

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS



STAGE FOR NONVIOLENT DEBATE

**Erasmus+ Training
Course
2-11 December
2025 Diyarbakır -
Turkey**



**Funded by
the European Union**

Key Details

Lead Organisation: Service Civil International Österreich (SCI Austria)

Hosting partner organization: International Youth Initiative Association (Diyarbakir, TR)

Title: Stage for Nonviolent Debate

Location: Diyarbakir, Turkey

Mobility Date: 02-11 December 2025 (2nd is the arrival day, 11th is the departure day)

Deadline for Expression of Interest: **17th October 2025**

ACTIVITY BACKGROUND

In a time when polarization is growing sharper and young people are struggling to find their voice in dialogue, the role of youth workers becomes more complex. Many of them face situations where young people withdraw from direct communication, carry frustrations they cannot express, or find themselves in conflicts fed by misinformation and mistrust. Opportunities for intercultural exchange remain limited, and there is a lack of practical tools that combine empathy, creativity, and constructive dialogue. What we see is a need for methods that go beyond discussion, methods that allow young people to feel dialogue as a lived experience rather than only an argument of words.

Our project, “Stage for Nonviolent Debate” is born from this need and our training course is not only about theatre as a tool for conflict transformation; it places non-violent debate at the very centre. Theatre, role play, and improvisation will serve as one of the main pathways -making dialogue more tangible, giving space to embody perspectives, making activities more interactive, and rehearsing empathy as a condition for communication. Alongside theatre, we will integrate a variety of non-formal education methods that challenge participants to reflect, to create, and to experience dialogue from different angles. Our priority is to give youth workers a solid ground in non-violent debate, while providing them with creative tools to guide young people into conversations that heal rather than divide.

We believe that our training course will respond to the professional and human needs of youth work today: to equip youth workers with participatory methods they can apply in their communities; to strengthen resilience and intercultural understanding; and to cultivate communication strategies that make dialogue possible even in tense or polarized contexts. Beyond skills, our project will also emphasize values -dignity, democracy, equality, solidarity-inviting participants to translate these into their daily practice with young people.

-> The training activity **Stage for Nonviolent Debate** is also part of the **Peace Activist Campaign** of SCI movement. The campaign is a global SCI initiative to revive and reframe nonviolence as a powerful, creative, and necessary response to today’s social, political, and environmental challenges. It aims to reconnect SCI with its identity as a peace organisation, strengthen collaboration, and bring more visibility, sustainability, and participation to the movement.

WHAT ARE OUR OBJECTIVES?

- Build the capacity of youth workers in nonviolent debate and constructive dialogue;
- Use theatre and role play as creative instruments of empathy and understanding;

- Provide participants with tools for resilience and alternative communication in challenging contexts;
- Foster intercultural cooperation and long-term partnerships among youth workers;
- Inspire reflection on inclusion, citizenship, and peace-building;
- Create practical outcomes -workshop models, exercises, performance-based practices- that can travel back to local realities;
- Encourage critical thinking and recognition of common values as the basis of youth work.
- Gain a foundational understanding of peace and Nonviolence.
- Learn how to use theater and non-violence approaches as a powerful tool to inspire action and transform emotions like fear and frustration into constructive debates and as a catalyst for social change, bringing communities together in collective debates.
- Explore creative ways to engage young people in peace and non-violent debates.
- Understand how theater enhances your ability to communicate complex conflictual and social issues through compelling artistic expression.
- Participate in a collective theatre action, which will be recorded and shared online to showcase creative responses to climate change.
- Build lasting connections between youth workers, artists, and peace activists, fostering collaboration for future joint initiatives.

THIS OPPORTUNITY IS FOR

We welcome participants who meet the following criteria:

- ★ 18 years and older.
- ★ Youth workers actively engaged in climate change, climate justice, and civic engagement who are interested in using art as a tool for empowerment.
- ★ Youth workers and activists eager to apply their skills in non-violent and peace advocacy
- ★ Individuals involved in youth, social and peace actions who seek to enhance their impact through artistic initiatives.
- ★ The project encourages young people from various backgrounds, genders, and life situations to join. We aim to create a safer and more inclusive space for learning, collaboration, and growth.
- ★ Participants must be based in one of the following countries:
 - o EU Member States or third countries associated with the Programme
 - o Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro
 - o Eastern Partnership Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine
 - o Southern Mediterranean Region: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia

PRACTICAL INFO

Travel: Travel costs will be reimbursed after the training course up to a maximum indicated below. We strongly encourage **green travel** (i.e. avoid travel by plane, if possible; instead, travel by train and bus). Other necessary expenses, such as visa fees, will be reimbursed after approval by the organisers.

