



Youth Development through Emotional Awareness

4th edition

*SMARTER TOGETHER: A youth workers' guide
to the full spectrum of intelligences
organised by SCI Austria*

**From 24 (arrival day) to 31 (departure day) August 2026
Vienna, Austria**

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

*For trainers, youth workers, non-formal
education activities coordinators / managers*

from Erasmus+ programme countries

(EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme, see list [here](#))

Apply by Sunday, 14 June 2026
through this [online form](#)

YDEA 4 in a nutshell

The YDEA training series aims to equip youth workers, educators, trainers, and coordinators of non-formal education activities with skills and knowledge focused on emotional intelligence (EQ). This year, within the fourth edition of the training, we will explore the full spectrum of intelligences: not only EQ, but also Collective Intelligence, Environmental Intelligence, Mental Health & Wellbeing. Of course, we will not forget AI (artificial intelligence) and will reflect together on its potential, but also on its risks and its current limitations when it comes to youth work. Through dynamic methods (exercises, discussion, role play games, social-psychology experiments), the main purpose of the training is to make our NFE actions more effective and better oriented to the emerging needs and trends of our young target groups.

ABOUT US

Service Civil International is the oldest voluntary peace movement in the world, with over 100 years of experience. Our mission is to promote a culture of peace by organising international volunteering projects with local and global impact. We are present in 40 countries on 5 continents, and we cooperate with partners in almost all countries of the world. Read more at www.sci.ngo.



During over 100 years of operating globally, SCI has accumulated lots of expertise in non-formal education and peacebuilding, which has been recognised by many institutions, including UNESCO and the Council of Europe. And did you know that SCI was even nominated numerous times for the Nobel Peace Prize?!

Service Civil international Austria - SCI Austria, founded in 1947, is the Austrian branch of the global peace and volunteering network Service Civil International (SCI) and is based in Vienna. The organization mainly organizes together with local and international partners short and long-term volunteer projects in Austria and abroad. SCI Austria is also organizing different international capacity building activities for social and youth workers and youth activities all around Europe and beyond. Furthermore the branch is engaged in cooperation projects in different topics together with other international partners.



-> www.sciaustria.org

-> IG: sci_austria

THE ACTIVITY

YDEA 4...What is it about?

- It is a project for those interested in Emotional Intelligence (EQ), social psychology, emotional awareness and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL);
- It is ideal for educators, trainers, facilitators, youth workers, workcamp and NFE project coordinators, volunteers and activists who wish to develop their facilitation and non-formal education skills addressed to youth;
- It is an opportunity to learn more about how to improve the impact of non-formal activities and youth work (workshops, webinars, workcamps, training courses...) through emotional intelligence and emotional awareness;
- It is a space to learn more about assertiveness, nonviolent communication and peace education;
- It is a project that encourages the exchange of good practice and reflections aimed at improving organizational well-being among the IVS networks and organisations;
- It is a project that promotes networking, international cooperation and intercultural friendship.

...and what is it NOT about?

- YDEA is not a “voluntourism” project. If you plan to skip the sessions to visit Vienna while receiving free tickets, accommodation and meals, we strongly encourage you not to apply for this project;
- YDEA is not addressed to individual participants who do not belong to any network or organization and aim only at their personal development; it is essential that the skills & knowledge gained through the project are transferred to the organization, activists and volunteers;
- YDEA is not a “therapeutic” seminar addressed to participants who expect to receive personal psychological treatment through professional advice (even if, of course, the training can be highly beneficial for you!).

YDEA 4: the present...

This is going to be the 4th edition of the YDEA training. This year we will propose the most effective and appreciated sessions from the previous three editions and we will integrate them with additional activities to explore a wider *spectrum of intelligences*. We will learn together how to apply them to our NFE project and youth work, to make it more inclusive, effective and fine-tuned with young people’s trends and needs.

YDEA 4 has 3 main components:

1. 60-minute preparatory online meeting and digital preparatory tasks (date to be defined):

The online meeting will be held a few weeks before the beginning of the training course. It will last 60 minutes and will involve the participants, the trainers and the representatives of SCI Austria. It will be a chance to start getting to know one another, to share details on the project, the venue and the logistics, and to answer questions. Participants will be invited to perform creative preliminary tasks, using an online platform such as “Padlet”, which will help them understand the topics to be addressed during the training course.

2. Y.D.E.A. 4 Training Course (24 - 31 August 2026, Vienna, Austria):

Each day of the training course will include 4 or 3 non-formal education sessions, which will involve participants in creative, interactive and awareness-raising activities focused on Emotional Intelligence and other *intelligences*, such as Environmental Intelligence, Collective Intelligence, Artificial Intelligence. The trainers will propose team-building activities, group-work, “learning-by-playing” sessions, spaces for learning, sharing, evaluating and reflecting. There will be the chance to relax, meet local organisations and visit the surrounding area.

3. Output and Follow up

Participants will have the opportunity to reflect and exchange good practice on how to stimulate the various intelligences with their young target groups and through their NFE (Non Formal Education) activities. The final output will be a booklet including the inputs from the training, which can be used in the daily youth work of participants’ organisations.

