



Contribution's Request

The next **international meeting of Street Work professionals'** organization committee encourages interested participants to apply for a contribution concerning the conference contents on their own behalf or their organization's.

Since knowledge sharing is the cornerstone of the **June 2009 Quebec City meeting**, your contributions, by thoughts' diffuseness, knowledge and experiences, shall nurture the quality of our exchanges and our learning. Everybody, and thus not only trainers, is invited to propose their contribution.

As a complementary item for your contribution participation, **three contribution modes** for the programming are available for you to choose from (workshop facilitator, presentation, communication) as well as modalities to propose your appliance.

Workshop Facilitator

You like to lead as **facilitator of a chat group**? You can apply as a co-facilitator for workshops happening Wednesday morning (field integration) or Thursday afternoon (Varied themes about formation).

If you happen to be interested to occupy a facilitator role, send a message to the organization committee **before April 15th** in which you describe in a few lines:

- Your motivation as an facilitator;
- The type of subject upon which you would be at ease to lead chats ;
- Reference address (Email or postal) ;
- Language(s) in which you would like to or you could do it (French, English, Spanish)

Initiatives Presentation

You led an initiative or created a training tool? You are currently on a research or want to test a facilitation mode? You have realization to expose? You can propose an **activity or a stand** about varied subject concerning street work training under the *"foire aux initiatives"* (frequently asked... initiatives) to be held on Tuesday afternoon.

If you happen to be interested to show something, send a message to the organization committee before March 31st 2009 in which you describe in a few lines:

- The activity you propose (stand, photos, video, game, text book, etc.) and the subject it is about;
- The type of material you might need;
- The number of possible participants (or any other details);
- Reference address (Email and postal) ;
- Language(s) in which you would like to or could do it (French, English, Spanish)

Communications Call

You've got a one-of-a-kind view about an aspect or another which concerns street work training? You are interested to encourage discussion among the participants of the conference? You can propose an **oral communication** in the panels-workshops of Thursday morning.

Purpose and Format of Communications

These panel conferences' purpose is to tap on the expertise of the people involved to allow interesting exchanges, be it by the sharing of critical thoughts, emphasizing of paradoxes, by setting views debates, by presenting singular practices, research leads, questions, etc.

- The communications must be held within a 20 to 30 minutes lapse of time;
- The accepted presentations will be teamed up in duo or trio among similar thematic panels ;
- Different formulas may be used for your communications (more traditional conferences, varied facilitating tools, multimedia, etc.)

Communication Themes

The increased solicitation for street work in recent years leads practitioners from all around the world to react in regard of the description of their very action and the theorizing of what emerges out from their practice in order to update its development and preserve the basics. Also, the prime importance of long-term commitment to build a relationship of trust with people at odds with social breakdown leads our organizations to develop resources to encourage the retention of practitioners and the renewal of their practice.

In such a context, many aspects of the formation lead to a second thought and are forefront issues for future street work practices. Here are the four **thematic axes** from which communications should be elaborated:

1. **The changing social realities: challenges of updating the street work training.**

Street work claims to be an avant-garde practice which one of its missions is to face realities mostly unknown and occulted, that might be new or recurring. Indeed, the

social transformation raises several challenges to the practice, for example different forms of marginalization, intercultural relations (migrations, exodus, interracial tensions, racism, etc.), or even the coming of new ways of life associated with new technologies (socialization virtualization, isolation, medication, etc.).

⇒ What knowledge and skills do Street Workers must develop to reach and support people in situations of social breakdown as well as constantly renew their practice in light of changing social realities?

2. Street Work expertise: Issues of ownership, legitimacy and passage

In a context where intervention professionalization tends to show necessary, the question of leadership training becomes an issue for the persons involved in Street Work. On one side are multiplying institutions (academic, public, private, religious and international) interested to help in training street workers. On the other, the associations seek to mobilize so that street work training continues to tap and draw its inspiration from the wealth of experiences of this newly emerging practice.

⇒ How street work training does define its criteria for credibility? Who directs and influences the definition of the criteria for recognition? What are the challenges of alliances involved in the development of training?

3. Street Work Training: educational challenges of coaching

Different educational challenges of coaching must be considered to adapt the many training ways to the diversity of contexts and intervention mandates (street work, outreach, etc.) as well as the singularity of practitioners' profiles. From training point to continuing training, workshops, self-motivated to formal seminars, the companionship between colleagues followed in clinical supervision, a variety of resources are to be explored to meet the diverse needs and constantly changing players in street work.

⇒ How the training is similar or different between the practices? What intervention approaches are transmitted? How can one accompany a new practitioner? How can a trainer monitor a practitioner about the boundaries between private and public life? Can we train relationship, more importantly the how-to-be?

4. Organizational challenges for street work: Issues of training coordinators

Street work services management are becoming quite a challenge for managers that are responsible of it. As soon as hiring criteria are defined, it appears to be a challenge to hire candidates with multiple skills (relational capacity, organizational skills, etc). Then comes the challenge to supervise these practitioners without stifling them and another one: reconcile the interests of workers, the organization and the practice itself. On top of that adds another challenge, which is to render credible and finance street work without dragging into compromises that may endanger street work credibility or stability.

⇒ What type of leadership one should use in a street work organization? How one can deal with competition between activist, militant and bureaucratic logics at organizational culture? How to use the democratic space to promote the involvement of stakeholders in the ways practices should move? How to promote or make easier the street workers' ceaseless training?

Submission of Communication Offers

Elements to be included

Name and first name of presenter or group, his mandate about street work (worker, trainer, researcher, student, manager, etc.) and his organization as appropriate;

- A document presenting your communication (between 250 and 400 words) with the communication title, objectives and a summary of the theme proposed featuring the links between the very subject and one or more of the axis thematic illustrated above ;
- Reference address (Email or postal) ;
- The type of material you may need (which may be adjusted later on);
- Language which will be used (French, English or Spanish)

Method of selection

Proposals will be evaluated by a subcommittee of the organizing committee according to the relevance of the topic and the complementary aspect of it among other communications. The committee will be especially interested in proposals that appear to be an exciting formula for exchanges between participants. Notice that no remuneration is associated to these communication submissions.

Limit date to apply

March 31st 2009

Committee answer date

April 14th 2009