



Central and Eastern Europe

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Experiencing a fairer and more caring society A Workshop for Sharing Ideas: Hungary - July 2018

Understand how a fairer and more caring society is built, based on the thinking and experience of people living in extreme poverty.

DESCRIPTION

In 2016, the first Workshop¹, held in Sofia, focused on how to reach out to people in extreme poverty and discuss what they learn from each other.

The conclusion of this Workshop was given by one of the participants, Kalin, a health mediator in his ghetto district: *"I never imagined that there were so many people involved fighting against poverty. It gives me courage to continue"*.

In 2017, the priority was to write meaningful stories, by meeting people at their homes, about their courage, dignity and the changes that they made in order to allow others to discover and make known their commitments against poverty. All of these stories give visibility and courage to those who commit themselves in the fight against extreme poverty. They were written as part of the international campaign "Stop poverty" led by ATD Fourth World and were collected in an electronic booklet "Stories of change"²

This booklet, available in English, Bulgarian, French, Hungarian and Romanian, will serve as a support in preparing the 2018 Workshop.

This second workshop, centred on equal dignity and "living together", will prolong the exchange of experiences between citizens involved in the fight against extreme poverty and help to build a Europe that leaves no one behind.

During 3 days, people or groups from Bulgaria, Hungary, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, as well as people from France and the United Kingdom will get together. 34 participants and 6 interpreters are expected. From individual initiatives, the group will seek to understand how a more just and more solidary society, built from the thoughts and experiences of people living in extreme poverty, can be experimented.

In the months preceding the Workshop, two permanent ATD volunteers will visit all of the participants as part of workshop preparation. Starting with their concerns, they will help them determine how they can contribute, thereby encouraging the best participation from each individual.

Prior to the workshop, during two days, visits to Hungary will be offered to participants in order to learn about local initiatives, which will lead to a higher participation of Hungarians.

Like the first Workshop, the originality of these meetings lies in the choice of participants. Enabling people with a history of poverty, some of whom are now mediators, to attend an international meeting in 5 languages only very rarely occurs. This is often a first experience for a large number of participants.

ATD Fourth World commits to "Leave no one behind" as described in the Sustainable Development Goals, by meeting those who have the most difficult life and by seeking their active participation.



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1. <http://www.atd-quartmonde.org/bulgarie-atelier-de-rencontres-entre-personnes-engagees-contre-pauvrete/>
2. <http://www.atd-quartmonde.org/1001-histoires-sud-est-europe-livre-numerique/>



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About ATD Fourth World

Founded in 1957 by Joseph Wresinski, the ATD Fourth World Movement brings together families living in extreme poverty and people from all countries, all backgrounds and beliefs, to fight together against poverty and social exclusion.

ATD Fourth World is present and operates in 32 countries in Europe, Africa, the Indian Ocean, the Americas and Asia. With correspondents in a hundred countries, it runs the "Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty" network.

The ATD Fourth World Movement in South-East Europe seeks to learn about initiatives made by other organizations or individuals to fight against poverty. The presence of two permanent volunteers, living in Sofia, Bulgaria, since September 2015 has allowed the Movement to establish links with several individuals and groups in Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, and Moldova.

Estimated Budget* Workshop July 2018 – Budapest - Hungary

Travel and lodging	17 400 €
Preparation	11 000 €
Staff	12 000 €
Other Expenses	450 €
Overhead (5%)	1 686 €
Total	35 396 €

* 34 participants and 6 interpreters

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Allow participants to share their practices and feel supported when developing the participation of the poorest people in their field work. Mutualize experiences.
- Strengthen the links between people struggling with poverty, by those with the most difficult life.
- Build a better understanding of the realities experienced in each country.
- Develop recommendations for social justice in a more inclusive society.

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