



CONNECT

COUNTERING ONLINE HATE SPEECH THROUGH YOUTH WORK

Dilijan, Armenia

18-26 APRIL, 2022



PURPOSE OF TRAINING

"CONNECT - Countering Online Hate Speech through Youth Work" Training Course will address and transform online hate speech in a safe and transformative way. Through the joint efforts of the 10 organizations involved, Training Course aims to equip 30 youth workers and educators from the EU (Italy, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Greece) and Neighboring Partner countries (Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine) with necessary skills, knowledge and tools to support young people's fight against online oppressive narratives, propaganda and hate speech.

Hate Speech is experienced daily by many young people across Europe. With the development of social networks, the number of cyber-bullying and cyber-harassment cases has increased, increasing the risks to democratic order and creating concerns among young people and youth organizations. While there are some efforts taken and legal regulations adopted by the governments across the world to defend the online space, there is still a lack of internet literacy and online skills provision to young people and professionals who work in the field of youth. Along with various educational programs and courses that help young people to combat radicalization, there is a lack of programs that develop the ability of young people to communicate safely on the Internet, to avoid illegal and harmful content and to counter online hate speech and extreme propaganda.

Online hate speech causes traumatic experiences among the young people, such as low self-esteem, anxiety, sleeping disorders, feeling fear and isolation, which in worst cases leads to suicide. On a wider level, hate speech often leads to normalization of discrimination and intolerant behaviors, for example, considering hateful comments as jokes, becoming indifferent to calls of violence, covering hateful content under the "freedom of speech" or even accepting that hate speech is normal because it is uncensored and used repeatedly. In many societies, sponsored hate speech leads to wider environment of polarization and internal societal conflicts.



OBJECTIVES OF TRAINING

The Training Course pursues the following main objectives:

- A. Creating a network of activists, youth workers, educators and youth organizations who combat online hate speech and building their capacity in campaigning against online hate speech with both a national and European dimension;
- B. Exploring the notion of hate speech and examining its main roots, inspiring youth workers to find out innovative mechanisms and solutions in fighting hate speech, targeting different layers of society;
- C. Equipping youth workers and educators with skills, knowledge and tools to provide quality training for young people and support them to recognize and transform hateful speech online;
- D. Exploring various good practices and developing local campaigns, educational activities and materials that support young people to combat hate speech online;
- E. Improving internet and media competences of youth workers and educators so they are better equipped to counter hate speech online and are to promote responsible internet presence and conscious content generation among young people they work with.



PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

Youth workers ranging from

18 to 30;

Fluent in English;

Resident of one of the
participating countries;

Available for the whole
duration of the Training.

IMPORTANT!

This is a Training course for
YOUTH WORKERS only!



Travel Information

It is possible to reach Yerevan through Yerevan International Airport (Armenia) and Gyumri Airport (Armenia).

If you arrive at Yerevan International Airport: The participants landing in Yerevan will be picked up by the organizers.

If you arrive at Gyumri Airport: The transfer from Gyumri to the venue will be arranged by the organizers.

Arrival and Departure

The 18th of April is Arrival Day.

We will have a welcome dinner all together at 19:00.

The official program starts on the 19th of April.

NOTE! If you arrive at Yerevan International Airport, APY provides transportation from the airport to the hotel to all the participants who arrive to Armenia on the 18th of April. The participants arriving earlier will be assisted in booking their transportation to the hotel.

The 26th of April is Departure Day. The check-out should be performed after breakfast. NOTE! You can arrive in Yerevan 2 days earlier or stay 2 days longer to see around or to travel a bit.

However, this should be done at your own expenses. The Hosting organization can help you to find a hostel for extra days, but you should bear those extra costs.



Tickets and registration

You should do a small research and purchase the cheapest tickets.

The deadline to purchase the tickets is the 25th of March.

NOTE! The ticket should be consulted with us before you buy it.

You should consult the tickets with the Project Manager, Ms. Anna Tovmasyan - annatovmasyan@apy.am.

She will help you to find the best option. Only after the confirmation, the ticket can be purchased.

Please consult her before March 25. Once the participants buy the tickets, they will be asked to fill in an online Registration Form till 1st of April. This will help the trainers' team to develop the program that meets the expectations of the participants!

Visa

None of the countries involved in the project need a visa to enter Armenia as it has visa free regimes with all the European Union and the Eastern Partnership countries.

Insurance

Travel insurance is obligatory. We and partner organizations will assist you in finding the best option. The costs for travel insurance will not be refunded.

