

# "Who? What? Where? When? Why? How? Fostering Critical Thinking in Youth"



September 11th-18th 2023



Centre de Theix, Clermont-Ferrand,  
France



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



RÉSEAU  
PROFESSIONNEL  
JEUNESSE  
AUVERGNE

# Context and Background



According to a survey by the Times Education Supplement, 85% of teachers worldwide feel their students don't have the critical thinking skills they need when they start university. (<https://www.tes.com/magazine/archive/school-leavers-lack-critical-thinking-skills-needed-university-exam-board-warns>).

**Are critical thinking skills declining?**

**Is technology producing a decline in critical thinking and analysis while enhancing other skills?**

These are questions we asked ourselves as youth workers in non-formal education and teachers in the formal education system about 5 years ago. Since then, the debate has been ongoing. This year we decided to organise an internal survey in our own NGOs and within our networks of youth workers and teachers. Over 45 youth workers replied:

-85% answered that they noticed youngsters we lacking skills in critical thinking including themselves at times

-78% answered that it worsened in the last 2 yrs

-70% declared having difficulties in separating the wheat from the chaff when it came to the constant flow of information we are coming across on a daily basis

-98% declared they experienced conflict within their circle when it came to debating with opposing views on several sensitive topics like war, politics, health decisions, climate change etc.

We decided to write a project about it as we thought it was a crucial topic and our colleagues around us asked for it.

Critical thinking is almost universally considered as one of the primary goals of education (at all levels). It is possibly the only goal of education on which there is general consensus. And yet, there is nothing close to consensus as to what critical thinking is.



# Objectives of the project



## GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1/ Strengthen the capacities of youth workers through skill sharing and enrich their knowledge and understanding about Critical Thinking

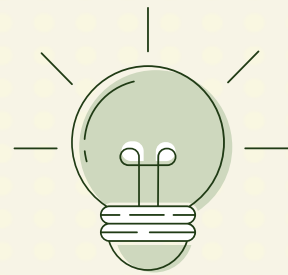
2/ Equip youth workers with necessary skills, tools, methods to better understand Critical Thinking, troubleshooting, collaborative thinking, problem solving

3/ Demonstrate to youth workers the benefits of using different skills, tools, methods to better understand how to engage the youth on a deeper level on Critical Thinking

4/ Create a space for youth workers who foster to exchange ideas and share non formal methods on the topic of Critical Thinking

5/ Increase youth workers' professional value. When a youth workers' expertise helps the entire team, they become a more valuable part of it. Their presence is worth more to the organization—and that can translate into tangible rewards for youngsters.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES



1/ Develop methods and skills on the topic of Critical Thinking to transfer to youngsters and colleagues back home.

2/ Share peer to peer knowledge gathered from experience specific to youth work on the topic of Critical Thinking broadening the conversation.

3/ Train other youth workers and youngsters a valuable set of workshops based on non formal methods on Critical Thinking

4/ Develop a guidebook for youth workers about on Critical Thinking containing knowledge, tools, workshops, contacts of trainers and resources.

# Overall flow of the project



## TC1




SEPTEMBER 11TH-18TH 2023



CENTRE DE THEIX, CLERMONT-FERRAND, FRANCE

“In Depth Exploration of the Notion of Critical Thinking” will be dedicated to raising awareness of the natural, inevitable blindspots and biases in our thinking, and of how these cause us problems and are exploited by those wishing to manipulate us.



## TC2

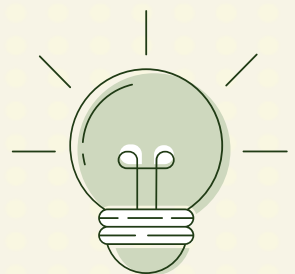


FEBRUARY 29TH- MARCH 6TH 2024 (DATES TO BE CONFIRMED)



