



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



# Youth and Art:

*a story of inclusion*



10-17 September 2020  
Uzana, Bulgaria

# SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

**The project** "Youth and Art: a story of inclusion" will be held between 10-17 September 2020 in Uzana, Bulgaria. The participants will be 42 young people from Bulgaria, Serbia, Czech Republic, Croatia, Romania, Portugal and Greece. Participants will be aged 16 to 30 years old. There is no age limit for group leaders.

**The idea:** The World Migration Report of 2018 stated an effective number of 244 million migrants in 2015 with an average growth of 0,5% every 5 years. That means it is expected 30 to 50 million more migrants in 2020 if no new and different actions are taken, starting with the raise of awareness which is the core foundation to make a change. The New European Crisis on Migration emerged through the rising number of refugees and migrants coming to the European Union, across the Mediterranean Sea or Southeast Europe, and applying for asylum. They come from areas such as the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, Western Balkans and the reasons behind these flows come from many different push and pull factors. However, these massive flows have been raising many concerns in Europe as they tend to be connected with violent extremism without proof and evidence. The result is a bad public image that leads to fear, prejudice, xenophobia and discrimination towards migrants, all of which are against the values of EU and have a great impact in peace and prosperity of Europe. For these reasons, we, youngsters, decided to develop this project idea to involve youngsters like us on this topic. It's an idea that has been developed after our participation in previous Youth Exchanges and local activities on the topic of migration, brain drain and intercultural learning. It is a topic that is very relevant to us and our partners and this mobility is chance for us, the youth in our country, and in our partners' countries to play an active role in this process of change making. These past experiences highlighted the value of these exchanges and the need of their continuation/improvement. After several meetings and surveys with local and international partners we decided to promote the topic through art, more specifically Theater(performative), Painting/Drawing(visual) and VideoMaking(digital). Humans have used arts to express/communicate for centuries. It shaped their culture, nationality and identity. Arts have been a major catalyst for change in society around the world and it's a method known for the very good results/feedback it provides by stimulating self-reflection, development of oneself and also by overcoming xenophobia, prejudices and stereotypes.

**The main problems** the project responds to are: low awareness on the migration crisis happening in Europe as well as the prejudice and discrimination towards migrants and refugees linking them to violent extremists and therefore develops more fear and xenophobia, a vicious circle we must break in Europe.

**The main aim is:**

- To raise young people's awareness/understanding on migration crisis in Europe, offering the opportunity to create strong networks and develop a sense of European citizenship and values, thereby promoting non-formal learning and cooperation in the field of youth.

### **The objectives are:**

- To foster positive interaction, active participation, self-reflection and personal growth of young people from different social backgrounds of EU by involving them in Youth Exchange that develop their key competences and address issues relevant for them, conducting joint vicarious activities, with holistic experiences and reflections.
- To develop positive attitudes towards arts and its expressions, encouraging experimentation and involvement, stimulating creativity and imagination.
- To raise awareness on migration panorama and its difficulties within participants' societies and within EU using artistic products on the youth exchange: Theater play, an exhibition and a video on migration.
- To promote diversity, intercultural dialogue and intercultural learning, developing the sense of unity through diversity within EU, thereby promoting social inclusion
- To promote the Erasmus+ programme, EU values and participation in future activities through the use of non-formal education while promoting its recognition through the YouthPass certificate.

The project objectives are connected to the specific objectives of equity and inclusion and the main themes/focus for the year 2019 such as the increase of awareness about refugees/asylum seekers and migrants, promotion of diversity, tolerance and human rights while reaching out to marginalized young people and preventing radicalization.

**The youth exchange will be fully implemented in English!**

## **WORKING PROCESS**

**1. Preliminary information** – information material for the host and partner organizations, training program, venue and important information about Bulgaria - transport, climate, currency, prices and more. The information contain requirement for documentation and reporting of travel expenses of participants as well as a list of necessary items and preparation prior to the course. So, if you reading those rows – welcome on the first phase!

**2. Evaluation of personal training needs** - filling in form, which will contain information on personal training needs of selected participants. The trainers will gather information and be able to carry out final tuning of the program so that maximum to meet the needs of the participants.

**3. Online information packages** - it will be several e-info package that will send participants before the start of the project. Info packages will represent a short online course with information on the topics of the project. The project will contain concepts, theories, video presentations and links to the participants on the topic. Info packages will have a role to set wave participants to learn and motivate them before the project, also to prepare them with the necessary knowledge on the topic. Info packages will be prepared by the team-trainers who prepare the program.

**4. Homework** - Participants will receive a list of tasks to prepare to national groups to cover several aspects of training strategic planning, inter-cultural learning, building partnerships and networks. The tasks will be to prepare presentations with the necessary materials: the future course of their organizations, the activities of the organizations and the national culture of the countries.

