

Backpack Journalism – an approach to Active Citizenship

Project presentation

Socialna akademija
Ul. Janeza Pavla II. 13
SI-1000 Ljubljana

Vid Tratnik
project manager

Aim of the project

The aim of the project is to increase media literacy of young people and to encourage active citizenship by giving them knowledge and tools to become citizen journalists.



Backpack Journalism

Today, the tools for reporting are becoming increasingly available and can fit in a backpack: a video camera, portable editing software, a laptop, and an internet connection.

These tools enable anyone to create journalistic content and transmit it to audience.

Idea of Backpack journalism method is to motivate teams of young people (groups of 4 people) to use technology, explore a distant place and produce materials about it.



Citizen Journalism

The idea behind citizen journalism is that people without professional journalist training can use the tools of modern technology and the global liberty of the internet to create, augment or fact-check media on their own or in collaboration with others.

For example, you might write about a city council meeting on your blog or in an online forum. Or you could fact-check a newspaper article from the mainstream media and point out factual errors or bias on your blog.



Through the method of Backpack Journalism we train Citizen Journalists.

Backpack
Journalism



Citizen
Journalism

Project goals

This project aims at enabling young people to become citizen journalist by:

- Developing a methodology and a pilot toolbox for mentors and participants
- Training for mentors
- Initiating local citizen journalism projects
- Implementing the methods of backpack journalism and citizen journalism.
- Organising events and presenting project results
- Networking and future cooperation on the topic



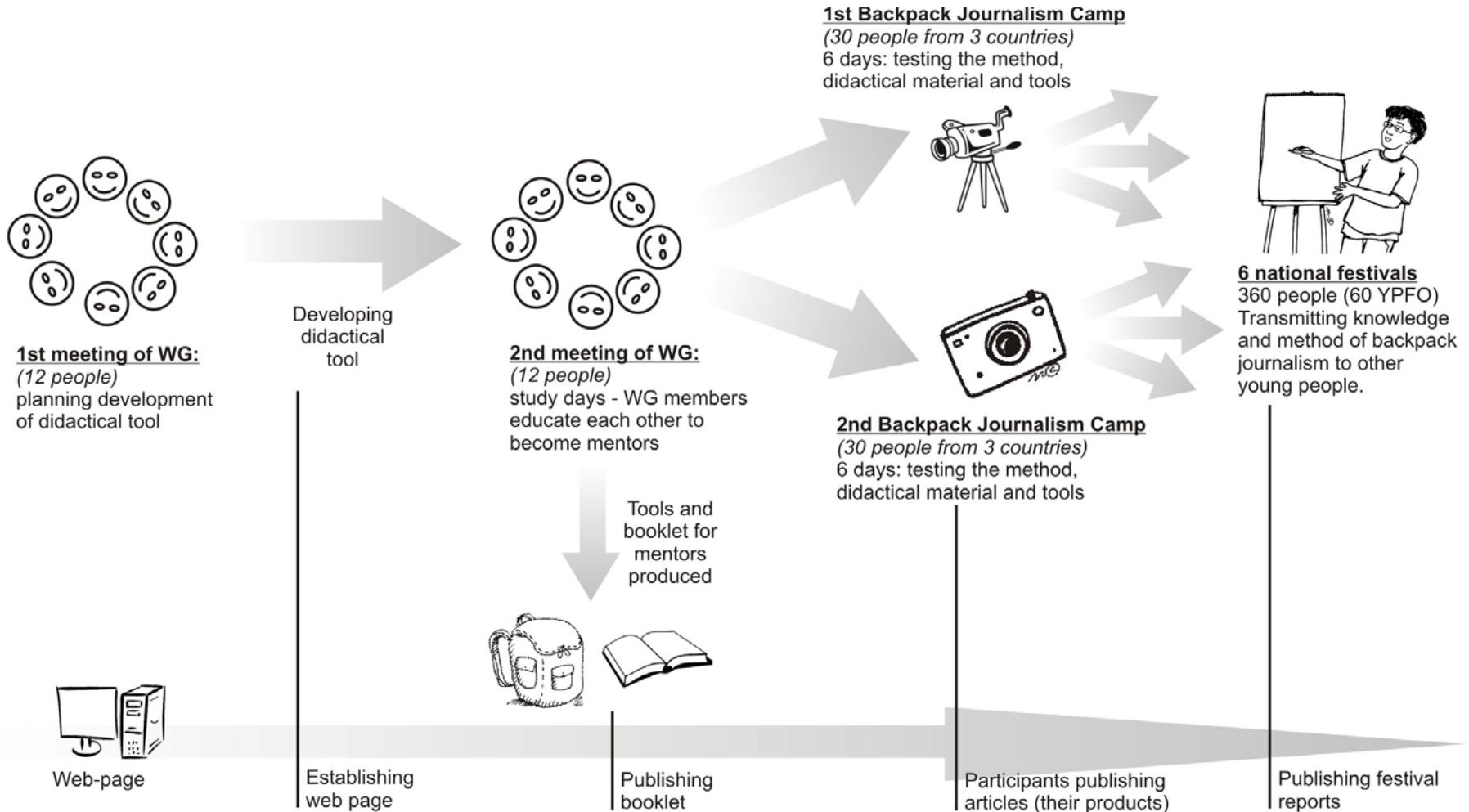
The Workgroup

2 trainers from every partner organisation,
skilled in youth work, online media tools or
media literacy;