Number of Participants and Travel Refund

Country	Organization	Number of participants	Travel Limits (Euros)
Italy	APS Nous	5	530 EUR
Belarus	Liga dobrovolnogo truda molodezhi	3	275 EUR
Belgium	YEU INTERNATIONAL	3	530 EUR
Cyprus	NEOLEA GIAANTALAGI KAI KATANOISI	3	275 EUR
Denmark	DANISH YOUTH TEAM	3	530 EUR
Georgia	ICPI	3	180 EUR
Greece	U.S.B.	3	275 EUR
Moldova	ADVIT/ICYE	3	275 EUR
Ukraine	IUS	3	275 EUR

100% of the total travel expenses will be reimbursed. Reimbursement will be done in EUR, regardless of the currency indicated on the ticket and receipt/invoice. Any tickets purchased in a local currency other than EUR, will then be converted and calculated according to the exchange rate of the month given by the European Commission.

NOTE! Please check the travel budget limits above. If travel costs exceed the amount budgeted in the project, the organizers will only be able to reimburse participants the maximum travel costs indicated in the travel budget. You are therefore strongly advised to consult the tickets with us and book your flights well in advance.

Reimbursement: All the participants will receive the travel reimbursement through a bank transfer within 3 months after the end of the training course.

IMPORTANT! In order to receive the travel reimbursement, every participant should attach the following documents to the reimbursement form: Tickets (there must be price and name of the person stated on it).

Boarding passes (in case of loss – please get a confirmation from the airlines, that the flight was taken) Invoices – yes, even if you have a ticket, our accounting still needs an INVOICE.

Online Check-in should be made before you leave Yerevan to make sure you give Boarding Passes from the way back as well.



Deadlines

March 20th – The participants are chosen by the sending organizations.

March 25th – The tickets are bought by the participants.

April 1st– The Registration Forms are submitted by the participants.

April 10th – The arrival list and the airport pick up information is sent to the participants.

Accommodation and Food

The participants will stay in Dilijan, Armenia. The name and the address of the hotel will be communicated to the selected participants. Two or three participants will share a room with a private bathroom.

The hotel will provide all the necessary supplies for participants' comfortable stay – towels, certain amenities, as well as free Wi-Fi.

During all the activities, food will be prepared by experienced cooks, provided at the venue. Three meals and two coffee breaks per day will be provided. The participants will inform the organizers about their dietary needs (vegetarian, vegan, halal food, allergies) in the application form, so the staff can arrange the menu according to their needs.

Moreover, the participants will have an opportunity to get to know the local cuisine of Armenia and traditions of all the participating countries.



COVID-19 Measures

Please check the following travel restrictions before your trip:

Upon entering the territory of the Republic of Armenia via air and land borders travelers will be asked to provide a COVID-19 PCR test certificate with negative results taken within the previous 72 hours.

The PCR certificate should be in Armenian, Russian or English, include the name, surname, date of birth, and passport number of the examined person, printed on the official letterhead of the medical institution conducting the test, identifying all contacts of the organization, test result signed and sealed by the head of the medical institution.

In case the participant is fully vaccinated, no PCR test is required in Armenia. The participant needs to show the vaccination certificate upon arrival. The certificate should be in English, printed on the official letterhead, and should contain the following information:

- all contacts and the name of the head of the medical institution where the vaccination was taken,
- the name, surname, date of birth, and passport number of the vaccinated person,
- the vaccine manufacturing name and the product's serial number,
- the dates of the first and the second dosages, signed by the head of the medical institution with its seal.



COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS

Safety Measures during the Training Course

- We will make sure that the common areas at the hotel have hand sanitizer and water dispensers;
- We will open the windows every 15 minutes to let the fresh air in the room;
- We will have the thermometers, face masks and sanitizers at the hotel;
- We will replace the activities that include hugging and physical contact.

Weather in Armenia

Daily high temperatures increase by 9°F, from 60°F to 69°F, rarely falling below 51°F or exceeding 79°F. Daily low temperatures increase by 9°F, from 38°F to 47°F, rarely falling below 30°F or exceeding 54°F.

More info: [link](#).



Armenian Currency

Armenian national currency is the Dram (AMD). There are ATM machines and banks all around the city. Payments with VISA/MasterCard credit cards are possible in most of the supermarkets, cafes, shops and restaurants. For the small local shops it's always good to have some cash. The exchange offices are located in the banks and some big supermarkets. No passport is needed to exchange money. Here is the link where you can find the exchange rates in different currencies and in different banks in Yerevan: [link](#).



Intercultural Evening

During a special evening we will share characteristics from our culture. We ask you to bring foods and non-alcoholic drinks to share! You can also think of some other things to share with the group from your culture: stories, dances / songs etc. Just no power point presentation or country promotion videos, as it would be the best if you can share something in your own words! By the way, to present something from your culture does not mean it has to be something from your country: it can also be from a region, a city etc.

Youthpass Certificates



All participants will receive a YouthPass certificate at the end of activity. Upon their request participants will get also Annex to Youth Pass with 8 Key Competences.

See you in Armenia!



USEFUL CONTACTS

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