**Criteria for selecting presenters**

**Name Project: “Let’s meet for the SDGs”;** *Community Empowerment in Europe.*

* Address how your project is contributing to the implementation of SDGs through education.

RCE London has been working with fellowship COMMEET for the past 2 years in order to promote community empowerment to achieve the SDGs. This project will draw on the expertise of RCE London and COMMEET to combine education, learning and community-power in order to provide communities with the tools for the implementation of at least 5 SDGs in the three years ahead of us (2023-2024-2025).

* Demonstrate engagement of multiple stakeholders, including participation and support of local communities

COMMEET Fellowship for Community Empowerment is an innovation platform, specialized in inspiring and enabling local communities to take responsibility for their future into their own hands. At this moment 60 Fellows from over the world (among many RCE-members) participate in this Fellowship and give their best efforts to develop new ways of getting forward in the field of Sustainable Regional Development. A number of RCEs have already been actively involved in this process and this project will seek to engage the wider RCE community in this process of community empowerment for the SDGs. COMMEET already has a considerable quantity of Good Practices and Manuals (Toolkits) to be used for free. See the website: www.COMMEET.org

Examples of these Toolkits are:

* How to promote the wellbeing of Migrants
* How to achieve progress in vocational training and education to support sustainable regional development
* Fighting all sorts of racism
* Organizing Climate Actions
* Protecting the Rights of vulnerable women and children

Many more Toolkits will be launched in the next years.

All these Toolkits are designed to contribute to local problematic situations that need to be restored and improved. Fellowship COMMEET can help the European RCE-network to organize potential projects to the choice of the participants and to guide these initiatives to bring them to a success.

* Demonstrate contribution to theme

It is evident that Sustainability issues that are organized by the members of a local community have a much stronger and longer lasting effect on the community’s future than initiatives that are managed top down. In the first place: community members (including educational institutes) have a very good understanding of the problems of their own region. In the second place, community members have the best knowledge of the expertise that is available in their neighbourhood. And finally, it will be COMMEET’s task to bring in existing Good Practices from over the world and guide new local practices towards a maximum success.

* Analyse impacts in terms of how projects have brought positive changes to the communities (if applicable)

Community Empowerment is a relatively new issue worldwide. It will be part of a joint European RCE-project on Community Empowerment to bring together existing European Good Practices and publish them systematically for a broad free use. The toolkit for the well being of migrants has already been trialled in Malaysia in the Rohyinga community and the findings have been very positive. It has also been well received by a number of refugee and migrant organisations.

* Discuss ways of further scaling up, mainstreaming and deepening ideas and actions of the project (ways forward)
* Scaling up of ESD and sustainable development activities in the region with reference to UNESCO’s ESD 2030 Action Plan and the SDGs.

With regard to the last two questions:

* RCE London and COMMEET propose to bring together as many European RCEs as possible under the theme:

**“Let’s meet for the SDGs”: *Community Empowerment in Europe.***

* The project team will be organized to select at least 5 SDGs to be included in a joint effort to promote these SDGs through Community Empowerment. RCE London could take the lead and Fellowship COMMEET is ready for support and coaching. Currently there are not many RCEs which work with communities and the project will seek to
* enable RCEs to develop the skills and expertise required for this**.**
* The project period will take three years: 2023-2024-2025. Identifying international funding will be one of the important issues. The European Union is now under its governing term 2021-2027 and Social Cohesion if one of the major items in this terms budget. Of course, the financial issue regarding non-EU RCEs has to be solved.
* During the project period the project management will continuously inform the global RCE Network about the progress, the successes, and failures. Our aim is to provide all who are interested, a maximum of information and project advice.