

CONCEPT PAPER

UWC SHORT COURSE BELGIUM 2018

BUILDING AND CROSSING BRIDGES



INTRODUCTION

SHORT COURSE BELGIUM 2017

In 2017, the Belgium NC in cooperation with the TYN and BOOST organized a UWC short course “Building and Crossing Bridges in July 2017 in Marcourt, Belgium. Two coordinators, five trainers, and ten junior facilitators prepared a program focusing on identity, diversity, migration, and intercultural dialogue for 40 participants.

The team prepared a series of interactive workshops that helped participants reflect their own role in the world, then relate to other, and then relate to global community in general. Participants were also tasked to design a group social service project to implement in their home communities.

We have received an overwhelmingly positive feedback from our participants, the venue owners, and our partners. Therefore, we propose a similar program focused on developing participants’ leadership skills and multicultural understanding for 2018.





SHORT COURSE BELGIUM 2018

The program will take place at the same venue - CIRAC center in Marcourt from July 14th till July 28th.

The outstanding success of the course in 2017 and increased focus on short courses in the UWC strategy, we suggest expansion of the course to 50 participants. We want to offer places to 20 Belgian participants selected in cooperation with TYN and BOOST. In addition to the participants from Belgian, three refugees living in Belgium, and participants selected through UWC national committees.

The program will align to the similar concepts of participant development through a series of workshops based on methods in experiential learning. The upcoming year will orient the focus towards social service and responsibilities, and the final project. This brief concept paper will elaborate on the goals in more detail, present the proposed program, and introduce the team.

GOALS

We live in a polarized and multicultural world which increasingly lacks dialogue among this diversity within groups. The overall goal of the UWC Short Course Belgium 2018 is to provide a platform that increases multicultural understanding among all participants. There are five goals main goals that will help us achieve this include:

Creating a diverse multicultural group that celebrates difference

Building safe spaces based on the principle of mutual respect

Lead participants to social responsibility

Designing a program that challenges participants in every possible way

Help participants realize their potential

In such environment, participants will experience a life-changing experience, develop soft skills such as communication and project planning, and forge strong friendships and understanding across cultures and borders.

PROGRAM

The Program is divided into four thematic segments with project and Carpe Diem as additional activities that are not theme-related.

Intro

This section of the program introduces rules, goals, and team members of the SC to the participants. It also invites them to design their own community rules for the rest of the short course. Facilitators will also introduce a first serie of general workshops in a big group to introduce the themes of the short course to the participants. We will also help participants to develop some soft communication skills.



Self

In this part, facilitators will help participants to explore and question their own identities. It aims to show participants that their identity is not homogenous and unchanging, but rather flexible and multi-layered. We will focus on their own visions of themselves and ask participants to share their views and ideas with each other. This section serves as a reflection of participants on themselves.



Other

This segment will help participants to explore themselves in relation to the other. The program includes workshops on topics such as diversity, prejudice, and privilege. We will create a space where participants can share their views of each other, and how these views impact their perception of the other. They will explore the relation between their own identity and identities of others, and discuss how diversity influences their identity and vice versa.



Community

Community helps students to explore their own role in their respective communities. Participants will be lead to explore different types of communities such as family, religion, state, and ethnicity, and their loyalties and responsibilities to such communities. It aims to develop their own social responsibility to their respective communities, and helps participants discover potential avenues for participation.

