



Erasmus+



Youth Exchange

Back to the Future: European Citizenship through History

Kuršėnai, Lithuania

1-8.08.2015

InfoPack



Project description

The project “Back to the Future: European Citizenship through History“ is the international youth exchange (YE) that will bring together 36 young people from Lithuania, Portugal, Romania, Poland, Germany and France to discuss the history and perspectives of European citizenship. YE will take place in Kuršėnai, Lithuania between August 1st and 8th. The working language of the meeting will be English.

Topic

Young people between the ages of 15 and 25 are often involved in informal, politically relevant processes, such as activism or civic engagement but they are not formally represented in national political institutions such as parliaments and many of them do not participate in elections.

Considering issues like why youth does not concern about European politics, why just a few of them vote in the European Parliament elections or why just a few of them involve in the European initiatives, we decided to examine this problem in a deeper level. We made an assumption that it could be influenced by lack of knowledge about the history and development of European citizenship.

The main goal of this exchange is to make participants understand European community, how this concept has changed since the ancient Greek to nowadays, to encourage participants consider themselves as a part of this community and to make them feel the spirit of Europe.

5 key objectives of the project:

1) to introduce youth to the key historical turning-points of citizenship in Europe like ancient Greek democracy, French revolution or development of human rights;

- 2) to analyse how changed European values; which of the them are relevant nowadays; which of them are new or are going to emerge;
- 3) to discuss modern European citizenship in four dimensions: political, economical, cultural and social;
- 4) to promote awareness how individual actions may influence those four sections of citizenship;
- 5) to think about the future scenarios of European citizenship.

All activities will be non-formal type and include creative interactive methods (games, dicussions, workshops.)

YouthPass:

As YE is based on the principles of non-formal education. All participants will be able to get a YouthPass certificate after the project, confirming their participation in the exchange, and stressing the learning process in it, mentioning the individual reflection about new competences, gained in it.

Host organisation:

Kūrybinės Raiškos Centras, www.krc.lt

Sending partners:

Germany: Landesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung Sachsen-Anhalt e.V., www.lkj-sachsen-anhalt.de

Romania: Asociatia Support for Youth Developement, www.s4yd.ro

Poland: Projekt Tarnów, www.projekttarnow.org

France: JEUNES POUR LE MONDE ET LA PAIX, www.jeunespourlemonde.org

Portugal: Associação Spin para o Intercâmbio, Formação e Cooperação entre os Povos, www.a-spin.pt

Participants

Each organization will be represented by 5 participants and 1 leader during YE. The participants are expected to be 18-25 years old. They should have a basic understanding about the topic: to know key European history facts and basic information about European Union: its structure, values, purposes and objectives. Make sure the group is gender balanced.

Conditions and travel reimbursement

All expenses are covered by the Erasmus+ program. The host organisation is responsible for accommodation, local transportation and alimentation. Participants and/or Sending Organizations are responsible for buying the tickets (all the travel cost within the limit of the budget will be reimbursed after the exchange).

In the chart below you can see how much money we have in the budget for each country.

Country	Limits in budget for travel costs for APV (100%)	Limits in budget for travel costs for Youth Exchange (100%)

Germany	1 person x 170 €	6 persons x 170 €
France	1 person x 170 €	6 persons x 170 €
Poland	1 person x 170 €	6 persons x 170 €
Portugal	1 person x 400 €	6 persons x 400 €
Romania	1 person x 170 €	6 persons x 170 €

The project covers 100% of the travel cost for the advance planning visit within the limit of the budget of the program.

The project covers 100% of travel costs for the youth exchange within the limit of the budget.

Please note that if your tickets are more expensive, you are responsible for covering the difference (unless someone buys cheaper tickets). Be sure you collect all necessary documents for reimbursement: **original invoices of payment, electronic plane ticket or paper ticket, boarding passes, train tickets, bus tickets, etc.** You must keep in mind that we cannot reimburse: taxi fares; missing tickets/invoices; any tickets that do not show their price on them (if your ticket does not show its price, you must provide us with a receipt/invoice for that ticket).

