

Erasmus+ training course Lights, Camera, Action for the Planet

Using Cinema to Inspire Environmental Change

22–30 September 2025
Sigulda, Krimulda,
Latvia



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Jaunatnes starptautisko
programmu aģentūra



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Organized by MIHI Latvia

Context

Lights, Camera, Action for the Planet: Using Cinema to Inspire Environmental Change

The project "Lights, Camera, Action for the Planet" was born from the recognition that environmental education and youth engagement must evolve to meet the realities of today's digital era.

Why This Project?

The challenges posed by climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion are pressing, yet traditional approaches to educating young people about these issues often fail to captivate their interest or inspire meaningful action. Many youth workers struggle to find effective methods to engage young audiences in sustainability discussions, as conventional educational tools can seem distant and uninspiring.

Young people often find sustainability topics abstract or overwhelming. In contrast, cinema and digital storytelling offer a powerful means of translating complex environmental challenges into relatable, emotionally compelling narratives. Digital media has become an integral part of young people's lives, shaping the way they learn, interact, and advocate for change.

The Power of Digital Storytelling

Research by Sascha H. Funk (2024) underscores the power of digital storytelling in raising awareness, fostering empathy, and mobilizing collective action for sustainability. By integrating filmmaking and digital narratives into youth work, this project aims to provide youth workers with a fresh, immersive, and highly effective way to inspire climate awareness and activism.

Videos can provoke thought, ignite passion, and create urgency that statistics and reports often fail to achieve. By equipping youth workers with visual storytelling skills, this project aims to transform environmental awareness into concrete action.



Filling the Skills Gap

Youth workers across Europe often lack the tools and training to integrate environmental themes into their work. This project addresses this gap by providing practical skills in filmmaking, digital storytelling, and media literacy.

Participants will learn to:

- 
- Create environmental documentaries
 - Facilitate film discussions
 - Develop impactful digital campaigns that encourage young people to reflect on and act for sustainability

By focusing on hands-on learning, the project ensures that youth workers leave with methodologies they can immediately apply in their communities.

Cross-Border Collaboration

A crucial element of this initiative is promoting cross-border collaboration and knowledge exchange. Environmental challenges do not recognize borders, and tackling them requires cooperation beyond national and regional levels.

This project brings together youth workers from different European countries, creating a space for:

- 
- Sharing best practices
 - Exchanging perspectives
 - Co-developing international projects

Strengthening networks between organizations working in youth and environmental education is key to fostering long-term impact and ensuring successful strategies are adapted and implemented across different contexts.

Time Table

Time	Day 1 22-Sep	Day 2 23-Sep	Day 3 24-Sep	Day 4 25-Sep	Day 5 26-Sep	Day 6 27-Sep	Day 7 28-Sep	Day 8 29-Sep	Day 9 30-Sep	
09:00 - 09:50	Arrivals	Breakfast								
10:00 - 11:30		Ice-breaking games and get to know each other	World Café	Meeting with local environmental NGO LAPO, Visiting Ragana school, meeting with project implementers	Fishbowl Discussion – Environmental Leadership	Hands-On Film Creation	Meeting the director Yara Lee	Campaigning	Departures	
11:30 - 12:00		Coffee Break			Coffee Break					
12:00 - 13:30		Introduction to the objectives of the training course, the schedule and creating together a group agreement	NGO FAIR + presentation of National Realities		Environmental Role-Play	Digital Advocacy Campaign Design	Open space	Dissemination Strategies		
13:30 - 15:30		Lunch break				Lunch break				
15:30 - 17:00		Fears and expectations of the participants	Presentation of National Realities	Discovering the nature of Sigulda in the afternoon	What is visual storytelling	"Where Do You Stand?"	Finalizing the work on mini documentaries	Reflection/ Final evaluation		
17:00 - 17:30		Coffee Break	Coffee Break		Coffee Break	Coffee Break				
17:30 -18:30		Introduction to Youthpass and Non Formal Education	Introduction to environmental storytelling	Community Mapping for Environmental Action	Working on mini documentaries	Showcasing mini documentaries and Feedback	Erasmus+ and ESC opportunities			
18:30 - 19:00		Reflection Groups								
19:00		Dinner								
21:00 - ...	Name games	Free night	Game night	Free night	Intercultural night	Movie night	Projections night	Farewell party		

Participant Profile

Each partner will select participants who match these criteria:

Essential Criteria

- Youth workers, educators, or trainers active in non-formal education and youth engagement.
- Have a strong interest in environmental issues, sustainability, and climate action.
- Are motivated to explore filmmaking, storytelling, and media literacy as educational tools.
- Are open to international cooperation, sharing ideas, and working in a team.
- Are committed to applying what they learn in their own community or youth work context.
- Can communicate in English and participate fully in the course.
- Are 18+ years old and available for the full project dates.

Expectations During the Training

Participants are expected to:

- Take part in all sessions, including creative workshops, group work, and discussions.
- Learn and apply practical skills in filmmaking, storytelling, and media creation.
- Collaborate across cultures and co-create an environmental video or digital campaign.
- Actively engage in reflection using Youthpass tools.
- Respect the program schedule, group dynamics, and intercultural environment.
- Actively share project outcomes (e.g. videos, campaigns, learning experiences) in their home community or organization.
- Contribute to social media visibility by tagging the project, Erasmus+, and partner organizations.
- Use appropriate logos and disclaimers when sharing outcomes publicly (as per Erasmus+ visibility rules).
- Support their sending organization in presenting the project to local youth, educators, or partners.
- Reflect publicly (optional) via blog posts, articles, or short testimonials on their learning journey.

