

Dear Colleagues,

We are happy to inform you about the possibility the new Erasmus+ Programme gives you to increase the expertise of your staff in the field of rural development: Learn for Life offers a renewed course in the area of rural development:

Vital Villages
- Planning and Development for a sustainable and inclusive rural area -
11th March 2015 18.00 hrs - 15th March 2015 11.00 hrs
Sneek, The Netherlands

We invite you to include this course in your KA1 application* and thus gain useful new organisational expertise through the training of your staff members and/of volunteers. We welcome up to 3 persons per organization.

Deadline for this application is 17th of March 12.00 C.E.T. Please inform us when you are interested and in case you might need assistance with the application process we will be happy to help you.

Kind regards,

Lidwien Vos de Wael
Learn for Life

More information about this training and pre-registration:

Learn for Life
Lidwien Vos de Wael
lvosdewael@platformlearnforlife.nl
+ 31 6 22144581

Information about the training Vital Villages

This training is an excellent opportunity to learn about successful models for Village Development Plans and Village Visions, to share experiences in this matter and to obtain useful skills and tools for community development. Vital Villages is highly relevant for paid and voluntary staff of rural development organisations and institutes for adult education.

Background

Since the 70th of the last century, the situation in many rural areas in Europe has dramatically changed. A process of accelerated decline took place: a severe decrease of inhabitants and facilities, weak infrastructure, less employment, unoccupied houses and buildings, increased poverty, groups suffering from social exclusion, etc. This was also the situation in Fryslân, the province where the training takes place. Inhabitants and provincial government, both wanting a liveable rural area, looked for ways to stop the

above-mentioned process. Together with community development workers, they searched for suitable actions in this situation. This was the start of the Village Visions. First the plans were rather rudimentary, but with the years they developed towards almost professional Village Visions, made by the inhabitants themselves. Actual Village Visions cover a broad range of issues that are essential for the vitality of the village and suppose an active contribution of the inhabitants, including marginalised groups. Similar processes took place in other European countries, like UK and Denmark. As participation in village development requires a whole set of skills, education plays a key role in this process. This training will focus especially on Village Visions that promote a sustainable and inclusive rural area.

The training

Vital Villages consists of participatory lectures, study visits, practical exercises and peer consultation. Our staff has many years of experience in education and rural development.

After the training your staff will have insight in new tendencies and challenges in the rural area in Europe, in several models of Village Visions, in strategies leading to sustainable villages and to involve also the ageing population. Participants will experience that it is possible to stop the process of decline, to discover new perspectives for villages and their inhabitants and to realize new plans to increase liveability.

Participants will learn from the strong involvement of volunteers and will have trained a set of relevant skills and tools. They will have insight in the role of municipalities, rural support organisations and public society. They have experienced 'the making of a Village Vision'. Through this training your organisation will be part of a growing network of persons and organisations active in Village Visions.

Learn for Life delivers the training in cooperation with Welzijn Midden Drenthe and Doarpswurk (NL).

**The new Erasmus + Programme of the European Commission offers good opportunities for professional after-education as part of an organisational capacity building approach. Under this new framework, and different from the previous Grundtvig Programme, organisations and not individuals apply for grants. In the new Erasmus+ programme there is a strong emphasis on the impact on the organisation. If you want your staff - or volunteers who have a sustainable relationship with your work - to participate in an international course, you need to request financial support at your National Agency via the Application Form KA1 – Learning Mobility of Individuals (adult education).*

Deadline for these applications is 17th of March 12.00 C.E.T.

Learn for Life, Bemuurde Weerd O.Z. 12, 3514 AN Utrecht
Postbox 816, 3500 AV Utrecht

T: + 31 6 31 19 77 42 | info@platformlearnforlife.nl | www.platformlearnforlife.nl

IBAN: NL51 RABO 0375 2944 65 Rabobank Nijmegen

PIC number: 948412748