



# INFO PACK

## TRAINING COURSE “STAIRWAY TO EUROPEAN VALUES”

7. - 13. 12.

2011

*Kokkola, Finland*

What does it mean to be European?

How to strengthen young people's European identity?

How can we use our networks as tools to strengthen our European identity?

European values in the context of international youth work.

# Welcome to “Stairway to European values”!

---

*Dear participant,*

*Through the following pages, we have summarized the information you need to know about the Training Course and about your journey to Finland.*

*If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact us at*

*[ritva.saarikettu@kokkola.fi](mailto:ritva.saarikettu@kokkola.fi) / [yvonne.bast@kokkola.fi](mailto:yvonne.bast@kokkola.fi) / [kati.thylin@kokkola.fi](mailto:kati.thylin@kokkola.fi)*

*Enjoy the course and have a great time in Villa Elba with us!*

## General information about the course

---

*We will handle issues concerning personal values and also discuss about common values of the uniting Europe. This training course will provide the participants a chance to reflect over their own personal and professional values and how they meet with the European ones.*

*All the participating organizations work with youth and also with international youth projects. It is important to understand the values of our partners. This information and understanding should be transmitted from the participants to the youngsters, so that also they would meet people from different countries and cultures with open minds.*

*The aim is also to create new contacts and partnerships for future common projects, as well as exchange good practices concerning methods used in youth work.*

*As this training course brings together people from very different personal and cultural backgrounds, intercultural learning will be present all the time. Through the cultural diversity it will be easy to discover new things about the cultures. By bringing together people with common interests and goals we can get positive experiences that help us to grow our understanding for differences between us.*

# Background information about Villa Elba

---

*Villa Elba is a National Youth Centre supported and observed by the Ministry of Education. We are specialised in youth work and our function is to develop the methods used in the field of youth work, to act as a centre for furthering the skills of the youth, and enable young people's travelling domestically and abroad. The centres are run under the Finnish law covering youth work and by the Ministry of Education.*

*In international work our goal is to offer youngsters the possibilities of learning in multicultural environment and finding their own strengths and abilities through international activity.*

*Our work consists of international camps and programs, education, practical training and voluntary work for young people, information and guidance about international programmes, projects and EVS co-ordination for hosting organisations.*

## “Stairway to European values”

---

**Activity dates:** Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> of December to Monday 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2011  
(7<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> being travelling days)

**Activity place:** Youth Centre Villa Elba, Kokkola [www.villaelba.fi](http://www.villaelba.fi)

**Contact information:**

*International Youth Centre Villa Elba*

*Sannanrannantie 60*

*Tel: +358 40 910 9955*

*67100 Kokkola, Finland*

*Fax: +358 6 8313 400*

**Partnering countries and promoters, amount and profile of the participants:**

ITALY	Comune di Torino	2	youth workers
GERMANY	Youth council of Lower Frankonia	1	youth worker
GERMANY	Europäische Vereinigung für Eiffel und Ardennen-Internationale Jugendkommission	1	Youth worker
CZECH REPUBLIC	krjasky uraf Olomouckeho kraje	2	youth workers
SLOVENIA	Zavod Avantis	2	youth workers
AUSTRIA	AHA-tipps und infos für Junge Leute	2	youth workers
SPAIN	Ayuntamiento de Murcia	2	youth workers
UK	Kent youth service	2	Youth workers
SLOVAKIA	CVC-RCM Regional youth centre	2	youth workers
FINLAND	Youth Centre Villa Elba	2	youth workers

**Costs:** *The participants pay 30 % off the travel costs + insurance. The YiA support covers costs for board and lodging. Each participant must have valid travel insurance for the entire activity dates.*

**Leaders (Finland):**

Ritva Saarikettu

Yvonne Bast

[ritva.sarikettu@kokkola.fi](mailto:ritva.sarikettu@kokkola.fi)

