



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
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STUDY VISIT

Eco-Entrepreneurship & Circular Economy: On the Path to Sustainable Change

NORTH MACEDONIA - SERBIA - KOSOVO
MONTENEGRO - BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA - CYPRUS



22 - 28 June
2023



Struga, North
Macedonia



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Project Description

The project ‘Eco-Entrepreneurship & Circular Economy: On the Path to Sustainable Change’ is set in line with the priorities of the Erasmus+ Programme and the general objectives of the call. The project is based on the need to increase the capacities of 6 youth organizations representing the Programme (North Macedonia, Serbia and Cyprus) and Partner countries of the Western Balkans (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Montenegro) to work with the concepts of eco-entrepreneurship and circular economy, to be able to develop competencies of young people, young people with fewer opportunities in these areas, and to transfer the principles of circular economy in their practices to become more green, sustainable youth organizations ready to face ecological and sustainable challenges of 21st century.

The project **AIMS**:

-to raise the capacity of 6 youth organizations working with young people, including young people with fewer opportunities, outside of formal learning in the area of eco-entrepreneurship and circular economy. The consortium of the project brings together youth organizations active in the field of non-formal education, delivering activities based on methods, and tools of non-formal learning actively supporting the active participation of the target groups, self-centred and peer-to-peer learning;

-the project consortium brings together youth organizations from Programme and Partner countries of the Western Balkans. Our partners from the Partner countries focus on empowering youth and supporting their active participation in their communities and societies. This project will provide our partners from Programme countries an opportunity to increase their capacities in the areas of eco-entrepreneurship and circular economy, the raise capacities of their staff, youth workers and their young people, young people with fewer opportunities. This target group will have an opportunity to directly participate in international mobility events (Work Package 3), and local workshops (Work Package 4). They will develop their competencies, and understanding of the concepts of eco-entrepreneurship and circular economy, get inspired by the successful stories of their peers, they will develop their entrepreneurial mindset, and get motivated to take an active role in addressing the environmental issues in their communities and societies.

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-the project supports the development of youth work in Partner countries in the Western Balkan. It improves its quality because it will provide the staff, and youth workers an opportunity to raise their competencies needed to address the topics of eco-entrepreneurship and circular economy in a quality way, implement learning events to raise understanding of young people on the concepts, and develop their competencies and challenging their attitudes towards ecology, sustainability, eco-entrepreneurship, and circular economy;

-the project will bring two key deliverables in the form of an ONLINE COURSE on UDEMY and BOARD GAME that will be freely accessible. These key deliverables will be tailored to the needs of youth organizations, youth workers, and leaders in Programme and Partner countries and will be developed to support the development of youth work in all participating countries;

-the project is strongly contributing to the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy including the 11 European Youth goals:

-Goal: Connecting the EU with youth: the project will equip the partners, target groups with knowledge and understanding of the role of the EU in building a green and sustainable future. The target groups will understand better what's the plan in the areas of eco-entrepreneurship and circular economy and how the EU is supporting different actors to behave more green and sustainable;

-Goal: Sustainable and Green Europe: this goal is strongly tackled by this project. The young people directly involved in the activities delivered under Work Packages 3, and 4 will raise their knowledge and understanding of the concept of sustainability. They will learn about the principles of circular economy, get inspired by stories of eco-entrepreneurs, and learn what practical steps they can take to help to create a Sustainably and Green Europe;

-Goal: Youth Organisations & European Programmes: through the project, the consortium will actively promote the European Programmes and ensure that youth organizations, youth workers, young people will become aware of the possibilities that European Programmes provides;

-Goal: Quality Learning: through the activities, young people will not just develop their knowledge and understanding of eco-entrepreneurship and the circular economy. They will also develop competencies essential for the 21st century: working in a mix-intercultural environment, problem-solving, etc.



- **Study Visit program:**

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ZRzW5m1tIJAgz2e1Q5m6EZA4ga46Xeo9uU4bsWrnyo/edit?usp=sharing>

DATES: 22 - 28 June 2023

LOCATION: Struga, North Macedonia

PARTICIPANTS: 4 per country

COUNTRIES: North Macedonia - Serbia - Kosovo -
Montenegro - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Cyprus

Participants profile:

Participants of the Study visit should have the following background:

- Youth workers in age 18 + residence of participant’s countries;
- Strongly interested in exploring the topic - Eco – entrepreneurship, circular economy.
- Motivated to work on the development of their personal and professional competencies in an international setting (communication, teamwork, problem-solving, conflict management, facilitation, and presentation);
- Motivated to take part in Erasmus + project, work in an international team and share their experiences in follow-up period;
- Ready to work in a mix-intercultural learning environment, to contribute to successful project implementation;

Every group will include participants with fewer opportunities facing cultural differences and social, economic obstacles. It means young people who meet unemployed, are coming from a socially and economically challenging environment, and/or might face discrimination, stereotypes, and prejudices in their communities.

