

Asociacija "Aktyvus jaunimas" / Active Youth Association

Info Pack: Let's Digitalise Youth Organisations

Erasmus+ training course (youth worker mobility) in Kaunas, Lithuania

Duration: 6 days (August 9-14, 2016) + 2 travel days (8 & 15 of August);

Participating countries: Italy, Poland, Latvia, Romania, Lithuania;

Total number of participants: 27.



Erasmus+



SHORT DESCRIPTION

Nowadays the world is facing huge technology progress leading to effective ways for communication. However, there is still an evident knowledge gap among youth workers on how to successfully use digital communication tools in their work. Therefore, youth organisations from Lithuania, Romania, Poland, Italy, and Latvia have united for this project, which aims to solve outdated communication within youth organisations and make their work more effective through the use of innovative digital tools.

The main goal of the project is to grow digital communication professionals, who could effectively communicate with youth and help NGOs be more visible in EU. To reach it, **the main objectives of the project are:** (1) teach youth workers how to effectively use digital communication tools in youth organisations (YOs); (2) develop new ideas for better digital communication in YOs; (3) share the knowledge how to reach a clear and appealing image of a YOs through digital tools; (4) set the most effective ways for cooperation between YOs through digital tools; (5) connect digital tool theoretical and practical learning methods through NFE methods. At the same time the project intends to promote the concept of effective digital communication amongst youth workers and young people in Europe as well as the general public. The project also aims to help the participants grow professionally, keep them active, involve them in multi-cultural discussions, develop a number of skills and competences, and create partnerships across Europe.

In order to achieve these objectives, a range of non-formal education methods developed by all the partner organizations will be employed. Main activities will identify benefits of digital communication, teach the competences needed, and create the means of spreading information about the concept to the public. Involvement, creativity and initiative of all the participants will be encouraged throughout the activities, which will include: 1) interactive workshops on different digital communication tools, 2) digital tools usage practice in youth organisations, 3) discussions in non-formal environment, 4) meeting IT & communication professionals, 5) creative country presentations, 6) application of digital art and sport as NFE methods, 7) analyses of relevant video materials, 8) quizzes, 9) specialized group exercises, 10) digital feedbacks, self-reflections, evaluations, etc. In order to facilitate integration and co-operation of the participants (11) cultural evenings, ice-breaking and socializing activities will also be organised. Since the project goal is to reach the public and disseminate the results effectively: 11) special videos, photos, website, and an e-booklet for digital tools usage will also be created.

To sum up, the project will not only teach youth workers how to successfully use digital tools for communication in their work, but will also help youth organisations across Europe reach youth easier. As a result, long-term benefits are expected to be achieved: youth organizations' volunteering and good deeds initiatives would be easier accessible by youth.

FINANCES & TRAVEL BUDGET LIMITS

Accommodation, living and other project / exchange related expenses: 100% funded by the EU. This includes everything except for travel costs.

Travel (flights, other means of transport) expenses are compensated (up to 100%), based on the distance from your location of residence to the location of the project. These distances must be calculated using the [distance calculator](#) supported by the European Commission.

Country	Compensation in €
Italy, Romania	275
Poland, Latvia	180

PARTICIPANTS

The project is designed for youth workers who are responsible for communication within youth organisations and other institutions working with youth, and are keen and motivated to learn new digital tools and share their expertise with their colleagues from other countries. They also have to be socially aware, tolerant to other's opinion and have intentions to transfer the acquired knowledge to youth and other youth workers in their countries. These youth workers can be managers / founders of youth NGOs, youth trainers, animators, youth lecturers, youth volunteers, etc. They have to be ready to actively participate in all the stages of the project: preparation activities, training course and result dissemination activities afterwards. An additional requirement for the participants is to speak English since it will be the official language of the project. Those with fewer opportunities, struggling financially and from disadvantaged background will have a priority.

MONEY

The official currency in Lithuania is Euro. Change your money to Euros in your home countries and you won't have any difficulties here. The prices in Lithuania are not high as well (e.g. coke - 0.60 EUR, bus ride - 0.70 EUR, pizza - 4 EUR).

TRANSPORTATION

Firstly, you should find a flight to **Kaunas (KUN)** or **Vilnius (VNO)** airports. Flying to Riga (RIX) or Palanga (PLQ) airports may also be an option, albeit much less preferable. The **arrival day is August 8** and the departure day is **August 15, 2016**. Try to find a suitable option for the flights on these days.