...and the past

The first edition of YDEA took place in June 2023 in Bulgaria and was coordinated by CVS Bulgaria. Considering its big success, the high number of applications received and the strong demand for a follow-up, we decided to propose further editions. Now YDEA has become a constant appointment which occurs every summer in a different location. These are the dates, venues and focus of the previous YDEA editions:

- YDEA 1, June 2023, Emen (Bulgaria), Emotional Intelligence and Social Emotional Learning
- YDEA 2, June 2024, Rome (Italy), Nonviolent communication
- YDEA 3, August 2025, Emen (Bulgaria), Organisational wellbeing

FOR WHOM

The ideal participants are educators, youth workers, facilitators and trainers (also to-be trainers), workcamp coordinators, non-formal education project managers and coordinators, NGOs staff and board members with an interest in emotional intelligence, mental-health, non-formal education, NVC, social inclusion and its applications in their work with young people and youth organisations.

There are a few formal requirements you need to satisfy to join the training course:

1. You need to be a resident of one of the [eligible countries](#), nationality in one of the eligible countries is not necessary (for example: a Brazilian candidate resident in Hungary, who will travel from Hungary, can apply);
2. You must be able to communicate in English (the working language of the course);
3. You must be at least 18 years of age. Please note that there are no age limits, but priority will be given to participants aged between 18 and 35 years;
4. You should be an active member of an organization;
5. Active members of an SCI branch, or of an organization belonging to the IVS movement will have the priority in the selection process. Participants from non IVS organisations can apply, too.
6. You need to attend the whole course duration (there is no possibility to make exceptions).

We explicitly encourage participants of all genders, abilities and ethnic backgrounds to apply. The accommodation is equipped to host participants with physical disabilities and with wheelchairs.

WHEN

- The training course will start on 24 August 2026 (arrival day + light getting to know each other sessions in the late afternoon) and will end on 31 August 2026 (departure day). We will work 6 full days (participants will enjoy a free afternoon halfway through the course).
- You need to arrive at the venue on 24 August after 15:00. Dinner on 24 August is included in the programme.
- Departures are planned on 31 August after breakfast at 10:00

WHERE

The group will be accommodated in a modern, comfortable and well-equipped facility in Vienna city centre Wi-fi is provided. Rooms and toilettes will be shared. No need to bring a sleeping bag. The address of the venue will be shared with the participants after the selection procedure. A cook will prepare the food. Participants will be asked to do small tasks (preparing breakfast, washing up).



Sustainable food: The food we provide will be vegetarian with vegan options. This is not just a practical decision, but also an ideological one: SCI believes in the values of sustainability and climate justice – and if we want to contribute to a more peaceful planet, we need to give up on animal agriculture and its destructive effects on our planet. Once your application to the training is selected, you will be able to specify your dietary needs in the registration form.

METHODS & CONTENTS



Our working methods will be based on the principles of non-formal education and experiential learning. We will create a stimulating but stress-free environment where the human brain has a full capacity to learn. We will often work in smaller groups to achieve the best results. All the methods will encourage active participation, creativity, initiative and responsibility for one's learning process. The training course contents are inspired by the theories of Daniel Goleman and other authors sharing the “Humanistic Psychology” and the nonviolent communication approach, which will be presented through interactive activities.

MEET THE TRAINERS (and the team)



Mauro Carta, Italy: Mauro is a free-lance trainer and project manager, with a degree in European Studies and Education Science and a long experience of cooperation with IVS organisations. He designed and implemented several youth projects, including training and seminars on different topics: project management, youth work, non-formal education, impact measurement. Furthermore, Mauro has coordinated workcamps in Europe, Africa and Australia.



Katerina Stoyanova, Bulgaria: Katerina has a solid and proven track record experience in the development, implementation and evaluation of educational projects, courses and seminars. With her organisation CVS- Bulgaria, Katerina has managed several projects featuring non-formal education as a tool for the inclusion of members of the local community. She has recently obtained a Master degree in "Social work with Refugees and Migrants" and has lately enrolled in Arabic studies master program in Sofia University.

The team also includes:

Andrea Loddo - coordinator and project manager

Michele Zanda - cooking and logistics

Raul Pavia - cooking and logistics

CERTIFICATES

Participants will be awarded with a Youthpass certificate at the end of the activity.

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

Food and accommodation as well as all organisational costs will be fully covered thanks to the co-financing by the

European Union. Some of the partners may ask for a **small sending fee** to cover their placement costs. Please check with your organisation.

Reimbursement of the travel tickets (including **visa and visa-related costs**) will be 100% within three months after the end of the training, up to the maximum amounts (see table below) and after the receipt of original documents. Maximum travel reimbursement will be according to Erasmus+ rates:

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

To calculate the distance from your departure venue to Vienna, please use the [Erasmus+ distance calculator](#).

We encourage you to use environmentally friendly transport (bus, train, car sharing) when possible.

Even though this is not a “discover Vienna” project, you may also stay in Vienna or Austria a few days (5 days in total, to be freely distributed before and/or after the training - for example, 2 days before starting day and 3 days after the end) at your private expense, as long as the travel cost is not higher than the cost which you would bear if coming only for course duration - otherwise you will be asked to cover the difference.

HOW TO APPLY

If you consider yourself a suitable candidate for the course, please fill in the [application form](#) by midnight of Sunday, 14 June 2026. You will be notified of the selection results after the deadline. Be aware that you will need to be supported by an organization. For this reason, before submitting your application, please contact your sending organization.

All those accepted will receive a detailed “infosheet” (including how to get to the venue, how to book your travel, what to bring, more information about the agenda of the project and details about the preparatory tasks). We will support you in the pre-departure phase together with your sending organisations.

***** Please do not start booking tickets before receiving the official confirmation of approval by SCI Austria! *****

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

The program will be shared with the selected candidates after the selection process

ANY QUESTIONS?

If you have further questions regarding the project, you can write to Mauro (macfaggiani@gmail.com)