

## The Oratory as School for Life

### *Project description*

“The Oratory as School for Life” is a seminar which explores a key concept in the educational style of Don Bosco: The ‘Oratory model’ defines how to build a strong peer-to-peer learning environment based on participative and inclusive learning, within a non-formal educational setting. The “oratory model” has a long tradition of bringing youth at risk (back) into the educational system. The main aim of the seminar is to identify ways how non-formal youth work can contribute in reducing youth at risk dropping out of school, or facilitating them to re-enter. As such we see it as a tool for ensuring the inclusive growth which the Europe 2020 strategy is aiming at.

The seminar includes an introduction to the educational targets of the European 2020 strategy, a study visit to “Borgo Ragazzi” (which is an oratory with a long tradition in catering for youth at risk through a diversity of approaches), the exchange of good practices amongst the partner promoters, reflection on the use of the oratory model in other fields of education (formal & sports) and a exchange market to initiate future European youth projects based on the oratory model. After the seminar we will make a publication with good practices to disseminate the outcomes towards the wider European youth work sector.

The seminar will take place 13-16/03/2014 at the ‘Istituto Salesiano Sacro Cuore’, bringing together 24 young people from 12 EU member states (AT, BE, CR, CZ, DE, ES, IRE, IT, MT, PL, SK, SI, UK). The seminar is coordinated by DBYN, and hosted by our Italian member organisation ‘Federazione SCS’.

### *Venue*

The “Istituto Salesiano Sacro Cuore” is situated just next to the main Rome Railway Station (Stazione Termini), in the centre of the city. It is well connected through trains and busses with the two airports of the city (Leonardo da Vinci Airport and Ciampino Airport). Termini station is also the arrival of the international trains. From the institute it is possible to reach each part of the city, using the underground and the busses.

The facility has 7 meeting rooms with wifi connection and 70 bedrooms. There is a refectory for the meals, the rooms for the meetings and the social activities and a big courtyard. Several Salesian organizations working in the educational field have their head office in the institute. This will make it possible to organize a common session with the DBYN representatives.

## Programme

<b>Introduction to the seminar</b>	The facilitators will introduce the programme of the seminar and the practicalities surrounding it. Next to this they will use name playing games and icebreakers for the participants to get to know each other. Finally they will also record the expectations of the participants.
<b>Europe 2020: Inclusive Growth through education</b>	We start with a theoretical input on Europe 2020, more precisely how it has set targets for education to ensure inclusive growth. This will include as well an overview of the EU funding programmes which are installed to reach this target.
<b>The oratory, a non-formal model for participation &amp; social inclusion</b>	The participants share in smaller groups how the oratory model is used in their organisation, and reflect how it links in with target 4 of EU 2020.
<b>Study visit to “Borgo Ragazzi”</b>	“Borgo Ragazzi” is an oratory founded in 1948 catering for youth people at risk: school dropouts, drug abuse, immigrants, Roma, special youth care, homeless young people, young people in foster care, ... The oratory has several programmes how to work with these target groups: homework groups, sports, leadership courses, family counselling, vocational training, ... As such it is an ideal example of how the oratory model can help on local level to reach target 4 of EU2020. The participants will be introduced in the different programmes, the management of the oratory and will also meet-and-greet young people attending the oratory.
<b>Rome by night</b>	The whole group will go for a cultural visit to the city centre of Rome, where they will also have dinner. Volunteers of the Italian hosts prepare this guided visit. In this way the participants can meet with local volunteers of “Borgo Ragazzi” and share their experiences of the seminar so far.
<b>Good practices showcase from the partner promoters</b>	The participants showcase good practices of the partner promoters, which can be used to prevent dropping out of school, or cater for the needs of drop-outs. This will include examples like home work groups run by volunteers in youth clubs, the use of school property as in-kind contribution for youth work, non-formal leisure activities on school property or EVS volunteering as support for oratories. During this session also the Expert of GEX will bring in a critical view on the good practices presented: GEX is the global network of young past-pupils of Don Bosco schools.
<b>Sports as a tool for inclusion and education</b>	Sports are being used as a method to prevent risky behaviours amongst youth both in the formal as well in the non-formal educational field. Inside the global Don Bosco Movement PGS-I is a sports network bringing together schools as well as youth clubs. The expert invited from PGS-I will present the work they are doing, focussing on the aspect of non-formal learning and prevention work. The participants will be challenged to reflect how they can bring in sports not just as an informal activity, but as a non-formal educational method within the activities of the partner promoters.
<b>Exchange market</b>	The exchange market is an 'open space' method, where the participants can initiate new projects and set-up partnerships. The session consists of 3 steps. First all participants get the opportunity of presenting their project ideas. When they have done so, we make an overview of all ideas. Then the participants can reserve meeting tables, where in the 3 step of the workshop they can meet with possible partners. Together they start working out the project on the basis of a template form. After the table meeting is over, the template forms are collected by the facilitators. The facilitator makes .pdf-scans

