



// Call for participants

Decolonise. Now!

Visual Storytelling Training

Date: 05 -11.05.2024

Location: Vienna, Austria





INTRODUCTION: Decolonise. Now!

High time to critically look at International Voluntary Service (IVS) and work on the necessary changes inside and outside our volunteer organisations to make IVS more inclusive and equitable. That is what Decolonise Now! Is all about.

Check out www.ccivs.org/decolonise to see how IVS organisations over the last few years have been trying to critically reflect on colonial legacies and existing solidarity mechanisms in the organisations and networks that promote IVS.

Now it's time to support and accelerate the common efforts. In February 2024, the youth advocacy team worked on a long-term advocacy strategy to support several of the advocacy asks that came out of this important reflection process. With social media campaigns and impactful communication, we want to support these advocacy asks. That's why we need a group of people committed to working on these communication needs. Are you interested in building your digital communication skills? Do you want to contribute to this transformative project by developing together with others new images and stories that can support our advocacy work? Then this training is for you!

ABOUT THE TRAINING

The training focuses on visual storytelling by using digital mediums to advocate for equal, inclusive non-discriminatory volunteer service organisations. Storytelling it's not just about communication; it's a strategy, a game-changer. It allows us to unveil the authentic experiences of volunteers, revealing the complexities of their interactions with local communities. It's a tool to dismantle colonial structures, bridging gaps and connecting a global audience in a dialogue that knows no borders.

But digital storytelling isn't a mere conduit; it's a pathway to meaningful decolonisation. Through compelling narratives on digital platforms, we challenge existing norms and confront power imbalances in the volunteering space. It's a journey into uncharted territories, where we advocate for fair exchange, climate justice, and equitable partnerships in international volunteering. This course transcends a typical training experience; it's an unfolding narrative, arming us with the mesmerising influence of digital storytelling to shape a world that's fair and just—for both volunteers and the communities they serve.

This training is part of the CCIVS 2024 work plan “Decolonise. Now!” supported by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe and builds on the work done in the past years by CCIVS and its members on biases and power relations within the IVS movement.

www.ccivs.org/decolonise.

While [CCIVS](http://www.ccivs.org) is coordinating the overall project, [Grenzenlos](http://www.grenzenlos.org) is the local host for this activity and will logistically support this training. Together we hope to offer a programme that will give new insights in visual storytelling and **encourage the participants to experiment with and expand their visual storytelling skills.**

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

- The basics of visual storytelling and visual language.
- The advocacy strategy and how visual storytelling can support the CCIVS advocacy work.
- The “I narratives and frameworks” and how to promote a more inclusive and representative view of history and current events.
- How to create visual stories using video and photo to craft cohesive and persuasive narratives that can captivate and engage a wide range of audiences
- Look critically at the developed materials and improve visual storytelling guidelines for future digital visual storytelling materials in IVS.

WHO IS THIS TRAINING FOR?

The Visual Storytelling training wants to create a **learning community** which can support the advocacy and communication work linked to the Decolonise. Now! project. Therefore we are looking for

Young volunteers/activists (18–30 years old) who:

- have an interest in International Voluntary Service and decolonisation.
- have experience in communication and/or are eager to actively develop their communication skills throughout the project.
- have an interest in communication work in the framework of social change processes.
- are active in an organisation, OR youth group OR have a background in volunteering or activism.
- can attend the training in English.
- Mainly come from different European countries ([check if your country is eligible here: Council of Europe](#) countries) but also a few places are reserved for non-European countries.

In case you don't fit the age criteria but have a strong interest in being part of the group, please contact your organisation.

The selection will take into consideration inclusiveness principles such as gender balance (including + groups), accessibility for people with disabilities and ensuring geographical, ethnic and socio-cultural diversity.



WHAT WILL WE DO?

During the training, we will create communication materials for the different campaigns to come while learning and experimenting with different tools. As a follow-up of the training, participants are expected to create in small groups materials around topics defined during the training and support the communication campaigns in the framework of the Decolonise. Now! Project.

You have the opportunity to learn and work together with 20 people from different backgrounds, developing your communication skills around the topic of IVS and decolonisation through this training, mentoring and peer-to-peer learning activities.

The learning journey

- Online preparation session: April 2024
- On-site training in Vienna, Austria, May 2024
- Remote work in small teams on commonly agreed topics, June - July 2024
- Online evaluation meeting, September 2024

2 participants will have the opportunity to participate in the Tool Fair in October in Bulgaria to bring stories about the Decolonise. Now! Tool Fair.

PRACTICAL INFO

Due to the funding of the Erasmus+ programme and the EYF of the Council of Europe, this training has **no extra participation fee**. Travel will be reimbursed up to the established travel platform.

Where	Youth Hostel Brigittenau in Vienna, Austria.
When	From May 5th (arrival) till May 11th (departure)
Accommodation	Shared rooms in the youth hostel; special needs can be looked into.
Travel	Participants buy their travel but will get travel reimbursed up to the travel platform the latest 2 months after the activity has taken place.
Visa	Visa costs will be reimbursed if duly justified

Travel compensation: actual bus/train/flight costs with a maximum as indicated below (distance calculated from the place of residence to Vienna on [Distance Calculator | Erasmus+](#)):

Distance Travelled	Non-green travel
10-99 km	-
100-499 km	EUR 180
500-1999 km	EUR 275
2000-2999 km	EUR 360
3000-3999 km	EUR 530
4000-4999 km	EUR 820

For anyone who has the chance to organise the green travel by train, bus, car-sharing or other non-plane options, please do so. This is especially requested from participants coming from neighbouring countries and all those with good train/bus connections.

An info pack with all the practical and preparatory information will be sent in the middle of March.

** For non-Europeans, CCIWS will contact you to buy the travel tickets. We will use strict deadlines for visa applications and ticket confirmation in order to keep the expenses within the budgetary limits. Max travel and visa costs will be communicated together with the confirmation.

HOW TO APPLY?

Fill in the [ONLINE APPLICATION FORM](#) as soon as possible and the latest by **March 10th 2024**. In the case of participants who require visas to travel to Austria, the application deadline is **February 26th 2024**, in order to have the necessary time to complete the visa application process required by Austrian authorities.

You will be notified shortly afterwards.

MORE QUESTIONS?

For any questions or clarifications, please contact: laura.rodriquez@grenzenlos.or.at