NOTE: Our partners are kindly invited to send equal numbers of participants from both genders!

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Working methods:

- Learning by doing method
- Ice-breakers and team-building games to get to know each other.
- Workshops will leave room for guided but controversial discussions.
- Simulation games will allow us to identify current challenges of non-formal education and show possible measures that strengthen them.

These sessions will provide the participants with concrete ideas that can be implemented in their local communities, thus ensuring an important multiplier effect.

The official language of the project:

Working language of the youth exchange will be English. Do not worry, your English proficiency should not be perfect, enough is to understand and be understood!

Accommodation and Food

Travel Arrangements

Every participant **is responsible for finding a way to reach the destination**. Here are some tips:

Use Websites:

- <https://rome2rio.com/> for trip planning
- <https://www.momondo.com> and <https://www.flightconnections.com/> for flight connections
- <https://waze.com/> or download the app from the app store;
- Download offline Google Maps.

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HOW TO REACH THE VENUE

An invitation to try to travel mindfully - with no excess luggage and extra effort to store it.

Welcome to use tips from EC: <https://bit.ly/3r23100>

Every participant is responsible for arranging travel to the project’s venue and back.

Flying to North Macedonia is the easiest way to reach the country. For any issues you might have with your travel plan, please contact us! Here are some additional tips:

Plane: **North Macedonia** has **two international airports**, namely Skopje Airport and Ohrid Airport. Skopje Airport is the larger and busier of the two, located 21km from the capital Skopje.

- **Fly to Skopje or Ohrid Airport**

*(You can also look into these Airports: Tirana - Albania, Niš - Serbia, Thessaloniki - Greece, Sofia - Bulgaria)

By plane: You can check the flights to Skopje, with the closest and most comfortable airport to arrive which is 21km to the city of Skopje <http://skp.airports.com.mk/>

- **If you fly to Skopje Airport - Take a bus to Skopje Central Station**

Shuttle bus: You can get a shuttle bus from Skopje Airport to Skopje and back with a shuttle bus operating at the airport: V2V TRANSPORTER: <https://www.wtransporter.com/en> (price: 180 MKD = 3 EUR)

NOTE: Check out the links above to get information about the timetables and how to purchase a ticket.

- **Take a bus to Struga**

There are buses running several times per day from Skopje (the capital city) to Struga.

You can find the **schedule** here

<https://www.balkanviator.com/en/bus-timetables/skopje-mkd/struga-mkd/>

IMPORTANT - plan your trip well, be on time!



ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

Accommodation and food are 100% covered by the Erasmus+ program.

ACCOMMODATION

The participants will be lodged in the hotel "Solferino" in Struga in rooms for 2 or 3 people with private toilets and showers. The participants will be roommates with people from different countries, with the same gender, to straighten the project's intercultural dimension and good team spirit. There is internet access in the hotel and in all rooms. The Hotel is the property of the Red Cross organisation and is a training centre specialised for Training Courses and Youth Exchanges.

Alcohol and drugs are strictly forbidden in the whole area of the campsite. Smoking is only permitted outdoors in a designated place. Violation of this entitles the caretaker to immediately dismiss the guest concerned.





MEALS

3 meals per day and 2 coffee breaks will be prepared each day.

Please, inform us in the application form about your food needs and preferences (vegetarian, vegan, food allergies).

The accommodation is covered at the Hotel Solferino (<https://ckgs.org.mk/centar/centar-solferino/>), only for the days of the activity (**22 - 28 June 2023**). In case of a longer stay, there is no chance of reimbursement of accommodation costs. You are **not allowed to arrive after 22 June or leave earlier than 28 June**. Please keep this in mind when booking the tickets. For any other questions consult with your sending NGO.

WEATHER

The expected daily temperature in this part of the year is around 25-30°C, and during the night it's around 10-15°C. Bring comfortable shoes and clothes for day and night, and also some more elegant ones for going out. Don't forget your swimming suit as well!

Please note that only public transport is subject to reimbursement. If you travel by aeroplane use only economy class. Taxi is not covered. Please consult us!

YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO LEAVE THE PROJECT ONE DAY EARLIER TO CATCH YOUR FLIGHT OR BUS. PLEASE BUY YOUR TICKETS ACCORDING TO THE PROJECT'S DATE.

We need you to buy round-trip tickets, and send us a copy by email before arriving here, so our accountant knows, and adjust the budget.

We advise you to buy your tickets **as soon as possible** so that it fits into our limited budget for 100% reimbursement.