- Coming to the venue from Kaunas airport is quite simple: there is a cheap and often city bus (no. 29 or 29E) connection. You can buy tickets at the driver and it costs 0.70 EUR per person.
- If you are coming from Vilnius, it is the best to first take a train from the airport to Vilnius train station and then change to the train going to Kaunas. Total cost: 6 EUR.
- The address of the main venue is **Aukstaiciu 55 / V. Kudirkos g. 19a, Kaunas**. We'll post directions how to reach the venue later on.

We will reimburse the travel expenses after the exchange by bank transfer, in accordance with the Erasmus+ framework. In order to make the reimbursement, it is compulsory that you have all the nec-

essary documents with you. If your travel costs exceed the official limits, the reimbursement will be limited to the maximum amount of travel costs allocated for each country. If you fail to provide all the necessary travel documents, we will be unable to reimburse you. For plane travel, the original documents that we need are: **(1) Tickets and Boarding Passes; (2) Invoice / Receipt.** Keep your bus / train tickets as well! Travel by cars / taxis is not reimbursed.

ACCOMMODATION & FOOD

Venue: 4* Hotel “Sfinksas”. **Website:** www.sfinksas.lt. Located at prestigious Zaliakalnis district, next to Azuolynas park, 15 minutes on foot from the city center.



Rooms: with 2-5 beds. Towels and bed linen will be provided. The **Main Activity Room** is located at the same building. **WiFi** internet connection is available. Organizers will provide participants with three meals per day and two coffee breaks. Food will be served at the restaurant of the Hotel. At additional cost, Sauna and SPA services can be ordered.

We strongly recommend each participant to inform the ORGANIZERS about any special dietary needs in advance.

ABOUT LITHUANIA / KAUNAS

Check the following websites to get to know more about our lovely Lithuania and Kaunas:

- <http://www.likeablelithuania.com/welcome/?lang=en>
- <http://lietuva.lt/en/>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaunas>
- http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Tourism-g274948-Kaunas_Kaunas_County-Vacations.html



PLANNED ACTIVITIES / SCHEDULE

To really get the most out of the youth worker mobility we will always start early! We'll start at 8:00 in the morning with breakfast, strong coffee and some energizers! Each day we'll have 3-4 main activity sessions that will be based on non-formal education and learning by doing. They will all be targeted to inter-cultural exchange, team-work enhancement and, of course, our main project's topic – using various digital tools in youth organizations. If the weather is good we'll be doing as many activities outside as possible so that you could enjoy it to the fullest. Naturally, we'll leave some free time for you to relax in the city. In the evenings we'll have cultural nights and fun digital tools lessons (each country has to prepare for that).

We'll post the exact schedule of the youth worker mobility later on to the selected participants. If you have any ideas and suggestions for our activities – don't hesitate to tell those! We want everyone to enjoy the stay in Lithuania!



PREPARATION

The organizers will not provide the participants with any kind of insurance! Therefore, we strongly recommend every participant to acquire travel insurance at their own expense for the whole duration of the exchange. Also, please have a valid EU healthcare insurance card (if applicable).

Each of the participating countries should:

1. Bring all your travel documents as explained above;
2. Find interesting videos / games / exercises / educational activities relevant for the topic. Prepare energisers that could be done in the morning.
3. Prepare for your country's cultural evening and interactive digital tools lessons. Please, try to be fun and creative for this!:) No one likes regular .ppt presentations! Any kind of activities are welcome (e.g. video presentations, dances, songs, games, quizzes, posters, flyers etc.).
4. Prepare a presentation about a topic related to the objectives of the project (in country teams). *We'll post the topics that you can choose from a bit later :). Follow the information on the FB group for the participants!*

5. Each of you individually has to bring an interesting cup or any souvenir (e.g. with your country design, creative, or funny). At the beginning of the project you will exchange these gifts with one another so that you would have a thing to remember!
6. Please let us know beforehand of any experience related to the project's topic.
7. Bring clothing and shoes that can be used for sports and/or strenuous activities.
8. Bring good spirit, joy and happiness!!! ☺
9. **More preparation needed for the activities will be posted online after the participants are selected.**

BASIC RULES

All the participants will be expected to be present and active in all the activities, unless being ill. Unauthorised absence from the activities and workshops won't be tolerated.

Smoking is prohibited everywhere inside buildings (the hotel levies a fine of 30 EUR), thus all the smokers will have to go outside or to specially designated areas for a cigarette.

Any damages to the property of the hotel or the organisers will be deducted from the travel reimbursements of the ones responsible.

CONTACT PERSONS

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If you have any questions, please contact us via e-mail: info@activeyouth.lt.

See you all in Lithuania!!!

THOSE WHO ARE GOING TO OUR PROJECT, PLEASE JOIN OUR Facebook Group. LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!