

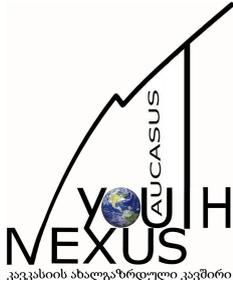


INFOPACK FOR PARTICIPANTS

**HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE
DIGITAL GALAXY**
Part 1: Digital Storytelling

Bakuriani, Georgia
30 November - 9 December 2019

THE ORGANIZERS



Caucasus Youth Nexus (Georgia)

CAYNEX is a Georgian NGO focused on enhancing intercultural dialogue and supporting civil society development through creativity and arts in the Caucasus and beyond.



Closer Europe Institute (France)

CEI is a think tank which aims to promote and advocate for close and sustainable cooperation between the European Union and its Eastern neighbors. The objective of the institute is to encourage the European integration of these countries by rethinking their relations with the European Union, with the ultimate goal to participate to the development of closer regional ties and policies. CEI focuses in particular on countries of the Eastern Partnership

This project is funded by the European Union Erasmus+ Program



THE PROJECT

THE CONTEXT

Today, social networks dominate over physical or situational shared spaces for intercultural dialogue. Internet has created the situation where time and space have been transformed and condensed that makes our approaches to intercultural relations more slippery than it has ever been. Stereotypes, fake news, “single stories”, offensive language that circulate in the digital world, cause conflicts, injustice and inequality even among the people from the same culture or “area of civilisation”. The cultural frontiers are drastically changing. They go beyond political, religious, linguistic or other forms of institutionalized frontiers and put individuals in the middle of intercultural discourse.

Every day, Europe, just like the rest of the world, becomes more culturally diverse and tense. Enlargements, immigrations, growing nationalism, and acts of violence increase tensions and challenge Europe’s purpose to promote stable, peaceful and tolerant societies in and beyond the Union. It is important to accept and celebrate not only national differences, but also the paradigm of multiple identity of individuals as transcultural agent carriers. It also strengthens the argument of the importance of individual responsibility from one side, and makes individual stories, narratives and sense as an integral part of whole picture.

The development of innovative educational approaches focused on self-discovery and based on creativity, interactivity and peer-to-peer learning is key in encouraging intercultural dialogue and favoring the sound inclusion of young immigrants. It is crucial for youth workers to enrich their toolbox with new methods that not only are attractive to the target group they work with, but also fit the reality they operate in. In this vein, we believe that digital methods are particularly relevant in approaching these issues, fitting the needs of young people and promoting intercultural dialogue.

The digital world is similar to the galaxy in the way of its complexity. We understand that there is not one single approach, one single way to go through the obstacles; however, we believe that storytelling provides us with very delicate tools to make our journey more sensible, reflective and joyful, and that it brings better awareness about ourselves and the world around us.

THE METHOD

DIGITAL STORYTELLING (Berkeley Method) is a way of empowering people by supporting them to share their personal life stories with the help of digital means of expression. Joe Lambert, founder of Center for Digital Storytelling and one of the main promoters of the method, defines digital story as a short, first person video narrative created by combining recorded voice, still and moving images, and music and other sounds. The philosophy behind the method is that everyone has a story to tell. We often work with groups of people, who do not have a voice in popular media or are only represented by statistics. Often people believe that what they have to tell is not interesting enough, that they are not creative enough, or they don't want to bother others with their worries and cares. We help people to tell a story which they are proud of, a story they want to share. We do that through a group process, where the participants are heard and respected, and where they also themselves learn to listen. We use simple and free tools, to keep the method open for everyone no matter what economic and cultural resources. We don't expect a professional product in the end and we keep the method flexible, to be able to adjust it to our different target groups.

Digital Storytelling helps individuals and communities to grow and bring a positive change in their lives. Here are some of the results we observe after our workshops:

EMPOWERMENT: young people acknowledge that they are unique individuals, that their personal stories matter and they should not be scared to express them.

BONDING: by listening to each other's stories youngsters learn how to communicate better and focus on similarities rather than differences between them, which makes them less prone to conflicts and violence

CREATIVITY: participants activate their creative potential and learn how to seek innovative (digital) ways for conveying the messages that are important to them.

