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COORDINATOR

MOBILITY OF YOUTH WORKERS TRAINING-COURSE



15-22 JUNE 2024
POPOVA SHAPKA | NORTH MACEDONIA

HOSTING ORGANIZATION: IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



WHO WE ARE?

Our host is **BRIGHT**, a voluntary, non-profit, non-governmental civic association formed in Skopje in 2019.



The Association is carrying out activities for the promotion of moral values, strengthening of inter-ethnic relations and economic development of the state and beyond. Bright strives to foster sustainable and developed local communities and improve the quality of life of citizens. The mission of BRIGHT continuous improvement of the quality of life of citizens through sustainable economic, social and environmental development. Our main goal is achieving sustainable development, protecting and nourishing the environment and tackling climate change.

Although Bright is a young organization formed in 2019, the staff members have relevant experiences participating, coordinating and facilitating different international projects. They are all committed to promote young people's active participation in social issues becoming an active European citizen. Every member has relevant experiences in the field of youth exchanges. Bright's members have been actively involved in different projects' administration and implementation. Many of our members have been active in the worldwide activities with young people connected to development of the rural areas such as making youth strategies of mainly rural municipalities, implementing trainings for volunteering for eco employment, implementing workshops for agro entrepreneurship and community engagement in less developed areas.

Our coordinator on this project, and a lead partner is **Studentisches Netzwerk der RPTU**, from Germany.

This group is formed as a social initiative that was started by active students of Rheinland - Pfälzische Technische Universität Kaiserslautern (RPTU), who are experienced in technology, non-formal education and Erasmus+ projects.

The group of young people in RPTU who is interested in digitization, youth work and Erasmus+ decided to kick off "Studentisches Netzwerk der RPTU " in order to promote digital skills and knowledge of youngsters and also stimulate them to take on new tasks and roles through the framework of Erasmus opportunities, that will contribute for their future as well as the future of our society to enhance the active participation of young people, especially those belonging to vulnerable social groups and young people with fewer opportunities.

Our group has the vision to transform into an active NGO in the future.



ABOUT THE PROJECT



This project was developed in response to the growing recognition of the critical role that artificial intelligence (AI) tools and social media play in the lives of young people, as well as the increasing importance of digital literacy.

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) tools into youth worker development programs can yield significant benefits, leading to increased civic participation among young people.

This project aims to enhance the competencies of youth workers, enabling them to initiate and support active civic participation among young people in community contexts, leveraging AI tools and social media effectively.

Through this program, we will not only delve into various AI and social media tools but also adopt a comprehensive approach that encompasses analysis, sharing diverse realities and experiences, experiential learning, discussions, workshops, tailored training modules for specific topics, the formulation of concrete action plans, the planning of future projects, as well as the implementation of dissemination and follow-up activities.



THE OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the training-course are to:

- Evaluate the current experiences and opportunities for civic engagement among young people through democratic, civil, and civic participation.
- Elevate the digital literacy of youth workers and furnishing them with the skills necessary to utilize technology in non-formal education settings.
- Explore the potential of AI tools and social media for youth activism.
- Assess the effectiveness of non-formal education methods within the context of technology and social networks.
- Equip youth workers and partner organizations with practical tools and resources to design innovative and impactful workshops for their target audiences.
- Identify local opportunities for community engagement and creating a resource guide on utilizing AI tools and social media in youth work.



THE PARTICIPANTS:

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE:

- Dedicated youth workers to work with young people with fewer opportunities in their local reality (working with orphans, refugees and migrants young people is desirable, but not necessary);
- Have the basic knowledge of AI, digital literature and facilitation of based learning processes;
- Are ready to participate in all activities of the training-course, both in the theoretical and practical part;
- Have a desire to apply their competences in developing new non-formal education tools that would increase the social inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities (orphans, refugees and migrant young people);
- Are supported by their respective organizations in applying their competencies and newly developed tools in working with young people with fewer opportunities.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

Fill the **Application Form** here:

<https://forms.gle/GcCj5wdFvgGkBiH49>



THE PARTNERS

This project included ten partner organizations from ten countries, the leading organization being Lucky Punch Jugendhilfe gGmbH from Germany, and the host organization Association for Education and Sustainable Development BRIGHT from North Macedonia.

