

International Training Circle – Call for Proposals

3-Year Peer-to-Peer Professional Development Seminars:

Methods and Tools to Develop Competencies in Awareness, Feelings and Action for Inclusive Social Development

Background

The International Training Circle of the Section for Inclusive Social Development (formerly Anthroposophic Council for Inclusive Social Development) has been meeting annually, for almost 30 years, as a network for professional exchange between the anthroposophically oriented professional education and training centers in the field of supportive education, social pedagogy, social therapy and inclusive social supports. One of its core tasks has been peer-to-peer continuing education and training for trainers, with a focus on methods and didactics in practice-integrated, arts-integrated, spiritually oriented and contemporary professional education in and for this field of work. Most recently, this took the form of a three-year, ERASMUS+-co-funded cycle of exchange of good practice. Documentation and results can be found at <https://peer2peer-cet.eu>.

Call

For the upcoming three-year cycle of work, which includes the annual conferences of the International Training Circle in April/May of 2025, 2026 and 2027, we are seeking proposals from colleagues in the network who can offer a continuous three-year professional development seminar. Each seminar will consist of a series of workshops at these three successive annual conferences. Each seminar will also include some low intensity additional remote/virtual engagement with the group of participants in the two intervening years (between the 2025 and 2026 conference, and between the 2026 and 2027 conference).

The seminar offered should add to participants' practical toolkits as professional/adult educators by teaching a concrete educational method, didactic approach and/or instructional design for a topic that is relevant to professional training in our field of work. The tools and methods introduced during the seminar should be aimed at building competencies for work in inclusive social development. These competencies must be clearly described in the proposal.

Seminar themes could include, but are not limited to:

- A particular artistic method or process used as didactic tool.
- An innovative instructional design for a course that can be replicated or adapted.
- A way of integrating specific contemplative exercises and practices into professional formation.
- A multi-modality approach and lesson design for a professionally relevant topic.

- A toolkit to make professional education accessible to non-native speakers of the language of instruction, to trainees/students from diverse cultural backgrounds and/or to individuals with disabilities or other learning support needs.
- ...

We specifically also welcome proposals that address the themes developed at our work at the last conference in Buenos Aires, in April/May 2024: How can we (1) build skills and capacities for inclusive ways of working in the practice field; (2) create inclusive formats within professional and continuing education spaces, where professionals and self-advocates can learn together; and (3) include self-advocates as instructors and co-designers of professional education and training curricula? Proposal don't have to directly address these questions, but we invite you to consider them as you develop your concept.

We also encourage you to find partners and submit your proposal as a small team of 2 or 3 co-instructors.

Throughout the three-year cycle, you will be working with a group of participants that is more or less stable – though it is within the nature of our network that there will be some fluctuation, which you will need to absorb.

Goal

At the end of this cycle, participants in your seminar should have added a concrete set of methods, instructional design principles or curricular ideas to their toolkit. They should have engaged with these in enough depth, so that they feel confident and able to integrate and use their new tools in their own professional education practice.

Commitments

If you are submitting a proposal, you are committing to:

- Attending the annual conferences of the International Training Circle in 2025, 2026 and 2027 (including making appropriate arrangements within your proposal team if one of your team members is unable to attend).
- Hosting at least three online sessions each year, between the 2025 and 2026 conference, and between the 2026 and 2027 conference, with your group of participants, which are an integral part of your seminar.
- Providing appropriate handouts and materials to your participants.
- Submitting a brief 'manual' or practical overview of the method or tool that you introduced, which can be published by and for the International Training Circle as an open-access digital resource after the 2027 conference.

This work is a free-will contribution to the collegial peer-to-peer professional exchange processes within our network. The financial conditions for participation in the annual conferences will be the same for contributors as for other members of the International Training Circle, and we are not able to offer an honorarium. As in past years, we will be able to offer limited support with travel expenses and conference fee, based on demonstrated need, and within the limits of the resources available from solidarity contributions from the network of training centers and pending successful fundraising for our solidarity fund.

Dates and Locations

- 23 – 26 April 2025, Kassel, Germany (confirmed)
- Approximately 28 April – 2 May 2026, location and dates to be confirmed
- 28 April – 1 May 2027, Kassel, Germany (scheduled, subject to change)

Submit your Proposal

Please submit your proposal via the following form **by January 17, 2025**:

<https://forms.gle/F5CFyzXMLCU9WTXR6>

When submitting your proposal, please be prepared to answer the following questions:

- Name(s)
- Organizational affiliation
- Email of primary contact
- Title of the proposed seminar
- Abstract – Provide a summary of the objectives and methodology in two or three sentences.
- Objectives (Competencies) – List the competencies for inclusive social development addressed by the instructional approach / methodology / design that you will teach participants.
- Methodology & Process – Outline the instructional methodology and the process that you will be working with over the course of the three years.
- Materials needed – List any materials that you or participants will need.
- Language(s) of instruction
- Anticipated need for financial assistance – If you anticipate needing financial assistance to enable your team to participate in the Training Circle Conferences in 2025, 2026 and 2027, please provide realistic estimates, keeping in mind that resources in our solidarity fund are limited.
- Additional comments

Next Steps

The Training Council will review the proposals at its January meeting and make a selection, based on the number of seminars needed, program fit and diversity of themes and approaches. We will be in touch in early February 2025 for follow-up.

If you have any questions, please reach out to jan.goeschel@goetheanum.ch. This call and further information on the work of the International Training Circle is also available on the webpage of the Training Circle: <https://inclusivesocial.org/en/project/ausbildungskreis/>.

We look forward to your proposals, and to the next cycle of work together!

Warm regards

Jan Goeschel
For the Training Council

December 7, 2024