**5. Youth Exchange** – the program activities will be between 10-17 September 2020 in Uzana, Bulgaria. You will have more details bellow.

**6. Mentoring phase** – in the next 3 months after program activities (10 September – 17 November, 2020), each participant will receive mentoring support (if necessary) in two directions: directly mentoring - for the implementation of new tools and methods learned during the project; sharing of materials – our team will share useful information related with the topic of the project.

## PROGRAM AND METHODOLOGY

**The project** is prepared and will be run on the basis of a methodology that emphasizes active participation and commitment of all who's involved. Therefore, the program is subject to regular changes and adaptations before and during the project. The activities foreseen are ice-breakers, role-plays, teambuilding and outdoor activities, debates, open space and several workshops to develop life skills and competences useful for any participant. The working methods are the: "Experiential learning", "Educator to Peer" and "Peer to Peer". We will like to remind you again that this training course will be quite challenging since we will be reflecting and facing challenges on individual and on group level overcoming demanding situations, we will be questioning a lot how we and others are living and will pass intensive reflection moments.

**The methodology** of the youth exchange is conceived in ways that require active participation and exchange between participants. It is based on participants' own experiences and builds on concrete actions for the future. The methodology of the training program is based on the main principles of experiential learning cycle and non-formal education.

**The program** is designed with a logical flow that starts with introduction to concepts and progressively gets into the topic, to end up working on the creation by participants of practical results. This way, the course will close with a document containing all the information gathered in the project.

# SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS

Number of participants: 6 (5+1 leader) per country.

Age: 16-30 (1 leader without age limit)

Profiles of participants: Young people, students, youth leaders, youth workers, members of NGOs, volunteers actively work in youth field, musicians, artists and people of art.

Countries: Bulgaria, Serbia, Czech Republic, Croatia, Romania, Portugal and Greece

**APPLY here:** <https://forms.gle/MZwBoX9yib92w1CQ8>

**Deadline: 8 August 2020**

# TRAVEL INFORMATION

We will provide the bus from Sofia to Uzana in the day of arrival and departure!

Please, try to look for travel options which allow you to be in Sofia **before 15.00h. on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and after 15:00h. on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020.**

If you plan to **arrive earlier** or **leave later** and you need to find an accommodation, let us know, so that we can support you. Your expenses out of the days of the training will not be reimbursed by the organizers.

## **Travel limits:**

**Romania and Serbia – 180€**

**Czech Republic, Greece and Croatia – 275€**

**Portugal – 360€**

Board and lodging will be provided and paid by the organizers of the project. There will be travel reimbursement according to the Erasmus + regulations (see the table below). Please pay attention to the figures and conditions. We are strongly recommending you to have insurance while you are in Bulgaria. Each participant will be in charge of purchasing one, because no private insurance will be reimbursed.

Organizers will reimburse 100% of eligible travel costs up to the limit.

Very important: your tickets are an essential part of accounting of the project that we must keep and present to the Erasmus+ National Agency, the main funders of the project. **Therefore, if you cannot provide your original tickets, receipts, insurance and invoices clearly stating the travel agency, your name and the exact costs of the tickets, we will not be able to reimburse you.** Please **DO NOT BUY** any tickets before approval of the organizers!



# VENUE

The project will take place in hotel "Prima S", Uzana (Gabrovo region) - Participants will be accommodated in double and triple rooms. Each room has a bathroom (and towels) and balcony. Accommodation and full board meals (breakfast, lunch, coffee breaks and dinner) are covered by organizers.

**!!! THE HOTEL WILL BE OPEN ONLY FOR US!!!**



# IMPORTANT DATES

**8 August 2020** – Deadline for submitting of application forms;

**8-11 August 2020** – Selection of participants;

**20 August 2020** – Deadline to buy your tickets and send the copies of them;

**10 September 2020** – Arrival day before 14:00h. in Sofia;

**17 September 2020** – Departure day after 14:00h. from Sofia;

# USEFULL INFORMATION

- ✓ CAPITAL CITY IS **SOPIA**.
- ✓ OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IS **BULGARIAN**.
- ✓ THE CURRENCY IN REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA IS "LEV". THE COURSE OF EXCHANGE IS FIXED AND **1 EUR = 1.95583 BGN**.
- ✓ THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE FOR SEPTEMBER IN THE MOUNTAIN ON 1300m. ALTITUDE IS **10-25 DEGREES CENTIGRADE**.
- ✓ EMERGENCY NUMBER – **112**
- ✓ FIND YOUR FLIGHT ON **[WWW.ESKY.COM](http://WWW.ESKY.COM)**

# PROJECT PARTNERS

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