



CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

ERASMUS+ YOUTH EXCHANGE

DC-RYE

DOCUMENTARY CIRCLES RURAL YOUTH EXCHANGE

VALCHIUSELLA
ITALY, 04-14 JUNE 2026



Co-funded by
the European Union



9 DAYS (TRAVEL EXCLUDED)
24 YOUNG PEOPLE (20-30)
FROM ITALY, HUNGARY, GREECE AND SPAIN
+ 4 GROUP LEADERS



THIS EXCHANGE IS OPEN TO PEOPLE FROM ANY BACKGROUND, EVEN WITHOUT PREVIOUS FILMMAKING EXPERIENCE OR SKILLS.

THE PROJECT

Documentary Circles: Rural Youth Exchange is an international youth exchange designed to explore creativity, participation, and community through **participatory documentary filmmaking**. The project will bring together 24 young people aged 22–30 from Italy, Greece, Spain, and Hungary for a 9-day experience in Valchiusella, a rural valley in Northern Italy, **from 4 to 14 June 2026**.

The exchange creates a safe and inclusive space where participants from diverse backgrounds – including rural areas, urban contexts, and young people with fewer opportunities – can meet, share experiences, and tell stories that matter to them. Through collective storytelling and creative collaboration, participants will

transform personal memories, reflections, and perspectives into short documentary films co-created in international teams.

Rather than focusing only on technical filmmaking skills, the project values storytelling as a tool for connection, self-expression, and intercultural dialogue. Participants will live, learn, and create together, forming a temporary international community grounded in mutual respect, curiosity, and collaboration.

Documentary Circles aims to demonstrate how shared storytelling can empower young people to move from passive observers to active creators and engaged European citizens, strengthening their sense of belonging both locally and internationally.

OBJECTIVES

- The project seeks to empower young people through creativity, participation, and meaningful intercultural exchange. A central objective is to develop participants' expressive and digital skills by guiding them through the full process of documentary creation – from idea development and filming to editing using accessible smartphone tools.
- At the same time, the exchange focuses strongly on personal and social development. Through collaborative work and reflective group processes, participants will strengthen transversal competences such as teamwork, empathetic listening, communication, creativity, and self-confidence. The project encourages participants to explore themes relevant to contemporary youth – identity, community, inclusion, sustainability, and belonging – fostering critical thinking and social awareness.
- Another key goal is to build a supportive international community where diversity becomes a resource for learning. Participants will be encouraged to share perspectives, challenge stereotypes, and experience intercultural dialogue through daily collaboration and shared living.
- By the end of the exchange, participants are expected to feel more confident in expressing their voices, more connected to others across Europe, and motivated to act as multipliers, bringing participatory storytelling and community values back to their local contexts.



METHODOLOGIES

- The exchange is based on **Documentary Circles**, a participatory methodology that combines documentary filmmaking with practices of deep listening, embodied creativity, and collective reflection. The approach integrates elements of participatory documentary, slow cinema aesthetics, Story Circle practices, and dialogic methods such as the Way of Council and the Circle Way.
- Learning takes place through **non-formal education** methods emphasizing experience, participation, and co-creation. Daily activities include storytelling circles, practical video-making workshops, embodied theatre and movement exercises, intercultural learning activities, and outdoor experiences connected to nature. Participants work in small international teams, becoming co-authors of their films rather than subjects observed by others.
- The methodology values slowness, presence, and relational depth: stories emerge through trust-building and shared reflection rather than scripted production. Technical barriers are minimized by **using smartphones and free editing tools**, ensuring accessibility regardless of prior experience.
- Regular reflection moments and circle times support learning integration, emotional awareness, and group cohesion. The process culminates in a public screening where participants present their documentaries to the local community, celebrating shared authorship and collective creativity while strengthening the link between youth, art, and community building.



FULLY FUNDED

Costs are funded by the Erasmus+ Programme. Travel costs are covered up to a maximum amount depending on the country of origin. Participants are encouraged to **avoid flying** whenever possible (**except in cases of special needs, which must be communicated in advance**), and are asked to purchase their tickets in advance and receive reimbursement after the activity (in case of necessity, the organization may also arrange and purchase the travel tickets directly).

CERTIFICATION

Participants will get a **Youthpass Certificate** that will reflect what they learned.

WHO CAN APPLY

Young people between 20 and 30 years old from Italy, Hungary, Spain and Greece, interested in the topics of the exchange.



IMPORTANT INFO AND ELEGIBILITY



Arrival day is the 4th of June 2026 after 14:00. Departure day is 14ve of June after breakfast. You need to be able to attend to the full duration of the activity in order to participate.

To be eligible as a participant, **your country and city of departure and arrival have to be the same (this is mandatory and very important!).** Furthermore, **you must leave your residence in the days immediately preceding the first day of your exchange (and arrive to your residence immediately following the last).** It is not possible to stay in Italy longer or divert your trip to other destinations.

VENUE

The exchange will take place in **Valchiusella**, a small valley in the **Italian Alps**, located 60 km north of the city of **Turin** (Italy), in the Piedmont region. The valley, with its rich and cherished natural environment typical of these mountainous regions, stands out from the surrounding areas due to a significant increase in the returning population. This influx has led to a cultural and artistic revitalization of the region. The activities will be conducted at the **municipal theater**, furnished with a stage, lighting, and sound system, capable of accommodating up to 200 people. A portion of the activities will take place in natural settings along some of the municipality's nature trails. In close proximity to the community center, a simple **community-managed hostel** will accommodate both participants and facilitators.

FOOD



IMPORTANT: The meals provided during the training will be prepared by a local social project and **will be entirely vegan (plant-based)**, in line with the association's ethical and sustainability values.

Small local shops are available nearby for personal needs and additional necessities.

HOW TO REACH THE VENUE

TORINO



TRAIN (TRENITALIA.COM)

IVREA



SIN(G)ERGY BUS

VAL DI CHY

(VALCHIUSELLA)



LEAD ORGANIZATION

AUDRA APS, established in 2023, arises from the experience of the founding group in the fields of **agroecology, facilitation, global citizenship education, music, and the arts**. The Association draws inspiration from a systemic view of life based on complexity thinking, regenerative cultures, deep ecology, and intersectional feminism. It advocates for community building, participation, active global citizenship education, social and climate justice, food sovereignty, and a shift in narratives on gender and migration issues.

The tools at its disposal encompass group facilitation, youth work, community music, social theatre, participatory cinema, art and creativity, serving both social and therapeutic purposes.

FOR MORE INFO

If you have the needed requirements and you are interested in having more specific details about the project, please contact us:

Project Manager/Facilitator: **Giulia Attanasio** - giulia@audra.it

Logistics: **Davide Giachino** - dm.giachino@gmail.com

General email: info@audra.it

HOW TO APPLY

Fill this form before the 5th of April:

<https://forms.gle/tFhmHKvJpBRgP5RRA>

IS PROMOTED BY:
AUDRA APS
HIVES PROJECT
ASOCIACIÓN BREGAL
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