**ERASMUS+ YOUTH IN ACTION**

**WHERE THE PAST MEETS THE FUTURE**

**YOUTH EXCHANGE IN SLOVENIA**

**organised by MIKK Murska Sobota**

*8. 4. 2024 – 16. 4. 2024*

You are among the 43 participants that will take part at the youth exchange **WHERE THE PAST MEETS THE FUTURE.** There will be participants from Slovenia, Portugal, Lithuania, Hungary, Estonia, Croatia, and Bulgaria.

We hope that those 9 days will be for you a vivid and useful intercultural experience. To achieve this, we need to look at some practical needs.

Please, read the guide carefully and keep it with you on your travel so you can check it whenever you need the information.

**ABOUT SLOVENIA:**

**In the Heart of Europe**

Where the Alps meet the Mediterranean and the Pannonian Plain meets the Karst, there is Slovenia. This small green country extends in the area of 20,273 km2. It is one of the countries with an exceptional number of top athletes and rich cultural creation.

**Population:** 2,055,000

**Position:** Slovenia is a Central European country.

**Area**: 20,273 km2

**Capital city:** Ljubljana

**Other major cities:** Maribor, Kranj, Celje, Koper, Novo mesto, Velenje, Murska Sobota.

**Official language**: Slovenian

**SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT:**

Cultural heritage is a part of us, the environment and the society in which we live. Heritage, however, are not just findings, dull walls and dusty art, but branches from traditional skills, crafts and other intangible heritage. Cultural heritage unites us in its diversity. Knowledge about heritage, which is a common good, connects the past with the future, which depends on the transfer of knowledge to the younger generation. It is therefore necessary to create opportunities for young people to get to know each other and deal with heritage as lovers or as future decision-makers and experts. Understanding local, regional, and national heritage as well as the heritage of other nations strengthens young people's awareness of its importance for the individual and society and opens opportunities for them to become active. The purpose of the youth exchange is to encourage young people to explore creatively, discover, get to know, and understand the cultural heritage in the local and wider European area. Young people will express their views on heritage, creatively express themselves and perceive and interpret local heritage while learning about common European heritage, and creatively present it to the rest of the world.

Participants from Lithuania, Portugal, Slovenia, Hungary, Croatia, Bulgaria, and Estonia will carry out a youth exchange activity that will last 9 days. Each group of participants has 6 members, including one group leader, except for the Slovenian group, which has two group leaders and 5 participants.

Participants of the youth exchange will learn about the concept of cultural heritage and the importance of preserving it. Through the youth exchange, we will acquire new knowledge and skills in the field of preserving cultural heritage (old crafts) and get to know the cultural heritage of the participating countries. We will learn the importance of preserving old crafts and learn how we can contribute to the preservation of the cultural heritage of the participating countries by updating the products of old crafts. Young participants will gain new knowledge and experience, build on self-esteem and self-confidence. We will build more on ourselves and realize how important we can be in society. We will improve our competences in getting to know cultures, overcoming stereotypes, understanding different opinions, better working in a team. We will organize our learning and the way we learn. We will gain new experience in planning the trip, we will get to know the culture, traditions, customs, languages, music of the participating countries. We will also learn about volunteering and performing voluntary work in connection with cultural heritage. We will be able to use the acquired knowledge in our everyday life.

**LANGUAGE:**

Despite many of you speak many different languages the official language of youth exchange will be English.

**PARTICIPANTS:**

Each country will select 5 participants from 18-30 years old, who are motivated, creative and want to strengthen awareness of importance of cultural heritage for the individual and society, explore creatively, discover, get to know, and understand the cultural heritage in the local and wider European area; and one leader who can be over 30 years old.

**INTERCULTURAL EVENING:**

During the youth exchange we are planning to have an intercultural evening. You will present your own countries. A culture can be presented by a song, a story or a dance. We appreciate if you can find a more creative way to present your country.

**CULINARY CAROUSEL:**

We have a kitchen if you want to prepare small meal for the culinary carousel. But it will be easier if they bring some typical snacks with.

**WORKING METHODS:**

Working methods will be icebreakers, energizers, team/group work, interactive and creative workshops, open space workshops, discussions, evaluation, role playing, informal gatherings, etc.

**WHAT TO BRING AND PREPARE**:

Participants have to prepare a brief presentation of the sending organization, presentation presentation of good practices for preserving the cultural heritage in partner countries and (if possible) 2 products of old handicrafts and instructions for making them. During the exchange, we will try to create a new product that will include the presented products, but in a modern way.

**TRAVEL:**

* Invoices and travel tickets for reimbursement
* European health insurance card or travel insurance

TRAVEL COSTS & REIMBURSEMENT

» WHERE THE PAST MEETS THE FUTURE« project is implemented with the financial support of the European Union through Erasmus+ program. We will cover from the project budget, the following costs:

- Food, accommodation and activities (100%);

- Transport costs will be reimbursed on a lump sum basis:

**SLOVENIA:** 20 €

**BULGARIA:** up to 275 €

**LITHUANIA:** up to 275 €

**PORTUGAL:** up to 360€

**CROATIA.** up to 180€

**HUNGARY:** up to 180 €

**ESTONIA:** up to 275€

IMPORTANT! We reimburse the travelling costs ONLY if the participant ACTIVELY take part during the whole project. This is an international project with non-formal education that is granted from European fund.

Don't buy your travel tickets before getting our confirmation!

**HOW TO APPLY:**

43 participants from Slovenia, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Portugal, Croatia, Estonia and Hungary. From each country will come 6 participants (5 participants and 1 leader), from Slovenia 7.

**SLOVENIA:** MIKK Murska Sobota

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**BULGARIA:** ACTIVE BULGARIAN SOCIETY

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**LITHUANIA:** Asociacija "Tavo Europa"

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**PORTUGAL:**  PROATLANTICO -ASSOCIACAO JUVENIL

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**HUNGARY:** FIATALOK TERE EGYESÜLET

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