



EUROPÄISCHE
JUGENDBILDUNGS &
BEGEGNUNGSSTÄTTE
WEIMAR

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Radical Education



A Pilot Training Course for Educators Exploring Alternative Educational Practices

14.09.-19.09.2025 | Weimar (Germany)

The Opportunity for Radical Thinking

The tradition of radical thinking – thinking things from the root – has a solid ground within critical pedagogy theory. Fostering radical thinking through education is often referred as “a task for radicals”. While the contribution of critical pedagogy is seen as fundamental for contemporary educational practices aiming to uncover oppressive structures and imagine equitable societies, the term “radical” was never as politically polarizing as it is presently. Although critical thinking has become a widely promoted competence, it mostly focuses on skills like media analysis, civic responsibility, problem-solving and entrepreneurship, often aligning with dominant cultural norms such as social acceleration, techno-capitalism, or economic Darwinism. In contrast, radical thinking engages a more complex task: it questions assumptions, explores alternatives, invites different utopias, and imagines structural change.

While many initiatives in the European Youth field had approached “critical thinking”, only residual initiatives had explored radical thinking. Nevertheless, a paper on Radical Education has been published by the Youth Partnership, some meetings have been exploring the topic, and some initiatives (such as Theatre of the Oppressed) pose radical questioning.

At a time when societies face multiple interconnected crises – climate change, rising inequalities, democratic erosion – there is an urgent need for spaces that support radical imagination. Radical education is more necessary than ever. It offers tools for imagining beyond the constraints of the present, addressing issues at their root, and empowering individuals to act collectively toward structural change. This pilot training – distinct from the “critical thinking” generalized practice – offers a platform for educators to explore bold ideas and unconventional approaches, empowering them to foster critical consciousness and collective action as responses to today’s pressing societal questions.

This pilot training serves the long-term aim to reinvigorate radical thinking as a key component of educational practice – one that inspires hope, critical reflection, and action toward a more just and equitable world.

The Objectives:

- To create a reflective and collaborative space for educators to engage with radical thinking.
- To explore educational practices that address systemic challenges and envision alternative futures.
- To support educators in building local initiatives that promote radical critical awareness and action.
- To foster a network of practitioners committed to radical education and systemic transformation.

Target Group:

This activity is targeted to educators programme countries (18+) working directly with young people, whether at local or other level, through educational practices addressing one or more the so-called *structural issues* such as, but not limited to: racism, postcolonial imagination, patriarchy, ecofeminism, climate change, eco-crisis, LGBTQI+, de-growth, anti-disablism and autonomy, anti-capitalism, horizontal leaderships and the commons, intersectionalities, civil disobedience, utopia-making.

Priority of participation is given to educators non-established in international youth work routines, who wish to develop their practice as a space for radical thinking. A strong commitment to follow-up action is highly valorised, both in the sending organizations and their candidates.

Methodology

Participants will be encouraged to experiment with bold methods and develop alternative solutions to complex issues. This pilot training activity methodology necessarily has a healthy critical distance from the common educational practices in Europe, including the internationalized forms of non-formal education. Specific – often innovative – methodologies will be used for problematizing reality (e.g. Immersive Audio Unlearning, www.radical-edu.com), thinking about the self (e.g. dedicated board game), group sharing and discussing (e.g. interactive cloud-based app), utopia representation (e.g. through graphical dedicated methods) and designing alternative educational practices (e.g. peer-assisted development).

Programme

Radical Education - A Pilot Training Course for Educators Exploring Alternative Educational Practices - Draft Programme						
14.09.25		15.09.25 All introductions	16.09.25 Rethinking Reality	17.09.25 From Utopia to Radical Education	18.09.25 Planning Radical Education action	19.09.25
Arrivals	9:00-10:30	Introduction	Going to the root of the issues	Unblocking the Radical Imaginary	Feet on the Ground	Departures
	10:30-11:00	BREAK				
	11:00-12:30	Contexts	Going to the root of the issues	Utopias	Feet on the Ground	
	12:30-14:30	LUNCH				
	14:30-16:00	Shaking the radical and the education trees	Time to think	The first steps with the feet on the ground	Sharing is learning and caring	
	16:00-16:30	BREAK				
	16:30-18:00	Radical Education	Zooming into my reality	The first steps with the feet on the ground	The Ritual	
	18:00	Harvesting Groups			BREAK	
DINNER						
Welcome evening	20:00	Self-organized evenings				

Follow-up possibilities

- a seminar to share and further develop radical education practices;
- a publication with radical education practices;
- a network of practitioners committed to radical education and systemic transformation

Trainers team:

Laure De Witte & Sérgio Xavier

Travel information

We will reimburse the travel costs on the basis of the cheapest possibilities, e.g. second class railway tickets, economy class flights etc., within the provided limit, from place of residency to the venue of the activity and return, based on the rates of the “distance calculator” of the European Commission <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/de/node/2626> and related regulations as follows:

- 10-99 km: 28,00 EUR / Green travel: 56,00 EUR
- 100-499 km: 211,00 EUR / Green travel: 285,00 EUR
- 500-1999 km: 309,00 EUR / Green travel: 417,00 EUR
- 2000-2999 km: 395,00 EUR / Green travel: 535,00 EUR
- 3000-3999 km: 580,00 EUR / Green travel: 785,00 EUR

*Green travel: Travel where low-emission modes of transport are used **for the majority of the journey**, such as bus, train, bicycle or carpooling.*

Participation fees

We are aware of the difficult financial situation of many people active in the field. Nevertheless, we see the offered events as a quality experience concerning venues, tools and activities and therefore as a unique opportunity for personal learning, professional development & networking which should be, beyond the received funding from European taxpayers not “for free”. Further, as providers of civic education, focusing as well on topics as (global) social justice, we decided to disrupt the vicious system of underpayment of people active in the field of (international) youth work & education, who dedicate their lifetime & energy for creating quality learning experiences by offering fair payment for their work (e.g. as free-lance trainers, facilitators or support staff). Therefore, a financial contribution from each participant is required **upon individual situation & decision**:

- You are e.g. student, unemployed person or a volunteer without own income (reduced fee): 25,00 EUR
- You are e.g. freelanced youth worker / trainer / educator with own income (standard fee): 50,00 EUR
- You are e.g. a person in stable job/employment (solidarity fee): 75,00 EUR

In case you are not able to afford the fee, please contact us for individual solutions.

Venue, accommodation & board

Accommodation in double rooms, full board & activities will take place at the Stiftung Europäische Jugendbildungs- und Jugendbegegnungsstätte Weimar (Foundation “European Youth Education and Meeting Centre in Weimar, EJBW): <http://www.ejbweimar.de/>

How to apply?

Please apply **until 29th of May 2025** (adjusted) via <https://forms.gle/Kdsn9K9Swe741kms9>

We will inform all applicants after 8th of June 2025. Approved applicants will be then requested to confirm their participation until 13th of July by purchasing & presenting travel tickets.

SUPPORT



**Co-funded by
the European Union**



**Bundesministerium
für Familie, Senioren, Frauen
und Jugend**

IMPRINT:

RADICAL EDUCATION

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- 14.09.-19.09.2025, Weimar (Germany)

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Cover: Immersive Audio Unlearning Session, Weimar May 2024 (Non-Conference on “Critical Youth Work”) by Aytaj Ibrahimova

Weimar, April 2025