve its aims. This is likely to include small and large group discussions, plenary sessions, simulation games and role-plays, workshops, individual reflection, individual and group presentations and more…

Intercultural learning, peer to peer learning, experience exchange will be the basis for the learning process.

The programme will include the following items:

- Assessing one's own leadership skills
- Different leadership styles and how to adapt them in your organisation
- New tools and methods and how to use them
- Learning how to cope with challenges within your organisation
- Planning, running and evaluation of an affective meeting
- Planning future projects and follow-up

The final programme will be sent to selected participants with the acceptance letter.

We are looking for....

If…

- You have taken part in one or more activities organised by ECYC, RYEurope or the Council of Europe.
- You have a strong involvement in an ECYC/RYEurope member organisation with an active interest in sharing the learning gained during the seminar.
- You are a youth leader, current or potential board/council/bureau member. People who are in paid, elected or volunteer leadership positions are eligible.
- You are between the ages of 18-30. Applicants over 30 are welcome to apply (up to 25% of participants can be over 30).
- You are **fluent** in English, as this will be the working language of the seminar.
- You are motivated to develop your knowledge and skills on training and to share your experiences with other participants.
- You are committed to attend for the full duration of the course.

… then you should definitely apply to take part in this Study Session!

What next?

All candidates must apply using the attached application form (please type!!). Applications should be sent to Rural Youth Europe Secretariat at office@ruralyoutheurope.com by the ECYC or RYEurope member organisations.

Nominations must come from national organisations. Nominations coming from local organisations will not be considered.

Deadline for applications: 19 March at 12:00 CET.

Before filling in your application, please have a look at the "Practical information" below to be sure that you agree with the practical terms and conditions for the training course.

The preparatory team will select 34 participants (17 from each organisation) on the basis of the profile outlined above and ensuring a balanced group (gender, geographical regions, different types of experiences, cultural backgrounds and organisations). The selected participants will be informed by the end of March and will receive

the course documentation directly from RYEurope.

ECYC/RYEurope member organisations, please note!

Priority will be given to participants who have taken part in an international activity of ECYC or Rural Youth Europe before. Nevertheless, if the applicant is actively involved in your organisation, they are also encouraged to apply.

Each member organisation is invited to nominate one person. In case of more applicants the nominating organisation is asked to prioritise their candidates.

Practical information

- **Arrival** in Budapest during the day on Sunday 16 May (no later than 18:00).

- **Departure** on Sunday 23rd May after breakfast.

- **Accommodation and meals** will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre Budapest. The participants may need to share rooms.

- An **enrolment fee of 50 euros** is payable by each participant to the Council of Europe. This amount will be deducted from the amount to be reimbursed for travel expenses or paid at the European Youth Centre Budapest during the course. If any applicants have difficulty in paying the fee, please contact the Rural Youth Europe or ECYC Secretariat to check if you are eligible for a fee reduction.

- Participants MUST follow the **travel rules** outlined by the Council of Europe regarding type of travel and allowable documentation. Failure to follow these guidelines will lead to the travel reimbursement NOT being paid to the participant(s). More information about the travel conditions will be sent with the letter of acceptance to participants.

- **Travel expenses and visa fees** are reimbursed (on presentation of the relevant receipts) according to the rules of the Council of Europe. Only the participants who attend the entire study session can be reimbursed. The payment will be made either by bank transfer after the course, or at the end of the course in cash (in Euros). Participants are asked to use the cheapest transportation possible.

- Applicants will be informed about the selection decision by the end of March. ***Please do not book your flights until your participation has been confirmed!!***

- Participants requiring a **visa** should be in contact with the Rural Youth Europe secretariat as soon as possible. The cost of the visa will be reimbursed upon presentation of a receipt. Agency fee or visa service fee will not be reimbursed. If the participant has to travel to get the visa the cost of the travel is not automatically reimbursed. The participant should contact the Rural Youth Europe secretariat and check if the reimbursement of the travel for the visa is possible.

- Each organisation sending participants is responsible for arranging suitable **insurance coverage** (travel + medical) for their participants.

Closing date for applications: 19 March 2010 at 12:00 CET

Application forms to be sent to the Rural Youth Europe Secretariat by email with the subject "Spice Up Your Leadership application" to office@ruralyoutheurope.com by the ECYC or RYEurope member organisations.

Nominations coming from local organisations will not be considered.

Further information:

Ben Quirynen
Secretariat
ECYC
tel.+32 3 231 18 70
ben@ecyc.org

Amanda Hajnal
Secretary General
Rural Youth Europe
tel. +358 20 755 2631
mob. + 358 45 234 5629
office@ruralyoutheurope.com