

Forced Migration & Youth Work: Learning, Reflecting, Taking Action

An international peer learning experience for people
working with refugees or on the topic of forced migration



When: 12 – 16 May
Where: Jugendakademie Walberberg
(near Cologne, Germany)

Introduction

Over 100 million people around the world are affected by forced migration and this number continues to grow. In Europe, the reactions to this situation are mixed: While many organisations and initiatives support a solidarity-based and welcoming reception of refugees, there are also increasing trends towards isolation and stricter asylum laws. Right-wing groups are gaining influence and in many European countries, refugees face not only bureaucratic obstacles but also discrimination and exclusion.

Professionals working in youth work, non-formal education or social work with refugee youth have the important task of supporting them, helping them to find orientation and creating spaces for meeting others and enable participation. At the same time, they must actively stand against prejudices and racism—both in their work with young people and in their own professional environment.

This training focuses on these issues: It gives professionals working with young refugees or on the topic of forced migration from Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Germany the chance to exchange ideas, learn from each other, reflect on their own professional approaches, and develop new strategies for working with young refugees and for developing the organisations in which they work.



WHAT TO EXPECT?

Through a mix of practical and interactive activities, discussions, peer exchanges, and a visit to an organisation in Cologne that works with refugees, we will address questions such as:

- How do we experience forced migration in our daily work and social environments?
- How do different political situations affect our ability to work with young refugees? How can we act professionally in an environment in which refugees might face hostility and rejection?
- What challenges do refugees face in the countries involved, and how can we address these challenges in our work?
- What prejudices affect us and others? How do they impact our work and how can we become more sensitive to discrimination and biases? How can civic education help us recognise and reduce discrimination?
- How can we create spaces where young refugees can express their interests, share their thoughts and make their voices visible?

OBJECTIVES:

- Learn more about the causes of forced migration, asylum policies, and how they affect youth work in the partner countries
- Reflect on our own prejudices and structural discrimination to develop a more discrimination-sensitive professional attitude in our daily work
- Develop practical approaches for working with refugee youth
- Learn methods for addressing prejudices and discrimination that facilitate access to the topic of forced migration in diverse youth groups
- Exchange ideas with colleagues across different countries
- Getting to know an organisation that works with refugees/on the topic of forced migration in Cologne (and of course having time to also visit the city)

WHO IS THIS FOR?

- Persons working with young refugees on a regular basis in an organisation or an informal group.
- Trainers of nonformal education interested in enhancing their skills in creating seminars/workshops and safe spaces for young refugees or addressing topics related to migration
- Persons working in the field of forced migration.
- Anyone who is interested to work with refugee youth or in the context of migration.

IMPORTANT: People with personal experiences of (forced) migration or racism are especially encouraged to join this training. We make sure to create safe spaces where everyone can share their experiences and ideas openly.



Empowered by ACTION – Civic Education Crossing Borders



The training is part of our international cooperation partnership "Empowered by ACTION – Civic Education Crossing Borders", funded by Erasmus+. In a network of five organisations from Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Germany, we focus on developing non-formal civic education in the context of forced migration. Our goal is to qualify youth work professionals, promote empowerment-based approaches for young refugees, and explore creative, artistic, and discrimination-sensitive methods.



The training is part of an international series with the following focuses:

- **Training 1: 12 – 16 May 2025, near Cologne, Germany: Forced Migration & Youth Work – Learning, reflecting, taking actions**
→ This training introduces the topic of forced migration, invites participants to reflect on prejudices and discrimination and supports developing practical approaches for working with refugees.
- **Training 2: 24 – 28 November 2025, in Prague, Czech Republic: Cultural and Artistic Methods in Civic Education**
→ The focus is on using theatre, art, and creative forms of expression as tools for educational work with young refugees.
- **Training 3: May 2026, in Budapest, Hungary: Theatre of the Oppressed by Augusto Boal**
→ This training provides theatre methods for uncovering social injustice and test alternative ways of acting. The training aims to reflect on how, when, under what conditions and with what adaptations the participants can use the methods themselves.
- **Get Together Event: 23 – 28 November 2026: Exchange & Networking for Young Refugees & Professionals**
→ This event will bring together young refugees who participated in local groups of the project and professionals to discuss the opportunities and challenges of participation and civic education.



We warmly invite you to sign up for all the training sessions. However, participation in only one training is also possible.

Coming Soon: <https://www.empoweredbyaction.com/>



Information:

When:

12 – 16 May, 2025

The training starts on Monday, May 12, at 5:00 PM and ends on Friday, May 16, at 12:30 PM. Upon request, an additional overnight stay until May 17 can be booked.

Where:

Jugendakademie Walberberg, Wingert 6, 53332 Bornheim, GER
www.jugendakademie.de

The Jugendakademie Walberberg is a youth education center located between Cologne and Bonn. We offer full-board accommodation for youth and adult groups all year round. Our peaceful natural surroundings are perfect for walks during breaks and the cities of Cologne and Bonn are easily accessible by train.

Language of the seminar:

English (Basic knowledge of English is required to participate in the training and exchange).

Costs:

Reimbursement of travel costs:

Travel expenses up to 250 € will be reimbursed (Please contact us if your travel expenses exceed this amount.)

Participation fee:

- For Participants from Hungary, Poland and Czech Republic: 40 € for accommodation in a double room (If covering the participation fee of 40 € is not possible, you can indicate this in the application form - Financial constraints should not be a barrier to participation)
- For participants from Germany: 100 € for accommodation in a double room

A supplement of 10 €/day applies for a single room. The fee must be paid in advance by bank transfer and covers accommodation, meals, and program costs.

Application: [For registration please click here](#)

Application deadline: 25 April 2025

Contact:

If you have any support needs, please feel free to contact us.

Contact of the coordinating organisation, Jugendakademie Walberberg:

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