

BRIDGE 47 – BUILDING GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

“Civil Society has won many battles. But we are still losing the planet. It’s important to ask why.” Gustav Speth

Call for Participants:

Tackling the Root Causes of Global Crises through Education

- A Transformative Learning Journey

October 2018 – May 2019

1. The Context: About Bridge 47 – Building Global Citizenship

Bridge 47 – Building Global Citizenship is a project co-created and implemented by 16 European and global civil society organisations. It seeks to mobilise and empower civil society and change makers worldwide to contribute to a transformation towards global justice through Global Citizenship Education (GCE). The name Bridge 47 refers to Target 4.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals which demands the promotion of GCE for all learners. The project builds a global coalition to forward this goal – the Bridge 47 Network. It creates learning spaces for strategizing on joint advocacy work, for exploring new partnerships and for experimenting with innovative approaches of transformative education.

2. Our call for a Transformative Learning Journey –

The Why, the What and the yet Unknown to Discover...

For several decades civil society organisations and activists throughout the world have struggled for the change of global economic systems and power structures that are exploitive of people and nature, dreaming of a world where all people and beings can thrive. Despite all efforts and some success stories, we feel that we live in ever-challenged times. Before this background we see the need to critically reflect and possibly re-imagine and change the way education and activism are done.

According to the diagnosis of Nigerian philosopher **Bayo Akomolafe** *the problem is not the system but the culture that built the system*. By *culture* he refers to the dominant story of modernity as technology driven development based on rational thinking that in the last 500 years has overrun the multitude of different models of co-existing on earth. The culture of modernity has programmed us to think and even feel and interrelate in certain limited ways. Accordingly, most of our solutions to the problems of our world are based on the same paradigms that created the problems in the first place – and therefore tend to reproduce them. We struggle to find solutions that are fit to lead us to a wiser future.

In this sense of a predominantly *cultural* crisis that underpins our multiple system crises, questions about education and activism emerge:

- What are the (cultural) root causes of global crises?
- What are the mechanisms of dominant systems that we want to change?
- What are leverage points for individuals and CSOs to induce systemic change?
- How can we become aware of our hidden paradigms and how they reflect on our actions?

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- How can we relate to different knowledge systems and practices to broaden our imagination?
- How can we develop different and positive narratives of change?
- How can education go beyond rational thinking and cognitive learning, inviting the wisdoms of our hearts and bodies?
- How can education foster a process of self-liberation from the boxes that we think are the limits of what is knowable, tangible and doable?
- How can education help us to re-connect with what and whom we are separated from?
- How can education create space for experimenting with different possibilities of co-existing with each other and natural systems?
- How can education support us to decolonize our minds, hearts and doings?
- How can education be transformative without becoming overwhelming or indoctrinating?
- How can we acknowledge that there is no masterplan for a better future, that we do not have all the answers but despite this uncertainty still work actively towards possible futures?

Bridge 47 wants to create a space for exploring these and other questions by inviting you to join a **Transformative Learning Journey**. This is an 8-month-long intensive training for 22 educational practitioners and activists from around Europe. It is a unique learning opportunity for those who are already engaged in theory and practice of transformative education but want to dive deeper into the matter and experiment with different practices. After having completed this journey, we envision that the participants have an increased ability to use transformative educational approaches and methodologies and become leaders of systemic change in their own organisations, networks and social contexts.

3. Who is Invited to Participate?

Role, Background and Capacity of Participants:

Bridge 47 calls you to embark on the journey with us if...

...you are a staff member from a civil society organisation that is engaged in the field of Global Citizenship Education or a related educational field (such as Global Education, Education for Sustainable Development, Human Rights Education, Diversity Education)

OR

...you are a change maker / activist from any other part of society who mainly works with education as a tool to facilitate transformative change;

AND

...you have the capacity / mandate to multiply the learnings from the journey and induce systemic changes in your organisation or working fields;

...you are committed and have the time to attend all physical meetings, conduct a research and action experiment and actively partake in the online based learning activities;

...you are a permanent resident in a European country.

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Motivation of Participants:

This journey is for you if...

...you feel the need for fundamental changes in our current economic, social and political system and its cultural foundations; if you believe in a strong role of education to support systemic change;

...you have critical questions towards current concepts and practices of education and seek to make your and your organisations educational work more transformative, empowering and emancipatory;

...you are curious, will not be satisfied with easy answers and do not expect ready-to-use tools but are ready to explore new and different questions and embark on experimental actions in a collaborative learning journey.

4. Structure and Educational Approach of the Journey

The journey is more important than the destination...

The Journey is based on the principle of experiential learning through reflected action. It comprises of several physical workshops, webinars, online mentoring and exchange, individual research and an action experiment conducted by the participants in their own working context.

The journey creates spaces for participants to reflect upon their own educational practice and underpinning theories of change. By learning from a group of peers and through reflected action participants can move towards a more meaningful and transformative practice – on a personal, organisation and societal level.

The journey itself seeks to offer participants a transformative learning experience, by applying holistic, multi-sensual and interactive methodologies and creating immersions into different knowledge and learning systems. We will work e.g. with storytelling, arts and embodied exercises and possibly leave the comfort zone of what we know as conventional Global Citizenship Education.



