

# Experimental Zone

**Bakuriani/Borjom-Kharagauli National Park,  
Georgia  
17-25th July, 2016**



*“Because in the end, you won’t  
remember the time you spent working  
in the office or mowing your lawn.  
Climb that goddamn mountain.”*

*Jack Kerouac*

## About the Training:


Experimental ZOne is 8 days long semi-outdoor training course on the topic of group facilitation and group dynamics/processes, based on Outdoor Education and Experiential Learning methodologies. It is a methodology oriented training offering its participants intensive practical, real life experience followed by theoretical inputs and active experimentation of newly gained competences. Participants will go through an experiential learning circle and develop both inter and intra-personal awareness in the group context by developing practical and theoretical knowledge and skills in working with groups.

In doing so the youth workers will improve quality of their work with socially disadvantaged youth since the participants will have improved the competences in the area of working with groups and thereby have gained a deeper understanding of group processes.

Hence the training course aims to give the participants an opportunity to develop practical skills in facilitation of groups and thereby improve the quality of inclusive youth work.

### Objectives:

- To gain a deeper theoretical and practical understanding of the dynamics of group processes.
- To experience and reflect upon real-life processes of a group.
- To gain practical tools and methods for group facilitation.
- To introduce outdoor education and experiential learning as an efficient method while working with socially disadvantaged groups of young people.
- To give participants competences for designing educational activities based on the presented methodologies and provide a space for experimentation.
- To develop soft skills, specifically teamwork, leadership and cooperation among the participants.



Experimental ZOne includes 3-4 days hiking trip in the mountains, in Borjom-Kharagauli National Park. By this the training provides a context for developing and observing group processes in practice and prepares a ground for deep reflected learning, as well as it creates an intensive experience that will hopefully be transferred by the participants in their own environments, to the groups they work with.

"Experience is not what happens to you; it's what you do with what happens to you."  
Aldous Huxley

## Participants' Profile"

The target group of this training course is composed of youth workers, youth leaders, social workers, teachers and trainers who directly work with young people from excluded/vulnerable groups/Young people with fewer opportunities and/or represent these groups themselves. The participants should either be connected to or active in their local youth organization and be supported by the partner organization of this training course, (It doesn't necessarily have to be the same organization)

No particular experience in outdoor education is required, but an interest in the theme is essential. Moreover, preferably they should have an interest in experiential learning methodology and be willing to use it in their future work.

All in all the participants should:

- Ideally be aged 18-35
- Be working on a local or regional level with socially excluded youth/youth with fewer opportunities
  - Have proven personal and organizational interest in this training course
  - Be willing to continue cooperation after the training
- Be fully available during the whole training course (meaning 9 days including travel) and willing to participate actively
  - Able to work and discuss in the English language at least in an average level.

You are asked to select 3 participants fitting to the profile described above and send filled in application forms to [uchaburduli@gmail.com](mailto:uchaburduli@gmail.com) no later than 1st of June, 2016. We kindly ask you to also keep gender balance in mind while conducting a selection process.

**! NOTE for applicants: Please be aware that the training course includes intensive, 25 km hiking uphill and downhill.**

"I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand." -Confucius

## What you need to bring with you:

(In order not to end up like this guy on the picture : ) )

Please be prepared for a project outdoors in any kind of weather conditions. The weather in Borjomi, Georgia in July is usually around 25-35 degrees, but be prepared for various climate changes (sun, wind, rainy days and cold nights.)

Here is a list of the things, make sure you don't forget anything:

- Comfortable rucksack for hiking, at least 60 liters big.  
(During the hiking trip we will have to carry food with us, so make sure you leave some extra space in it.)
- Sleeping bag and sleeping pad
- Warm clothes, fleece or woolen sweaters, etc.
- Wind and rainproof jackets and pants
- HIKING SHOES (Proper shoes are
- Lots of socks, preferably warm/woolen.
- sun cap or headscarf, Sunglasses and sun creme
- Loose and comfortable indoor clothes & shoes
- Swimming costume and towel
- Toilet-bag with the things you need inside
- Box of medicines (Including mosquito repellent)  
**(! During the project there will be first aid kit available any time, but in case you need any special medication please take it with you or let us know in advance)**
- Pocket light/Head Flash

Tents are provided! But if you want to bring your own feel free to do that.

! NOTE: Surprisingly, There will be no internet during the hiking trip as we will be staying in the nature :)



That's what we mean by HIKING SHOES,  
to avoid confusion

(As proper shoes are extremely important in mountain hiking)



And that's approximately how the hiking backpack  
looks like :)

## Travel:

You are expected to arrive to Tbilisi, capital of Georgia no later than 13:00 p.m. on 17th of July, and depart on 17:00 p.m. on 25th of July. Exceptions should be agreed with the organizers in advance.

Transportation from Tbilisi to Bakuriani (1st venue of the project) and back will be provided by the organizers, transportation cost MIGHT be deducted from participants' travel reimbursement, depending on the total amount of the travel cost of the whole group.

We strongly advise to purchase the tickets ASAP in order to fit into your travel reimbursement limit, since July is a high touristic season usually prices of the tickets are very high.

In case of further questions please feel free to contact the organizers.

## Reimbursement:

During the project your accommodation, food and all the other project-related expenses is covered by European Commission Erasmus+ programme.

You will be reimbursed your travel costs from your home city to Bakuriani and back during or after the project, as soon as we receive all the originals of your travel documents from you. (Accordingly, either by cash on the spot or by bank transfer after the training.)

Reimbursement of travel costs will only be done upon presentation of all (including return tickets) original tickets, receipt/invoices and boarding passes.

This means that once home after the training, you will be requested to send us the originals of all return documents and boarding passes. (But online check in makes it easier)

! Note: Please remember to bring the original invoices with you – there will be no reimbursement without the original invoices.

**Travel reimbursement limits for participants from each country are given below:**

**180 EUR**

**Armenia**

**275 EUR**

**Ukraine, Romania, Moldova**

**360 EUR**

**Czech Rep. Poland,  
Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia**

**530 EUR**

**Netherlands**





# Be Ready to Be Challenged and Surprised

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Youth Association DRONI  
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The European Institute for  
Democratic Participation  
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