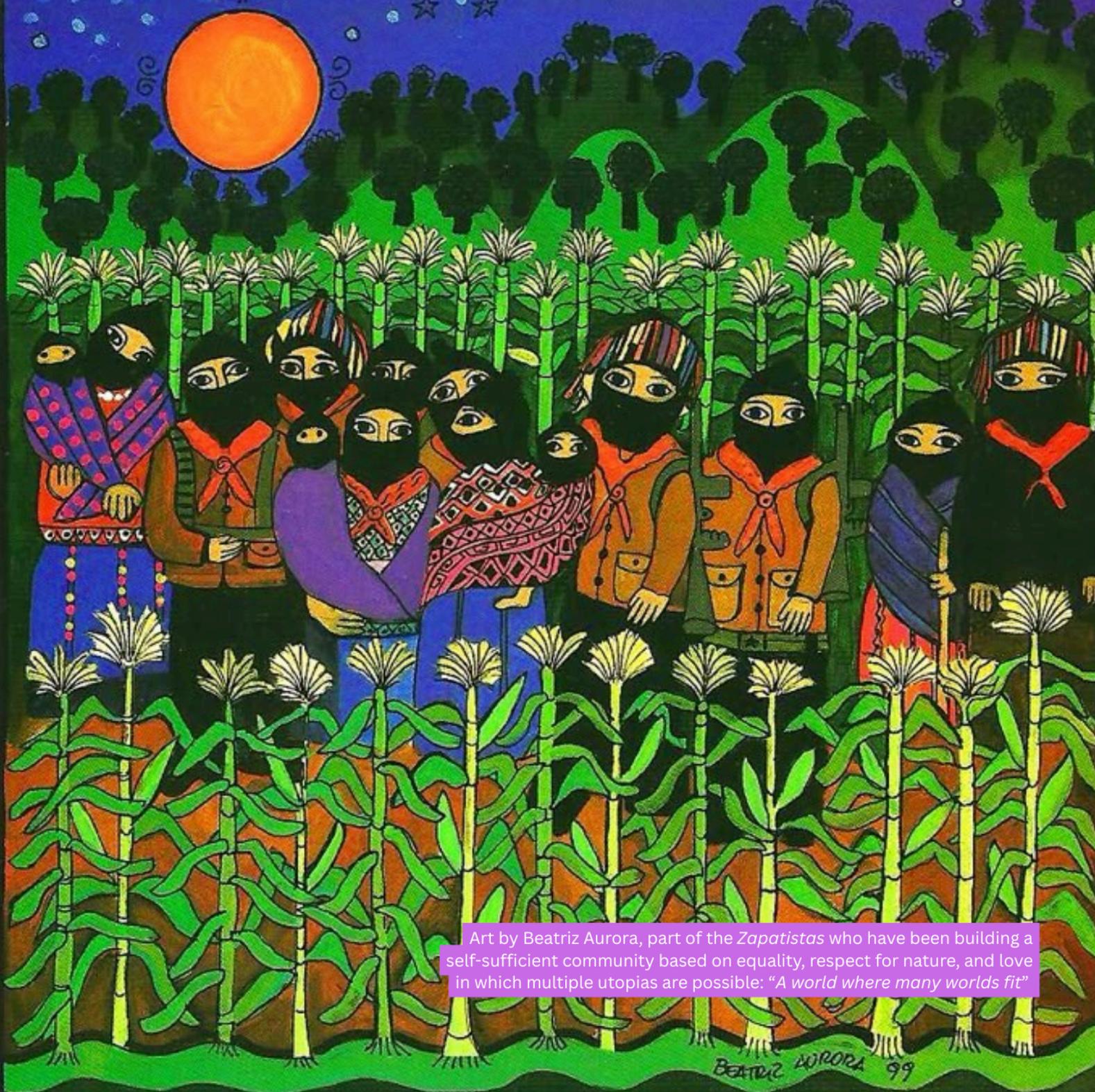


# Call for Participants

training course

## Visions of Tomorrow: A Utopian Perspective

15 – 24 May 2026, Rome, Italy



Art by Beatriz Aurora, part of the *Zapatistas* who have been building a self-sufficient community based on equality, respect for nature, and love in which multiple utopias are possible: "A world where many worlds fit"

# Call for Participants

## Training Course *Visions of Tomorrow: A Utopian Perspective*

A training to move beyond dominant narratives and imagine transformative alternatives  
The training is free of costs

15th — 24th May 2026; Rome, Italy

Registration form [HERE](#)  
**Deadline for applications: 15 March 23:59 CEST**

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We're looking for **participants** for the training course **Visions of Tomorrow: A Utopian Perspective** that will take place from the **15th to the 24th of May 2026** in La Città dell'Utopia, located in Rome.