- **GERMANY** – **Studentisches Netzwerk der RPTU**
- **NORTH MACEDONIA** – *BRIGHT*
- **SERBIA** – CRVENI KRST KRUŠEVAC
- **ESTONIA** – LEAP2PEAK
- **PORTUGAL** – FORTES SEMPRE
- **ITALY** – MAEK APS
- **TURKIYE** – Demokrasi ve Hukuk Calismalari Dernegi
- **ROMANIA** – ASOCIATIA TINERILOR IESENI
- **BULGARIA** – YOUTH SENATEBULGARIA.



THE VENUE

The **SHARR MOUNTAIN** is the fourth national park in North Macedonia and the first since the country's independence. Nestled in the heart of the Balkans, the Sharr Mountain National Park is a breathtaking natural gem that will leave you awe-inspired by its majestic beauty. With its towering peaks, pristine alpine meadows, and crystal-clear lakes, the Sharr Mountain National Park offers an enchanting escape into a world of untouched wilderness. Home to an incredible diversity of flora and fauna, the park is a haven for nature enthusiasts and wildlife lovers, providing a sanctuary for rare and endangered species. The park's extensive network of hiking trails beckons adventurers of all levels, offering unforgettable journeys through picturesque landscapes, lush forests, and panoramic vistas.

The Sharr Mountain National Park is renowned for its rich cultural heritage, with ancient archaeological sites and traditional villages that provide a glimpse into the region's fascinating history and customs. The park offers a wide range of outdoor activities, including mountaineering, rock climbing, mountain biking, and birdwatching, ensuring there's something for everyone to enjoy.

The warm hospitality of the local communities surrounding the park adds an extra layer of charm to your visit, as you savor traditional cuisine and immerse yourself in the warm embrace of Macedonian culture.



Local communities and organizations have embraced ecotourism as a sustainable approach to tourism in the Sharr Mountain region. They offer guided tours that promote responsible travel, educate visitors about the park's biodiversity, and contribute to the conservation efforts. Some communities surrounding the park have adopted sustainable agricultural practices. They prioritize organic farming methods, preserve traditional seed varieties, and promote sustainable land management techniques to minimize the environmental impact and maintain the ecological balance. Several social entrepreneurship initiatives have emerged in the Sharr Mountain area. These enterprises focus on empowering local communities by creating sustainable livelihood opportunities. For example, cooperatives have been formed to produce and market organic products, such as honey, herbs, and handicrafts, promoting fair trade practices and supporting the local economy.



The Sharr Mountain National Park is a true natural treasure, inviting you to discover its wonders, embrace its serenity, and forge a deep connection with the extraordinary beauty of North Macedonia's wilderness.

THE ACCOMMODATION



Hotel *Tetex* **ARENA**, Popova Shapka, Tetovo, North Macedonia.
The participants will be accommodated in double and triple rooms with provided clean towels.
The hairdryer is provided, and there is an option for washing clothes.
The hotel has fast Wi-Fi, a swimming pool, and a SPA centre.
Regarding food: breakfast, lunch, dinner and two coffee breaks will be served at the hotel.



THE BUDGET

There is **NO PARTICIPATION FEE** by the organizers.

Food, accommodation and local travel costs (only during the duration of the activity program) will be covered by the grant from the National Agency for the Erasmus+ Programme of EU.

According to the rules of the National Agency, travel reimbursements can only be made by bank transfer to the Partner Organization if they are based on real costs.

The bank transfer will be executed after reception of all of the original documents (receipts, invoices, boarding passes and reimbursement claims) by post. Additionally, the form generated by the National Agency must be completed, the online evaluation form through the Mobility Tool should be completed by all participants, and the dissemination of the results must be completed, all according to the budget limits set by the Erasmus+ Programme.

