

## European Green Belt Youth Work Camp Training

Second part of the online Training: 07.02.2024 h10:00 - 13:30  
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### Session 3: What is necessary to create a positive group atmosphere?

#### Part 1: Requirements for guiding the group

Methodology: This session is done as a group work guiding the participants to discuss and reflect on the three important moments of managing and coordinating a group of volunteers (a, b, c). Under each session there is a short explanation (as you can see here below), the comments of the participants and some inspirational and useful materials linked or attached.

→ [Use Trello](#) clicking the link to access use your credentials if you have it or create a new one.

#### **a) Preparation (before camp)**

a) Get in touch with the project partners, visit the location and the accommodation or get enough info about it. Participants will constantly ask for different info before and during the camp.

b) Establish contacts with the selected volunteers before the camp, set a “get to know call” with the volunteers before the camp, create a group chat, ask to introduce themselves.

c) Possibly prepare some extra activities to be done during the camp free-time in the area where the camp is taking place (hiking, cultural visits, museums etc.)

d) Send an infopack with the most important information about the camp (location, conditions, background, organisers, contacts, logistical matters etc.). It will help participants to feel better prepared for the camp and avoid miscommunications and possible complaints once the people attend the camp (e.g. accommodation, food, working hours etc.).

#### **b) First two days of camp (motivation, team work & happy people)**

The most important part for the camp leaders takes place in the first 48 hours. The bases for the group dynamics will settle mostly during this short period. Here there are some important aspects to be careful during these first days:

- **Arrival of the volunteers:** make sure everyone arrives safe in the location, manage arrivals, meeting points and transfers with participants before the camp starts to avoid complications that cause stress both for organisers and volunteers. (day 1)
- **Welcoming:** The welcoming part is crucial to let people feel welcome from the first minute. Let people feel at home, give time to explore the place and make it familiar. People are usually very excited but also tired after travelling so don't push them too much with many activities. (day 1)
- **Get to know each other and other intro activities:** dedicate enough time for the group to get to know each other and understand the camp philosophy (of living and sharing) and build the team spirit. During this time people start to open up to others, develop confidence and get along with each other. Here it is important to also explore their

expectations, fears and let them reflect about how they can contribute to a successful camp. Introducing the program of the activities, discussing the camp rules, setting up the team and starting a task is also a very important part for the first day. If eventually needed during this time the organisers can offer further training to the participants. (day 1/2)

• **The first working day in the field:** After the welcoming, get to know and camp introduction, the first working days are crucial for testing the group to see different aspects such as the general motivation, the way of cooperation among participants and the team spirit level. (day 2/3).

## c) After the camp

What actually happens after the camp ends?

- 1) Is the camp finished right after the departures? What can be furtherly done?
  - Since the camp is also a moment for personal learning and self-grown experience for the participants, its impact on the participants can be extended after the camp. This can be reflected for example on the new competences achieved, by new attitudes of being more socially engaged and so on.
- 2) As organisers can we still have some important tasks to complete the workcamps experience, which ones?
  - Give formal recognition of the voluntary work to volunteers (certificate)
  - Collect feedbacks and evaluations, measure the impact
  - Disseminate the results
- 3) What do we expect from the volunteers after the camp?
  - Complete and submit the camp evaluation form
  - Write something about the experience, share with others
  - Get more active for the community

## **Part 2: Teamer Training**

**Methodology:** This session is done through the digital space “Padlet” as a group work guiding the participants to discuss and reflect on possible needed training activities for participants and staff as well as about methods and approaches that can be considered for a volunteering camp in the Green Belt area. All comments, ideas and feedback are reported in the online Padlet sessions.

→ **Use Padlet** Clicking the link to access without any login credential.

### - What is most worth it to train?

Think about, according to your target group and the camp's requirements, what is important to train at the beginning of your camp. Some aspects can be relatively common in different camps but others can be specific only for your camp. You can consider different skill aspects that can be needed for your camp such: practical skill, teamwork, field knowledge etc.

Examples can be the following:

- Practical skills how to use the working tools
- Knowledge about the working environment, plants, animals etc General knowledge on the region and its specificity (culture, history) Security and emergency (First-aid)
- Conflict management

## - How: what methods are more suitable?

How can you train the volunteers involved? What methodologies and approaches can be more suitable for a young group?

You can decide to use one or more methods, adopting a more formal education approach using presentations and frontal lessons, otherwise adopt a non-formal education approach with more interactions and gaming. Of course it goes natural that for certain competences such as using a particular tool or the first aid course one professional person is required. In general, for the composition of the group and the camp needs, a mix of formal and non-formal methods is a good solution.

Possible methods and tools can be: workshops, group discussions, theatres, visual and audio-visual arts for example can be suitable for group dynamics and other soft skills training. Frontal lessons and presentations can be more suitable for content learning in case of more specific skills that are required in the working field.

## **Session 4: Which framework conditions do we have to consider?**

Methodology: This session is performed as a virtual world café method using the digital tool “Jamboard” to create post-its in different virtual frames covering the four arguments below:

- Location and Accommodation
- Financing and Budgeting
- Legal Issue (Insurance, VISA, First aid)
- Promotion Cooperation with other NGOs

→ Use [jamboard](#) by clicking the link to access it without any login credentials.

## **Optional session: Idea generation workshop – Group Work**

Time for exchange and developing ideas for implementing European Green Belt Youth Work Camps.

Methodology: This session is also performed using “Jamboard” to create post-its in different virtual frames covering the four arguments below. Ideally the group is divided in 3 separate rooms to reflect and discuss these different project dimensions. The groups change and rotate the dimension to discuss after 10 minutes. At the end there is a summed-up and closing session.

- Project dimension “empowering people”
- Project dimension “engaging communities”
- Project dimension “connecting organisations”
- Closing and summer session