[yvonne.bast@kokkola.fi](mailto:yvonne.bast@kokkola.fi)

tel: +358 500 902330

+358 0445145470

Kati Thylin

[kati.thylin@kokkola.fi](mailto:kati.thylin@kokkola.fi)

+358 445325160

# Practical issues

---

- Tips for travelling in Finland:** *The cheapest possibility to travel to Kokkola is by bus or by train. You can find more information about travelling by bus: [www.matkahuolto.fi](http://www.matkahuolto.fi), and travelling by train: [www.vr.fi](http://www.vr.fi). National railway (VR) has some special prices: If you are from 6 to 16 years old, you can have 50% junior discount. Groups from 3 to 8 persons can have 15% discount (only from full price tickets). Check also family ticket: one under 17-year-old can travel free with one adult.*
- Accommodation, linen & washing:** *Accommodation is organised in Youth Centre Villa Elba in our cottages to 6-8 persons. Please visit [www.villaelba.fi](http://www.villaelba.fi) to find more information about the place. For accommodation in Elba you should bring your own towel and linen! In case you like to rent them from Elba the price is 7 €. There's a washing machine and dryer in the centre. The cost is 2 € / load for washing machine and also 2 € / load for dryer.*
- Meals:** *Breakfast, lunch, dinner and evening snack is served. In Villa Elba you can buy snacks and coffee from our cafeteria. Inform about your special diets and allergies in the registration form. The kitchen in Elba makes special food only for those who orders it, and that is why it is not possible to choose between vegetarian and other dishes (because then there might not be enough food for those with special diets)*
- Internet and tel.:** *Participants have the possibility to use Internet for free at Villa Elba. We also have a wireless Internet connection in the main building. We do not have a*

*public phone, but in the centre of Kokkola it is possible to buy pre-paid SIM-card for mobile phone.*

**Alcohol & smoking:** *During this course, consumption of alcohol is strictly forbidden during all times. Smoking is allowed only during free time but only at the smoking area.*

**What to bring along:** *personal items  
medication  
swimming suit (optional for the sauna) + towel  
bed sheets  
warm clothing in general  
good shoes for outdoor activities  
raincoat or rainproof jacket*

**Program:** *See the attached program!*

*Villa Elba is by the sea and has good possibilities for hiking, swimming and outdoor activities during a free time.*

**Preparations:** *Each country should prepare some program for the **international evening** to tell about their country and culture. We would prefer not to have any PowerPoint presentations, but you could bring something small to eat, music, dances etc.*

# About Finland

---



Finland, officially the Republic of Finland is a Nordic country situated in the Fennoscandian region of Northern Europe. It is bordered by Sweden on the west, Norway on the north and Russia on the east, while Estonia lies to its south across the Gulf of Finland.

Finland is low-lying in the south and center with mountains in the north. One quarter of its territory lies north of the Arctic Circle, and the country experiences long, harsh winters.

## City of Kokkola

---



Kokkola, with a population of around 46,000, is located in Central Ostrobothnia in Western Finland, on the coast of the Gulf of Bothnia. The city is the region's financial, administrative, educational and cultural epicentre, and was founded in 1620 by the Swedish king Gustav Adolf II. The municipality of Kaarlela was incorporated in 1977, and the municipalities of Kälviä, Lohtaja and Ullava in 2009.

For more information on Kokkola, visit:

<https://www.kokkola.fi>

---

# What should you bring with you?

---

Here is a list of important things that you should bring with yourself on the training module:

**1. Very important!!! Bring with you your passport or European identity card.**



**2. *Travel tickets***

**3. *Medication***

For preventive reasons we recommend for those who have health problems to bring their own medicine.

**4. *Some traditional snacks, drinks or food***

In order to learn as much as possible from each other's culture, we will organize an intercultural evening, where you are supposed to share some of your local specialties with the other participants.

**5. *Warm clothes for rainy weather and evenings.***

**I hope that we will have a good time!**