

Your Power Our Power Training

*Empowerment as means to promote active
Citizenship and inclusive societies*

5 day International Empowerment training

Date: 2 - 7 September 2012
Target Group: Trainers, teachers, social workers, students, activists, etc.... in Europe
Location: Rotterdam, the Netherlands
Language used: English
Deadline application: Pre application 6 April 2012
Final deadline application Grundtvig grant 30 April 2012



The training

The Your Power, Our Power training is an empowerment training for educators, trainers, students, and social activists who want to learn methods and approaches that empower disenfranchised and socially or economically disadvantaged people like migrants, refugees and unemployed and that leads to social action for a fair society without discrimination and inequality.

The training will be organized by the organizations RADAR, Umtapo and United for International Action.

- RADAR (Rotterdam, Netherlands) is a NGO for equality and against discrimination. RADAR promotes equality and aims for an inclusive society that offers equal opportunities for all. RADAR has developed different empower training programs, like the 5-day Powerschool training.
- Umtapo Centre (Durban, South Africa) is a non-profit development organization whose mission is to engage in education, training, community mobilization, and networking in order to empower people, particularly youth, to take control of their own lives in the struggle for sustainable development, peace, and human rights.
- United for International Action (Amsterdam, Netherlands) is the European Network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees. UNITED coordinates, supports and strengthens a network of 560 organizations from 46 European countries.

In the 'Your Power, Our Power' training the experiences with the empowerment of people in the Netherlands and South Africa will come together. The training is based on the training methods of the RADAR Powerschool, an empowerment training for young people developed by RADAR. This training method originated in the Grundtvig project Learn to Empower 07-NLD02-GR04-00056-1) and the training PHARE (Peace, Human rights and Anti-racism Education) developed by the Umtapo Centre.

Background

In Europe people with a (ethnic) minority background have to deal with all forms of discrimination and exclusion which can marginalize and disempower them. In South Africa young people still have to deal with negative legacy of apartheid that creates divisions between groups and exclude them from mainstream society.

Many young people have to deal with negative images and stereotypes. Too often they are seen as a problem and not as an asset. Many are brought up in families who do not give the support to deal with the pressures of society. Sometimes they live in unsafe neighborhoods or they go to schools with a lot of violence. These young people may behave according to the expectations mainstream society has of their (ethnic) group.

Marginalized people can lose their self-confidence and self esteem because of these social processes of exclusion. The opportunities denied to them also deprive them of the pride of accomplishments, which others - who have access to those opportunities - do have. This in turn can lead to psychological, social and even mental health problems.

Empowerment

"Empowerment is the ability of people to gain understanding and control over personal, social, economic and political forces in order to take action to improve their own live situation."

An important goal of empowerment is to give marginalized people new opportunities. Instead of focusing on the shortcomings of people an empowerment training focuses on the power of people. Empowerment is a process by which people or groups learn to have more influence on events and situations that are important to them.

Empowerment focuses on three key elements:

- To (re) gain control
- To promote critical awareness
- To encourage participation

Empowerment also includes actively thwarting attempts to deny opportunities. It also includes encouraging, and developing personal skills. This process can be difficult to start and to implement effectively, but the best examples show results beyond expectation. For example when one Powerschool participant was asked what would have happen if he had not participated in this training, he answered 'By now, I would be probably be dead or in prison'.

Empowerment is not only about strengthening the individual. Empowering people should also promote critical awareness and promoting strategies that leads to positive social change and peaceful conflict resolution. For example participants of the PHARE training go back to their high schools and start projects that discourages violence at their schools.

That is why this training also focuses on the concept of Ubuntu. Ubuntu is an African philosophy that stresses the power of interconnectedness and interdependence between people. RADAR and Umtapo belief that in the process towards empowerment interconnectedness is a basic prerequisite. (Re)building the sense of self -worth, restoring someone's true identity and heritage, reverting to self-reliance, and a constructive and effective participation of the majority of people in the society is only possible in the light of interconnectedness.

RADAR and Umtapo focuses on empowering all kind of groups: university students and school drop outs, refugees, migrants and majority group members, and young and old.

Objectives

1. To promote knowledge, critical awareness and skills that empower people individually and collectively.
2. To increase knowledge and understanding of the concepts of empowerment and Ubuntu.
3. To critically discuss the principles of adult popular education.
4. To enable participants to recognize manifestations of discrimination, prejudice and stereotyping.
5. To develop strategies for action towards social change and transformation.
6. To promote empowerment activities/networking throughout Europe.

For whom

For everyone in Europe who wants to empower (young) people to deal with discrimination and exclusion and those who want to find new ways to work towards an inclusive society.

- Trainers and adult educators
- Youth workers
- Teachers and teacher trainers
- Students
- Social activists

Fee and funding

- The course fee is : €700,--
- The fee for accommodation and meals is: €500
- If RADAR accepts you for the training you can apply for an European Grundtvig grant that funds most of your costs, like your travel, the training fee, accommodation and meals. The deadline for this grant is 30 April 2012. We can help you to apply for this grant.

Application procedure

If you wish to attend the International Your Power Our Power training please take the following steps:

- Step 1:** RADAR coordinates the training. Complete the attached pre application form and send it to th.ong@radar.nl as soon as possible. The deadline is 6 April 2012.
- Step 2:** If you are selected for the course RADAR will send you a certificate of acceptance.
- Step 3:** You can apply for a Grundtvig mobility grant if you live in an EU country or in the non-EU countries: Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Macedonia, Norway, Switzerland or Turkey. These grants fund all your training, travel and accommodation costs. We can help you to apply for this grant.
- Instructions how to apply for a mobility grant can be found at: <http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase/instructions%20for%20applying-EN.doc>
 - If you want to apply for a Grundtvig mobility grant you should contact your National Agency. Information about your National Agency can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc1208_en.htm; Some countries have more agencies; choose the one that deals with the Grundtvig program.
 - Please complete the application form and return it to your National Agency, together with the certificate of acceptance.
 - Please note that there is often a lot of competition for these grants; so it is recommended that you take the time to make a good application in order to maximize the chances of your success. **The deadline for this Mobility Grant is 30 April 2012** and that this deadline is strictly adhered to by the national agencies.
- Step 4:** When your national agency gives you a grant, you should contact us again with the outcome of the result in order to confirm your place on the course.
Whether you are self-paying or the recipient of a mobility grant, the sum of the course fee and costs associated with accommodation and subsistence is due 15 August 2012. You will receive further information about the training venue, and how to prepare for the training, and how to pay two weeks before the training start date.

More information

You will find also more information about the course at the international Comenius - Grundtvig Training Database: <http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase/index.cfm?fuseaction=DisplayCourse&cid=31723>

If you have questions or you want to apply for the training you can mail or phone:

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