



Forum  
Theatre

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## Forum Theatre

Helping teachers and counsellors motivate and guide young people via acting

### Contact

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Read more about the project on our website: [www.lbhf.gov.uk](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk)  
The project's website [www.actvise.eu](http://www.actvise.eu) is expected to be ready in March 2011.

### Project Partners

The project partnership is composed of institutions from Denmark, Finland and the United Kingdom that works with issues concerning young people and integration:

**VIFIN**  
Videnscenter For Integration

[www.vifin.dk](http://www.vifin.dk)

ungdommens  
**Uddannelses  
vejledning**

[www.uuv.vejle.dk](http://www.uuv.vejle.dk)

**h&f**  
hammersmith & fulham

[www.lbhf.gov.uk](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk)

**humak** University of Applied Sciences

[www.humak.fi](http://www.humak.fi)

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*“Theatre is a form of knowledge;  
it should and can also be  
a means of transforming society.  
Theatre can help us build our future,  
rather than just waiting for it.”*

*Augusto Boal, Games for Actors and Non-Actors, 1992*



The Forum Theatre project will improve the competencies of teachers, guidance counsellors and mentors in motivating pupils to learn and complete the education process. The forum theatre (FT) method or participative theatre, in combination with internet and mobile phones will be used to advise young people on the problems they are facing. The project improves the competencies of guidance counsellors and teachers through a combination of participative theatre and digital technology. These new methods create a higher degree of clarification, motivation and self-understanding among young people who are highly at risk of dropping out.

The Forum Theatre project is primarily for teachers, guidance counsellors, mentors, and professionals engaged in advising or counselling young people about their education, vocation and future.

Using the FT method in youth counselling creates situations wherein young people are able to face their dilemmas in a safe environment. They are challenged to actively find solutions while articulating their justifications and motives. Moreover, the use of digital technology in FT will enhance the learning process and it is envisioned that this will make FT more attractive to young people.

## Courses on FT for career and guidance counselling

The Forum Theatre project will offer training courses for teachers and counsellors who want to supplement their counselling methods. The courses will consist of training on how to mount forum theatre productions, the pedagogical considerations on how FT can be used in guiding young people and finally an introduction to how mobile and IT technology can be used together with forum theatre.

Attendance to training courses is free and open to everyone who wants to improve their competences and gain new inspiration in working with young people. Training courses for teachers and counsellors are expected to run in September 2011.



## Why Forum Theatre?

In the partner countries, and across Europe, high drop out rates amongst young people continues to be a main issue, and many do not even start an education. Studies show that this could be caused by, among other things, lack of challenge, attention, motivation, self-understanding or ethnic heritage.

Teachers and counsellors need to ensure that the learners' decisions are well justified and reflexive. It is thus necessary to use alternative activities in giving advice other than dialogue.

Developed by the Brazilian theatre Director Augusto Boal, FT (popularly known as the “Theatre of the Oppressed),” have been used and proven effective in helping participants enhance their self awareness and self confidence. It offers teachers, counsellors and mentors new ways of engaging and motivating young people.

In forum theatre, situations or dilemmas are played out whereby spectators are encouraged to participate by questioning the actors, and eventually to suggest alternative ways of tackling the situation. The performance in effect becomes a “rehearsal for life” for the participants, preparing youth people to withstand internal and external influence and pressure.

The project is inspired by the EU-Minerva-funded project, Act & Change, which used FT method to promote cultural understanding. The Forum Theatre project is supported by the EU-LLP Leonardo da Vinci Transfer of Innovation sub-program, and is composed of partners from Denmark, Finland and the UK.