

# **(RE)CONNECT WITH NATURE**

A seminar for youth workers

11-19.7.2021, Slovenia



# **#LOJTRA**

## The hosting organisation

Established in 2014, Društvo Lojtra is a young organisation, active in the field of youth work. The main motivation for our actions comes from our belief that meaningful experiences change lives. They definitely changed ours. Youth work just offers the perfect setting to design, implement and evaluate these kinds of experiences. And working with young people is so fun!

We believe in non-formal educational approaches such as experiential learning and participatory learning. Regular reflections and evaluations assure that the learning processes, actually happens. We find it extremely important that all the included stakeholders get an equal benefit from different activities that we are organizing.

We are constantly learning, making friends around the globe, we are included in matters, which affect our values and we are nurturing respectful and responsible behaviour towards others, the community, nature and ourselves. We are somewhat crazy and we are enjoying it. We believe the future is bright.

[Webpage](#)

[FB page](#)

[You tube](#)

## Local context

Slovenia is on the 38th place in Europe regarding the size of the country. You would need around 3 hours of driving to come from wherever you are to wherever you want to go. Our neighbouring countries are Hungary, Croatia, Austria and Italy. Slovenians are known as a kind but a bit reserved nation. One of the things we are proud of is our landscape. You can swim in the sea, stand on the peak in the Julian Alps, explore caves, swim in lakes, observe our agricultural areas, get lost in the forests or visit spa centres within one day. We are the only country in the world that has love in its name: sLOVEnia. We are a young country (got independent in 1991) with our own language, culture and history.

## About the project

We would like to emphasize that this project **is a seminar**. This means that the learning process will base on a mutual exchange of knowledge, skills and attitudes among all the participants. We will have 2 facilitators, who will take care for facilitating the process. They will also provide some inputs. But overall this is **NOT** a training course, so please do not expect classical sessions, but exchanging opinions, thoughts, experiences, competencies between all the participants.

**Aim of the project** is to raise awareness about positive aspects of implementing non-formal learning experiences in nature.

We will reach this by addressing the next **objectives**:

1. Build a space for sharing ideas, views, and opinions, about outdoor education.
2. Test and evaluate different experiential approaches of working with young people in nature. Each project partner will be interactively presenting his approach/es at least 1,5h.
3. Create guidelines for making quality outdoor learning experiences and list of science-based proofs, which are claiming a positive effect of nature on general feelings, learning and connectedness.
4. Create at least 2 ideas for future projects, from which at least one is a strategic partnership.

Each partner is responsible to share one (or more) method, approach, technique, session... of how to work with young people in nature (or with nature). How you intend to do the presentation is up to you. We encourage you to be as active as possible and to actively involve other participants into the presentation (so to try the things out with other participants). The presentation or test of each method, approach, session... need to last 1,5h.

To assure different presentations we are kindly asking you to shortly describe your idea in the registration form. If you need any help with this part, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## Participants

Each partner will send **two (2)** participants to the seminar. They need to be gender balanced. The age limit is 18+.

The participants:

- Must be at least 18 years old.
- Need to have at least some experiences in working with young people in nature.
- Fluent in English.
- Willing and committed to work hard (about 8 hours per day).
- Participation from beginning till the end is mandatory, absence without prior agreement with the organisers leads to expulsion from the programme and cancellation of the reimbursement of travel costs.

## Venue and accommodation

We will spend a week at a lovely location on top of a hill, surrounded by forests, close to the town of Litija. Accommodation will be arranged in tents. There will be 2 people per tent. Bathrooms and toilets will be shared among all the participants. We will sleep in sleeping bags, using the mats to make ourselves more comfortable.

You are invited to bring your own sleeping bag with you. However, if you do not have it, we will provide it. You will be asked about this in the registration form. We will also provide tents for all the participants.

You can find the location of the venue [here](#).

## Travel and financial details

The project is financed by the Erasmus+ program. 100% of food (3 meals and 2 coffee breaks per day) and accommodation costs will be covered, as well as daily program and working materials.

Regarding the Erasmus+ rules, we are able to cover the traveling costs up to:

- Bulgaria 275€/per participant.
- Spain 275€/per participant.
- Greece 275€/per participant.
- Italy 180€/per participant.
- United Kingdom 275€/per participant.
- Poland 275€/per participant.
- Romania 275€/per participant.
- Croatia 20€/per participant.

Reimbursement of the travel costs will **only be done** upon the full attendance in the Erasmus+ activity and presentation of the **original tickets with boarding passes and receipt/invoices**. You will have to send us the original tickets and boarding passes proving your trip back home from Slovenia to your country. We will be able to reimburse you **after we will receive** all the documents (invoices and boarding passes).

### Arrivals and departures

- **Arrival day: 11. 7. 2021.**
- **Departure day: 19. 7. 2021.**

We **cannot** reimburse any kind of travel tickets, which do not have the right dates on it. So, if you will need to start your trip a day or two before the arrival day, please let us know, so we can arrange and confirm the possibility for reimbursement. Deadline for buying the tickets is **20.6.2021**. If you will need any help with organizing your trip, please do not hesitate to contact us. After buying please, send us the scans of the tickets. Reimbursement will be done in EUR, regardless of the currency indicated on your ticket and receipts/invoices.

You can travel to Slovenia by plane. Closest airports are in Ljubljana or in neighbouring countries: Trieste or Venice in Italy, Zagreb in Croatia or Graz in Austria. To travel from any airport, the easiest way is to book [Goopti shuttle](#) to Ljubljana and then take a 20 min train to Litija.

There is no public transfer to our venue. You need to organize your travel to Ljubljana or to Litija and we will provide a transfer from there to the venue.

We can always help you to arrange transfers from the airports to Ljubljana or to Litija. **Please do talk about your traveling plan with us** and together we will find the easiest solution to reach our nicely isolated venue 😊.

## What to bring with you?

- Good mood, openness and respectful attitude.
- General information about your organisation.
- Food and drinks for the international night (there are 10 partner countries involved so bring something small just to try the taste of your country ;)).
- Medications (if you need them).
- Comfortable clothes. **Do not forget that we will spend the entire week outside.** It can happen that we will have some lower temperatures at night so also bring a warm jacket and good shoes. You will also need a towel. Please note that it can be a bit muddy and that we will have a camp fire in the evenings, so you do not need your best clothes with you 😊.
- Sleeping bag (if you have one, please specify that in the registration form).
- Personal hygiene accessories.
- Board games, instruments and anything else that will make you feel comfortable during the free time and will not disturb others.

## Insurance

**Each participant is responsible** to arrange his/her own **health and travel insurance** for their stay in Slovenia. We **strongly recommend** to have a travel and health insurance during the project dates to avoid any troubles. It is not that expensive, yet worthy. In addition, the European health card is also an option.

## Next steps

1. Find the participants.
2. Fill in the [registration form](#) (until 10.6.2021).
3. Buy the tickets (until 20.6.2021).
4. Send us the scans of the tickets.
5. Come to the seminar.

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Erasmus+

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**WE ARE EXCITED AND CAN'T WAIT TO START 😊**