



VILLAGE MYTH BUSTERS

- **Name:** Village Myth Busters (VMB); **Framework:** Erasmus+
- **Activity:** Youth exchange
- **Duration:** 7 days (19-25th of August 2017) + 2 travel days (August 18th & 26th);
- **Participating countries:** Lithuania, Latvia, Romania, Spain, Italy, Turkey
- **Total number of participants:** 6 per organization (36 in total).

SUMMARY

There are numerous challenges that European societies are facing. One of the sensitive problems that is widely seen across the EU (however, often wrongly-considered as not acute) is social exclusion of villagers in urban areas. This results in young people from villages starting studies in universities and moving to cities facing discrimination, negative stereotypes and, hence, less opportunities

This was just proven by an email survey carried out through the network of our partner organisations in January, 2016. In short, it has confirmed that people from rural areas are seen as less educated and are less likely to make friends/contacts (Lithuania, Latvia, Spain), or even sometimes downright consider as second-class citizens (Romania, Turkey, Italy).

In order to tackle this, youth organizations from the mentioned countries have united for this project. The aims of which are to change the approach to- and opinion about people from countryside, minimize negative stereotypes towards them and reduce the ensuing social exclusion. To accomplish this, youth exchange - "Village Myth-Busters" will be hosted in Lithuania on August 18-26, 2017. It will involve 36 participants both from rural and urban areas (18-30 years old). Priority will be given to those from disadvantaged backgrounds and with fewer opportunities.

In order to reach the key aim of the project mentioned above, the following OBJECTIVES have been set:

- 1) to raise youth's awareness of social exclusion that people from the villages are facing in urban areas, as well as to provide them with specific tools and support to fight that;
- 2) to identify the most common stereotypes towards people whose place of origin is countryside, and find ways to tackle that;
- 3) to spread tolerance, strengthen equality and combat marginalisation;
- 4) to increase cooperation between village and city youth in order to create opportunities for joint work and social initiatives.



FINANCES & TRAVEL BUDGET LIMITS

1) Accommodation, living and other project related expenses: 100% funded by the EU.

2) 100 % of the travel costs, but no more than the maximum compensation amounts given below, will be reimbursed upon presenting all necessary tickets & invoices.

Country	Maximum compensation in € (per person)
Latvia	Up to 180
Romania, Turkey, Italy	Up to 275
Spain	Up to 360

MONEY

Since 2015 the official currency in Lithuania is Euro. The prices in Lithuania are not high as well (e.g. bus ride - 0.80 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 18th of August** and the departure day is **26th of August, 2017**. 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 0.80 EUR per person (half the price for students).
- 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: 6-7 EUR (half the price for students).
- The address of the main venue is **Papilio str. 9, Kaunas**. If you have troubles finding it, contact us and we will help you get there (contact details are provided at the end of the info pack).

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 necessary 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: Domus Pacis Guest House. **Website:** <http://www.domuspacis.lt/en>. Located at the center of the old town, next to a park.



Rooms: with 2-4 beds. Towels and bed linen will be provided. The **Main Activity Room** is located at the same building. **WiFi** internet connection is available (however, might be a bit limited). Organizers will provide participants with three meals per day and two coffee breaks. Food will be served at the hotel or cafeterias nearby.

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/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/onLithuania>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaunas>
- http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Tourism-g274948-Kaunas_Kaunas_County-Vacations.html



ACTIVITIES & SCHEDULE

ACTIVITY PROGRAMME FOR A YOUTH EXCHANGE VMB									
	Day 1 (travel day)	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9 (travel day)
8:00-9:00		breakfast	breakfast	breakfast	breakfast	breakfast	breakfast	breakfast	breakfast
9:00-9:30		Introduction to energisers; energiser led by an animator	Energiser (Lithuania, Turkey)	Energiser (Latvia, Italy)	Energiser (Romania, Spain)	Energiser (volunteer)	Energiser (volunteer)	Energiser (volunteer)	
9:30-10:00									
10:00-11:30	Arrival, check-in, free time	ice-breaking activities	Interactive workshop: stereotypes, social exclusion, geographical obstacles, marginalisation	Interactive workshop with the representatives from Kaunas jaunimo linija	Trip to village Zapyškis	Social Actions for Equality: generating ideas for the actions / flashmobs	Interactive Group Games on the topic: "Reverse It" & 4Cs	Creating an E-booklet / Finalizing Social Action Videos	
11:30-11:45		Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	
11:45-12:00									
12:00-13:00		Team-building activities	Country workshops on the topic of the project	Preparation for the survey and info-session about stereotypes in the city	Acting as consultants: trying to find solutions to the issues of local community	Social actions / Flash Mobs in the city + Meeting the Local Media	Playing stereotypes / Theatrical Role-plays	Project T-shirt making / Special participant photo shoot	
13:00-13:30		Free time	Free time	Free time	Free time	Free time	Free time	Free time	
13:30-14:00		Free time	Free time	Free time	Free time	Free time	Free time	Free time	
14:00-15:00	lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch	Departure / Check-out / Saying goodbye / Socialising / Playing interactive board games / Free time
15:00-15:30		Free time	Free time	Free time	Free time	Free time	Free time	Free time	
15:30-16:30	Arrival, check-in, free time	Introductory session to the project	World-cafe discussions	Making a survey about stereotypes in the city center of Kaunas	Free time / Trip back to Kaunas	Social actions / Flash Mobs in the city + Meeting the Local Media (continued)	SWOT of the Project. Setting further work-plan		
16:45-17:00		Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	
17:00-17:15									
17:15-17:30		Setting objectives, rules, wishes. Current knowledge assessment.	Movies afternoon	Summarizing the survey & breaking the myths	Comparing the point of view in the village and the city	Editing the videos	Making of "Successful Villagers" Photo Album / Sharing it on social media		
17:30-18:30		Introduction to Youthpass; daily feedback; reflections activities	Feedback, reflections, evaluation	Feedback, reflections, evaluation	Feedback, reflections, evaluation	Feedback, reflections, evaluation	Feedback, reflections, evaluation	Project wrap-up, evaluation, after-project knowledge assessment	
18:30-19:00	dinner	Dinner / Free time	Dinner	Dinner	dinner	dinner	dinner	dinner	
19:00-20:00	ice-breaking and team-building / Free time	Dinner / Free time	Free time	Free time	free time	free time	free time	free time	
20:00-21:00		speed dating / socialising, rest	Cultural Evening (Spain) / socialising, rest	Cultural Evening (Turkey) / socialising, rest	Cultural evening (Italy) / socialising, rest	Cultural Evening (Romania) / socialising, rest	Cultural Evening (Latvia) / socialising, rest	Lithuanian cultural evening; special excursion to the city (with "Fun Trolleybus"; socialising	
21:00...									

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 guest house 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 guest house 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: project@activeyouth.lt

See you all in Lithuania!!!