

YOUTH EXCHANGE
ERASMUS+ KAI MOBILITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE PROJECT

It is
ALL
about
LOVE 

22-29 AUGUST 2021
POPOVA SHAPKA, N. MACEDONIA



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

C:E:T
Platform
МАКЕДОНИЈА



Национална Агенција
за европски образовни програми и мобилност

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The project “**It is all about love**” is a mobility of young people - youth exchange that will involve 36 young people and youth leaders from N, Macedonia, Italy, Greece, Poland, Turkey, Hungary and Slovenia.

Multiculturalism is the hallmark of our modern societies. Especially, if we want to develop a sense of belonging to the common European idea and EU citizenship, we must learn about each other. Mutual understanding is the first step of building a community where differences are accepted as a condition for a prosperous life. It's proven that learning and accepting different cultures is a catalyst for progress. Many of the problems we have in this world are due to misunderstandings. When you learn about another culture and see why others do the things they do, it's easier to understand them. You can develop sympathy with others. It's harder to justify things like hatred and war when you understand where another person is coming from. Learning about other cultures allows you to move outside your own bubble, and find new ways of thinking and of approaching problems.

One of the best ways to get into the depth of other cultures is through a marriage ceremony. It's one of the most universal traditions in the world. But, it's celebrated differently by everyone. The marriage act has certain rules and patterns that change around the world, shaped by different cultures and entailing traditions and customs that define a particular society. Different customs, different traditions, but what binds them is **LOVE**.

We developed the project as a youth exchange in order to explore the cultural universal of marriage and wedding ceremonies in different countries as a way for young people to appreciate and learn more about different cultures, traditions and religions.

The youth exchange will use methods that are based on non-formal and experiential education in order to provide all the participants with the information needed to enhance their learning process, but also in order to create an inclusive and learner-centered learning environment. Methods that will be used will include: getting-to-know each other, ice-breakers and team building, energizers, discussions, debates, working in groups, learning-by-doing activities, peer-to-peer work, simulations, presentations, analysis and comparison, theatre and role-playing, personal and group reflections, open-space and outdoor activities.





The aim of the project is to bring together 36 young people and youth leaders from different cultural backgrounds in order to promote mutual understanding and intercultural learning by allowing them to discover new cultures and traditions and to encourage their active participation in society.

In order to achieve the main aim, the project has the following objectives:

- To foster mutual understanding, intercultural learning and cooperation between 36 young people and youth leaders from different cultures and differently developed local areas;
- To promote language learning and linguistic diversity through creative non-formal education methods;
- To stimulate young people's spirit of initiative, creativity and active participation in society;
- To promote and improve participants' attitudes towards cultural diversity in different local and national realities;;
- To develop young people's sense of belonging to the common European idea and European citizenship;
- To foster international cooperation and partnership building between youth organizations from 7 European countries for working on cultural and diversity projects;
- To promote Erasmus+ programme as tool to work with young people as well as for encouraging active youth participation.



Partner organisations



CET platforma Skopje



ŠOU v Ljubljani



CET platform Hellas



CET platform Italy



Youth Support Centre



Youth Inclusion Association



Nograd Megyei Cigany Kisebbségi Kepviselok és Szoszolok Szovetsege

Profile of participants

- Young people, aged between 18 and 30 years old (preferably 18 to 26) with little or no experience in the fields of culture, diversity & youth participation
- Youth leaders should be older than 21 that are experienced with youth work, non-formal education and youth mobility projects
- Involved and active in the work of involved organisations
- Strong motivation and open-minded attitude
- Able to comfortably communicate in English
- Residents in the involved countries



Participants with fewer opportunities facing some kind of obstacles are more than welcome to participate and have priority for selection.



Each partner should send a gender-balanced group, so at least 2 male and 2 female participants per group.

Each partner sends a group of 5 people, 4 young people + 1 group leader.

WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU



Things To Do

- 1) Bring leaflets/brochures/promotional materials from your organisations that can be used for **NGO Market** that will provide the following information: name & logo, goal/mission of organisation, field of work, target group(s), activities, good practices of implemented projects, plans for future, contacts.
- 2) We will have **intercultural nights** and simulate **wedding ceremonies** from each participating country. For this reason, please bring some traditional food, drinks, clothes, products, promotional materials. Also think of some traditional wedding music and dances that you can show to others.
- 3) Comfortable clothes for workshops as well as some warmer clothes and sport shoes - we will be in the mountain, so we might have a walk around :)
- 4) Your national group should have at least **one laptop** with you during the youth exchange.
- 5) [EHIC Card](#)/Health/Travel Insurance - we will provide only group accident insurance
- 6) Your personal cosmetics, medicines and other things that you might need. There is no store nearby the hotel, but the hotel staff can organize car going to the city everyday.
- 7) Good mood, smiles, open mind and motivation to participate in all activities.

WHEN AND WHERE?



The Youth exchange will be implemented in Popova Shapka from 22nd to 29th of August 2021 with 22nd being the arrival day and 29th the departure day.

Popova Shapka (Macedonian: Попова Шапка, literally "the priest's hat") is a winter-recreational center in the northwestern part of N. Macedonia.

Popova Shapka is one of the oldest and largest ski resorts in N. Macedonia, dating back to 1947 and located on the slopes of one of the highest mountains in N. Macedonia, the Shar Mountain. Located at an altitude of 1,800 m, it features a large number of sunny days throughout the year and snow cover suitable for quality freeride skiing from late November to April.

A large number of sunny days, the infinite blue skies, the winter covers and the nature's attractions during the winter; along with the untouched nature, greenery, the unique flora and fauna in spring – and summertime, help make this Center a main tourist destination throughout the year – not only in the North-Western part of the country, but in the Balkans, as well.

Popova Shapka is located 48 km from the Capital, Skopje and 18 km from Tetovo.





The accommodation will be in ["Hotel Konak – Popova Shapka"](#). The hotel is recently renewed and located on Shar Mountain, near the ski center Popova Sapka at 1760 m.

Participants are going to stay in triple and quad rooms that have their own private bathrooms. The participants will be in rooms with participants from other countries of the same gender in order to encourage intercultural learning also in the informal time.

You will be provided with towels and bed linen, but please bring your own sanitary products, shampoos, etc. There is internet access in the hotel and in the all rooms.

Meals

There will be 3 meals per day, served in the hotel restaurant as well as 2 coffee breaks. Participants should inform us before the project about their diet preferences or allergies!



Working room

The activities of the youth exchange will take place at the premises of the hotel in their conference room, however, we also plan to use the restaurant for some activities and do a lot of outdoor activities.



Participants should choose a comfortable but inexpensive option for travel, to fit in the budget. We recommend buying tickets as early as possible, NO LATER THAN 31st of July!

Before buying the tickets, the participants have to coordinate their choice with us by sending us information about their travel plan with the route, price and the exact dates for arriving and departing. Tickets purchased without the coordinator's confirmation will not be reimbursed!

Please find flights to Skopje International airport (SKP) > www.airports.com.mk.

The **arrival date is 22nd of August**, so you must arrive before or on that date. The same goes for the **departure day which is on 29th of August**. You are allowed to stay **maximum 2 days** before OR after the youth exchange (e.g. 1 day before and 1 day after). However, for this stay, we cannot cover any of your expenses and they are totally on your own budget.

When you reach the airport, you should take a shuttle bus from the airport to the city center of Skopje (we recommend stop of main bus/train station). The shuttle bus timetable is prepared according to the arrivals/departures of flights and is handled by the company 'Manora'. One-way ticket for the shuttle bus costs 180 MKD. You can check bus schedule on this LINK: www.airports.com.mk/en-EN/passenger-guide/to-from-the-airport/page/bus

You will receive another set of information regarding your transportation to the Venue according to your ticket bookings. That means that either we will support you with information how to reach Popova Shapka or we will organize a shuttle bus for the whole group. It depends on your arrival dates and times.



As of now, there is **no need** for PCR/Antigen tests for COVID-19 or vaccination certificates in order to enter North Macedonia.

REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURE

Travel costs will be reimbursed until the budget limit, set by the Erasmus+ programme, based on **real costs** of the tickets. E.g. if the tickets cost 182 euro and they are within the travel grant range, you will get 182 euro as reimbursement. If they exceed the travel grant per country, then participants should pay the difference.

