

# Creative month



## Brief description of the activity

Creative month consists of different creative workshops for all the children of the community. Some organizations design a creative program lasting 2-4 weeks. The content of the workshops should be dedicated to the use of recycled materials (materials other than paper), cardboard, colors, sand, stone, clay, yarn, etc., in order to allow children to experiment and learn to work with different types of materials.

## Creative month

### **Topics. Objectives and methodology:**

To create relationships within the group, to find common ground, to learn new skills, to produce a relaxed atmosphere, to raise awareness, to develop creative skills and to spend quality time. This is also a community building activity, where organizations and people who work with migrants can present their activities, raise awareness and motivate people to participate and volunteer.

This activity helps to stimulate creativity, help children socialize and spend their time away from the TV or computer. The second goal - and one of the most important - is to involve the local community, youth workers, volunteers and people from different backgrounds to work or volunteer for these workshops. The involvement of different community members helps volunteers, youth workers and immigrants/migrants to acquire different skills, such as: teamwork skills, work with children of different ages and needs, work with parents, building trust, language skills and creative skills, and,

most important, social skills, getting to know your community and making contacts. The creative month should also help the organization to and show the community their activities, work, best practices and achievements. It is also a great way to show the community that the youth center is also a cultural center offering diverse and welcoming activities.

### **Duration:**

Each workshops should last two hours in order to allow children to have enough time to learn and have fun.

### **Location:**

If possible, these workshops should be organized them outdoors, to allow children to get away from computers and mobile phones. The ideal would be to use a park, or in any case an area with natural resources. In case of rain, of course, the activities can be moved to an indoors place.

**Materials:**

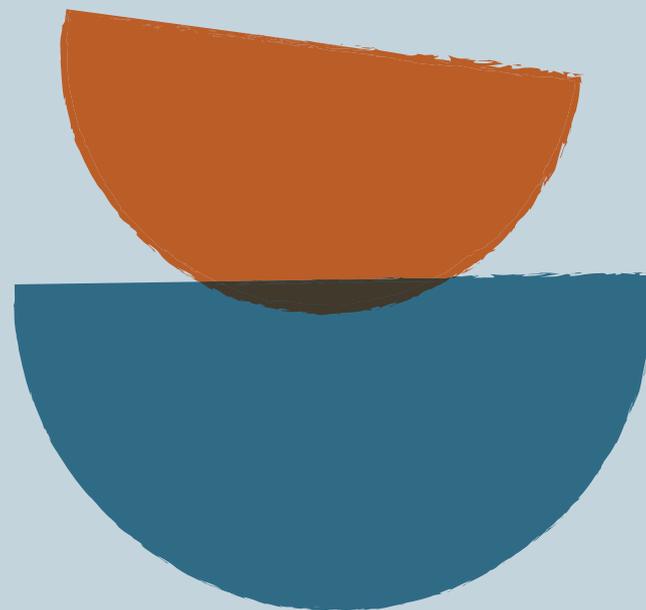
Depend on the workshop, all types of materials can be used, from natural to recycled ones, from yarn to sand, including cardboard, stones, leaves, wood, paint, colored pencils, plastic, etc.

**Staff needed and eventual specific skills requires:**

Before the start of the creative month it is necessary for all facilitators and volunteers to follow a small preparatory presentation. It is desirable that volunteers and facilitators have previous experience of working with children.

**Participants involved:**

Since this is an open event, the number of participants should be defined based on the number of facilitators and volunteers available. For example, if the average number of facilitators available is between 14-18 and the average number of volunteers is also between 14-18, the average number of children can be between 100-150 per day.



## Steps:

### Before

- Do a search for workshops suitable for children aged 3 to 15. Such research should include laboratories who use different materials and develop different artistic skills: working on using scissors, paints, paper, glue. This allows children to develop fine motor skills and provide a space for creative time. The search could be done by collecting ideas from Pinterest and other web pages. After planning the number of laboratories, you can start collecting the materials.
- It is very important to promote these workshops, perhaps involving other organizations, schools, kindergartens, red cross and local administration if financial support is needed.
- Invite users of the center, teachers and volunteers

to participate.

- Prepare the facilitators and volunteers to run these workshops, so those who know all the different steps of a specific workshop are instructed to train other facilitators and volunteers, explaining step by step all the actions of the activity.
- Think about all the other things that need to be organized: how to set up the location, how to distribute the chairs and tables, who will take care of cleaning, etc.

### During

- Arrange the location with all the material useful for the workshops.
- When the workshops finally start, make sure you have at least two facilitators and one volunteer per group. This is crucial, because children need to feel welcomed, safe, and they need to be able to trust

their tutors and volunteers as they will all spend a lot of time together. Also make sure that the volunteers also feel welcome and at ease, throughout the duration of the activities. Try to create a positive atmosphere for everyone: the children, their parents, volunteers and facilitators.

## Do's and don'ts

Encourage the children's parents to stay during the workshop.

Give the volunteers the opportunity to also coordinate the work, increasing their self-esteem and their communication skills.

Provide constant feedback, ask parents how the workshops are progressing, and introduce them to the working people and volunteers.

## Innovative aspects for the promotion of interculture

This activity is intercultural because it unites the local population and immigrants, foreigners and volunteers of all ages in a creative way, working with children and communicating in different languages. Creative Month allows different organizations (NGOs, Red Cross, local administration, schools and kindergartens) to come together with the same purpose: to provide creative workshops during the summer holidays to all children of the local community. This is also the ideal place to establish contacts and develop new cultural and educational projects in the local community.

## Possible follow up or link with other activities

The artisan workshop can be included in this activity as one of the workshops.

## Video, links and external resources

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<https://www.facebook.com/DRPDNM/posts/2145283438933118>

<https://www.facebook.com/DRPDNM/posts/2114699825324813><https://www.instagram.com/p/Bzu3mYilerC/>

[https://www.dolenjskilist.si/2019/08/06/223225/novice/dolenjska/FOTO\\_Otroski\\_svet\\_tudi\\_letos\\_rekorden/](https://www.dolenjskilist.si/2019/08/06/223225/novice/dolenjska/FOTO_Otroski_svet_tudi_letos_rekorden/)