Before & After the Training

- Reflect on personal learning goals and what you hope to gain from the experience.
- Think about local environmental issues or stories you'd like to explore through media. After:
- Implement what you learned in your organization, school, or youth group.
- Organize a local workshop, screening, or sharing session to present the project outcomes.
- Remain engaged with the project network for future cooperation.

Dissemination Expectations

To ensure lasting impact and visibility of the project, participants are expected to:

- Actively share project outcomes (e.g. videos, campaigns, learning experiences) in their home community or organization.
- Contribute to social media visibility by tagging the project, Erasmus+, and partner organizations.
- Use appropriate logos and disclaimers when sharing outcomes publicly (as per Erasmus+ visibility rules).
- Support their sending organization in presenting the project to local youth, educators, or partners.
- Reflect publicly (optional) via blog posts, articles, or short testimonials on their learning journey.

Dissemination is not only a final step — it's how you multiply your impact and help others benefit from your experience.

Partner organisations

Latvia

"MIHI"

Italy

Trevessu APS

Spain

**Fundación Plan B Educación
Social**

France

**Avec Nous la Fabrique des
territoires**

Poland

D.G.T. POLSKA

Czechia

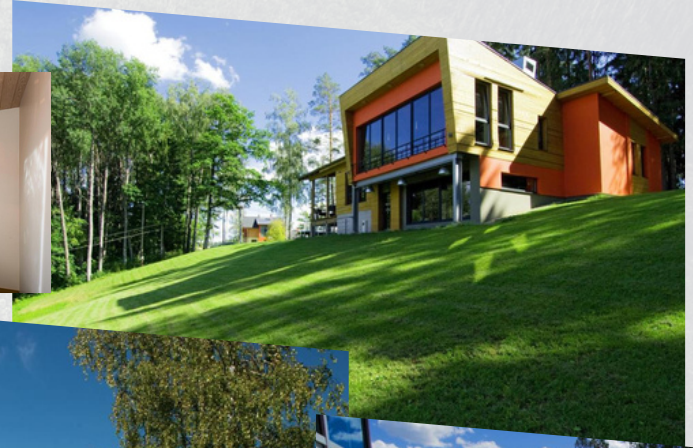
Tvořivá dílna

Cyprus

**YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ON SOCIETY
AND LIFE PURSUIT**

Logistics in Latvia

- The participants will be hosted in the cozy Reinis Hotel Sigulda, a guesthouse on the outskirts of Sigulda
- Surrounded by a peaceful natural landscape, the Reinis is only a 10-minute drive away from the town center, Turaida Castle and the Gauja Valley, Gauja National Park
- A comfort stay for all participants, in shared rooms, apartments of 2,3,4,6 beds quadruple, triple, and twin with private and shared bathrooms and showers, shared kitchens. A free Wi-Fi connection is available.
- The sessions will take place in a meeting room a 2 min walk from the guesthouse.



Insurance, travel, and finances

- The accommodation and meals are 100% covered by the coordinating organization.
- Note: The breakfast, lunch, and dinner meals will be provided at a restaurant at the guesthouse; the meals have vegan options.
- A bus /Taxi will be booked to take you to and from Riga Airport or Riga Center/ Sigulda train station to the Venue; the distance is 64 km. Therefore, contribution fee of 40 EUR to be deducted from the spent travel costs of each participant. , the contribution corresponding to this service. (Latvian participants are exempt)
- Each participant will be provided flight proposals most suitable for reaching Riga or Vilnius airport. The direct flights and cheapest means of transport are to be considered. All tickets shall be booked by the participants and reimbursed up to 2 months after the youth exchange. This reimbursement is conditioned to active participation. Checked-in luggage and any other extra flight options are not reimbursed. When traveling with Ryanair or Wizzair, it is allowed to add the priority-boarding option. Tickets can only be booked upon approval.
- We aim to promote green travel; we suggest the participants use Land transportation in other countries, take one flight only to reach Riga, and one flight back. **All participants should arrive on the 22nd before 4 PM in Riga and depart on the 30th after 8:00 Am, expect start of the departure from the venue to be from 5 Am depending on your flight**
- It is not possible to stay before and after the travel days unless more suitable transportation options are available one day before and/or after at the participant's expense.
- The European Health Card is mandatory for all participants. **MIHI will also provide insurance for participants.**

Latvia weather in SEPTEMBER 2025

The temperatures in Latvia in September are usually low and can range between 10°C and 17°C.

You can expect about 3 to 8 days of rain in Latvia during the month of September. It's a good idea to bring along your umbrella so that you don't get caught in poor weather.

What to bring?

- Bring along your umbrella and raincoat, just in case ;D
- Bring Cameras
- Towels and personal hygiene things (shampoo, shower gel, will be provided; participants will need to bring other personal hygiene (toothpaste, etc.)
- Minimum one laptop for the country group. We will have activities that require digital content
- A refillable bottle of water.
- Comfortable clothes and shoes for hiking and walking activities in the forest
- Comfortable shoes to wear indoors the apartments and the guesthouse
- There will be an intercultural night, you may bring light objects that can represent your country, as souvenirs or snacks.
- Good mood and open mind! 😊
- Swimsuit for Sauna

Our Contact

You Can Stay Connected

Mobile Number

+37122828509

Website

www.mihiyouth.org

Email Address

application.lv@mihiyouth.org

Contact Person

Ibrahim Elrefaei

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See You Soon, Friends...



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