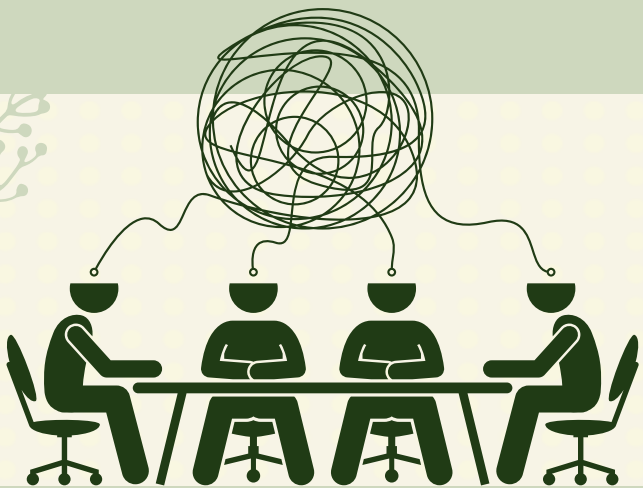
ISTANBUL

“Concrete Tools to Beef up Your Critical Thinking” will be dedicated to going beyond mere awareness - vital though that is - to exploring techniques and strategies to increase and better employ our critical thinking skills, so that we are harder to manipulate and more able to make decisions on the basis of our true interests.



# Approach and content

The methodology of the activities is based on Non-Formal methods and principles. Participatory and learning by-doing methods are at the core of the program with an emphasis on each participant's own experiences and individual skills and strengths. We also created a space for sharing resources and knowledge, etc.



**A part of the program will depend on you!**

There will be an “Open Space for participants” in the program, which means that you can suggest workshops or topics to discuss that are not in the program yet. Each country should at least have one participant who will be contributing with a 30 min session with the rest of the group. This could be a discussion around a specific topic, a method that you're using etc. You are very welcome to think of something you could share with the group.

## **A1+A2 (TCS) OUTPUT:**

A Guidebook on Critical Thinking workshops, concrete tools, solid notions to disseminate on national, regional and European levels.



# Profile of the participants

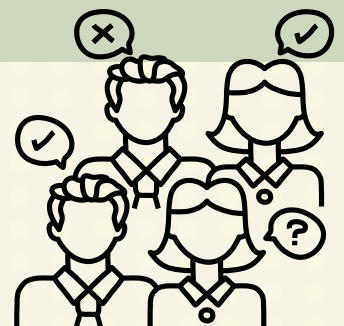


**FOR THE FIRST STAGE,** We are looking for youth/social workers, youth leaders, trainers and educators, and persons in other relevant positions in youth work, who are:

- motivated in upgrading their knowledge on Critical Thinking
- currently working on, or are interested to work on the topic of Critical Thinking in youth work context.
- working with depressive youth and youngsters who are struggling with social interaction before and since the covid pandemic.
- eager to transfer gained knowledge to the youth in their organisations and countries
- committed to working during the whole project, meaning also the implementation at home, dissemination, etc.
- are at least 21 years old.
- have a good level of English.
- willing and committed to work (about 8 hours per day) during the training course.

Participation from the beginning till the end is mandatory. Absence without prior agreement with the organisers leads to expulsion from the programme and cancellation of the reimbursement of travel costs.

The activities of this training course will be filmed and photographed for dissemination and visibility purposes as this is a project co-funded by Erasmus+. If for any reason you feel uncomfortable with it, please let us know.



# Financial costs



The project is co-financed by the Erasmus+ program, thus the educational part, working materials and extra trips will be covered. **The accommodation and meals are 100% covered by the coordinating organisation, starting from dinner on Sept 11th, and finishing with breakfast on Sept 18th.**

Vegetarian and specific menus will also be available if requested during the completion of the participant's form. Make sure you have mentioned all dietary requirements in the form. If you fail to do so we will not be able to cater to you.

It is mandatory to have a valid health insurance during the period of stay, inclusive of accidents, emergencies, repatriation and civil responsibility. The European Health Card is also accepted. The health insurance cost is not subject to refund. It will be required for upload **on the registration form if selected.** Please be aware that you are in charge of arranging your own insurance. For the non-EU participants, you have to make sure you have your own health insurance. The costs for the insurance are not subject to reimbursement.



