

NEWSLETTER

GUARDIANS OF TRUTH

INTERNATIONAL JOINT STAFF EVENT



Between 25 and 27 November 2025, project partners gathered in Bulgaria for the International Joint Staff Event (JSTE), hosted by Alternativi International. The event brought together staff and trainers from all partner organizations to collaboratively test and refine the project's educational materials and online training tools. The JSTE was designed as a highly participatory working meeting, combining practical testing with peer learning and reflection. Throughout the three days, participants worked closely together to ensure that the project outputs were clear, relevant, and suitable for use with young people in different local contexts. Strong attention was also given to inclusion, quality assurance, and environmentally responsible practices.

EDUCATIONAL TOOLKIT TESTED THROUGH HANDS-ON PRACTICE

The first two days of the Joint Staff Event were dedicated to testing the educational toolkit developed within the project. Partner trainers facilitated interactive sessions that included role-play, case studies, experiential activities, and small-group work focused on greenwashing and critical thinking.

Participants actively engaged both as learners and facilitators, allowing them to assess the clarity of instructions, relevance of content, and adaptability of the activities. Structured peer-to-peer evaluation and feedback sessions helped identify strengths, challenges, and concrete suggestions for improvement. This process ensured that the final toolkit was practical, engaging, and easily transferable to youth work settings.



ONLINE TRAINING TOOL PILOTED AND IMPROVED

On the third day, the focus shifted to testing the project's verbal reflection rounds and online training tool. Participants structured surveys, allowing the tool part in guided partnership to identify technical walkthroughs of the platform, issues and content followed by individual hands- inconsistencies. The testing on testing of the modules. confirmed that the online tool Attention was given to user effectively complemented the experience, navigation, visual educational materials and clarity, and technical supported both blended and self-paced learning approaches for youth workers and young people.

STRENGTHENING LOCAL IMPACT THROUGH WORKSHOP PLANNING

A key outcome of the Joint Staff Event was the preparation of partners to deliver local workshops with young people. Participants worked with facilitation guidelines, templates, and practical recommendations for organizing one-day trainings for youth at local level.

The final sessions focused on summarizing the main improvements identified during the event, aligning expectations among partners, and reinforcing commitments to inclusion and green practices. By the end of the JSTE, all partners felt confident and well equipped to implement high-quality, tested activities that would contribute to the project's long-term impact.



PARTICIPANTS DIVE INTO THE CLIMATE FRESK EXPERIENCE

During the event, participants took part in a Climate Fresk workshop, a collaborative and interactive climate education activity designed to deepen understanding of the climate crisis. The session was structured as a creative group exercise where teams worked together to connect scientifically grounded cards illustrating causes and effects of climate change. Rather than listening to lectures, everyone actively built a visual "fresk" that brought complex climate science to life.

Through lively discussions and collective problem-solving, participants gained a clearer picture of how human activities fuel climate change and what that means for ecological and social systems. The emphasis on teamwork and reflective dialogue helped strengthen both climate knowledge and peer connections. By the end of the workshop, many shared that the experience transformed abstract data into tangible understanding and inspired them to think about climate action in new ways.

The closing session of the International Joint Staff Event on 27 November 2025 celebrated the shared learning and collaboration achieved over three intensive days. As a highlight of the final afternoon, all participants received a certification of completion, recognizing their active engagement in testing educational materials, piloting the online training tool, and contributing valuable feedback for improvement.

This certification not only marks attendance but also acknowledges the skills and insights participants demonstrated throughout the event. By actively engaging in hands-on workshops, role-plays, peer evaluations, and structured feedback sessions, staff members strengthened their facilitation, collaborative evaluation, and educational design competencies. These are essential skills that will support the delivery of high-quality local workshops with young people in the months ahead.

