

UNISER TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM STANDARDS

1. A general presentation of the hosting partner on the first day of activity:

'Checkin' is a Youth Faith Tourism project, founded and supported by the Maltese National Federation of the Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco. 'Checkin' focuses on creating opportunities and facilitating experiences for young people to embark on a journey of self-exploration and engagement with nature, culture, and travel.

'Checkin' welcomes young people and educators to learn about the Maltese culture and heritage, but also offers non-formal educational opportunities to explore further one's abilities and skills. 'Checkin' offers a variety of products which will help young people and educators to explore the Maltese islands from a fun and spiritual point of view.

This training course is to foster excellence in the field of education and pedagogy by empowering professionals and practitioners to familiarise themselves more with non-formal education. Salesian education will be the model presented for non-formal education.

2. Training course summary:

DAY 1 – Welcome event and Introduction

- Introductory meeting, explanation of practical and logistical arrangements, presentation of timetable, information about course venue.
- Setting the Scene – Enriching Education through nonformal activities
- Icebreakers, introduction to the course.
- Fears, expectations, and the contributions each participant will bring to the training.
- Experiential learning – A hands-on introduction to the process of experiential learning
- Working within the “learning zone”.

DAY 2 - Setting the Scene – Enriching Education through nonformal activities.

- Sharing of experiences and good practice in relation to nonformal learning within both the formal and the nonformal environment, especially linked to the framework of the school curriculum and nonformal settings.
- Experiential workshop: experiencing working together understanding of the attitudes, skills and boundaries educators in non-formal setups need to adopt in their encounters with youth.
- Cultural evening.

DAY 3 – The Salesian Educational Approach and the benefits of this Approach

- An in-depth understanding of the Salesian educational approach, its values, and themes. Learners are exposed to this educational and pastoral charism developed by St. John Bosco, and its foundational values of loving-kindness, reason, and spirituality.
- Experiential workshop: Further values and themes will be explored, including but not limited to, inclusivity, happiness, and presence. This module also presents background on the relevance and impact of this non-formal educational approach together with practical examples of its implementation. The benefits of this for students and staff who are experiencing challenging situations will be examined.

DAY 4 - The Four Pillars in the Salesian Education Approach

- Participants will familiarise themselves with the Salesian model of education which strives to provide youth with a home that welcomes them, a school that prepares them for life, a church that evangelises, and a playground where friends can meet and recreate. This module gives an in-depth description of each pillar of the Salesian model and the values it represents, namely freedom, responsibility, solidarity and meaning, respectively.
- Experiential Workshop will help participants understand that the Salesian environment creates a balance between these four pillars. Corresponding to previous modules, learners are presented with practical ways of transferring this pedagogical approach to their respective professional areas.

DAY 5 Presence – The Salesian Educator

- After presenting the Salesian educational approach, and how to create the right environment for it, this module presents the attitudes of the educator within. This module gives an understanding of the attitudes which demonstrate this presence, and provides a tool set to reach them. Learners are presented with practical examples and real-life experiences related to the theme.
- Experiential Workshop: The Salesian educator is actively present in the places where young people are, and takes part in their daily life, during moments of education, reflection, and games.
- Evaluation of the programme and exploring practical applications of the training course learning material. This session will bring together all the learning aspects of the training, and how they are adaptable for educational purposes in different environments. The pedagogical value of the activities that were experienced and other variations that are possible will be understood and discussed.
- Practical applications. The final Networking. The participants will be invited to build networks of professionals who can be of support.
- Developing future ideas and proposals. The participants will have the opportunity to discuss possible future collaboration opportunities.

3. Training course learning outcomes:

This course explores the characteristics that are required to provide a meaningful and engaging educational relationship with the young and provides the essential knowledge and skills related to the Salesian educational approach. Moreover, it provides real-life examples from the field and encourages exchange of best practices and experiences. This course will provide:

- An understanding of the role and value of non-formal education in formal and informal settings.
- An overview of the Salesian educational approach and its different aspects as a model for non-formal education.
- Values such as inclusivity, respect, and self-determination, related to the Salesian educational approach.
- An understanding of the four pillars of the Salesian educational environment

- Essential qualities and attitudes of the Salesian educator.
- Practical applications of the Salesian educational approach.
- An awareness of the participants' own position in the field of education, youth work and/or social welfare.
- An opportunity to explore possibilities for implementing non-formal educational approaches in the participants' professional areas.

4. Participants requirements:

It is suggested that teachers are to find accommodation in the centre of Malta (St. Julians, Sliema, Gzira, San Gwann) as most sessions will take place in Sliema. Transport will not be provided to the training centre but will be provided if the session takes place in another location. Participants will be contacted if any changes are done.

5. Validation:

Although the Salesian model is being presented, this course caters also for professionals who do not work in a Salesian setup. The values that will be presented are universally applicable. Whilst the modes of delivery are practical, the participants will also be given the opportunity to design their own non-formal activities within their respective professional fields.