

EASTERCOURSE

2017

PLAYING OUR WAY TO DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION

BY EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIP AND FIMCAP



THEME

What does “Playing our way to democratic participation” actually mean?

The theme of this years EasterCourse was about promoting democratic values, and participation, with **playing** as a method.

We also wanted to promote how playing could be used as a method for non-formal learning in general when working with youth.

Playing is central in FDF and part of the ambition. This was a primary motivator for making this the theme of the EasterCourse in Denmark.

Playing is part in much youth work and even though the different organizations taking part in the course, use playing in different ways, all participants had a basic of understanding of how to use it informally.

PARTICIPANTS

We a good mix of organizations from FIMCAP and European Fellowship – 33 participants from 10 organizations and 8 countries.

Organizations represented were: Compass Club (Ukraine), Chiro (Belgium), SZIE (Hungary), IKE (Transylvania), NK (Finland), KIE (Hungary), FDF (Denmark), AESKTH (Iceland), ZAK (Malta), eRko (Slovakia)

Evaluation: We aimed at 62 participants from 15 organizations. We worked hard on promoting the course among the organizations. Our problem was that the invitation was not distributed in the organizations – also in many of the organizations actually participating.

PLANNING TEAM

We had a planning team consisting of members of organizations in both FIMCAP and European Fellowship.

Theresa from FDF (Denmark)

Hadewig from Chiro (Belgium)

Margret from AESKTH (Iceland)

Mikela from ZAK (Malta)

Inna from Compass Club (Ukraine)

Peter from European Fellowship

Besides: We had Adric Etheredge with us, as an external trainer

THE PROGRAM

Day	Sun 9th	Mon 10th	Tues 11th	Weds 12th	Thurs 13th	Fri 14th	Sat 15th	Sun 16th
07:00 - 8:00		Optional morning activity	Optional morning activity	Optional morning activity	Sleep in	Study trip to Sletten	Optional morning activity	Optional morning activity
8.00 - 8.30		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9.00-10.30		Intro to orgs	DUF expert	Role play	Game mechanics	Study trip to Sletten	Creating own games (2)	Depart
10.30 - 11.00		Tea Break	Tea Break		Tea Break		Tea Break	
11.00-12.30		Intro to orgs	DUF expert		Building blocks		Play testing	
12.30 - 13:00		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch	
13:00 - 14:00		PT Meeting	PT Meeting	PT Meeting	PT Meeting		PT Meeting	
14:00 - 14:30		Arcade groups	Arcade groups	Arcade groups	Arcade groups		Arcade groups	
14:30 - 16:00		Theory of play	Benefits of playing	Role play	Creating role plays		Play testing	
4.00 - 4.30		Tea Break	Tea Break		Tea Break		Tea Break	
4.30 - 6.00		Theory of play	Benefits of playing		Testing role plays		Play testing	
18:00 - 19:30	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner		Dinner	Dinner
19:30 - 20:00	Intro to the course	National meeting	National meeting	National meeting	National meeting	Ecumenical Good Friday evening	National meeting	
20:00 - ????		Icebreakers	Reflection	Evening prayer	International fair / evening		Evaluation	
xx.xx	Evening prayer	Evening prayer	Evening prayer	Optional night activities	Evening prayer			Evening prayer

