

THROUGH THE LENS OF REALITY



Youth Exchange project within Erasmus+ KA1

11th to 18th of August 2021

Romania – Sinaia, Prahova County



Organised by: Romanian Humanist Association

BASIC INFORMATION

Activity Dates: 12th -17th August 2021

Arrival date: 11th of August 2021

Departure date: 18th of August 2021

Location: Sinaia, Prahova County, Romania

Accommodation: Casa Duca (<https://casaduca.ro/sinaia.html>)

Partners:

Association Social Hub - BULGARIA

Young Active Eurocitizens - GREECE

Malik - ITALY

SFERA Macedonia – NORTH MACEDONIA

Seiklejate Vennaskond - ESTONIA

Ludbreška udruga mladih entuzijasta (LUMEN) - CROATIA

AEGEE Burgos - SPAIN

Team Number: 4 participants (18-27 years) and 1 group leader (18+ years). We are looking for youngsters between 18-27, who are interested in about the topic. Please, take in consideration to assure the gender equality of the group of participants from each country.





PROJECT SUMMARY

“Through the Lens of Reality” project aims to teach participants to question and analyze online information, learn to choose their sources, form fact based opinions and become responsible with the content they share online.

With the growing reach and use of technology, online media has become a popular tool to spread information (news, personal opinions, events, pictures, videos etc.).

However, this form of media gives way to the possibility of editing and altering messages it sends, misleading or manipulating the audience or presenting erroneous information out of ignorance and lack of research.

With no immediate censorship, fake news and hate speech can spread rapidly, leading to false assumptions, ignorance, hate or violence. The most susceptible to this type of information are young people, who spend most of their time on their devices (phones, laptops), forming online communities of all types, on all sorts of topics.

The vulnerability of youth online is given by a lack of judgement and shallowness in this fast paced environment, where anyone can say anything and people don't take the time to read and process information accordingly or think critically, acting mostly on emotional impulse, leading to the spread of fake and inappropriate content.

This growing concern has come to the attention of members of all participating organisations to the project, who spotted a tendency among young people in their online circles to assert online rumors as facts and easily spread all types of links and online content, without questioning its source, truthfulness or appropriateness. Furthermore, some of them even got to form beliefs and defend these ideas in comment sections, as unquestionable. One such example is biased opinions regarding times or geographical areas they didn't live in and distorted social, historical or political aspects about them. Another example would be so called facts about certain famous/public people's lives, quotes or actions. A third example is given by false assumptions in specialized fields they have no knowledge or expertise

in, such as posts with erronated information regarding local or international laws, engineering, physics etc.

The main objectives of the project are:

- 1. Empowering participants with a set of skills to analyze and validate the information they receive from third parties or encounter online and form opinions based on critical thinking** (consistency of information, evaluate existing evidence, cross-check information, question basic assumptions/ misconceptions, fact checking websites etc.), on the duration of the mobility.
- 2. Increasing the skills of the youth participants in expressing themselves in writing and speaking,** during the 10 days of the mobility.

The main characteristic of this project is represented by putting in practice their competencies in order to create informative materials on written, audio or video support. The participants will work in international teams and will receive an input on methods and knowledge on journalistic thematic from the facilitators.

The facilitators of the project are Andra Samoilă and Adrian Călugăru. They both are Journalism and Communication MAs with practice in the press field. In present, Andra is a fixer for foreign media companies that are producing materials in and about Romanian topics and was a voice over at B1TV national television for 5 years. Adrian worked for 1 year at a newspaper in Bucharest and trained himself in the field of project management and non-formal education domain. Also, for several years (2009-2016), he coordinated "PoliticALL", an independent online platform focused on international geopolitics news and analysis.

