



Get up! Training course on civil courage campaigns



„I feel that I’ve learned so much about civil courage, campaigning and new methods that i will be able to use a lot in my voluntary activities in Finland.“

„Our trainers reminded us all the time to have some realistic campiagn ideas, so I think our campaigns can be done!“

„I’m taking home with me the ability to speak my thoughts! I also learned how to present something which will be useful for me!“

„I wasn’t sure about the contents and outcomes of he course at first, but I was really surprised in the end!“

„I got a lot of inspiration!“

(Feedback of participants)

Get up! A training course on civil courage campaigns

Date: 5.6.-11.6.2016 **Venue:** Vienna-Austria **Involved partners:** HUU Armenia, Continuous Action Estonia, LYVS Belarus, Starry Talents Bulgaria, Cantiere Giovani – Italy, Lunaria Italy, INEX Czech Republic, Compass Egyesület Hungary, Maailmanvaihto ry Finland, Alliansi Finland, IBG Germany, The Yellow House UK, System&Generation Turkey, Concordia France

Aims and objectives of the training were:

- ✪ To promote and teach civil courage within youth organisations
- ✪ To share methods on how to encourage your volunteers and youth workers to stand up for their own beliefs
- ✪ To sensitize volunteers on situations where civil courage is needed
- ✪ To give youth organisations methods on how to design civil courage campaigns
- ✪ To give participants and youth organisations involved in international voluntary projects tools to stand up against racism and inequality

As part of the Erasmus+ Key Action 1, the training's main focus was to show participants how to enhance civil courage. Youth organisations and civil society can play a very powerful and important role in society. As the word civil courage does not exist in all languages we would like to describe what civil courage means: Civil courage essentially describes two things: a person's courage to speak out in the public sphere, and readiness to stand up and help their fellow citizens in time of need. One's ability to judge and act upon civil courage comes when one clearly senses injustice. Sometimes just the use of the word "civil courage" can have a liberating effect on someone with a sense for it. But not only individuals can speak out, also organisations can raise their voices and change injustice in their environment through different channels. Campaigning can be one of them and we explored together with our partners during the training course. During the week inspirational speakers were invited: Sara Paredes presented a mentoring project for migrants: <http://www.mentoring.or.at/> and Hossein Zahedi presented his organisation *Neuer Start* who help refugees from Afghanistan to orientate in Austria www.neuerstart.at.

Participants got the chance to develop their own campaigns in the field they personally and their partner organisations are working in and presented it at the end of the week. The subjects were on environmental issues, how to change laws, intercultural learning, refugees, domestic violence and disability.

During the course a video was created by Martin Rieger on how to say "Hello" in different languages. Feel free to watch it under: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LFdk50Nyqo>

Trainers and support team

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