*if this is not the case, they should be skilled in working with young people and willing to become trainers / mentors during this project



Project flow



First workgroup meeting

Czech Republic

2 working days (3 nights) in March 2010

Main aims: Getting to know the project and each other, planing project steps.

Tasks:

- define project implementation
- distribute tasks, discuss communication
- find competences of each mentor (competence model)
- plan contents of manual for mentors



Between the meetings... (April – September 2010)

- Time for each partners' individual work:
 - Developing manual for mentors and training for mentors
 - According to the tasks distributed on the first meeting of working group every individual partner is going to examine part of mentors' skills, prepare part of mentors' manual and design a plan to train other mentors in his/her skills.
This work will be done on the basis of mentors' competence model.



Second workgroup meeting

Slovenija

5 working days (6 nights) in September 2010.

Main aims: Finishing development of **didactical tools** and **trainings for mentors**

This meeting is going to take **5 working days** (6 nights) and is going to consist of 2 major parts: **finishing** the development of **didactical tools** and **trainings** for mentors. This 2 parts are going to be interlaced – not one after another but parallel.

For the meeting we are going to use the **study circle method**. In this method every participant prepares a part of the activity with its specific learning outcomes . At the end, every participant acquires the **full range of skills** needed.

Result: First 12 educated mentors.



After study meetings

Finishing and printing booklet for mentors

Through the exchange of knowledge among mentors the training materials for mentors will be tested. Corrections will be made and after the meeting the materials will be finalised, language checked, designed and printed.

Production of backpacks (toolboxes for Backpack journalists):

The project team is going to prepare a list of tools and equipment that teams of young journalists are going to need for their work. The toolbox will focus on tools to improve the quality of media products which are not otherwise available.



BJ&CJ Camps

Two partner countries (still to define)
March-May 2011

Youth training camps for BJ&CJ: Backpack Journalism methodology is going to be implemented and tested

2 camps

- **24 people from 3 partner countries** for each camp + plus **6 mentors** (2 from every country) that will facilitate learning and project teamwork



After youth camps

Backpack Journalism Camp Follow-up (in every country) + preparation of national festivals

After coming back from camp some groups will continue with their work as journalists. They are going to continue producing news and articles and be citizen journalists. Mentors of course are going to stay in touch with them. But their major task is going to be to **prepare national festivals** where their experiences and knowledge is going to be spread among peers from the same country. Members of their and other organisations are going to be invited and skills as well as **knowledge and values** are going to be **promoted** through these workshops.

Implementation of National festivals

Every partner is going to implement its own **national festival for about 60 participants**, 10 of them considered young people with fewer opportunities. Festivals are going to be organised **by young people for young people**. With multimedia contents (workshops, presentations etc.) participants are going to learn about the Backpack Journalism methodology, become interested for it and pick up some practical skills. They are also going to be encouraged to apply new backpack journalism project on national grants as well as on other YiA calls.



Final products

The final products of the project will be:

- A methodology for BJ&CJ
- A trainer's manual
- Toolboxes (backpacks) for young participants
- Two study meetings (12 mentors)
- Two BJ&CJ camps (60 young people)
- 6 local backpack journalism camps
- An internet portal
- Online media archive with young journalists' contributions



Partners



Landesjugendreferat Steiermark (Austria) - jugendreferat.at
Contact: Arno Hofer arno.hofer@stmk.gv.at



Young Partners for Civil Society Development (Romania) -
www.youngleaders.ro Contact: Iulian Ghinoiu
iulianghinoiu@yahoo.com



Stowarzyszenie Serfenta (Poland) - www.serfenta.free.ngo.pl
Contact: Anna Krezelok serfenta@o2.pl



Petrklíč help (the Czech Republic) - www.petrklichelp.cz
Contact: Petr Kantor kantor@askcr.cz



Keret Egyesület (Hungary) - www.keret.hu
Contact: Cili Szécsány szecsany.cili@gmail.com



Socialna Akademija (Slovenia) - www.socialna-akademija.si
Contact: Vid Tratnik vid@ksok.si,
Matej Čepin matej.cepin@skavt.net,
Peter Černuta peter.cernuta@gmail.com

