### **NEWSLETTER Issue 2 - March 2022**



# Tomorrow belongs to each of us. Let's imagine it together

Future Narratives is a transnational project involving youth organisations and stakeholders across Europe, co-funded by Erasmus+.

Our goal is to use narrative and Futures Literacy to engage, connect, and empower young people, enabling their voices and their vision to reach out to policy-makers, public administrations, civil society and other young people all over Europe.

## **Future Narratives Labs with young people**

Since September 2021, our partners in Spain, Greece, Germany, and Sweden have been holding a series of Future Narratives Labs with young people. The labs are designed to bring these young people together to share their stories, develop their confidence and awareness of the power of narrative, and deepen their understanding of how Futures Literacy can enable us to 'use the future' in the present. Taking place in both online and in-person formats, the labs have involved a wide range of imaginative and collaborative activities, using multimedia methods and approaches based on the key concepts of our project.

Throughout, we have used team-building activities to get to know each other and bond through storytelling, creativity, imagination and fun! Participants are invited to a self exploration and reflection process on their personal values, their stories, inspirations, hopes and dreams, their past, their present and their future. The labs will continue throughout the project, with the results to be presented in our IO3: Future Narratives informal innovation pathways.









"The feedback was that it was good to have so much time to deal with yourself and the questions of your own, desired future – in everyday life there is no room for it." (Lab 1, Germany)

"The young people said that when they listened to the other person telling their stories it felt nice because they understood that, although for them something might have been a common thing, for somebody else it was something special."

(Lab 2. Greece)

"Our realities, the way we build and share them are powerful and empowering tools that make us more aware about the potential we have in building our own future." (Lab 2, Spain)

"The young people discussed and came to a great many good insights that made them strengthen their identity in a positive spirit. Many realised that they had taken a role that they did not want to take, and we discussed how to redefine oneself to take a new place."

(Lab 2, Sweden)















### Looking forward to our workshop in Athens

Following our first transnational event in Seville, we are now planning our workshop 'Telling Stories Together for Change', to be held in Athens in May 2022. Young people fro across Europe will come together for a week-long training course in which they will work imagining visions of the future for themselves and their communities, while developing key competencies in cultural understanding, critical thinking, digital literacy, communication and active participation in civic and social life.

#### Key questions include:

What is a community? What does it mean to imagine a collective future? What is our community and how do we place ourselves within it? What are the stories that our communities share, and how do they relate to the stories of others?

The workshop will include an open event on Futures Literacy held at the Goethe Institut on Thursday 19 May. Results, including the creations of young people and extracts from recorded webinars, will be available on futurenarratives.eu















### **Future Narratives Virtual Campfires**

To stay in touch between our events and build an ongoing community, since January this year we have been holding monthly Virtual Campfires. Through these informal online events we catch up, meet new faces, and learn more about concepts and approaches related to our project. Discussions so far have included the relationship between storytelling and empathy, and the ways in which Futures Literacy can help us to use the future to influence the present. These events are open to all interested in our project - to get involved, please email info@futurenarratives.eu or contact us on social media.



### Find out more

Our "European quidelines for the innovative use of narrative and storytelling in the empowerment of young people" is now available on our website to be downloaded.

https://futurenarratives.eu/resources/future-narratives-reflections-and-inspirations-for-youth-workers/

Future Narratives is a partnership between 6 organizations in 5 European countries, coordinated by Traces&Dreams.

### The partners are:

EuroProjectLab (Italy). Alexandra Storari

Federación Andalucía Acoge (Spain). José Miguel Morales García, Alicia Ocon Fdez, and Natalia Italiano.

Inter Alia (Greece). Boyka Boneva and Amerissa Giannoulli.

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