	of these templates which are put online so the participants can download the preparation documents they have been working on. As support for the development of the projects there will be a resource table with programme guides and policy documents on the different EU programmes presented in the morning session. We use this method on all our meeting to successfully initiate new projects in between the partner organisations. We will steer the partner organisation of focussing on creating new projects catering for dropouts or preventing dropout.
<b>Intercultural evening</b>	All participants are asked to bring food, drinks and music from their country. The facilitators will work-out a collective challenge for the group to present their cultures in a creative way.
<b>Dissemination challenge</b>	The idea of the dissemination workshop is to challenge the participants as a group to prepare an e-publication which brings together the good practices they showcased on Saturday morning, together with the other outcomes of the seminar. The participants can decide themselves on a format (website, brochure on issue, ...). Challenging them as a group will increase the possibilities that they are committed to continue working together once they are back home.
<b>Evaluation</b>	We will make an active reviewing of the seminar, checking if the expectations of the participants have been met. Next to this all participants will receive an online evaluation form when they return home, which addresses all aspects of the seminar.

### Time table

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
08:00 – 08:45	<i>Arrival of the participants</i>	Breakfast		
08:45 – 09:00		Goodmorning		
09:00 – 12:00 <i>Including 30 minute coffee break</i>		Europe 2020: Inclusive Growth through education	Good practices showcase from the partner promoters	Dissemination challenge
12:00 – 14:00		Lunch		
14:00 – 18:00 <i>Including 30 minute coffee break</i>		The oratory, a non-formal model for participation & social inclusion	Sports as a tool for inclusion and education	Evaluation
18:00 – 20:00		Study visit to Borgo Ragazzi	Exchange market	<i>Departure of the participants</i>
20:00 – 21:30		Dinner		
21:45 – 22:00		Introduction to the seminar	Rome by night	Intercultural evening
22:00 - ???		Goodnight		
		<i>Bar: Informal meeting moments are as important as the formal meeting time. Every night is closed with the opportunity to sit down together, have a drink and a chat ... having a good time</i>		

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## *Participants*

There is a strong focus at the seminar on how the oratory model can help in the prevention of early school leaving. Therefore we ask the member organisations to select participants which are or could be working in this field.

Many of your volunteers/staff might not immediately think of they are working on prevention of early school leaving, but if you are working within an oratory setting with young people in primary or secondary schools, you are implicitly working on this. If you are setting up activities in Salesian schools, these projects are also working on prevention. If your projects include special youth care, then it will be more explicit in your work.

Each member organisation can send **2 participants** to this seminar

## *Travelling*

“Sacro Cuore” is easy to reach using public transport. It is right next to the main station of Rome (“Roma Termini”). There are direct train connections from both airports (Fiumicino and Ciampino)

As there are many cheap options to travel to Rome, please check the reimbursement table before booking your travel. We didn’t get a huge budget for this as the EU knows that it should be possible travelling to Rome cheaply.

## *Registration*

As soon as you have identified you participants and booked their travel, please register online using following link:

- <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1PsKQjlg1GwUIHkCRUIMgTBGjYLPBWwXJQksQsTbU7fs/viwwform>

## Budget

This project is funded through the Youth in Action programme. Therefore we can offer this training course to the participants for a very low price. We are asking € 20 participating fee per person. This includes all accommodation, foods and training materials for the week. It is good to bring to pocketed money as we are going out one day. The participation fees will be collected in cash at the seminar.

Next to this we can offer a maximum of 70% reimbursement of travel costs made by the participants. In the application form we needed to make an estimate of travel costs taking into account some rules:

1. Cheapest travel possible
2. under 500 km → only train or bus
3. above 500 km → flights economy class

On the basis of these rules we made an assessment of travel costs from all participating countries to Munich. For the distance we used the distance between the capital city of the countries and Munich. The following table give an overview of the maximum amounts we can refund per country:

Country	number participants	actual travel costs	Max. reimbursement
AT	2	€ 320,00	€ 224,00
BE	2	€ 260,00	€ 182,00
CZ	2	€ 340,00	€ 238,00
DE	2	€ 420,00	€ 294,00
ES	2	€ 600,00	€ 420,00
IRE	2	€ 500,00	€ 350,00
IT	2	€ 200,00	€ 140,00
MT	2	€ 560,00	€ 392,00
PL	2	€ 400,00	€ 280,00
SK	2	€ 280,00	€ 196,00
SI	2	€ 600,00	€ 420,00
UK	2	€ 360,00	€ 252,00

The prices in the table are realistic when booking the travel tickets well in advance. We will make the reimbursement by European bank transfer.

If 70% of your travel costs is higher than the amount indicated, we might be able to refund you more than what is indicated in the list, on the exception that other countries have lower travel costs as indicated. However, we will only be able to make a decision about a higher reimbursement, once we have a clear view on the total amount of travel costs.

If the costs are too high, a participant can address the Administrative Body of Don Bosco Youth-Net ivzw with a request of support from the project fund. For more details on this please contact the international secretariat via [rein.meus@donboscoyouth.net](mailto:rein.meus@donboscoyouth.net).