

CRITICAL YOUTH WORK?

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTORS, SUPPORTERS & PARTICIPANTS

**Rethinking and re-imagining conceptual approaches,
(un)learning democracy and human rights in times of
shrinking and contested civic spaces**

**A networking conference for YOU(th) workers, EDC/HRE trainers,
educators, facilitators, youth researchers, and activists**

12.-17. May 2024

Weimar

CRITICAL YOUTH WORK?

Democratic civil society is under pressure. Legal, financial and economic hurdles increasingly hamper the work of civil society actors in many countries. Democratic/human rights and especially vulnerable actors are under attack, and their spaces for participation and shaping society are being hostile and restricted, especially by right-wing nationalist political actors and groups. Election results also show that illiberal and undemocratic attitudes are becoming politically acceptable in the centre of our societies.

The conference **"Critical Youth Work" from 12th -17th of May 2024 in Weimar (Germany)** invites to a multi-perspective mash-up, to reflect and develop. We want to get to know different concepts and their protagonists who **conceptually and pedagogically** take up the current developments/phenomena, as well as **jointly formulate, (re)discover and practically experiment with approaches pedagogically**. Further information can be found in the [concept note](#).

What is supposed to happen?

A 6-day (non)conference. Together with European and international partners, we want to deal with questions of democratic education in civil society, challenges to youth work through hostility and increasing polarisation, a "have your say" of vulnerable and non-included groups, and thus a re-measurement of pedagogical concepts of non-formal education. The (non)conference is our guiding pedagogical concept.

Methodical & thematic strands

It is not about "lecturing" and "collecting rows of best practice", but about conceptual pausing, reflecting, rethinking existing approaches critically and anew - e.g. in relation to youth/youth work/activism and global social justice, climate justice, identity, diversity, peace etc. in the form of **inputs, analysis, lectures, practice workshops & experiments, discussion groups, readings, panels, movie screenings, exhibitions, performances et al.**

We want to represent and bring together the different levels, theory, research, pedagogical practice, different expertise and social realities. The aim is to think together, to map out common horizons of action, to develop an idea of "Critical Youth Work" - to jointly address and engage the diverse and multi-faceted communities of youth workers/civic educators in Europe (and beyond), always taking into consideration: What does this mean for your / our / my pedagogical & youth work practice(s)?

Participants (and contributors) are invited to decide upon their journey through the event, choosing their preferred methodical & thematic strands. The following „thematic strands“ will structure the flow of the event:

- **Developing & claiming spaces & rights**
- **Crossing borders, reconciling tensions?**
- **Being transformative competent? Digitalisation, climate and social change**
- **Getting politically active - getting civically active**
- **Human Rights & democracy in conflict**
- **Contested spheres & democratic values**
- **Inclusion beyond lip service**
- **(...)**

We are looking for:

- **Contributors** who can give thought-provoking impulses in any form (inputs, analysis, lectures, practice workshops & experiments, discussion groups, readings, panels, movie screenings, exhibitions, performances ...) from theory and practice, which will help to stimulate and shape the event. A remuneration is foreseen.
- We are looking for **participants** from the field of youth work and civic education who are interested in taking part. We expressly invite organisations that would like to participate in the event together with their international cooperation partners or their representatives.
- We are also looking for **supporters** to support us in the realisation of the event: documentation, organisation, on-site support. A remuneration is foreseen.

Travel information

We will reimburse the travel costs to the event on the basis of the cheapest possibilities, e.g. second class railway tickets, economy class flights etc., within the provided limit, from place of residency to the venue of the activity and return, based on the rates of the “distance calculator” of the European Commission <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/de/node/2626> and related regulations as follows:

- 10-99 km: 23,00 EUR
- 100-499 km: 180,00 EUR
- 500-1999 km: 275,00 EUR
- 2000-2999 km: 360,00 EUR
- 3000-3999 km: 530,00 EUR
- 4000-7999 km: 820,00 EUR
- 8000 km & more: 1.500,00 EUR

NOTE: Please consider using more sustainable forms of travelling such as train and bus. European and North American societies already consume double or triple of the resources nature can reproduce. Showing respect to the natural basis of human life by choosing train, bus or ride sharing can offer you quality time, getting to know people and a more fulfilling connection to the place where you are. Green travel can be applied upon previous request & information.

VISA

Costs for VISA and VISA related costs can be covered. Please get in contact with us in order to clarify expected documents (as e.g. invitation letters etc.) as well as reimbursement regulations.

Accommodation & board

Accommodation and board are provided in double rooms at the “Stiftung Europäische Jugendbildungs- und Jugendbegegnungsstätte Weimar” (Foundation “European Youth Education and Meeting Centre in Weimar”, EJBW). Some single rooms are available on request. At EJBW also the activities of the event will take place.

The facilities include:

- 162 beds in single, two and three bed rooms with shower and toilet;
- Cafeteria
- 15 modern, fully-equipped seminar rooms;
- Elegant fireside room;
- Sports facilities and playground;
- W-LAN on the whole area.



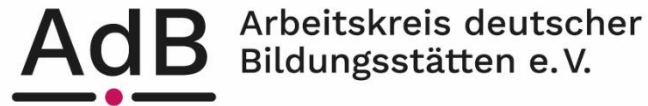
<http://www.ejbweimar.de/>

How to apply?

Expressions of interest (contribution, participation and support) **until 19.02.2024:**
<https://forms.gle/Ra5PcBkD22S2nqqQA> . We will inform all applicants until 26.02.2024.

PARTNERS

The members of the Commission "European and International Educational Work" in the "Arbeitskreis deutscher Bildungsstätten" (AdB) and their international and European partners (<https://www.adb.de/node/105>)



SUPPORT



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12.-17. May 2024 (Weimar, Germany)

Stiftung »Europäische Jugendbildungs- und Jugendbegegnungsstätte Weimar« (EJBW)
Jenaer Straße 2/4
D-99425 Weimar (Germany)
Fon +49 (0) 3643 827-0

Legal notice:

Text: Georg Pirker, Markus Rebitschek
Layout: Markus Rebitschek
Cover: Seleneos (photocase.de)

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