In order to receive the reimbursement you need to provide the project coordinator with **all original travel documents** (tickets, boarding passes, receipts, invoices and email confirmations). Some tickets can be given in person, while the others need to be sent by post and via e-mail (original and scanned versions) to yloveproject@gmail.com.

- Reimbursement will be done in EURO within 5 weeks after the activity by bank transfer to your organisation's bank account or to the group leader.
- Reimbursement will be transferred only if all participants provide all needed travel documents. We will reimburse the traveling if we have the tickets from the arrival and return. We cannot cover a one-way ticket!
- Participants cannot travel with first class. Only in certain cases is possible to use taxi or travel by car but you must contact the project coordinator first.

We might be able to reimburse you in person, but we need to check this with the Macedonian National Agency. Anyway, this can only be done if your national group can provide us with all the original travel documents during the youth exchange.

Participants are responsible for obtaining their own health and travel insurances while we will cover a group accident insurance.



TRAVEL GRANT LIMIT PER PARTICIPANT

North Macedonia	20€
Greece	180€
Poland	275€
Slovenia	275€
Italy	275€
Turkey	275€
Hungary	275€

! The given amounts refer to travel both ways.

Youthpass


All participants are going to receive a youthpass certificate at the end of the project, provided that they have fully participated in the youth exchange.

Youthpass is a tool to document and recognise learning outcomes from youth work activities based on non-formal education.

While creating their Youthpass certificate together with a support person, project participants are given the possibility to describe what they have done in their project and which competences they have acquired. Thus, Youthpass supports the reflection upon the personal non-formal learning process and outcomes.

As a Europe-wide recognition instrument for non-formal learning in the youth field, Youthpass strengthens the social recognition of youth work. Youthpass supports active European citizenship of young people by describing the added value of their project.

Youthpass also aims at supporting the employability of young people by raising their awareness of and helping to describe their competences, and by documenting their acquisition of key competences on a certificate.

More information about Youthpass on:  www.youthpass.eu/en/

To support this process, every day during the youth exchange there will be space for individual and group reflections as a way to be more aware participants own learning, to have the chance to record it and also as a way to provide feedback and evaluation to the organisers.

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS



We empower you to
empower the world



CET platforma Skopje is established in January 2016 by young, motivated, competent and experienced youth workers, leaders, activists and experts who are active in the civil sector and youth work from 2008. CET platforma Skopje is the Macedonian branch of CET platform network that has member organisations in Serbia, Croatia, Poland, Montenegro, Slovenia, Kosovo, Italy, Bulgaria, Greece, Lithuania and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Vision

The vision is to fulfil a broader social interest, to act and achieve objectives in the areas of civil society, democratic order, civic values, human rights, media, non-formal education and vulnerable categories of citizens in society. We strive to stimulate and sustain the personal, professional and social development of the local youth and to foster their active and responsible participation in educational, social, cultural, political and economic life in the communities they live in.

Mission

CET platforma Skopje is a voluntary, non-profit, non-governmental association of citizens with mission to: strengthen civil society on local, national and European level, promote and protect the human rights, perform activities which encourage moral and civic values, strengthen inter-ethnic relations, empower youth in society, advocate for social inclusion of vulnerable groups, promote non-formal education and offer support, education, training and mobility opportunities to young people.



www.cetplatform.mk

SOUNDS INTERESTING?



APPLY NOW

You can apply directly to partner organisations of this project
or by filling out the form linked bellow.

North Macedonia - CET platforma Skopje
projects@cetplatform.mk

Slovenia - ŠOU v Ljubljani
damjan.vinko@sou-lj.si

Greece - CET platform Hellas
greece@cetplatform.org

Italy - CET platform Italy
italy@cetplatform.org



Poland - Youth Support Centre
contact.ysc@gmail.com

Turkey - Youth Inclusion Association
info@youinclusion.com

Hungary - Nograd Megyei Cigany Kisebbsegi
Kepviselok és Szoszolok Szovetsege
szomszil@hu.inter.net

CONTACTS

More information as well as the activities programme will be provided to the selected participants.

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