In order to ensure the learning outcomes and the achievement of the objectives the organizers will use several non-formal education methods:

- **daily energizing sessions**, based on team and group games, that will prepare participants for daily activities, also aiming to strengthen the cohesion of the group and improving teamwork techniques;
- **"World Cafe" round tables**, where the participants discuss about topics related to the subject of the project
- **Reinforcing methods** such as the use of online materials or other practical examples in the field of media literacy and critical thinking

- **Intercultural evenings** where the participants will know the cultural, traditional, culinary and cultural specifics and social status of their countries of origin; - games and activities to relax and strengthen cooperation between participants;
- **A News Room simulation activity** in which the participants will be split in teams that will work on written, video or audio journalistic materials that will be realized during the mobility
- **One talk show simulation** that will re-enact an original TV show in which each participant will play a role which will be prepared previously with the help of facilitators.
- **Teamwork** for discussing the practical theme of developing proposals / activities addressed to participating organizations and the NGO environment in participating countries, political decision-makers or a target audience defined by participants divided into international teams.

PREPARATION OF THE ACTIVITIES

Every national group have to prepare with the following works:

- **1-2 energizers (10-15 min):** short (indoor or outdoor, but preferably outdoor giving the period of the year) games, which help us to wake up, and give energy to for the day. These activities are meant both for reinvigorating and for building a cohesion between the participants.
- Some country **specific food/drink/dances/presentation**, etc for the intercultural evening
- The participants from each national group are recommended to bring at least **1 laptop or notebook per group** for the practical activities that they will be involved in.
- **A documentation about the state of affairs in their country regarding the media** channels (that will contain issues such as: *who are the main players on media market - tv, radio, print or online? Who are the most credible? How is the status of local media comparing it with the capital-based media? Are any politicians or controversial businessmen that own media channels? Did you encountered fake news stories that were presented on media channels? If yes, how was the story treated by the public and on the media channel?*)
- If some participants **have experience in journalism, they are welcomed to share it to the others** and we can also make space in the program of activities for one or more sessions about it (for this matter, **we need to be informed with at least 2 weeks ahead of the mobility** in order to shape the final design of the program)
- **A presentation about your association** which will be presented at the "NGO Fair" event (10-15 min)
- **Travel insurance (mandatory)**

- **European Health Insurance Card**, if possible.
- **Good spirit and a positive attitude** for enhancing a nice and friendly atmosphere, innovative spirit and openness.

TRAVEL BUDGET

Maximum travel budget allowed for:

- Bulgaria: 180 EUR
- Greece: 275 EUR
- Italy: 275 EUR
- North Macedonia: 275 EUR
- Estonia: 275 EUR
- Croatia: 275 EUR
- Spain: 360 EUR

IMPORTANT: Always ask bills, invoices and save them!

To be refunded you need to provide us with all receipts of travel expenses (travel agency, train tickets, invoices etc). Please keep in mind that we cannot refund expenses if we do not receive the required documentation since we would not be repaid by the NA. Please take this into account when you book tickets and when you travel.

IMPORTANT: make bills, invoices for our address and send them at:

Asociatia Umanistă Română

Calea Serban Voda, nr.28, apartment 1

Sector 4, București, Romania

Zip Code 040212

For a better communication and tracking the selection and preparatory process, we created a Drive folder where partners, group leaders and participants can find relevant information. Travel documents, dissemination materials and other important information will be found here:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Uy0xHBsvio_MJv9XFKaJqoRAArsICdWh?usp=sharing

Also, for a more qualitative mobility, we invite all the group leaders and as many participants as possible to take part in a inductive online session, not later than **30th of July**, during which we will get to meet virtually, express our expectations and wishes for the mobility and also to offer information and answers for participants regarding logistics, activities or any type of support that participants need.

TRAVEL

IMPORTANT ! The location of the project is situated around 120 km away from the Romania's capital, Bucharest, and around 100 km away from the main airport, Bucharest Otopeni Airport.

You can travel from Bucharest to Sinaia either directly from the airport with shuttle buses or by train from the main train station (Gara de Nord).