(Distance calculated from participants' place of residence to the venue based on the [Distance Calculator | Erasmus+](#)):

Travel distance	Green travel	Non-Green travel
10 – 99km	56 EUR	28 EUR
100 – 499km	285 EUR	211 EUR
500 – 1999km	417 EUR	309 EUR
2000 – 2999km	535 EUR	395 EUR
3000 – 3999km	785 EUR	580 EUR
4000 – 7999km	1188 EUR	1188 EUR
8000 km or more	1735 EUR	1735 EUR

- You can arrive from one country and fly to another one, the important thing is that there is justification and at least one connection with the sending country.
- Other necessary expenses, such as visa fees will be reimbursed after approval by the organisers.

Accommodation and venue:

All participants will stay in the guest house of our local partner in the city centre of Diyarbakir. It has 2 floors with 8 rooms. Entire building can be seen here: <https://www.instagram.com/p/C5OcFgFlIz3/>

-> The building lies within a few minutes walking distance to the Old Town.

Some of our international projects from 2024 in Diyarbakir:

https://www.instagram.com/p/DB_GHF9uXuv/

https://www.instagram.com/p/DAeShlMO4Ah/?img_index=1

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DCYeoQnODVb/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DCOsLa5Nlw7/>

Food: The food will be provided by our team in the guest house and during the entire project; participants will try different traditional dishes. Vegetarian and vegan food will be provided to these participants requesting it.

WHO ARE WE?

SCI Austria is the organization coordinating the activity and is the Austrian branch of Service Civil International (SCI), an international peace organisation dedicated to fostering a culture of peace through volunteer projects and peace education. We aim to connect individuals from diverse backgrounds, promoting solidarity, peace, and mutual understanding. Founded in 1920 by Swiss peace activist Pierre Ceresole, the SCI movement has been a leader in advocating for non-violent, community-based change. SCI Austria has been based in Vienna since 1948, engaging in international volunteer initiatives that reflect the core values of peace, equality, and social justice. SCI Austria is holding the E+ accreditation for youth and the ESC quality label for European volunteering activities. For more than a decade SCI Austria has been organising and coordinating a number of international youth projects and activities focused mostly on youth.

International Youth Initiative Association (UGI-DER) is the partner organization hosting and co-designing the activity. It was founded with the mission of empowering the younger generation to take initiative in all dimensions of social life—social, cultural, and economic. The association (which is a continuation of the previous initiative “Youth and Change Association” with a decade of international mobility experience and a partner of SCI since 2017) works to ensure that young people have an active voice in urban life and governance, fostering a strong sense of belonging to their cities through meaningful participation. At the same time, UGI-DER is committed to connecting youth with the European Union, equipping them with the skills and opportunities to contribute to policy-making and develop solutions for issues that matter to their generation. Since 2023, UGI-DER has been actively engaged in international cooperation. The association is currently a partner in two Erasmus+ KA2 Small Scale Partnership projects: Non-violent Debate for Conflict Transformation (supported by the Italian NA) and Youth Strategy in Action (supported by the Irish NA).

WHO WILL BE YOUR TRAINERS?

Ilaria Zomer: Ilaria Zomer is a strong advocate for peace education. Her journey began with activism and work in the civilian peace corps, where she became convinced that young people are key “bridge builders, wall jumpers,” and effective agents of peace. For over 15 years, she has researched and developed educational methodologies to empower youth and adolescents to recognize and confront violence in all its forms. She is a firm believer in building societies with “diffused” power among citizens, focusing her interest on democratic innovation and facilitation techniques to achieve this. Over the last four years, she has dedicated her work to developing the nonviolent debate approach, a methodology that remains in continuous development and to which this training will contribute.

Miguel Magalhães: He is an actor, playwright, stage director, and the artistic director of Companhia do Sueste since its founding in 2023. Born in 1991 in Porto, he began his artistic journey at age four and studied piano at the Conservatory of Music of Vale do Sousa. He is pursuing a Master’s in Theatre at the University of Évora. A member of Sem Terra, Coro de Atores, and a voice actor at Cinemágica, his credits include *Aladdin – The Musical*, *Treasure Island*, *The Little Prince*, *PIU*, *Veias de Sal*, and works with companies like Etcetera Teatro and Plateia d’Emoções. As a playwright, he wrote *Desassossego*, *A Maldição*, *Pimba Gourmet*, and *N.I.C.O. – The Musical*. He led the Portuguese National Suicide Prevention video campaigns (2020–2022), directed *Avenida da Liberdade* (2023),

and was a trainer for the Theatre for Youth Strategy in Diyarbakir (2024). He also lectures on Theatre for social intervention and is currently implementing the Cultural Prescription Program in Baixo Alentejo.

SOME PICTURES FROM THE ACTIVITY LOCATION AND VENUE



CONTACTS



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