We kindly ask you to save all documents (Original tickets, boarding passes, invoices, or bills with the ticket price) which are related to your travel, since the documentation background is obligatory for reimbursement. We kindly please you to buy all the tickets for the travel for both directions – return tickets (plane tickets, train tickets, bus tickets and etc.), because we will be able to reimburse only REAL EXPENSES (made expenses). IMPORTANT: We cannot refund any travel costs done by taxi.

After sending their tickets and boarding cards, participants will receive reimbursement for their travel costs. Travel (flights, other means of transport) expenses are compensated (up to 100%), based on the actual expenses incurred and the distance from your location of

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residence to the location of the project – Struga, North Macedonia. These distances must be calculated using the distance calculator supported by the European Commission. **We send only money to the sender organization and the sender organization will pay to participants.**

Please note if you buy your tickets in a currency other than EUROS, we will convert them to EUROS according to the exchange rates from the official European Commission website: https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/procedures-guidelines-tenders/information-contractors-and-beneficiaries/exchange-rate-infoeuro_en

We are not able to reimburse missing tickets!!!

Participants **must** travel from the country of the sending organization, and back. Following the guidelines of the Erasmus+ program, the travel back must be realized by the participants in a direct way within a maximum of 2 days. You have the possibility to arrive in Struga up to 2 days in advance or leave up to 2 days later.

IMPORTANT: Traveling sometimes requires an additional day for catching a flight and staying for an additional night in the city where the airport is situated. We are aware of such situations, but organizers can't cover this cost (accommodation), it is the participants' own cost too.

For that reason, we recommend you use hostels (<http://www.hostelworld.com/>) or friends (<https://www.couchsurfing.org/>).

Budget travel cost:

Country	NGO	Max Amount (EUROS)
North Macedonia	NEXT GENERATION SKOPJE	20 EUR
Kosovo	CET PRIZREN	180 EUR
Cyprus	DOREA	275 EUR
Montenegro	NVO GLAS	180 EUR
Bosnia and Herzegovina	SPIN	180 EUR
Serbia	YOUTH WORKERS ALLIANCE	180 EUR



NOTE:

- The cost given is a limit in total **PER PERSON**, for both ways.
- **PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ACCORDING TO ERASMUS+ RULES MONEY FOR TRAVEL WILL BE REIMBURSED ACCORDING TO THE REAL COST YOU SPENT**, up to the amount given above per country, but not more (which means that if you spend less - you will be reimbursed the money you actually paid or if you spend more - you will get only limit)
- Before buying your ticket, please remember your cost limits, **EVERYTHING THAT WILL BE MORE THAN THE LIMIT WILL BE YOUR OWN COST.**
- Before booking the flight, please make travel arrangements **CONFIRMATION** with us!

What to bring?

- Passport or ID
- Comfortable clothes for activities and fancy ones for going out.
- Swimming suit.
- Personal care products: shampoo, toothpaste, flip flops, etc.
- Camera, laptop, etc.
- Pills and medicines.
- Positive attitude

HEALTH & TRAVEL INSURANCE:

PLEASE, WHEN COMING TO THE PROJECT, MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A VALID EUROPEAN HEALTH INSURANCE CARD WITH YOU OR PRIVATE INSURANCE. ALSO, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU NOTIFY US OF ANY HEALTH RISKS OR POSSIBLY NECESSARY MEDICINES, SPECIAL FOOD ARRANGEMENTS (SUCH AS VEGETARIANS, VEGANS, INTOLERANCES...), AND SO ON.

Preparations:

- Find some examples of green/eco companies and ideas for green and sustainable business.
- **Morning/Afternoon Energizers:** We would be really happy if each group prepare some energizers to increase the group's energy!
- Wherever possible, take your **laptops, digital cameras, smartphones, and tablets** – we will be doing some multimedia work that requires mobile equipment!

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BASIC RULES:

All the participants will be expected to be present and active in all the activities unless being ill. Unauthorized absence from the activities and workshops won't be tolerated. Stress, nerves, and bad mood are prohibited everywhere. Bring your best mood and a big smile with you and keep it through the exchange! Prepare for fun! 😊

Participants' Task: It's very important to care for the scheduled time, be kind, respectful, and positive, destroy the borders, have maximum fun, be cheerful and try to be part of the solution.

Money exchange:

In North Macedonia, the official currency is Denar (MKD). Credit and debit cards are accepted almost everywhere.

Contact person:

Coordinator of the Study Visit: Mladen Mitić

Mobile/Viber/WhatsApp: +381668487959

Email: mladenbmitic97@gmail.com

Please fill out the application form:

<https://forms.gle/7KLGf7czABJrLSAU9>



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SEE YOU IN STRUGA!



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