



Theatre of the Oppressed Training

Ecodharma Centre, Catalunya, 24th-31st October 2015

Project Goals & Beneficiaries

The main aims of the project:

- 1) To support the development of a practitioner with experience of social exclusion.
- 2) To deliver a high quality, intensive learning experience of TotO for participants interested in using the techniques for social and personal transformation.
- 2) To establish a major client and strong possibility of ongoing workshops on an annual basis with our partner Ecodharma.
- 3) To expand and develop our network of supporters and affiliates by facilitating TotO workshops for other socially excluded persons connected with arts for social transformation.

The main beneficiaries will be:

- 1) George Wielgus
- 2) Reboot the Roots as a recipient of contribution from Ecodharma.

The subsidiary beneficiaries will be:

- 1) Between 5 and 15 participants interested in developing their skills in Theatre of the Oppressed. As of October 21st the number stands at 10, mostly funded by ERASMUS.

Identifiable Needs:

- 1) The funding will be moved through Reboot the Roots and the facilitator needs reimbursing for flights, accommodation and a per diem. The client has already agreed to this, plus a further 1000 Euros by August 2016.

External Relevance:

"1. The Eco-Dharma Centre is situated in a beautiful and wild part of the Catalan Pyrenees. We offer courses, events and retreats which support the realisation of our human potential and the development of an ecological consciousness honouring our mutual belonging within the web of life – drawing on the Buddhist Dharma and the emerging ecological paradigms of our time.

Our courses and retreats take place in a context of sustainable low-impact living, closely woven within the web of elemental nature. These meditation retreats, study seminars and training camps are intended to help people to empower themselves to make changes in themselves and the world consistent with a life-affirming vision.

We seek to develop practices which honour the inseparability of the transformation of the self and the world; to support the shift from a destructive industrial growth society to a life-affirming future; to contribute to the creation of a movement of renewal and resistance; to evolve spiritual practice where courageous compassion and a deepening realisation of our radical interconnectedness helps us to live in solidarity with life.”

2) Ecodharma is well-connected to other socially active groups across Europe (more details to follow in reportage of exactly who and where and what) and an established centre for learning with excellent funding credentials. A strong relationship with them with surely benefit Reboot the Roots development and create access to further funding and workshop opportunities.

Overall Aims:

- 1) As an organisation, Reboot the Roots seeks to promote multicultural harmony and socially integrated communities through the provision of socially conscious arts programmes.
- 2) As an organisation, RtR seeks to support the social inclusion of artists and practitioners with experience of alienation and support their career development as a means of cohesion.
- 3) Reboot the Roots aims to expand its field of operations, and increasingly source new funding opportunities to develop its programmes of support.

Key Activities:

- 1) The provision of 8 days of workshops on Theatre of the Oppressed (specifically image theatre, forum theatre and the rainbow of desire) for a group of activists and participants from across Europe.
- 2) To assist the development of facilitation skills for arts-for-social-transformation practitioners.
- 3) Attendance of participants in a morning meditation practice.

Budget:

(Please see attached invoices.)

Options To Recoup Expense To Reboot The Roots:

- 1) Funding provided by Ecodharma, in addition to 1000 Euros by August 2016.

Monitoring & Evaluation:

Assessments will examine:

- the skills of facilitators in delivering high quality workshops to the clients.
- the success of participants in recreating the skills and techniques they are taught.
- the content and objectives of the created performances

- the response and dialogue around issues raised by the workshops and subsequent plays
- self-assessment of the successes and difficulties of the programme (verbal interviews)
- feedback forms assessing the process

The assessment and documentation will take at least three forms:

- 1) Creative Director George Wielgus will make a written assessment on the development of the co-facilitators and the participants in the sessions. Please see previous reports for examples. He will analyse the progress made by those in the session, and present a written report on individuals, individual sessions, and the programme as a whole.
- 2) Technology allowing (ie access to a camera or recording device), the facilitators will document individual responses to the process through interviews.
- 3) Self-assessment sheets will be designed and handed out to all participants to rate the experience and hopefully provide some written feedback themselves. This will be done anonymously.

Continuation Plans:

It is hoped that if successful, the workshop series will become an annual part of the Ecodharma programme. In addition, George has been invited to collaborate on another series in May, and will also recommend that Kurt Murray and Iulia Benze are invited to provide a course in Identity Deconstruction.