



CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Autumn Seminar “Rewriting our Story”
of the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN)
in Lorient, Brittany (France)
1st–7th of November 2021

The Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) is looking for participants for the Autumn Seminar “Rewriting our Story”. The event will take place in Brittany and will be hosted by Kenstroll Breizh. It will be supported by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe.

Participants should **arrive on the 1st** and **depart on the 7th** of November.

About the Seminar:

YEN’s year 2021 will be under the slogan: “Changing the narrative”. Every day we are surrounded by stories and narratives that influence how we think about other people, society, and the world. Most of the time we only listen to those who are the loudest, the most powerful or have the best networks. Sadly, this often means that only one-sided, over-simplified or wrong stories are told about marginalised communities.

Writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie states, “Many stories matter. Stories have been used to dispossess and malign, but stories can also be used to empower and to humanize.” Thus, it is important to empower young people from national minorities in creating their own stories.

With this activity, we want to take a further step towards a creative and more “hands-on” approach on the creation of stories. It will allow participants to express their identity and produce something tangible.

The Seminar will focus on the exploration and reflection of storytelling while providing concrete and creative tools for the creation of their own stories.

As a participant you will address three perspectives:

1. you will contribute to the plurality of stories about national and autochthonous minorities and use new stories and narratives to challenge existing narratives;
2. you will contribute to the plurality of stories within your minority, by self-representing and re-defining the authorship of the narrative of your minority;

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3. you will have the opportunity, space, and skills to create a successful story and narrative while fostering your communication skills.

We want to support your creative self-expression and help you improve your storytelling skills. Together we will create stories that will have a personal as well as political impact.

If you are interested in creating stories about underrepresented social groups such as national minorities and in contributing to the plurality and diversity of narratives, then this seminar is just right for you. It will offer you a chance to discuss with others and deepen your knowledge and insight into this topic.

The workshop will be in English. However, if you don't feel confident, we will find the way to communicate, just let us know!

About Kenstroll Breizh

The Bretons are a Celtic ethnic group native to the historical region Brittany. They trace much of their heritage to groups of Brittonic speakers who emigrated from southwestern Great Britain, particularly Cornwall and Devon, mostly during the Anglo-Saxon invasion of Britain. They migrated in waves from the 3rd to 9th century (most heavily from 450 to 600) into Armorica, which was subsequently named Brittany after them.

The actual number of ethnic Bretons in Brittany and France as a whole is difficult to assess as the government of France does not collect statistics on ethnicity. The main traditional language of Brittany is Breton (Brezhoneg), spoken in Lower Brittany. As one of the Brittonic languages, Breton is related closely to Cornish and more distantly to Welsh. It is the only Celtic language to be found on the mainland of Europe.

In 1914, over 1 million people spoke Breton, 90% of the population of the western half of Brittany. In 1945, it was about 75%, and today, in all of Brittany, at most 20% of Bretons can speak Breton. Currently, most Bretons' native language is standard French. Seventy-five percent of the estimated 200,000 to 250,000 Breton speakers using Breton as an everyday language today are over the age of 65. Breton is considered to be a highly endangered language. The language is still not accepted by France as official language. Nevertheless the language is taught at schools the last couple of years.

The organisation Kenstroll Breizh (which means «Gathering of Brittany») was born as a collective of different youth associations working with the Breton's cultural and linguistic heritage who decided to join their knowledge and experiences to participate at the United Nation Minority Forum organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2017 on the theme « Minority youth: towards diverse and inclusive societies ». This successful experience has given them the will to create an organisation of young Bretons who share the same passion and curiosity for their common heritage, for other cultures and young people around the world to exchange with them good practices, experiences, ideas, etc. Altogether, they have plenty of capacities and knowledge which can build great things. New members with other experiences will be integrated soon. The organisation aims to give young Bretons a voice and a chance to build a more inclusive, peaceful and sustainable society by exchanging with other young people of the world.

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About YEN

As YEN we believe in human rights and fundamental freedoms for all humans. We cooperate with and support institutions that share those values. Our work is built on the ideas of respect, openness and tolerance for all minorities. We openly position ourselves against racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, antigypsyism, antisemitism and discrimination or forced assimilation of any kind of minority and, as a matter of principle, are against violence in whatsoever form. When we choose facilitators and topics for workshops we do so with those values in mind.

We are happy that at YEN events our participants and team have various opinions and views on the topics we address. We value discussions and open exchange of ideas. Therefore, we expect that participants and team-members show respect to everyone and do not spread hate. Furthermore, we expect all attendees to acknowledge that every human being is equally valuable and that each individual's freedom ends where another individual's freedom begins.