(SELF) REFLECTION AND EMPATHY: the whole process is very reflective and lets participants gain a new perspective on themselves and the others, which helps them deconstruct the stereotypes they might use in their lives.

THE VENUE

THE HOTEL

The project will take place in Bakuriani, which is a resort town around 180 km from Tbilisi, the Georgian capital. Bakuriani is located in the mountains (around 1700 km above the sea level), so there are many places to have a walk/hike.

We will stay at the Ritza hotel which is fully equipped to host international projects with appropriate equipment, working spaces and leisure time activities. You will be sharing a double or triple room with people of the same sex, each room has one bathroom. There are towels and bed linen in the hotel. Internet is available in/around the training.

We will have meals three times a day. We made preparations and arrangements with the hotel for those of you who are vegetarian/vegan/allergic/have other dietary needs, but please make sure you did write this specifically in your online application form.

All the costs related to your accommodation and meals are covered by the project.



WEATHER

Winter in Georgia is usually very cold - especially since we are going to stay in the mountains, so with a high possibility it will be snowing in Bakuriani. Please come prepared - bring warm clothes, winter jackets, hats, gloves and proper shoes

PREPARATIONS

NGO FAIR

During the training we will have some dedicated time for you the organizations you work/volunteer for. It does not have to be the organization that is "sending" you to the project, it can be any NGO you are involved in.

As we will have a lot of participants presenting, please **do not prepare powerpoints** as we will be doing oldschool analog posters. Please bring some materials (leaflets, posters, summaries of your old project) that you can share and use for networking.

INTERNATIONAL SWEET BOX

For coffee breaks we would like you to bring some sweets and snacks that your favorite from the country you live in, so that we can also have a little cultural sharing while eating :)

HEALTH INSURANCE

Please keep in mind that you are responsible for arranging your health insurance for the time you will be in Georgia. Remember that if you need doctor's assistance and you do not have health insurance we will not be able to reimburse the costs of it.

MONEY

National currency in Georgia is Lari (GEL) and its value in euro is about 3 lari to 1 euro but it would be good for you to check the exact rate before you departure as it is changing. Payments everywhere in Georgia are accepted only in national currency. The best currency for exchanging is EUR.

You will have the chance to exchange money in Tbilisi on the day of your arrival. It is also possible to do it in Bakuriani. Most of the shops in the town accept credit cards as well.

THINGS TO BRING

During this project each of you will be making an individual story in a form of a short video. In order for the process to be smooth, please bring the following things:

- 1 laptop or tablet each (please make sure it is able to run a simple editing program)
- headphones (important, as you need to work on your story with sound)
- Smartphone (for taking pictures), alternatively camera
- your favorite pictures of important moments downloaded on your computer
- 1 object which is important to you

EDITING PROGRAM

We will use a very simple program called ShotCut, alternatively iMovie/MovieMaker. You all need to make sure that you have one of those programs on your device and that it works before you arrive in Georgia. So please open the program you have and test if it's working. You can download ShotCut here: <https://shotcut.org/>

If some of you are more advanced with video making you can use a different editing program. However, since this is a training course for facilitators, we want to teach you something really simple so that you can comfortably use it with kids whose computer skills are not so advanced. Also please keep in mind that if you use a program other than ShotCut we cannot guarantee that we will be able to assist you, and this might make the process too challenging for all of us and limit your satisfaction from the training course.

TRAVEL

TRAVEL COSTS

Your travel costs is the money you spend for transportation on your way to Georgia. This means your air ticket, bus/train tickets to get to your own country and bus tickets to get from the airport to Tbilisi. Please remember that we are not able to reimburse your travel by taxi or your own car, only public transportation.

You need to buy your own tickets before the project and the costs will be reimbursed to you after the training course (providing you send us all the travel documents requested and fulfill all the tasks for participants, such as dissemination activities and your individual report in the mobility tool).

