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Home Sweet Home???

Erasmus+ program KA1 (Youth Exchange) project

18.07.2016-28.07.2016 Laulasmaa, Estonia

Summary

Youth exchange "Home Sweet Home" takes place on 18th to 28th of July 2016 in Laulasmaa and is about refugees, internally displaced and stateless people. The exchange is inspired by the currently worsening refugee crisis and the discussion it has brought up across Europe. The aim of the project is to fight against the spread of false information regarding refugees and to increase tolerance and empathy among the youth. Participants of the youth exchange are 30 people in the age range of 20-30 who are interested in the topic.

During 11 days of the youth exchange, participants learn to understand the everyday situation of refugees, internally displaced and stateless people through taking part in interactive activities. The project agenda includes different workshops and discussions, role-playing games, debating and meeting with experts and going to the Vao refugee centre. Through those activities participants learn a lot about the project topic and develop new skills in themselves. At the end of the youth exchange, participants develop a short workshop that they can later use in their home cities to teach other youth about the topic. Participants of the youth exchange can spread their knowledge through carrying out those workshops and help to increase tolerance in the whole society.

Objectives

- To become more aware of the problems refugees, internally displaced and stateless persons face.
- To increase participants' tolerance and empathy towards those groups of people. Participants will understand that the above-mentioned human groups consist of individuals who have similar concerns, joys and dreams.
- To improve critical thinking and ability to analyze information
- To be able to organize workshops for other young people in their local communities in order to pass on acquired knowledge.
- To improve language skills, intercultural understanding and acceptance.
- New friends :)

Participants profile

The youth exchange will have 30 participants from 5 different countries (1 group leader + 5 participants from each country). Ideal participants would possess the following qualities:

- 1) Motivation to participate in the youth exchange and interest in topics related to refugees, internally displaced people and stateless people. Previous experience in dealing with those issues is not required.
- 2) Commitment to carrying through the follow up activities of the project (workshops in local communities).
- 3) Excellent ability to communicate in English. As the topic is rather complicated it is difficult to fully participate in this youth exchange without ability to speak English
- 4) Is between 20-30 years old. In case of strong motivation we are also willing to accept people aged 18-20.

When choosing participants, we also follow the principles of gender equality and inclusion of disadvantaged youth.

Youth exchange & advanced planning meeting

The Youth exchange will last for 11 days from 18th to 28th of July 2016 in Laulasmaa. During that time we will have many different interactive workshops and other activities. Each country will have the group leader + 5 more participants taking part of it.

To ensure that the youth exchange will be successful we will also hold an advanced planning meeting on 19-20th of June in Tallinn. The aim of the meeting is to share responsibilities between different country groups and to go through all of the organizational details of the youth exchange. Only 1 group leader from each country (2 from Estonia) can take part in that meeting.

All of the costs of both the youth exchange and the advanced planning meeting + travel costs are covered by the Erasmus+ funds. The preliminary schedules for the youth exchange and the advanced planning meeting can be found below.

Youth Exchange Agenda

	First day	Second day	Third day	Fourth day	Fifth day	Sixth day	Seventh day	Eight day	Ninth day	Tenth day	Eleventh day
Main topic of the day	Arrival	Getting to know each other	Introduction to the topic	Simulation game	Meeting with experts	Acknowledging problems	Visiting the refugee centre	Thinking up solutions	Creation of workshop	Conclusions	Departures
9:00-10:00		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
10:00-12:00		Getting to know each other	Introduction to the topic	Workshop on media depiction of refugees	Discussion with experts	Workshop on Syria and Eritrea	Visiting Vao refugee centre	Learning how to debate	Promotional photoshoot of the youth exchange	Trying out the developed workshop	Making European Youth Passes, official ending
12:00-14:00		Logistics and agenda of the youth exchange; expectations, hopes and fears of participants, rules of the youth exchange	Mapping out the current situation, cultural differences of participating countries	UNHCR simulation game about refugees	Discussions with politicians	Workshop on internally displaced people and stateless people		Debating on topics related to refugees	Creating a workshop plan based on things learnt during the exchange	Making changes in the developed workshop	Departures
14:00-16:00		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
16:00-18:00		Teambuilding	Workshop on stereotypes	UNHCR simulation game about refugees	Group work based on morning discussions	Movie afternoon (on topic of refugees)	Visiting Vao refugee centre	Writing letters to politicians	Further Developing the workshop	Erasmus+ possibilities and planning future cooperation	
18:00-20:00			Workshop on EU refugee policy	Simulation game continues, reflection of it	Sightseeing tour in Tallinn	Discussion about the movie	Discussion / Workshop about the situation of people in refugee centres	Free time		Making conclusions about the exchange	
20:00-21:00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
21:00-21:30	Getting to know each other & name games	Reflection	Reflection	National evening Turkey	Reflection	Reflection	Reflection	Reflection	Reflection	National evening Italy	Goodbye party
22:00-		National evening Estonia	Games night		Evening in the city	National evening Lithuania	National evening Czech Republic	Free time			



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Advanced planning meeting agenda

	Travel day	1st day	2nd day	Travel day	
8:00-9:00	Arrivals	Breakfast	Breakfast	Departure	
9:00-10:00		Getting to know each other and name games	Returning to Tallinn and checking into the hostel		
10:00-11:00		Rules of the event, expectations, hopes and fears			
11:00-12:00		Departure to Laulasmaa and check-in	Going through the agenda of youth exchange		
12:00-13:00			Division of tasks		
13:00-14:00		Lunch	Lunch		
14:00-15:00		Checking the venue of youth exchange	Specifying the content of youth exchange sessions and activities		
15:00-16:00		Presentations about participating organizations			
16:00-17:00		Optional city tour of Tallinn for people who arrived early	Discussion about project aims, expected impact and how to reach it		Discussion about follow up activities
17:00-18:00					Exchange of contacts and future cooperation arrangements
18:00-19:00	Dinner	Õhtusöök	Õhtusöök		
19:00-20:00					
20:00-21:00	Check-in to hostel	Solving logistical issues of the youth exchange	Free night in Tallinn		
21:00-22:00					



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Venue

The youth exchange will take place in Laulasmaa, Estonia (around 35 km from Tallinn). Participants will stay in Laulasmaa Side Puhkekeskus in simple rooms for 1 or 2 people. Toilets and bathrooms are either private or shared by 2 rooms.



The venue is located 700m from the sea so if the weather permits, it is possible to go swimming. We also have a sauna that we can use and large outdoor area together with places where to play basketball and volleyball. It is possible to use the kitchen for the preparation of cultural evenings. More information about the venue can be found on the following site: <http://www.puhkekeskus.ee/>



During the advanced planning meeting, group leaders will spend 1 night in Laulasmaa and 2 nights in a youth hostel in Tallinn

Partner organizations

The participating organizations in the project are:

- MTÜ SHIA (Estonia)
- Asociacija „Apkabink Europa“ (Lithuania)
- Evropské centrum mládeže Břeclav (Czech Republic)
- Upload APS (Italy)
- Hacettepe University International Project Society (Turkey)

Travel information

We will meet with all of the youth exchange participants in Tallinn and organize transportation from there to Laulasmaa. Therefore, it is advised for everyone to fly to Tallinn airport (for Lithuanians, there is also the option of taking a bus to Tallinn).

The maximum amount of travel costs reimbursed by the fund is 20€ for Estonians, 170€ for Lithuanians and Czechs and 270€ for Italians and Turks. The costs of group leaders taking part in the advanced planning meeting will be reimbursed right away. Due to the funding regulations of Erasmus+ we can only reimburse the travel costs to youth exchange participants after the project reporting is done. Unfortunately that can take several months of time. We can reimburse the travel costs to a few participants during the exchange (for those who absolutely can't wait a few months for the reimbursement to arrive).