**CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS**

**Study session:** "Skills UP!”

**(19-24 October, 2020 European Youth Centre, Strasbourg, France)**

**Youth Social Rights Network (Y-SRN)** and the I Participate NGO, in cooperation with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe invite you to participate in the study session **“Skills UP”**, that will take place in European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, France **from the 18th until the 25th of October** (including arrival & departure days). Working days 19th to 24th of October 2020.

Social integration of young refugees and asylum seekers, has long been a policy priority of the Council of Europe as well as for the European Union. This group of young people need to acquire professional, educational and soft skills in order to be able to enter the labour market which is indeed a key indicator for their successful integration into the wider society.

The refugee crisis of the last years, that started around 2015, has made the issue of integration one of the most significant issues in the member states of the Council of Europe. Young refugees spent years waiting for their application decision and actually most of them are put in a “limbo” as they live in camps and they lose in everyday basis opportunities to integrate and participate in the labour market. Many of the refugees that reside in camps have skills and competencies that can actually be put into use which makes the EU wonder of all the possible ways in which these skills can be recognized and at the same possible ways in which new ones can be acquired.

Τhe study session, will put serious effort into transmitting into the youth workers that will participate knowledge, techniques and ideas on how they will be able to practically support in acquiring soft skills the refugee young people that live in their countries. Furthermore, there will be a strong effort for a network of cooperative organizations that will exchange ideas, design strategies and implement various kinds of activities in order for the young refugees to integrate faster into the host communities.

The objectives of this study session are:

* Τo support youth workers to deliver balanced solutions to basic needs that refugee youth has regarding employability, integration and income generation, by developing their soft skills and support their involvement in the society.
* To hammer the participants into the necessary knowledge on refugee integration
* To support them in creating programs that might include weekly trainings for young refugees, team building and teamwork activities, field trips, info sessions and other activities that will include NEET methods.
* To identify and exchange good integration practices adopted in the member states of the CoE
* To ensure Cooperation among professionals and organizations that will promote access to rights for young refugees through integration strategies

Profile of participants

1. Members of national, regional and local youth organizations:
   1. Interested in refugees and their integration process
   2. Motivated to cooperate with youth organizations
   3. Already working with refugees
2. Members of youth organizations and youth workers focusing on:
   1. Refugee integration
   2. Social Inclusion
3. Working proficiency in English
4. Coming from Council of Europe member states

Maximum number of participants: 25.

Selected participants are expected to act like multipliers and implement a local follow up action plan under the supervision of Youth Social Rights Network

**Technical details**

* **Dates and place**
  + The meeting will take place from 24th till 29th of October 2020 in the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg. Participants are expected to arrive on 23rd and depart on 30th of October.
* **Travel**
  + Travel expenses are borne by the Youth Department, in accordance with its financial provisions.
  + Reimbursement to participants is normally made at the end of the session. Participants will be asked to present their tickets and other supporting material on the first day of the meeting **(original invoices, original receipts, in the case of e-tickets documentary evidence of the sum actually paid e.g. copy of credit card slip, copies of visas, proof of purchase)** and will only be reimbursed travel costs calculated on the basis of the financial arrangements of the Youth Department. Participants receiving cash reimbursements at the EYC in Strasbourg must collect the money themselves at the bank of the Council of Europe. Reimbursement takes place in EUROS (€) and no other currency. Participants need to be present at least 80% of the meeting in order to receive reimbursement.
* **Board and Lodging**
  + Board and lodging is provided at the European Youth Center of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg for the duration of the session.
* **Enrolment fee**
  + The enrolment fee for study sessions is € 50 per participant. The fee is deducted from the refund of travel expenses. All persons attending this meeting must complete a travel reimbursement form even when there are no travel expenses and pay the enrolment fee due to the Youth Department of the Council of Europe before the end of the meeting
* **Insurance**
  + The Youth Department of the Council of Europe and the Youth Social Rights Network decline all responsibility for any risk that can occur to participants during their journey, or during their stay at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg.
  + Individual insurance or collective insurance against all risks is therefore necessary, the latter to be arranged by participants. There is a Social Security Convention on sickness insurance for member states of the European Union. Nationals of these countries can obtain the necessary documentation (European Health Insurance Card).
* **Daily programme**
  + Participants will receive a detailed daily programme of the meeting and all other relevant documents prior to the event.
* **Language**
  + Official language of the study session is English.
* **Deadline**
  + Candidates should complete the online application and submit it no later than ***25/08/2020***
  + Link to the application form ***https://forms.gle/hLAnC1Dh4MuRhXEy6***
* ***Only selected candidates will be contacted 10 days after the deadline!***