

## WELCOME TO OUR FIRST EZINE

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#### YCM International Partner Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Oct 17

The fifth and final International YCM Project Partner Meeting took place in the headquarters of Roscommon LEADER Partnership on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2017. Partners travelled from Northern Ireland, Slovenia and Romania to discuss the collective updates on the intellectual outputs as an international partnership. A thorough review took place on areas such as the YCM Regional Alliance Toolkit, the YCM Course Curriculum, Regional Alliance Progression and the overall sustainability of the project. Each partner was given the opportunity to express progress made in their individual regions and highlight any outstanding actions to be completed. All partners have made significant progress with their Regional Alliances and have created meaningful



International YCM Project Partners who attended the Final Partner Meeting in Roscommon, Ireland in October 2017

Action Plans for their regions. An important aspect of the meeting was highlighting potential future sustainability measures for the Young Community Mediators Project. We are delighted to announce that as an international project partnership we are seeking to build on the success of the

YCM project with the potential of acquiring a new inter-relatable project to promote more opportunities for young people in our regions. Roscommon LEADER Partnership would like to thank all our project partners who attended the final meeting

## Irish YCM Regional Alliance Update

The fifth YCM Regional Alliance meeting was held in King House, Boyle, Co. Roscommon on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2017. The main theme of the meeting was finalisation of the running order for the upcoming

YCM International Launch and Showcase. Tasks were delegated to all members in attendance to aid in the delivery of the YCM conference at the event. Paul Hamilton rehearsed his presentation for the

Event as he was delivering a key speech surrounding achievements made through the Irish YCM Regional Alliance. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nov 2017 in same venue

## International launch of YCM-18<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017

Roscommon LEADER Partnership was delighted to host the International Showcase of their Erasmus+ Project “Young Community Mediators” in Kilbride Community Centre on Wednesday the 18th of October. It was officially opened by Matt Carthy, MEP for the newly created Midlands, North, and West constituency.

Tomas Beades, Operations Manager with Roscommon LEADER Partnership opened the day with a welcoming speech to all present, Matt Carthy, MEP who officially opened the international showcase spoke very supportively of European Funded projects and the huge impact they are making throughout Europe. On a local level he commended Roscommon LEADER Partnership for all their hard work to date and welcomed all changes being put in place to assist the youth of our regions. As this project is an international partnership bringing together partners from Ireland, Spain, Slovenia, Romania and Northern Ireland, Matt welcomed all partners to Ireland and congratulated them on their achievements to date.

Amanda Mee, Erasmus +Projects Manager kicked off the day with an overview on “Young Community Mediators” .The principal aim of Young Community Mediators is to equip young people with the knowledge and skills to become peer-to-peer mediators and play a greater role in addressing conflict in the community around them. Mediation is of huge importance and we all touch on it in our daily lives.



*MEP Matt Carthy officially launched the YCM Event*

On the day our international Partners alongside Roscommon LEADER Partnership showcased the tools and resources created as part of this Project to equip young people with the knowledge and skills to become peer-to-peer mediators. Our Slovenian, Romanian & Northern Ireland partners gave a brief overview of the success in their individual regions and the importance of the toolkit created as part of this project.

Roscommon LEADER Partnership at a local level established a Young Community Mediators Regional Alliance. This Regional Alliance brought together key youth, education & development and social policy stakeholders to explore existing and emerging youth initiatives in their region and to identify the opportunities, skills and best practice by which young people can be empowered to be peer to peer mediators in their communities. In addition, individual and collective commitments to action will be developed through this YCM Action Plan.

Mary Guihen, RLP and Jonathan McAlpin, Northern Ireland took us through the importance of the Course Curriculum that had been created by all partners as part of this project. It is hoped both the classroom and online version will be adapted and utilized by many Youth Workers, Teachers, Trainers and indeed anyone dealing with young people.