The maximum amount of money we will reimburse you is the following:

France: 500 EUR per person

Italy, Poland, Lithuania: 330 EUR per person

Ukraine, Moldova: 245 EUR per person

Armenia: 150 EUR per person

Note:

1. The amount is based on the distance between Bakuriani and the city where your sending organization is based. It is possible to travel from another location but it might mean that your reimbursement will be lower (that is why it is important that you send us the flight proposal before you buy it so that we can discuss details)
2. As you might know, the Erasmus+ travel lump sum is a bit higher than we stated here. This is because we are deducting 30 EUR per person to organize your travel from Tbilisi to Bakuriani and back

TRAVELLING TO GEORGIA

As mentioned, you are responsible for finding and buying your flight to Georgia yourself. We recommend you to fly to Tbilisi, but in case the tickets are very expensive we also recommend you to check the connections to Kutaisi operated by Wizzair (this is especially good for people travelling from Poland, Lithuania, and France). You need to be in Georgia between **November 30th (arrival day) and December 9th (departure day)**

Regardless if you are planning to come to Tbilisi or Kutaisi, the procedure concerning the tickets is the following:

1. You send the details of your favorite flight (exact dates and costs) to Kaś (katarzyna.m.kowalska@gmail.com)
2. **After** the confirmation from our side you buy the tickets and send us the confirmation from the airlines as a final proof of your participation
3. We reimburse the costs to your bank account after the project (once we have received all the documents from you)

Important

Please collect **all the tickets and boarding passes in original** and keep it with you. In case you lose your boarding pass or train/bus ticket we will not be able to reimburse you.

Note: participants coming from Armenia will receive a separate emails with details about the Yerevan-Tbilisi-Yerevan bus we will book for you

GETTING TO TBILISI

Please note that we will organize a a bus to Bakuriani ourselves, but it is your responsibility to get to the city center of Tbilisi on your own as we do not provide pick up service from the airport.

This is how you get to the center:

1. From Tbilisi airport:

the best way is to take public bus no 37 which goes every half an hour from the airport to the center of Tbilisi (Liberty Square).

It is not advisable to take a taxi as usually it is very expensive. In case you decide to do so, remember to agree on a price in advance (should not be more than 25 lari). You can also order a taxi in advance using mobile application called Taxify.

Important: please remember that if you decide to take a taxi **the costs will not be reimbursed**

2. From Kutaisi airport:

there is a direct bus from the airport to the center of Tbilisi (Pushkin Square). It is operated by the company called GEORGIAN BUS. The ticket costs 20 GEL and you buy it at the airport (there is a ticket booth right next to the exit of the airport)

GOING TO BAKURIANI

From Tbilisi to Bakuriani we will go all together by a rented minibus in the evening of **November 30th**. We will depart from the city center in Tbilisi, but exact meeting point and time will be announced to you closer to the dates of the training.

EXTENDING YOUR STAY

According to the rules of the French National Agency for Erasmus + who is funding the project, you are allowed to extend your stay up to **4 days in total** (so you can come some days before or stay some days after or both, but not more than 2 days total). Please remember that in case you decide to do so, you will be responsible for finding your own accommodation. The costs of your extra stay will not be reimbursed.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

If you are a citizen of European Union it is enough to travel with your **national ID**

If you are a citizen of Russia, Ukraine, or Armenia you would need your **passport**

If you are a citizen of a country different than your residency that is non-EU, please let us know so we check you do not need a visa.

In any case: please make sure that your travel document is **valid** (not expired)

COMMUNICATION

SURVIVAL GEORGIAN TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE LOCALS :)

English	Georgia (Qartuli)
Hello	Gamarjoba გამარჯობა
Good Morning	Dila Mshvidobis დილა მშვიდობისა
How are you?	Rogor Khar? როგორ ხარ?
Thank you	Madloba მადლობა
You are welcome	Arafris არაფრის
Good/bad	Kargi/Tsudi კარგი/ცუდი
I do not understand	Ar Mesmis არ მესმის
What time is it?	Romeli Saatia? რომელი საათია?
I love Georgia	Me Mikvars Sakartvelo მე მიყვარს საქართველო

FACEBOOK GROUP

In order to make the communication easier we created a facebook group for the project (you can find it here). This is where we will be posting some updates and reminders there so please join us there as well.

CONTACTS TO THE TEAM

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