# Financial costs



The reimbursement is conditioned with:


- Active participation, and dissemination actions completed (sharing about the experience post-training)
- The participants are invited to use the cheapest means of transportation. It is only allowed to travel with free hand luggage. All extra luggage options will have to be paid by participants. First-class travelling and taxis are not subject to reimbursement.
- It is possible to arrive and stay a maximum of 2 days before and/or after the training course at the participants' own expense and responsibility given that the travel prices are not higher to those of the set dates.
- Booking flight tickets directly from the airline websites is recommended. Flight tickets should always be accompanied with the boarding passes, when requesting the travel reimbursement.
- For eco-friendliness, please proceed to buy all your tickets online and check-in online whenever possible, this will also avoid you having to mail or scan it to us after the activity.

Participation contribution: we offer the opportunity to self assess your contribution on a sliding scale between 50-80€ (to be paid in cash upon arrival). Please choose an amount that responds to your personal possibilities and that matches the values of balance and reciprocity. This fee goes as a contribution to the administrative costs of the project.

# Financial costs



The following maximum reimbursement of your travel cost is eligible:

Country	Number of Participants	Travel reimbursement
Croatia Association Hepatos Rijeka	4	320€/person*
France (RPJA Réseau Professionnel de la Jeunesse en Auvergne/Professional Youth Network in Auvergne)	6	210€/person*
Turkey ULUSLARARASI GENCLIK AKTIVITELERI MERKEZI DERNEGI	4	410€/person*
Spain TACC BCN Taller d'Art, Cultura i Creació	4	320€/person*
Romania Asociatia pentru Integrare Sociala si Protectia Mediului "Feed-Back"	4	320€/person*
Cyprus Between Us Cyprus	4	360€/person* 

Before purchasing any tickets consult with the organisers and wait until they are approved by email. Tickets that were not approved are not subject to reimbursement. Reimbursement will be done on the basis of the sum written on the approved screenshots provided by the participant. No luggage will be reimbursed if they are taken as an option.

The deadline for buying the tickets is July 10th 2023. If you need any help with organising your trip, please do not hesitate to contact us. After buying please, send us the scans of the tickets.

# Reimbursement



The reimbursement of the travel costs will be done through a bank transfer **within 3 months after the end of TC1**. By this time organisers must have received all the original travel/visa documentation and proof of dissemination activities and exploitation of the project results. You will have to send us the original tickets and boarding passes proving your trip back home from FRANCE to your country.

Participants will be reimbursed for their travel expenses up to the amount available for their countries and no more than their real costs. Should the travel expenses exceed the contribution available, participants shall cover the extra costs from their own resources.

Requirements for reimbursement:

- ✓ You have submitted the individual participant report (an email titled "Erasmus+ participant report" with the link for the EU survey);
- ✓ You filled out the reimbursement form;
- ✓ You send proof of dissemination activities implemented.

Dissemination and exploitation of the activity results are key features in the Erasmus+ programme, therefore, partner organisations and participants are inquired to organise such activities after both activities. The project results shall be disseminated and exploited at a minimum to other members of the organisation, various stakeholders and young people in the local community.

Participants and their sending organisation must send the organisers proof of their measures to disseminate and exploit the results of both activities.

# Arrivals and departures



**Arrival day: September 11th, 2023.** We expect you to arrive in Clermont-Ferrand by 6 pm latest and **BEFORE DINNER at 7 pm**

**Departure day: September 18th, 2023.** Check out at 9 am **AFTER BREAKFAST**

A unique shuttle will be arranged for both days to pick everyone at the same time. Details will be communicated later via email.

You are allowed to spend 2 additional days in France outside of the indicated period of the project. In this case, it is the participant's responsibility to cover the additional costs (accommodation, food, etc). But in the best case, this can make it more flexible for you to find suitably priced travel tickets.



# Venue and accommodation



The training week will take place in Theix, a small village close to Clermont-Ferrand, near the 'Chaîne des Puys', a volcanic field that was recently listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It has 3 cottages with numerous rooms and showers, a common space with a restaurant kitchen and a dining room. All these areas are surrounded by grass fields and natural spaces. Participants will be accommodated in 2 to 4 pers bedrooms. At the foot of the volcanoes, 15 km from Clermont-Ferrand, the Centre de Theix offers an exceptional site with wooden-frame suburban accommodation in a 20-hectare park with gardens, a forest and a pond. The City also hosts on this site the CPIE (Centre Permanent d'Initiatives pour l'Environnement) Clermont-Dôme in a building labeled HQE (High Environmental Quality). Possible activities nearby: snow sports, the discovery of nature, hiking, geology, the discovery of fauna and flora, gardening, environmental activities of the CPIE...