Project funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union with the support of the Agenzia Nazionale per i Giovani.

### Activity dates

1. Online meeting organized in the first week of May 2026
2. In-person Training Course: 15th - 24th May 2026

### About this training

*Visions of Tomorrow: A Utopian Perspective* is an international training course that aims to empower young people to navigate a world increasingly shaped by environmental crises and socio-economic inequalities.

What if imagining a better future was not unrealistic — but necessary as a compass to guide us towards real change? In a time when climate change, economic uncertainty, genocide, and social tensions dominate the headlines, many young people feel overwhelmed or stuck between anxiety and apathy. This one-week training creates a space to slow down, think deeply, and rediscover imagination as a practical skill. At its heart is utopian literature — powerful stories that dare to ask “What if society worked differently?” and explore alternative ways of organizing community, work, care, democracy, and our relationship with the environment.

Throughout the week, we will read and discuss selected works of short utopian fiction texts, not as distant fantasy, but as tools for understanding the present. Together, we will question inequality, rethink social norms, and propose new yet very needed alternatives. Utopian texts become starting points for participants' own creative exploration. We will also dive deep into questions of why the current system is so unfair

and unsustainable.

Creative writing is central to the program. Through guided exercises, future-headline workshops, collaborative world-building, and reflective journaling, participants will experiment with turning their concerns, hopes, and ideas into vivid narratives. You do not need to have any experience in writing. Alongside writing, we use interactive methods such as small-group discussions, embodied exercises, and artistic expression to make ideas tangible and personal.

### **What participants can expect from the training**

This training aims to:

- Help imagine different pathways to our current system, that can serve as a compass to achieve a fairer and more sustainable world
- Address eco-anxiety and hopelessness by exploring positive and transformative narratives
- Strengthen critical analysis of current social, environmental, and economic challenges
- Support participants in exploring how they can become active for a drastically different world
- Give participants a systemic understanding of oppression (e.g. how the climate crisis, racism, sexism and capitalism are interconnected) and why it is useful to envision a utopian tomorrow as a compass to navigate us through challenging times
- Foster teamwork, creativity, communication, and problem-solving skills
- Use non-formal, embodied, and artistic methods to connect physical, emotional, and cognitive learning
- Develop your own vision for change and leave with practical next steps, meaningful connections, and motivation to stay engaged beyond the training.

### **Project activities**

Each day of the training will focus on a different utopia, such as utopias of grassroots-democracy, utopias that reimagine the family, and utopias that center care for the planet. We will explore the topic first through a utopian fiction text and then through concrete activities like creative writing, group work, expert inputs and more.

Key activities include:

- Reading of utopian stories
- Guided “dream journeys”: a meditation led by a facilitator to strengthen our ability to imagine alternative futures
- Theoretical inputs on how to analyse systemic forms of oppression and how to build anti-oppressive utopias
- Creative writing exercises (individual and collective formats) such as “Future Headlines” where participants write newspaper covers from the year 2045.
- Other non-formal learning methods to create an interactive learning environment in which participants learn not only through the head but also their body and their emotions
- Reflections in small and bigger groups
- Development of follow-up activities in national groups
- Creation of a collective zine compiling participants’ creative work

The final day will focus on connecting learnings and developing concrete follow-up initiatives that participants can implement in their local contexts.