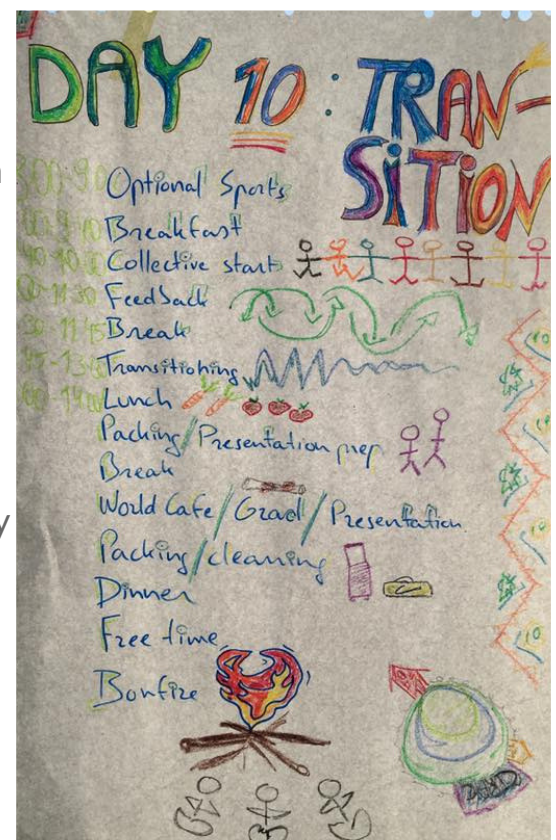
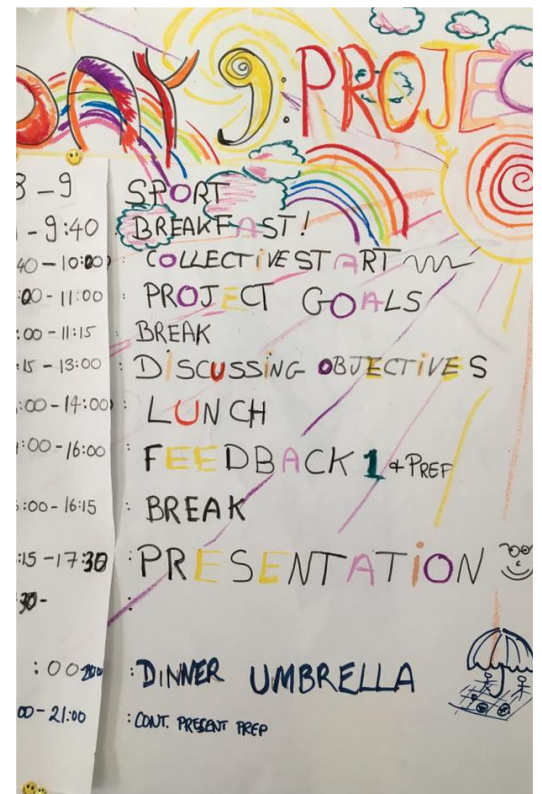
Project

The project offers participants a space to explore their interests and apply them through a social service project to an issue in their own community back home.

Participants will form teams based on their interests, and design a project to tackle some social issue at home. The team will help participants to identify issues in their communities, potential ways to alleviate them, and design a deliverable project of their own to implement after the short course. Project sessions will be held throughout the course, and supervised by different team members.

Carpe Diem

Carpe Diem is a daily space that allows participants to realize their own potential and develop their own program and/or workshops. Participants can suggest any activity (such as sports, discussion groups, theater, dance, etc) for any of the free global village time slots. The team will consider each suggestion, supervise its preparation, and encourage participants to take a lead.



MEET THE TEAM

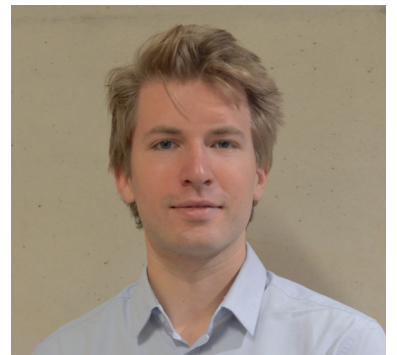
Salima Karmous

Salima is from Morocco, and currently lives Brussels. She loves to meet new people from different social and cultural backgrounds and that's why she believes in the short courses. In her view, it is one of the best ways to create a space that allows people from different backgrounds to meet and create more sustainable future. She is currently in her last year of high school, for the next year, she wants to study social policy at university level. In 2016, Salima attended the short course in Germany that was focused on sustainability. In the past year, she has worked as a junior facilitator at UWC Short Course in Belgium.