**Address:** Centre de Theix 1 rue des colonies 63122 Theix/Phone: 00 33 (0)4 73 87 88 81

**GPS Coordinates:**

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/CPIE+Clermont-D%C3%B4me/@45.7094393,3.0241013,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0xa9b50fa258aadaef!8m2!3d45.7094147!4d3.0245503>

(NB: the GPS coordinates indicate the CPIE (Centre Permanent d'Initiatives pour l'Environnement Clermont-Dômes). Our venue (Centre de Theix) is situated in the same park and will be the first woodhouses on your right before reaching the CPIE which is about 250-300 metres up the road).



# Venue and accommodation



Here is a satellite view :  
accommodation\*



# How to get to the venue?



## By plane:

Nearest airports :

- **Lyon Saint-Exupéry (France)**

Then you have to take the Flixbus from the airport.

Flixbus from Lyon to Clermont-Ferrand

- **Geneva Airport (Switzerland)**

Then you have to take the train from the airport to Geneva bus station and the Flixbus from Geneva bus station to Clermont-Ferrand.



## By bus:

### Flixbus

The bus station of Clermont-Ferrand is called "**Gare Routière des Salins**"



## By train:

the train station of Clermont-Ferrand is the "**Gare SNCF**" at this address : 40 Avenue de l'Union Soviétique

<https://www.comparabus.com/fr/> (this website offers many transportation options bus, plane, train etc)

↙ We will organise a transfer from Clermont-Ferrand to the project venue, once we get all travel tickets purchased by the participants.



# Project team



Each participant shall complete the application form, read carefully and agree to the Participant Declaration found with the application form. Accepting the Participant Declaration is a requirement for participation.

## Participant form




### ATEF KHEMIRI (FRANCE)

is a Youth specialist, trainer and former assessor for the Erasmus+ French NA. Prior to her Erasmus+ activity, she worked extensively on several programmes and especially the Youth Programme as a consultant at the World Bank and at the national and local levels (EU, Regional and City funded project management and implementation in France with youth and youth at high risk). To be honest, I am not a big fan of writing bios about myself so I suggest we get to know each other during the training and connect on an authentic and simple human level :)

### IVANA HOST (CROATIA)

is a psychologist and psychotherapist in education, sport and fitness trainer. Combining knowledge and experience from psychology and sport she focused her career on health prevention of youth through psychological counselling, education and workshops. I would describe myself as a energetic, proactive and positive person :)



# What to bring with you?



- Your personal towel
- Good mood, openness, your valuable knowledge on the topic to upgrade everyone's and a respectful attitude
- Earplugs (if you are sensitive to your roommate's snoring)
- European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)
- Travel tickets for reimbursement purposes (including invoices) and original boarding passes if in physical form
- General information about your organisation
- Food and drinks for the international night (there are 6 partner countries involved so bring something to try the taste of your country ;))
- Medications (if you need them)
- Comfortable clothes and shoes. We might go for a hike in the Auvergne volcanoes so get informed about the weather conditions prior to the TC and pack accordingly
- A little backpack for the hike to carry some water, food, sunglasses, a camera, etc.
- Personal hygiene accessories.
- Games, instruments, books and anything else that will make you feel comfortable
- Your laptop as we will be working on creating our output: a pocket guide on Critical Thinking
- A reusable water bottle
- Check the weather forecast in Clermont Ferrand before you travel and pack accordingly



# About Clermont-Ferrand:

#1 Clermont-Ferrand is France's "most innovative" city (outside Paris).

#2 It hosts an industrial powerhouse that's rich in history.

The Group Michelin, which goes back and forth with Bridgestone in claiming its place as the world's #1 tyre manufacturer. The company has been in Clermont-Ferrand since its founding by Andre and Edouard Michelin in 1889 (yes, yes, the same guys as the famous Michelin Guide that rates the best restaurants worldwide).

