



**Stichting voor Volkshogeschoolwerk in Nederland**

# INVITATION

**REGISTER NOW!**

## **Grundtvig Workshop for volunteers**

### **VITAL VILLAGES**

#### **Learn how to make a Village Development Plan for your own village or region**

**29. October – 4. November 2010**

**Sneek, The Netherlands**

This is your opportunity to learn about successful models for Village Development Plans, to share your experiences in this matter and to obtain useful skills and tools for community development.

This Workshop is meant for volunteers of organisations for community development, who want to learn how to make Village Development Plan or a Village Vision in their own rural community, or already have experience with Village Development Plans.

### **Background**

Since the 70<sup>th</sup> of the last century, the situation in many rural areas in Europe has been changed dramatically. A process of accelerated decline took place: a severe decrease of inhabitants and facilities, weak infrastructure, less employment, unoccupied houses and buildings, etc. This was also the situation in Friesland, the province where the Workshop will take place. Inhabitants and provincial government, both wanting a liveable rural area, looked for ways to stop the above-mentioned process. Together with community development workers, they searched for suitable actions in this situation. This was the start of the Village Development Plans (VDPs'). First the plans were rather rudimental, but with the years we see a development towards almost professional VDPs', made by the inhabitants themselves. Actual VDPs' cover a broad range of issues that are essential for the vitality of the village and suppose an active contribution of the inhabitants, including marginalised groups. As this participation requires a whole set of skills, education plays a key role in this process.

### **Activities**

1. Presentation and analysis of new issues in rural development work.
2. Presentation and analysis of successful models to make and implement Village Development Plans. There will be a special focus on models that do not only stress the technical/physical aspects of development, but have a holistic approach and also include social and historical aspects, landscape, active citizenship, individual well-being, etc.
3. Field visits to villages that made a Village Development Plan
4. Project simulation: The Making Of a Village Development Plan, including training of practical exercises of skills that are necessary during the process of making and implementing a VDP.

## Objectives

- participants experience that by mobilizing all inhabitants of a village around a VDP it is possible to stop a process of decline, discover new chances and perspectives for the village and its inhabitants, and develop strategies to realize new plans to increase the liveability
- participants train skills that are necessary in rural development context
- participants are able to transmit their new knowledge at home

## Outcomes

After the workshop you will have insight in the main new issues in village development work and in various models of Village Development Plans. You will have insight in the role of municipalities, rural support organisations and public society. You have experienced 'the making of a VDP' and trained necessary skills. You will have a set of tools to work with. You will have new inspiration to play your role in the process of village development, contributing to the improvement of the vitality of the village. You will be part of a growing network of persons and organisations active in Village Development Plans.

## Venue

Participants will be hosted in the friendly basic accommodation Stayokay Sneek, in the province of Fryslân, [www.stayokay.com/sneek](http://www.stayokay.com/sneek). The venue is wheelchair friendly.

## Finances

Travel costs will be reimbursed up to € 300,00

Accommodation, lunches, dinners and coffee breaks will be covered

## Participants' profile

- you are active in rural volunteer work for more than three years with the perspective to continue active in this field during the coming years
- you have the support of your home organisation
- you can understand, speak and write basic English

## Registration

Registration deadline is the 10<sup>st</sup> of September 2010. We will notify you via e-mail until the 14<sup>th</sup> of September if your registration is accepted. Should there be more applications than workshop seats available (max. 18 persons), a selection will be made on the basis of the composition of diverse organisational profiles, geographical and gender balance.

## The Foundation for Folkhighschoolwork in The Netherlands

The organisation has its roots in rural development and training. This workshop is one of the follow up activities of LILLA, a former learning partnership about rural development and education, which was coordinated by the Foundation for Folkhighschoolwork. We have expertise in actual issues in rural development and education with its different approaches and visions. We have a broad network in this area, both nationally as internationally.

The Workshop is organised in close co-operation with Doarpswurk, support organisation for local interest associations and community centres in small villages in the province of Fryslân.

For more information and registration, please contact us via [lidwienvosdewael@chello.nl](mailto:lidwienvosdewael@chello.nl).

## Foundation for Folkhighschoolwork

[www.volkshogeschool.nl](http://www.volkshogeschool.nl)

## Doarpswurk

[www.doarpswurk.nl](http://www.doarpswurk.nl)

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[www.volkshogeschool.nl](http://www.volkshogeschool.nl)

Jarig van de Wielenwei 32

9423 SH Bakkeveen

The Netherlands

mail adress for this workshop: [lidwienvosdewael@chello.nl](mailto:lidwienvosdewael@chello.nl)