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5. Course Content and Timeline

(Please note: Content is preliminary and subject to changes)

Point of Journey	Content / Objective	Time / Place
Infopack and Launch of Online Platform	Pre-departure information / literature on the journey and uploading profiles to the online learning platform	September
Workshop 1	<p>The Analytical Framework: <i>Rootcauses of the Multicrisises and Theories of Change</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying individual learning objectives • Getting to know each other through storytelling • Setting a common compass for embarking on the journey together • Deepening the understanding of the root causes of the modern crises - from symptoms to systems to paradigms and ontologies • Seeing the world through other eyes – a decolonial experiment • Exploring paths beyond dominant knowledge systems and narratives of being • Theories of (System) Change • Game changing solutions and leverage points to change a system 	1-5. October 2018, near Berlin, Germany (arrival Mon, 3 full workshop days Tue-Thu, departure Fri)
Individual Exploration	Exploring our own life, work, organisation and social context, guided by reflection questions, based on the analytical framework of Workshop 1. Collecting emergent questions online.	October-December
Webinar with Prof. Vanessa Andreotti	Discussing our most troubling questions with Prof. Vanessa Andreotti and each other.	November
Workshop 2	<p>The Exploration of a Different Practice: <i>Transformative Learning and Education</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing of discoveries from the explorative phase • Exploring the (potential) role of education to facilitate / or impede systemic change • Reflecting on our own transformative learning experiences: Developing a 	10-14. December 2018, near Berlin, Germany (arrival Mon, 3 full workshop days Tue-Thu, departure Fri)

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		<p>deductive „living“ theory together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OpenSpace: Participants share their knowledge and practice, emergent topics can be deepened • Intro to and individual design of Action Experiments (first concept for feedback) 	
Action Experiment	Individual mentoring by the facilitators	All participants design, conduct and reflect an action experiment in their own working context, aiming at applying the learnings to a <i>different</i> practice and involving more actors.	January-April 2019
Webinar: Peer exchange on Action Experiments		Mutually supporting each other by sharing and commenting on learning processes, successes, challenges, obstacles and failures.	February
Workshop 3 / Bridge 47 Global Conference		<p>Harvesting the lessons learnt and re-adjusting our compass for the path ahead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting back from Action Experiments • Reflecting on individual learning processes • Collecting good practices of transformative education • Identifying steps ahead: ideas for future collaboration, mutual support, continuation and dissemination of shared learnings • Preparing an input for the Global Conference • Participation in the Global Conference, becoming a part of the Bridge 47 Network 	April/May 2019, in a Balkan country, during the <i>International Civil Society Week</i> (dates and place t.b.c.). 2 days workshop + 2 days conference (consecutively)
Follow-Up		Survey and / or webinar to assess the impact of the journey on ourselves, our work, our organisations and our social context.	End of 2019

6. Budget and Costs of Participation

Accommodation in double rooms and food during all gatherings will be provided. Participants are required to organize and pay their travel to the first two workshops near Berlin, Germany. We have limited funds to (partly) reimburse travel costs to (some) participants. You can indicate in the registration form if you need a travel grant. Travel costs to the third Workshop / Global Conference will be fully reimbursed for all.

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Participants are asked to pay a participation fee that allows us to cover all the costs of the learning journey. The amount of the fee varies and is based on a solidary self-assessment of applicants, taking into consideration their different financial backgrounds:

Amount of Contribution	Orientation for Self-Assessment
1000€	Participants with financial support through big organisations
750€	Participants with financial support through medium organisations / Participants who pay privately and have an annual net income of > 20.000€
500€	Participants with financial support through small organisations / Participants who pay privately and have an annual net income of > 10.000€
300€	Participants who pay privately and have an annual net income of < 10.000€

7. Your Guides for the Journey

The Transformative Learning Journey will be facilitated by a team of three trainers:

<p>Tereza Čajková Tereza is a trainer, facilitator and lecturer of global education based in Prague. She has been a CONCORD DARE Forum / HUB 4 member since 2013. She led two DEAR project consortiums focusing on the transformative potential of global learning, one of them received the GENE Global Innovation Award 2017. Questions that inspire her work are how can humanity live together differently and thrive while sharing the Planet with other species and ecosystems? And how would a world where everyone mattered look like? She also enjoys solving more practical mysteries, such as how to create a great sustainable meal for a crowd from what is available.</p>	<p>Bobby McCormack Bobby is the co-founder and director of <i>Development Perspectives</i>, which is an Irish based Development Education NGO. He also works as a Senior Lecturer in Dundalk Institute of Technology. In 2017, Bobby was the recipient of the Dóchas - “Global Citizen of the Year”. He was the co-chair of the CONCORD Development Education and Awareness Raising forum and a steering group member of Hub 4 (Global Citizenship Education) of CONCORD. Bobby has produced 5 documentaries, is an avid Manchester United fan and loves dogs. The newest addition to his family is Macha, a 'Good' Dane who might be 'Great' one day.</p>	<p>Timo Holthoff Timo is the coordinator of the Journey, working for the Bridge 47 project at the <i>Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs</i> (VENRO e.V.) in Berlin. For 8 years he has worked for NGOs in the field of Global Learning and as a freelance lecturer and trainer for transformative and decolonial education. He is committed to radically re-imagine what we conceive as education, curiously searching for alternative ways of interrelating and co-creating. He just went through a major transformation himself: he is a new father and is looking forward to rediscovering himself and the world through the eyes of his daughter Alma.</p>
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8. Application and Selection of Participants

Please apply online through this [registration form](#) by **June 26th 2018**. All applicants will be notified of the status of their application during the first week of July. Participation is confirmed by paying the participation fee by July 28th. Age, gender, nationality, participation fee or requests for a travel grant are not factors of exclusion. A balance of these criteria will however be taken into consideration during the selection process. We seek to form a group with diverse personal backgrounds and perspectives.

9. Requests for Further Information

For any questions, please contact the coordinator of the Journey:

Timo Holthoff: timo.holthoff@bridge47.org; Tel. +49 511 10555 476



VENRO - Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs
Stresemannstr. 72
10963 Berlin
Germany



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