



Diverse Visions

Amplifying Neurodiverse Voices
through Digital Storytelling

Infopack



upstream stories



Funded by
the European Union

About the project

Diverse Visions is a three-stage project that aims at exploring the potential of digital storytelling as a method for supporting young people who are neurodivergent. Our goal is to create a network of youth workers who are enthusiastic about creative methodologies and ready to discover how digital means of expression and modern technologies can be used for giving voice to young people on the autism spectrum and/or with ADHD who are often excluded, demotivated, and deprived of the right to express themselves freely.

During this project you will learn what digital storytelling is, analyze it from a methodological perspective, and with the support of the facilitators' team you will be able to plan and implement local workshops for neurodivergent young people in your own community.

Diverse Visions consists of three stages:

1. Intro training course in Rønne, Denmark: 27.06.24 (arrival) – 05.07.24 (departure)
2. Local workshops back in your home country: July – September 2024
3. Sum-up training in Warsaw, Poland: 03.11.24 (arrival) – 09.11.24 (departure)

Application

If you would like to join the project, please fill out this application form until **May 24th**
<https://forms.gle/LvojcrPRUdSiv7mq8>

Stage 1: Intro training in Rønne Denmark

27 June (arrival) – 5th of July 2024 (departure)

During the first part of the project, each of you will go through a process of creating your own digital story (short film). This will help you to understand the method of digital storytelling really well, so that you will be able to implement your own workshops back in your home community. To prepare you for the challenges that might happen while working with youngsters, the intro training course will also contain several sessions during which we will analyze digital storytelling on a meta-level and will help you plan how to adjust the method to the specific needs of neurodivergent learners you work with.

Stage 2: Local workshops in your home country

July – September 2024

During the months between the intro training in Denmark and the sum-up meeting in Poland, each of the country groups needs to implement a minimum one local workshop with young neurodivergent learners. This is really important – you will have a chance to test your skills in practice, see how comfortable you feel as a facilitator and make a list of things that are still challenging for you so that we can address them during the sum-up meeting in Poland.

Your tasks during the local field work stage:

- organize a digital storytelling workshop for minimum 4 youngsters who are neurodivergent
- send us a small narrative report from the workshop
- make a social media post/website entry documenting what you did

Please remember that the activities in this stage are obligatory and fulfilling your tasks is a necessary condition for receiving travel reimbursement.

Stage 3: Sum-up training in Warsaw, Poland

03 November (arrival) – 09 November 2024 (departure)

During the last part of the project all of us will meet in Poland to sum up the experiences we had during the local workshops. The aim of this training is to reflect on us as facilitators and to address the most common challenges we had while conducting our local activities for youngsters who are neurodivergent.

As a result of this meeting, we will together create a tool kit on how to use digital storytelling while working with neurodivergent youth, that can help spread the information about the method and encourage other youth workers to explore the potential of digital methods for preventing exclusion of young people at risk due to mental health related challenges

Financial conditions and reimbursement

As all of the planned activities are equally important, it is crucial that you take part in each of them. We see this project not simply as a sum of its three parts, but as a continuous process during which we work together and support each other in becoming more conscious digital storytelling facilitators.

All the costs related to your stay both in Denmark and in Poland (such as accommodation and food) will be covered by the project. This project has no participation fee.

As for the costs of your travel, it will be covered up to the maximum amount per person as follows:

For the training course in Denmark:

- Bulgaria: 275 EUR
- Greece: 275 EUR
- Poland: 275 EUR
- Spain: 360 EUR
- Turkiye: 360 EUR
- Portugal: 360 EUR
- Denmark: 0 EUR

For the sum-up meeting in Poland:

- Bulgaria: 275 EUR
- Greece: 275 EUR
- Poland: 0 EUR
- Spain: 360 EUR
- Turkiye: 275 EUR
- Portugal: 360 EUR
- Denmark: 275 EUR

As you already know, this project consists of three separate activities (intro training in Denmark, local activities, sum-up training in Poland) and your participation in all of them is obligatory. Your full involvement in every stage is a necessary condition for you to get reimbursed.

After the first training course you will receive 80% of the maximum reimbursement of your travel costs to Denmark . The missing 20% will be sent to you later only if:

- You complete all the tasks foreseen in the local field work stage (minimum 1 well documented local workshop from which we receive a report and a collection of pictures taken by participants)
- You come to Poland and actively participate in the sum up training course

If you fulfill both of those tasks, you will receive the missing 20% of your travel costs to Denmark along with the full reimbursement (within the maximum limit) of your travel costs to Poland.

IMPORTANT: you will receive separate infopacks with travel and accommodation arrangements for each of the training courses after you have been selected to participate. Please do not buy any tickets without receiving an official confirmation from us.

About the method

Participatory media methods cover a range of different ways to actively include voices that are not present in or have no or limited access to traditional mainstream media. It invites people to create, connect and share experiences with each other.

Participatory media methods are based on the belief in the fundamental right of all individuals to have access to tools and skills through which they can express their own needs and views. We use these methods to give people an opportunity to share their lived experiences and present the world as they see it. It enables self-expression through creative media and encourages those who are traditionally the subjects of media to become its creator.

Often people believe that their experiences are not interesting enough to tell a story about, that they are not creative enough, or they don't want to bother others with their worries and cares. We guide people to tell a story which they are proud of. A story they want to share. We do that through an inclusive and empowering group process, where the participants are listened to and they themselves listen to others.

Digital storytelling, which is the method we are going to focus on during this project, can be seen as a tool for informal and non-formal education, empowerment, dialogue and social change for marginalized groups and individuals.

Digital Storytelling can be understood in various ways. In Upstream Stories we facilitate the Berkeley model, which was developed by Dana Atchley and Joe Lambert in the early 90's in Berkeley, California, in order to give a voice to local communities. Digital Storytelling builds on the philosophy that everyone has a story to tell. According to this model, a digital story is a short, first person video-narrative created by combining recorded voice, still and moving images, and music or other sounds. We use simple and free tools, to keep the methods open for everyone, no matter the economic, social and cultural resources. We don't expect a professional product in the end and we keep the methods flexible to be able to adjust the process to different target groups

Digital storytelling – the process

Creativity

We start out by helping the participants finding their stories with several creative exercises which invites them to get in touch with memories and subjects that are important in their lives. The group starts, already here, to get to know each other, which creates a comfortable and safe space to share in.

Story Circle

When each participant have the story they want to tell, they start developing their script individually. This is followed by the story circle, an important element where everyone gets to read out loud the rough draft of their script, followed by constructive feed-back from the rest of the circle.

Production

When the script is done, the participants get their voice-overs recorded which are imported into a simple film-editing program on their device. They collect the imagery they want to use, and start the editing process. We always encourage our storytellers be creative and use what is at hand.

Sharing

Every participant will end up with a short film of 2-4 minutes, and the last part of the process is to share and celebrate the films in the group

The organizers

Upstream Stories is a Denmark based NGO specializing in participatory media and digital methods for promoting social inclusion. This includes mostly digital storytelling and participatory photography projects. All of our activities aim at giving voice to people who are otherwise unheard since they are members of groups at risk of social exclusion (such as people with mental health issues, migrants, refugees, and youngsters living in deprived urban areas with limited access to education).