Speakers on the Day included Paul Hamilton representing Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB, and Linda Logan who is a trained Mediator. Linda delivered a very inspiring workshop on the importance of equipping young people with mediation skills and empowering them to be effective in managing conflict in their own lives and within their peer groups. She was joined by Stephanie Cooke, Youth & Family Support Worker with Foroige, who had participated in the piloting of the Course Curriculum in Roscommon and shared her experience on the day. Charis Hughes, Communication Officer for Léargas who is the National Agency for all Erasmus + funding hosted a workshop on the many opportunities available through Erasmus + Programme



Pictured are YCM Project Partners from Ireland, U.K, Slovenia and Romania alongside Matt Carthy MEP at the International Launch & Showcase of YCM in Ireland recently

The day concluded with a networking workshop with the partners and the many educational stands present as part of the Training and Education Fair. The day was a huge success and was well attended by various organisations representing Higher Education and Vocational Education. Also in attendance were agencies involved with youth and clusters from different disciplines such as Local Government/ Council and economic development bodies, Community organisations and networks, Youth and cultural bodies, Youth Organisations and youth workers, Social inclusion bodies, Sporting Organisations and of course the youth themselves.

### YCM Benefits

Young Community Mediators has been carefully structured to empower young people to settle disputes peacefully in the communities where they live, work or study by acquiring the knowledge, skills and attitudes to act as peer-peer community mediators. It will do so by increasing the capacity of youth workers to deliver such education in an engaging and practical manner as part of the regional youth services ecosystem. There are many overarching benefits of YCM such as...

- Young people will have the knowledge and skills to settle disputes peacefully in their schools and wider communities, contributing to the wellbeing of those around them.
- Youth workers will avail of professional training through an open set of resources and acquire the necessary skills, strategies and tools to integrate mediation education in their line of work. As a result youth organisations will have the ability to stay up to date with changing societal needs.
- Local Authorities will also benefit from experiencing a new model of partnership with youth service providers in which they “train the trainers”. This helps them fulfil their mission of social inclusion and education for hard to reach and disadvantaged young people.
- Educational institutions and social development agencies will understand the importance and advantages of using peer-to-peer mediation and provide a new path to engaging with the hard to reach young people, often from disadvantaged backgrounds.

## YCM Website - Full of free Resources!!

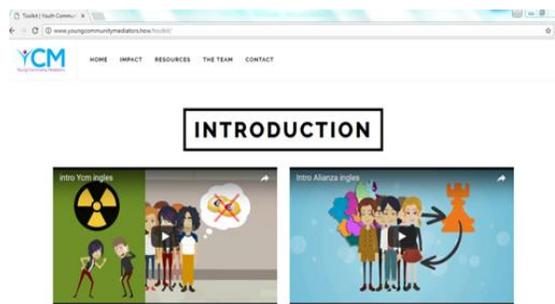
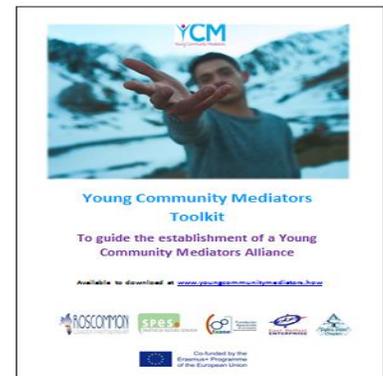
The Young Community Mediators unique website is generating a lot of interest in recent times. This one stop, jam-packed and user-friendly website contains a lot of resources which are absolutely 100% free and include the following...

- Toolkit
- E-zines
- Course Curriculum
- Online Course
- Classroom Course

You can find any of this information including many more resources on our website [www.youngcommunitymediators.how](http://www.youngcommunitymediators.how)

## Impact of YCM in Ireland

The Irish YCM Regional Alliance has played its European role in delivering the project in their defined region in Ireland. To date, the alliance has contributed to the development of fantastic YCM resources such as the toolkit, Course Curriculum, website and delivering the international launch and showcase in Ireland. Roscommon LEADER Partnership are committed to implementing the actions described in the Irish regional action plan and in doing so will continue to increase sustainability into the future for young people in the region.



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### Partners:

