



K1 - Youth Exchange ERASMUS + “My green steps ... through the forest”

- 05 – 15 August de 2018
- Lisboa; Arruquelas; Rio Maior;
- 60 Participants
- 10 Europeans countries:

APV – 22/23/24 June – arrived in Lisbon 22 till afternoon, when we pick you in airport. Departure 24 after lunch - participation in the APV is only for the group leader who should come to the project (VERY IMPORTANT WE DON'T REEMBURSE TRAVEL IF WHO COMES TO APV THEN DON'T COME TO YOUTH EXCHANGE)

Group of each country - 4 participants and 1 leader

All participants and lidere sleep in MILITARY tents 10 PEOPLE PER TENT

Shower in shared showers, - gender separation

All the participants collaborate in the confection of the meals

This is a unique project in Portugal. It is very rare to have such large projects, a unique opportunity for all of us take part in so big Erasmus + project – Youth exchange

It is a project of environmental characteristics, leaders and participants must be committed to the theme

Our organization does not charge any participation fee, we don't agree with this! so we do not allow partner organizations to cover participation fees for their participants that comes to project, because a small fee may be an obstacle to participation in the program.

Erasmus + does not want obstacles to the participation of all young people, everyone

The aim of this International Exchange is to put together 60 young people from different European countries, with a diverse cultural backgrounds, but with common interests for the environment. After a dramatic year for Portugal with many fires around the whole country, with many victims and social problems very difficult to solve. This year, the forest fires destroyed more then 442 thousands hectares and was the worse



year ever for Portugal, according to the Institute of Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF).



After this catastrophe, many European countries solidarized with Portugal and showed that the fires problem and everything that comes from it has a European dimension. This is the reason for what we want to realize this International Youth Exchange Project. To be a project with a pedagogical meaning regarding this topic, but to be, in the same time, a project with a impact in the region, to let the people understand the dimension of the problem and to can promote a responsible attitude regarding the protection of the forest, in all it's dimensions.

Being an accomplished project in Arrouquelas, a rural village, from the inside of the country, in a big forrestier area, gone strengthens our objectives. Now, when the relations between the European countries are becoming stronger, it becomes necessary to put in the attention of the European young people, the environmental issues, focused on the conservation of the forest and it's sustainable development. Through the cultural activities and sport, using the creativity and a pedagogical methodology, we pretend to grow synergies to sensibiliser the participants and the communities. The work is to develop with this project a European dimension, where all the participants will be involved, promoting the protection of the environment, the conservation of the forest, to identify the commune environment problems, to share good practices and if it's possible, to came with solutions and ways to act individually or in groups.

Activities:

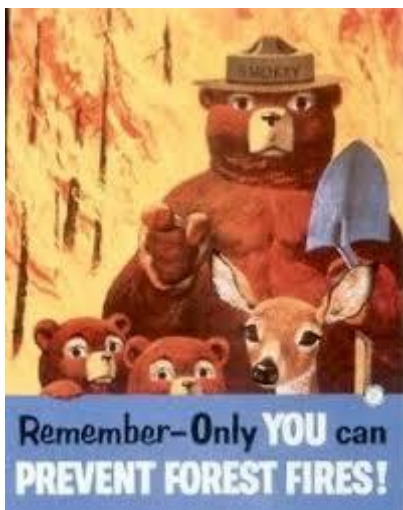
- **Camping**
- **Group dynamics**
- **Environmental Workshops**
- **Artistic activities (representation and painting),**
- **Sports activities (hiking, mountain biking (Forest Rangers),**
- **Manual work with recovery of footpaths, forest lookout posts, tree replanting actions**
- **Thematic Sessions,**
- **Pedagogical Visits.**





Aims:

- **Assess to the Europe environmental heritage;**
- **Promote a good environmental practices, with awareness of the communities for the preservation of the forest,**
- **Create environmental material to promote this cause,**
- **Identify problems and good practices in the various countries related to the project theme**
- **Discover ways of common intervention,**
- **Privileging environmental sustainability in the economic development of countries**



The forest generates wealth, offers pictures with unique landscapes, habitat of diverse lives, cleans the air, purifies waters, protects the soil, gives employment, dazzles tourists and still enriches gastronomy. It responds to each of the three pillars of development - economy, society and environment. Its evolution intertwines with that of Portugal, in its stories and in its History. As it does in the present and promises in the future.

Portugal has more than a third of its territory covered with forests and forests. Forestry is a sector that accounts for almost 10% of the country's exports and employs 1.8% of the working population. This is one of the largest and most important natural resources in the country and has proved this. Since always. From the fire, shelter and food used to protect the people of yesteryear, the pulp and cork that now feed a large part of the national economy, is a source of employment, exports, sales, leisure, biodiversity, carbon sequestration, regulation of water quality and water cycle. Throughout the country's history, the landscape underwent tremendous



changes, sometimes because clearings were opened for agriculture and pasture, or because forestry resources were needed, as was the case with navigation or crossings for the railways. In addition to its biodiversity, the forest fed, lit, heated, sheltered and provided income to families. Today it continues to do so. Forest fires are one of the major catastrophes in Portugal. Its causes are varied, but a great part is due to human neglect. Therefore, the protection of the forest begins in ourselves in our actions, in what each one can do.