Petr Knor

Petr Knor is a passionate explorer, UWC Mostar alumnus, and a lifelong learner from Prague who attempts to test his limits to understand more about his place in the world. He is currently a second-year political science student at the Central European University in Budapest, and an Fintech Analyst intern at McKinsey & Company. On top of it, he also serves as the Alumni Representative on the College Board of UWC Mostar. In 2017, he served as a facilitator at SC Bulgaria and SC Belgium. In this year, Petr is pumped to be helping with SC Belgium, and SC Turkey.



Imane Bakkioui

Imane Bakkioui is from Belgium, where she also attended a UWC Short Course in 2014. She is currently studies Arabic and Islamic studies at Leuven University, Belgium. The word 'bridge' always meant something very important to her since crossing and building bridges between Arab and European cultures has been an essential topic in her life. She wants to explore this dynamic in the future, and wants to use the short course as a tool to bring young people from these two backgrounds together. Imane is a person with a big smile who loves to laugh.



Isabel Alonso Gomes

Isabel is Portuguese, graduated from UWC College of the Adriatic in 2001 and has been involved with the UWC movement ever since. At university she pursued a degree in Political Science and later a master degree in Development and International Cooperation. She has worked with different Portuguese NGOs and is interested in Education for Development and Human Rights. Currently she lives in Paris and teaches Portuguese as a Foreign Language.



Lucas Barinaga

Lucas is 19 years old, and he is currently studying at the Leiden University College of the Hague and will hopefully have completed his second year by summer. He has an interest in Economics, Politics, Arts, Sports, and Nature and hopes to share this with you during the short course. He has taken part in Belgium last year's short course as well as the the Spanish ActionxPeace course in December of 2017.



Bruno Stojcic

Bruno is a 19 year old first year at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, USA. He comes from Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, where he also graduated from the UWC Mostar in 2017. He is passionate about biology, politics and social movements (and chocolate). He organized and facilitated a UWC Short Course in Mostar in 2016. He believes that short courses are a very impactful initiative that allows participants from diverse backgrounds to meet and experience UWC without academics.



Maria Liddiard

Maria is a law student and trainer currently living in Madrid. Originally from the UK, she grew up in Lyon, France before going to study at UWC Mahindra College in India from 2013 to 2015. She has worked with a number of NGOs and, in the future, she hopes to work in Human Rights and in Education. Her interests include informal education, positive psychology, music, and global affairs. Free time mainly consists of playing guitar, going on adventures (big or small) and late night discussions. Maria has been involved in delivering Critical Engagement in three UWC colleges, and has worked on a number of summer courses as a trainer.



Vadim Lacroix

Vadim Lacroix is 22, Belgian, graduated from UWC Adriatic in 2014. After UWC, he completed a classical piano bachelor at Brussels' conservatory, while simultaneously taking economics courses at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. He has wide interests, including philosophy, psychology, sociology, economics, international relations and politics. Combining different fields and approaches, he seeks to answer what allows humans to flourish? This has led him to study at Leiden University College, where he attends the Global Challenges program, currently majoring in Governance & Economics & Development. As a strong believer in the UWC mission and the importance of education, in 2017, he volunteered as a facilitator at UWC Short Courses in Belgium and Bulgaria.



Svenja Budziak

Svenja graduated from UWC-USA in 2012 to return home to Germany to start at Kiel University after a year of volunteering in her local community. She earned a Bachelor's degree with a double major in Islamic Studies and History and went on to pursue her Master's degree and picked up the studies an additional Bachelor's degree in archaeology. Throughout her course of study she continuously engaged with international education, such as the UWC Short-Course in Bulgaria 2017, and integration related issues in her home community. She interrupted her graduate studies for the Bartos Fellowship where she works with high school students and does research concerning the topic of Culture of Remembrance. She is currently interning with the German Historical Museum in Berlin before continuing her university education in April.



Can Altunkaynak

Can (pronounced like jan in Dilijan or like John with an American accent) is a Turkish UWC Dilijan alumnus who have graduated last year. He is 20 years old and studies at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, USA. He has not declared his major yet, but he is considering majoring in Anthropology or International Affairs with a minor in Ethnic studies. He likes chocolate and dancing. Also, he is a language geek and loves learning and speaking different languages.

