

# International work camp ~ Street theatre



## Brief description of the activity

The Stage on the Street: All Inclusive Work Camp meets the purpose of the Amarante Youth House educational project as it fosters inclusion and enhances the active participation of young people, particularly those with fewer opportunities, including young people with disabilities. This Work Camp is based on the cooperation and real teamwork of young foreigners who join the technicians and users of a particular institution such as Cercimarante (residencial and daily care centre for disabled). The street theatre organized annually by Cercimarante has been in existence for over a decade. However, since Cercimarante established this partnership with AMC Amarante Marão Clube (project partner from Portugal ed), the quality of its work has increased substantially and has been increasingly recognized throughout the community. This is because over the course of 12 days, the help of the Work Camp, a foreign youth group is especially valuable in building the sce-

narios that make the plays performed truly magical. Without our support, Cercimarante's human structure has no capacity (lack of time and human resources) to ensure the level of quality that has been already achieved. Apart from the construction of the scenario, the support offered by the Work Camp participants is also very important in the implementation of the play as, for example, if we think about entering a stage or performing a dance, it is of fundamental necessity for some users to have the support, both emotional and practical, of the Work Camp participants, who usually accompany them throughout the play.



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### Topics:

- Cultural heritage
- Solidarity
- Cultural dialogue
- Fight against prejudices and stereotypes

### Objectives:

- Support the local community, namely the Cooperative Cercimarante, an institution linked to young people with disabilities, in the preparation of the Street Theater, in response to their needs (in particular, in the coordination of the play and in the technical and logistical issues) and, at the same time, adding value to an activity by introducing innovative and differentiating elements;
- Promote the preservation and protection of cultural heritage at international and local level;
- Promote human rights and values of tolerance and re-

spect;

- Develop the autonomy and self-esteem of young people with disabilities;
- Encourage contact of young people with fewer opportunities with other young people from different cultures;
- Encourage the personal and social development of young volunteers through non-formal education activities (group dynamics, dramatic expression, role-play, etc.), creating an enabling environment to combat any kind of prejudice and stereotypes regarding young people with disabilities;
- Provide young volunteers with the knowledge of a new social and cultural reality that will allow them to combat any kind of prejudice and stereotypes.

### Methodologies:

- Group dynamics (various games that allow participants to meet and get to know each other, building a cohesive

group through intercultural learning);

- ICT tools (especially in what regards the dissemination of this activity);
- Cultural and leisure visits (to emblematic places of Portuguese culture);
- Dramatic expression (as the elected methodology as it allows the approximation between the two groups of young people (local and foreign) involved in the activity).

Dramatic expression is an excellent strategy for working on the intercultural dimension and, at the same time, social inclusion of young people as it allows the use of nonverbal language; it allows young people to act not only like themselves but also as others by interpreting and wearing a different skin (which teaches them how to put themselves in other people's shoes – empathy). It offers an opportunity for disinhibition and to travel to other worlds, encouraging a more positive attitude towards other cultures, a decisive factor that leads to a bigger tolerance towards diversity. In terms of attitudes and values,

they develop the capacity for accountability for their actions and make a commitment to change and social transformation, increase their interest and openness to cultural diversity, valuing cultural and social differences.

**Duration:**

The work camp has a duration of 10 days (with a duration of 5 to 7 hours each day)

**Costs:**

The Portuguese national youth body IPDJ gives funding for this work camp.

Research about ways to receive national or municipal funds to carry out work camps.

Generally the costs are related to:

- Volunteer trips: at their own cost
- Health insurance for volunteers
- Volunteer's Accommodation and meals (breakfast, lunch

and dinner): at the cost of the organizers of the Work Camp

- Material for creating the scenario: about 1000 € (if the work camp is not funded by a program, ask the municipality for funding, local authorities, NGOs, etc.)
- Local transport: ask your municipality or institution that you are helping to have facilities in this area

**Location:**

Working phase: at Cooperativa CERCIMARANTE

Play: at Amarante's main square

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

- 3 Work camp coordinators with experience in leading groups and theatre.
- 4 support people to support the coordinators in the working groups (volunteers)

**Participants involved:**

From 10 up to 15 volunteers from all over the world.

## Steps:

Sequence of works/activities to be done for Street Theater Production (scenarios, rehearsals, dissemination, image, clothing):

- 1st phase of work: construction of scenarios and production of wardrobe;
- 2nd phase of the work: rehearsals with young people and production of the sound/image for the street theater;
- 3rd phase of the work: actions to promote the street theater;
- Day of the Street Theatre: dress rehearsals, performance, support, assembly and disassembly.

Key experiences participants are involved in:

- Visibility Activity and Film/Debate on Tolerance and Respect Values (Experiment #1)

- Intercultural Night and presentation of different countries and cultures (Experiment #2)
- Fair Trade and Solidarity Workshop (Experiment #3)
- Yoga Workshop (Experience #4)
- Bombos (drums) workshop organized by the participants of Cerciamarante's Bombos section (Experience #5)
- Change Your Glasses Activity (Diversity Dynamics / Human Rights Manual COMPASS) (Experiment #6)

## Innovative aspects for the promotion of interculture

This work camp is the celebration of intercultural exchange through solidarity and creativity.

People with different backgrounds and realities meet to produce together a final product that enhances the

local culture and incorporates the cultural baggage of international volunteers.

## Possible follow-up and links with other activities

This activity can be implemented after Cultural forum, Forum Theatre and before What makes me, me?

## Video, links and external resources

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=4&v=uNEVAWaw\\_20](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=4&v=uNEVAWaw_20)

<https://www.facebook.com/Cercimarante/videos/691242814621964/>