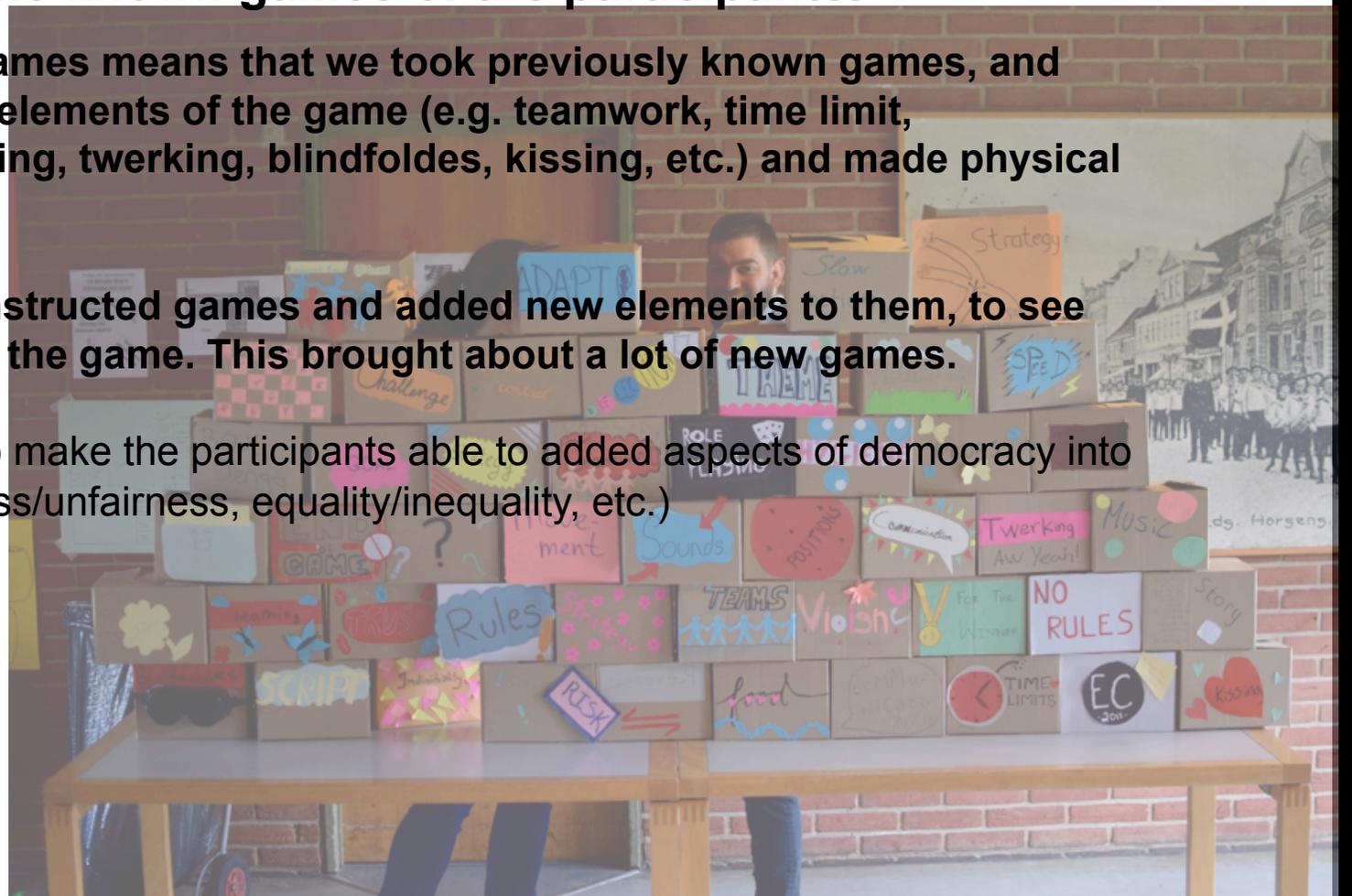
THE BEST ACTIVITY!

We spent to sessions deconstructing games and re-constructing the known games of the participants.

Deconstructing games means that we took previously known games, and took the different elements of the game (e.g. teamwork, time limit, competition, running, twerking, blindfolds, kissing, etc.) and made physical boxes with them.

Next up we re-constructed games and added new elements to them, to see how this changed the game. This brought about a lot of new games.

Aim: We wanted to make the participants able to added aspects of democracy into their games (fairness/unfairness, equality/inequality, etc.)



EUROPEAN YOUTH FOUNDATION

We have had funding from the European Youth Foundation.

Among other things, they funded 70% of the participants travelling costs.

They sponsor 2/3 of all course costs.

Reporting of the course is still in progress – it is a long process of evaluation both financially and qualitatively.

[Dennis will introduce you to the process of obtaining funding]

Effects on the program: We were very restricted in terms of fulfilling various objectives, that has to be reported. It gives little flexibility. Spirituality is not a priority of EYF, which is not suitable for an EF EasterCourse – this has to be considered.

Evaluation: It takes a lot of effort to obtain funding – and also to report it afterwards. It is nice being able to sponsor participants, and we see this as the reason for many participants taking part.

COOPERATION WITH FIMCAP

The course was a joint venture between FIMCAP and European Fellowship.

Effects: More organizations, more members, large base of participants, large variety of cultures, large variety of religions.

FIMCAP did a good job on promoting the course. They had troubles in finding participants due to religious aspects.

Evaluation: It did not feel much like a cooperation. Next time both organizations should have a representative responsible for the planning of the course – not just an EF responsible.

Question: Should we do this again?

DISCUSSION: HOW DO WE GET MORE PARTICIPANTS?

We have a great course – how can we ensure that we reach all EF members?

Are the themes irrelevant?

Are our communication channels outdated?

How do we get past the barrier of the invitations not being spread within the member organizations?

How do we reach more youth, since that is our basic aim?

Knowledge for future Training Facilitator and Activities Coordinator.

GENERAL EVALUATION

FROM PARTICIPANTS

What have you heard in your organizations?

We have had very good feedback from the participants. Generally we have reached our aim of both promoting playing as a method, but also promoting democratic participation and the value of it.

The social environment was also evaluated as very good! As trainers we also felt that – and the amount of mixing and English speaking among participants was also good from day 1!

TRAINING FACILITATOR EVALUATION

We moved the participants – and we gave them a foundation for increasing the quality in their youth work.

Since EasterCourse is the main event of European Fellowship, there should be a higher degree of cooperation on it within the EF Chairmanship.

We had too few participants considering we were two large networks! **Have in mind: Next years will only be EF.**

EYF Funding brings about a lot of restrictions in terms of program – and it takes effort to get and report.

Question: Should we consider the format of EasterCourse?

What do you, as member organizations of EF, want in terms of offers and does EasterCourse fulfill that?