Profile of the participants

- Young members of minorities involved in their minority youth organisation (16-30 years),
- The ability to work in English (however, if you don't feel confident, we will find the way to communicate, just let us know!);
- You don't need any pre-knowledge on the topic (we will provide you with everything you need to know to prepare)
- We can accept one or two members per organisation depending on the number of applications. There will also be a waiting list and the free places will be given to those who are on the list after the deadline;
- We can only accept participants that will be present for at least 80% of the workshop.
- Applicants who have already participated in YEN events as well as "Newbies" are welcome.

Travel reimbursement

Travel expenses will be reimbursed partly up to a previously set maximum amount. They will be reimbursed only when a signed „Expense Claim“ as well as all the original tickets are sent to the office and participants provide all needed justificatory documents of travel and expenses (invoices, boarding passes, train or bus tickets...). **Taxi costs cannot be reimbursed!** More details will follow when participants are selected.

Participation fee

The participation fee is 100 € for Western European participants and 70 € for Eastern European participants. It covers food and accommodation for the entire seminar, as well as excursions and required materials during the event.

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If you have to cancel your participation later than 2 weeks prior to the event and there will be no replacement, we will have to ask you for the participation fee. You do not have to pay the participation fee if you cancel in case of illness.

Social fund

If you need support to pay either your travel costs or participation fee, contact the office to ask for more information and/or apply for financial support (office@yeni.org).

Accommodation

Accommodation is only covered during the duration of the seminar (check-in on 1st September in the afternoon, check-out on 7th November in the morning). If you arrive before or stay longer you will have to cover it yourself!

We will reimburse your travel costs only if you stay **no longer than two days** before or after the seminar.

The seminar will take place at:

Auberge de Jeunesse Lorient

41 rue Victor Schoelcher

56100 LORIENT

Téléphone.: (+33)(0)297371165

E-mail: lorient@hifrance.org

Participants will be accommodated in double-, or four-bedrooms.

Corona Safety Measures

While we are happy that it is possible to meet again, we have to acknowledge, that the pandemic is not over yet. We will do everything to ensure a safe environment to meet. However, we must follow the rules that are in place at the Hotel as well as in France. Please read through them carefully so everyone can feel safe and that we can continue to make meetings like this.

- Please make sure that you have a negative **rapid-Test** on arrival. If you need a PCR-test for your travel

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or if it is not possible to get a rapid test for free wherever you live, we are happy to reimburse you for it. Please save your receipts and bring them with you.

- Check all the **travel requirements for entering and returning from France** so you will not run into any problems while travelling to and back from the event. If you need a negative test for your return journey message us and we will organise a Covid-Test for you before departure.
- During the event we will wear **surgical mask** or **FFP2 masks** during the workshop and when we are inside. We ask you to bring some masks with you. If you forget, do not worry we will bring some with us so just tell us on arrival if you do not have any with you or run out of them during the event. You will be asked to wear a mask even if you are vaccinated or have recovered from a corona infection.
- Closer to the event we will send you another **information sheet** where we summarise local hygienic regulations as they will probably differ to where you live and everybody should be informed. It is possible that these regulations differ from what is described here due to recent changes.
- Finally, we will actively control all our hygienic rules during the event to guarantee a safe meeting for everyone. **We kindly ask you to cooperate with us, as we only have everybody's wellbeing in mind.**

We are optimistic that we can finally meet again but of course we will keep an eye on the ongoing developments and it is possible we will have to cancel the event. We will keep you updated!

If Corona will not allow us to meet we will implement an online-activity.

Application:

If you are interested to participate, please contact your organisation and fill in the online application form:

[APPLICATION FORM](#)

Deadline for the application is the **4th of October**

Please note that **you have to contact your organisation before you apply. Applications that were send without the knowledge of an organisations will not be considered.** After the deadline, applicants will be informed whether they are selected or placed on a waiting list.

All participants are required to take part in at least four full days of the seminar.

Make sure that you choose the cheapest and eco-friendly way of travelling to the venue.

Please book your tickets right **after** you get the official confirmation from the YEN office!

Additional information will be sent to you after your participation is confirmed by the office. If you have any question about the seminar, please contact us at the below mentioned email addresses.

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YEN Office:

events@yeni.org

Tel.: +49 176 31779414

www.yeni.org

Facebook: @yeni.org

Kenstroll Breizh:

kenstroll-breizh@gozmail.bzh

We are looking forward to meeting you!

Your YEN orga-team

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