From the airport to the main train station, you could travel by 780 bus or by train.

Please inform what will be your arrival date and time and by which kind of transport you will arrive in Bucharest (plane, train, bus or car). Please also provide the information regarding the arrival of the whole national group or if someone will arrive separately. Everyone is expected to arrive on **11th of August** at the venue of the activities.



The exact address of the venue is: **Sinaia, bd. Carol I, nr.40, prahova County**

For any issues regarding time and place for greeting & meeting, please contact **Adrian Căluăgru** at **+40769.616.540**,

e-mail: adrian.calugaru@gmail.com.

If you are not able of exchanging money to Lei before departure, please bring only euro or dollars to be exchanged in Romanian currency (RON/ lei). You can exchange money in the town where the mobility takes place. **The currency at the airport or Bucharest train station is not recommended.**

SOCIAL MEDIA

We will form a group with the name of the project on Facebook. Please put your group member in it, because we would like to be this group lively and active.

Also we will active on the official site of the Romanian Humanist Association: <http://humanismromania.org/>.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Please fill the attached documents and send back in e-mail. It is important because you can help our work in this way. Please send a message until the **20th of July** about how is your group's preparation going.

We need to know...

- ...if somebody has a special diet (vegetarian, etc...) or food allergy (gluten, lactose, etc...)?
- ...any illness or sickness, allergy?
- ...should we need to prepare with any medicine or special treatment?
- ...any special needs?

After the participants will be selected, they will be asked to complete an online form that we will provide after the selection process is finished.

VERY IMPORTANT! After the selection process is finished, the participants should buy the plane tickets no later than **31st of July!**

LOCATION OF THE PROGRAMME:

Casa Duca, Sinaia (<https://casaduca.ro/sinaia.html>)

WHAT TO BRING

You should bring:

- Insurance documents;
- Toiletries;
- Towels;
- Medicines, if needed;

- Travel documents;
- Training, sport clothes, warm clothes (for possible rainy days);
- Your ID;
- Especially good mood, flexibility ^_^

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES AND RULES

Please inform your participants about the rules they have to respect after being imposed by Romanian authorities:

- for entering Romania, they should check the updated list of countries marked as "green" for which there are no documents required by the authorities. The last updated list, on 25.06.2021 is here: <http://www.cnsrbt.ro/index.php/liste-zone-afectate-covid-19/2528-anexa-lista-state-cu-risc-epidemiologic-ridicat-25-06-2021/file>
- possessing a "Green EU Passport" is exempting the owner from any restriction of entering Romania, regardless of the country from where is coming
- during the preparatory inductive meeting, we will offer the last updates and possible completion of documents if Romanian authorities will require at that moment
- wearing a mask is compulsory only indoor (including shops, public transport, indoor activities)
- PCR or antigen tests can be reimbursed, but it is recommended for the safety of all participants that the selection to prioritize vaccinated persons, especially where they are allowed to do it

WEATHER FORECAST

The project will take place in a mountain region, during spring days, when we expect warm weather, but in the evening or morning there could be chilly temperatures and rain . When the activity period is approaching, we will send you a weather forecast updated.

INFO ABOUT ROMANIA

- A lot of people between 16 and 50 years speak in English in Romanian. Younger generation use English more.
- You can buy everything in bigger stores or malls.

- You should take care of your values in busy areas and during travel. You should not leave them without control.
- 1€ = ~ 4.95 RON
- 1 \$ = ~ 4.2 RON
- Emergency numbers: ambulance, police, firefighters: 112

RULES ABOUT ALCOHOL AND SAFETY

The use of drugs is forbidden during the exchange. Drinking alcohol is forbidden during the daily programs. Participants are allowed to drink alcohol at the evenings by the decision of their group leader. It is his/her responsibility that participants do it with normal limits and it shouldn't bother the daily program. We will introduce the safety rules of the place when participants arrive. Please observe the rules.

CONTACT

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to ask us.

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