



1st Newsletter - August 2021

WHAT IS ART HUBS FOR YOUTH 'ABT' & WHY NOW

In the current immigration crisis, along with the public health crisis of COVID-19, we are facing problems from intercultural relations, clash of cultures, a new wave of xenophobia, racism and social fears within the in EU. This is a new problem that arises from strong social fears and stereotypes that need to be combated. We are witnessing events of violence involving migrants and refugees that can evolve into more dangerous phenomenon. Moreover, radicalization and extremism are another side of the situation which are affecting young people and local society. Young people, with migrant backgrounds and with also other distinctness, who are subject to discrimination and racism in daily life, can easily fall out of society and be an easy target for radicalization.

Otto ABT, a great inspiration for our project name, was a Swiss painter who fought against fascism. In recent years, Europe has to deal once again with the far right, which is advancing and growing in confidence. People with migrant backgrounds are usually among those affected by discrimination and hate speech. Stakeholders and analysts agree that neo-fascism can only be countered by common, European policies of inclusion, solidarity and equality.

At the same time, culture and arts can promote intercultural dialogue. In the context of the migratory and refugee phenomenon, it is crucial to explore the ways culture and the arts can help to bring individuals and peoples together, increase their participation in cultural and societal life, as well as to promote intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity. The arts, though often underutilised and unacknowledged, can positively transform and benefit communities in such areas as youth development and education, health and wellness and neighbourhood vitality.

Artistic expression cultivates a sense of creativity and critical reflection through interactive workshops, team-building activities, discussions and group work. To increase the impact of ABT, the participants will share the methodology and learning tools with their local communities. Through their active participation, young people are given the opportunity to express their creativity and learn new artistic skills. Self-expression through art can be easier and more direct than verbal communication, and expression through painting, music, dance, theatre can help to expand capacities immensely. Exploring the issue of exclusion in our societies and the use of arts to foster social inclusion and to learn and experience artistic methods are the main tools for bringing positive change to personal and professional life of young people.

THE CONSORTIUM CONSISTS OF 5 PARTNERS COVERING UK, GREECE, CYPRUS AND BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, WHO SHARE SIMILAR CHALLENGES RELATED TO DISADVANTAGED ADULTS COVERING A RANGE OF BACKGROUNDS, ENSURING SUPPORT THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A MULTI-LEVEL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECT.

THIS PROJECT RESPONDS TO THE NECESSITY OF PROVIDING A COMPLETE EDUCATIONAL PROCEDURE AND MATERIAL TO ART PROFESSIONAL AND YOUTH WORKERS WORKING WITH MIGRANTS IN EACH PARTNER COUNTRY AND AT THE SAME TIME DEVELOPING A EUROPEAN SCOPE/Framework ON THE FIELD.



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LAUNCH OF THE PROJECT

The kick-off meeting of the project took place on April 14, 2021 and it was held online. All partner organisations were present during the meeting and a thorough review of the project timeline had been made. The consortium had an opportunity to discuss the objectives of the project, the direct and indirect target groups, and the commencement activities of the IO1 – training material.

IO1 – TRAINING MATERIAL

Only a few months into the project implementation, and subsequent to a successful desk research and interviews conducted with the focus groups, a detailed needs analysis has been developed by the project consortium. This analysis is the foundation for all upcoming activities of the ABT project, including the development of the training material for art professionals and photographers. Many people who work with marginalised groups and the arts contributed to the research which gave us a rich body of information to draw on to design our modules and training. You can read the full report from our research [here](#)

THE TRAINING WILL COMPRISE OF TEN MODULES FOCUSING ON DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE MIGRANT INTEGRATION PROCESS IN RECEIVING COUNTRIES. PROJECT PARTNERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAILOR THE CURRICULUM AND THE TRAINING MATERIALS TO THEIR PARTICULAR AUDIENCES AND COUNTRY CONTEXTS.

MODULES

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|---|---------------------------------|----|--------------------------------|
| 1 | OVERVIEW | 6 | ADVENTURE / SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY |
| 2 | BUILDING TOMORROW | 7 | EXPLORING PLACE |
| 3 | DOCUMENTARY | 8 | MIXED MEDIA PHOTOGRAPHY |
| 4 | PORTRAITS | 9 | SOCIAL MEDIA |
| 5 | THERAPEUTIC USES OF PHOTOGRAPHY | 10 | MAKING A ZINE |

STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES
EXCITING THINGS ARE
COMING UP