#3 Clermont-Ferrand is a major university town

To outsiders, this may be one of the least well-known aspects of life in this city: The Université Blaise Pascal (recently renamed the Université Clermont Auvergne) has its roots in a college founded here in 1854, and it was significantly expanded when the faculty and many students of the University of Strasbourg were forced to flee there by the Nazi occupation in 1939.

#4 The city hosts the second-most important Film Festival in France

Of course, the most famous film festival in France is the annual big event down in Cannes... but the annual Festival du Court-Métrage (International Short Film Festival) brings around 160,000 people to town every February.

#5 Clermont-Ferrand is a great base for exploring the rest of France

Centrally located on the map of France, it's at the intersection of several major high-speed highways – Paris is 4 or 5 hours to the north, but you can be on the beaches at Cap d'Agde on the Mediterranean, in Geneva on the Swiss border, or in Bordeaux on the Atlantic coast in about the same amount of time.



# About Clermont-Ferrand:



## #6 This is a spectacularly beautiful part of France

You will never get tired of looking out a conference room window at the volcanic Puy Pariou or walking from Clermont-Ferrand's great cathedral down the Rue de Gras toward the spectacular Puy de Dôme, one of the most iconic symbols of central France. That backdrop – the chain of 80 or so ancient extinct volcanoes that rise behind the city, the plateau of Gergovie looming to the south – make this one of the most instantly recognizable urban skylines in France.

## #7 Clermont has a vibrant city centre

It's true that Clermont-Ferrand has something of an industrial character once you're outside the city's centre – but true, too, that its medieval quarter is large and well-preserved. As in so many European towns, there are places where you can walk down a small street and touch the walls on both sides. There are half-timbered houses and a few Renaissance gems. And, as everywhere else in the Auvergne, many of the buildings are built of the characteristic grey/black lava blocks quarried from local volcanic sites, all giving the city a distinctively sombre cast.

## #8 Oh, the history !

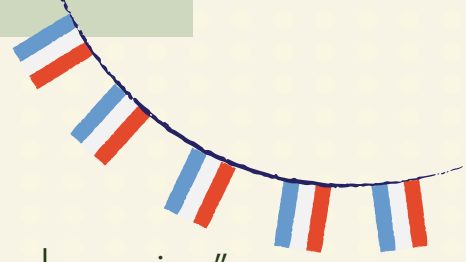
You won't be surprised to know that the long record of events in this region stretches at least back to the Iron Age.

The Romans came through here – in fact, the only battle Julius Caesar ever lost in ancient Gaul was to an Arverni chieftain named Vercingetorix on the plateau de Gergovie south of town. Vikings invaded in their time. Pope Urban II famously came to Clermont to launch the First Crusade to Jerusalem. Blaise Pascal tried out his science experiments in laboratories here and up on top of the Puy de Dôme. And for one extraordinary weekend, the city was actually the capital of France; on June 29, 1940 the Petain government came to town as it fled the Nazi advance in Bordeaux before eventually settling in for its infamous reign in Vichy.

(source: <https://www.deepheartoffrance.com/clermont-ferrand-8-things-to-know-about-one-of-frances-best-places-to-live/>)



# Common French words and phrases:



- Bonjour: a general greeting meaning "hello" or "good morning"
- Au revoir: goodbye
- Oui: yes
- Non: no
- Merci: thank you
- Merci beaucoup: thank you very much
- Amour: love
- Français: French
- S'il vous plaît: please (literally, "if you please")
- Bonsoir: good evening
- Bonne nuit: good night
- Excusez-moi: excuse me
- De rien: a casual way of saying "you're welcome"
- Je vous en prie: a formal way to say "you're welcome"
- Je suis désolé(e): I'm sorry
- Comment vous appelez-vous?: What is your name?
- Parlez-vous anglais?: Do you speak English?
- Je m'appelle: My name is
- Comment allez-vous?: How are you doing?
- Quelle heure est-il?: What time is it?
- Pouvez-vous m'aider?: Can you help me?
- Combien ça coûte?: How much is this?
- Je t'aime: I love you
- À tout à l'heure!: See you later!



# Contact:

CONTACT ATEF:



[aouatefkhemiri@gmail.com](mailto:aouatefkhemiri@gmail.com)

LOOKING FORWARD TO  
MEETING YOU  
IN CLERMONT-FERRAND !