No.	Country of residence	Number of participants	Limit for the travel reimbursement
1.	GERMANY	4	180 €
2.	NORTH MACEDONIA	4	/
3.	SERBIA	4	180 €
4.	BULGARIA	4	180 €
5.	ROMANIA	4	275 €
6.	ITALY	3	275 €
7.	ESTONIA	3	275 €
8.	PORTUGAL	3	360 €
9.	TURKIYE	3	275 €



THE RULES FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT:

1. Only the cheapest means of transportation will be accepted between the Partner Organization country and the actual venue. Before purchasing any ticket please send your proposed travelling itinerary including the itemized cost to **slobodan.antic12@gmail.com** for confirmation. Participants will be reimbursed based on the least expensive route, real costs (we can only reimburse tickets which are accompanied by the receipts). Please keep in mind that we do not accept invoices from taxis and travel agencies.
2. Only participants who take part in all activities organized during the training course and who respect the rules of the hosting organization are entitled to be reimbursed.
3. Only the interrupted travel expenses incurred within the activity start and end dates can be accepted for reimbursement. If you wish to stay in North Macedonia or at the venue itself longer than the activity end date and you obtain tickets for the same or lower value as the one on the actual travel dates, then you can travel one day prior, or one day after the training course as well; however, if participants decide to arrive earlier or stay longer (up to 2 days), all costs related to that will be paid by the participants themselves.
4. In order to avoid any unnecessary issues (e.g. loss of documents by the post) please send us scanned copies of all documents by email to **slobodan.antic12@gmail.com** before mailing them via regular post. Please note that no flight tickets will be reimbursed if the original or electronic invoice is not provided as well.
5. All expenses must be converted to euros by using the official exchange rate of the European Central Bank (ECB) on the date when the expense was paid.

Link to ECB: <http://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/exchange/eurofxref/html/index.en.html>

6. In case if a participant(s) fail to engage in the activity's daily program due to late arrival or early departure and therefore does not attend 80% of the sessions, the amount granted per participant per day will be deducted from the travel reimbursement. The maximum to be reimbursed per participant is highlighted in the table above and it was calculated by the distance calculator of the European Commission.
7. Insurance costs do not fall within the scope of reimbursement eligibility. This means that each participant must support his/her own insurance that covers: travel (including damage to or loss of luggage) wherever relevant; accident and serious illness (including permanent or temporary incapacity) as defined in the Erasmus + Programme Guide.

THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

TRAVEL AND HEALTH INSURANCE:

All participants **must** bring their European Insurance Card or **health insurance**.

We recommend taking out travel insurance also.



PASSPORTS AND VISAS:

Please make sure that your travel documents (passport or ID) are valid for at least 6 months from the date of return and make sure that you have travel insurance (travel health & accident insurance) that includes Covid-19 issues. In the case that you need Visa to enter North Macedonia, please let us know, so that we can assist you.

Foreign citizens may enter North Macedonia with valid passports. Visas are not required for all EU, and Schengen citizens. If you need more information on the Visas and custom regulations visit the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia.

WEATHER:

Weather in June should be sunny, but be aware that we are on the mountain. So, it should be around **25-30** degrees Celsius. However, please do have something warmer in case it gets colder, because Popova Shapka is in the mountains, and it can be cold during the night.



MONEY EXCHANGE

The official currency is DENAR (MKD). Bills can only be paid in MKD. The foreign currencies can be exchanged in the official exchange offices across the city or banks and post offices.

You should change money when you arrive to North Macedonia, in order to buy bus or train tickets only in Macedonian Denar (MKD).

Here are some examples of local prices:

One coffee at a coffee shop costs around 1 €.

One juice in a pub cost 1 - 1,5 €.

One cake in a patisserie cost around 2 €.

Two breads in a bakery cost around 1 €.

Exchange rate **1€** = around **60** MKD.



ELECTRICITY

Electricity in North Macedonia is 220V; 50Hz. Continental Europe (Schuko) plugs are used.

THINGS TO BRING:

- Some traditional snacks, local food, music and drinks that you want to share with the others (intercultural evening can be organized in case you as a group want to organize it)
- Representative materials about your sending organization, country, city, town, or the region that you came from (brochures, presentations, CD's, etc.)
- And always welcome
- Good mood and a lot of smiles 😊



THANKS A LOT FOR KEEPING IN MIND ALL OF THESE!

For any further question, assistance or clarification please, do not hesitate to contact us. We will gladly help you organize your travel to North Macedonia and Popova Shapka.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU IN NORTH MACEDONIA!

Contact with any questions:

Slobodan Antić

slobodan.antic12@gmail.com