### For who is this training?

We are looking for participants who are:

- 18 years and older
- Able to communicate in English (the working language of the exchange)
- Motivated and committed to actively engaging in the full duration of the training
- Interested in social and environmental justice
- Interested in utopian thinking in order to rethink the dominant narratives of our societies
- Willing to engage in creative activities that involve thinking, doing, and feeling
- Respectful of diverse lifestyles (you will share a basic accommodation)
- Comfortable living and working together in a group setting
- Interested in developing and implementing follow-up initiatives after the training
- Preferably willing to travel to Rome by land (bus, train, ferry) — exceptions will be possible
- Want to take part in this training and do *not* want to join just because of tourist reasons
- Background in youth work, activism, education, arts, environmental justice, or community organising is welcome but not mandatory.
- Living in one of the following countries (this is a classification done by the EU regulations):

EU programme countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye;

Zone 1: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro

Zone 2: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine

Zone 3: Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia

### Venue



**Visions of Tomorrow: A Utopian Perspective** will take place in Rome, at Casale Garibaldi, the building hosting the biggest local project of SCI Italy called “La Città dell’Utopia”.

Address: Via Valeriano 3F, close to Metro B stop Basilica S. Paolo.

Please note that the venue is **not fully accessible for people with reduced mobility**. The main entrance and activity spaces are located on an upper level that can only be reached by climbing a mandatory flight of stairs. Unfortunately, there is

currently no lift or alternative step-free access available. Additionally, the outdoor areas surrounding the building are characterized by uneven natural ground, with visible tree roots and multiple small steps connecting different levels of the space. This may make independent access difficult for participants with mobility impairments.

### Where am I going to sleep?

All participants will be accommodated at **La Città dell'Utopia**.

- There are **four shared bedrooms**, each hosting **around 6 people**.
- Rooms are simple but comfortable.
- **No sleeping bag is required**, but please **bring your own towel**.
- To ensure comfort, we have added a question to the application form to share any needs or requests you might have regarding sleeping. We will consider what you indicated in your application form and do our best to accommodate them. However, due to logistical limitations, flexibility is kindly requested.

### What costs are covered?

This project is funded by Erasmus+, which covers all essential costs:

- Accommodation
- Food
- Travel costs (up to the maximum amount per country/distance band)

### Travel reimbursement

Travel costs (including visa and visa-related expenses) will be reimbursed at 100% up to the maximum amount, after submission of original tickets and receipts.

The reimbursement follows Erasmus+ distance bands:

Distance	Not green travel (plane, ferry)	Green travel (shared car, train, bus)
10 – 99 km	23 euro	23 euro
100 – 499 km	211 euro	285 euro
500 – 1999 km	309 euro	417 euro
2000 – 2999 km	395 euro	535 euro

The distance band is determined according to the distance between Rome and the departure city. For further details, check [here](#).

Kindly note that the calculation is based on the specific cities of departure and arrival, not the countries. We strongly recommend verifying the applicable distance band **before purchasing your tickets**, as any reimbursement will be made according to these criteria.

Important: arrival day is 15th of May and departure is 24th of May. It is important to attend all the activities from the arrival to the departure day.

Any different travel arrangements must be requested in advance to [progetti@sci-italia.it](mailto:progetti@sci-italia.it) and must be approved (note that changes are likely not possible).

### About the facilitator organization

[echo](#) [education for collective horizons & organising] is a small collective of political educators dedicated to creating thoughtful, engaging spaces for learning and reflection. We believe that political education can open up new horizons — helping people understand the structures that shape our world, while also imagining alternative possibilities.

In our work, we value **solidarity**, **collective learning**, and **critical thinking**. These principles guide how we design and facilitate all our trainings, workshops, and learning journeys. We aim to create environments where participants feel able to ask questions, share experiences, and build knowledge together. We facilitate political education that is participatory and grounded in real-world struggles.

Our approach is rooted in non-formal education, where learning emerges through analysis, experience, play, creativity, and collective reflection.

### About the coordination organization

[Servizio Civile Internazionale](#) (SCI Italia) is the Italian branch of [Service Civil International](#) network, an international voluntary movement that is present in more than 80 countries around the world.

It's been promoting international volunteering projects for 100 years on the themes of peace and disarmament, conscientious objection, human rights, and international solidarity, sustainable lifestyles, social inclusion and active citizenship.

It is based in Rome and it is supported by several regional and local groups of activists. The regional and the local groups support the work of the National Secretariat by dealing with training and the promotion of volunteering in various Italian regions.

### How to apply

If you are interested participating in this training course, please fill out [THIS FORM](#) by 15th of March 23:59 CEST. For any logistical or travel-related questions, you can write to [progetti@sci-italia.it](mailto:progetti@sci-italia.it). For any training and content-specific questions, you can write to [echocollective@proton.me](mailto:echocollective@proton.me).