Please hold travel tickets as cheap as possible since the rest of unused travel expenses goes to organisational costs. ☺

KRC will prefer to do reimbursement by bank transfer (one account for each country) after YE as soon as we receive all the necessary documents. If you prefer it to be done otherwise, please let us know as soon as possible.

Accommodation

During the project we are going to stay at „Topnet“ villa in Kuršėnai. There will be 24 hours warm water, bed-sheets, wi-fi connection at the rooms. Accommodation will be in the rooms for 2 or 3 people (roomates will be same sex and international).



How to reach accomodation place?

Your final destination should be the city of Šiauliai (we will pick you up from there). Your groups can either fly to Vilnius airport in Lithuania or to the Riga airport in Latvia. Riga is closer (130 km away) while Vilnius is 220 km away.

In case of choosing the Riga airport, you can take the bus (here are some links where you can choose transportation and buy tickets www.luxexpress.eu; www.ecolines.com).

If you arrive to Vilnius airport you have to reach train/bus station (both are in the same place). In order to do that you have to take a public bus nr. 2 (we suggest you buy the paper tickets from the driver). The fastest option is to take a train (there are only four departures: 6:45; 11:30; 14:20; 17:40 LT time). The second option is to take the bus but be aware that it could take more time (here is the link where you can consult possible departures: <http://www.118.lt/transporto-tvarkarasciai?ds=vilnius&as=%C5%A1iauliai&dt&at&dfrom=2015-08-01&dto=2015-08-02&sf=2&actionId=4>)

In case the groups want to arrive or leave the country sooner or later than the project, let us confirm before you buy the tickets to avoid any complications with funding organization and travel reimbursement.

P.S. Whenever you are sure about your departure and arrival times, please contact us and we will suggest you the best option from the airport to Šiauliai. ☺

Recommendation: Please choose Vilnius Airport for APV, since we are spending the last night in capital and it just would be more comfortable for you and for us. It could be quite difficult and expensive to find a bus from Vilnius to Riga airport early in the morning etc.

Preparation

Each national group has to prepare some homework:

1. Each national group prepare a short sketch which represents one historical turning-point of citizenship in Europe. (Athenian democracy; Roman republic; Renaissance and citizenship in Italy in 16 century; Age of Enlightenment; Birth of national state XIX century – these topics will be distributed during the APV). Group leaders encourage youth to prepare for this task at home. It is important to present the relations between the citizens and the country or it's other subjects. Groups can prepare questions for discussion or small workshops and performe it after their sketch.
2. National groups are encouraged to look for some information about main European values (e.g. in Lisbon treaty) and be able to compare them with the values of their country and/or with their own values.
3. Each national group has to prepare for the cultural evening. The form of cultural evening will be discussed during the APV.

What to bring

1. Towels, your personal things, warm and comfortable clothes, swimming suit, umbrella
2. Your national/typical food and drinks for the intercultural dinner
3. Information about your country (books, brochures, posters, postcards, video, music, etc)
4. **Laptop (each national group should have one)**, photo camera and video camera if you have
5. Medicine IF needed
6. Some pocket money if you want to buy something in the city

7. Good spirit!

Insurance

Group leaders should take care that all the participants have travel and medical insurance and they must keep the invoices.

Under-age

Despite the requirement of the youth exchange of being between 18 and 25 years old, under-ages can participate but they are required by law to bring a signed permission for participation from their legal guardian (parents).

Lithuania

Time zone: GMT + 2:00.

Currency: the euro (from 1 January 2015).

Weather: In summer daytime temperatures reach 20-25°C, but sometimes quite higher, 30°C or more. In most of the time it is dry weather with sunny spells, rain often falls with sometimes heavy Thunderstorms that can occur at the end of the day. For the precise temperature and conditions you can consult this webpage: <http://www.gismeteo.lt/city/daily/4168/>

Usefull link: <http://www.lietuva.lt/en/>.

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