

# ESC & ERASMUS+ NETWORKING EVENT

*7-11 October 2024*  
*Aristotelis Municipality,*  
*Halkidiki, Greece*



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# Welcome!

We are happy to host you in the international ESC and Erasmus+ networking meeting in Aristotelis Municipality in the region of Halkidiki, Greece. Meeting's aim is to bring together youth workers, project coordinators and representatives of organisations and provide the opportunity for networking and sharing of good practices. Special focus will be given in match making in European projects, European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+, thus participating organisations should be active in the field.

Therefore we provide you within this info pack a warm welcome!

Moreover, the info pack contains information about your travel, accommodation and activity program. Please, contact us if you have any questions.

Christian and Christos: [volunteer@usbngo.gr](mailto:volunteer@usbngo.gr)

We are happy to see you soon in Greece!



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# *United Societies of Balkans*

United Societies of Balkans (USB) is a non-profit, nongovernmental organization based in Thessaloniki, Greece working in the field of youth mobility, participation and facilitating youth awareness about social issues. It was founded in 2008 by the inception of a group of active young people who wanted to address the social issues which affect the youngsters in the Balkans and Eastern Europe. Key areas of the organization's activities concern the defence of human rights, the organization of youth related projects such as youth exchanges and training courses, and the organization of local interventions, seminars and multimedia productions, local and international volunteering projects.

Since its inception, USB has been implementing volunteering projects as part of EVS/ESC, having hosted more than 600 volunteers in Greece and sent more than 300 participants in missions abroad. In the same period, organisation has been active in the Youth in Action/Erasmus+ mobility projects for youth, having hosted more than 4.000 participants in Greece and sending abroad a similar number of young participants.



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# About the event

USB has been implementing projects in various regions of Northern Greece apart from the city of Thessaloniki, which is its base, for many years. In this context, over the last years, USB has actively realised actions in rural communities in the region of Halkidiki, empowering the local youth and area and creating hubs for youth activation.

Working in close cooperation with the local municipality and actors of the Aristotelis Municipality of Halkidiki, we have managed to identify crucial local needs and prospects for local development and support for youth of the area. Thus, we have implemented large scale volunteering teams projects, as well as individual mobilities in the frame of European Solidarity Corps in the area over the past 5 years, with the participation of local youth as well. In addition, USB has realised dozens of youth mobility project, as part of Erasmus+, in the villages of the area during the same period. In this way, we have been able to get thousands of young participants in touch with the small, rural communities of the area, close to nature and foster an open, eco-friendly and inclusive mindset.

The networking meeting will be hosted in this unique area. Participants will get the chance to experience the region and environment as part of their visit, in the same activity locations where the volunteering and trainings are organised. Local study visits are also integrated in the activity program, in order to provide participants with a complete perception of the area's conditions, unique traits and information for the Aristotelis Municipality and the wider Halkidiki region.

A crucial part of the meet up will be the networking between participants and organizations active in the European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+, exchange of good practices and exploration of collaboration prospects. Let's take this opportunity and boost youth work through this meeting!



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# Welcome to Aristotelis Municipality in Halkidiki!

Welcome to the Municipality of Aristotle, a captivating region in northern Halkidiki named after the legendary philosopher Aristotle. This area offers a unique blend of historical significance, natural beauty, and cultural richness, making it a perfect destination for exploration and volunteering.

- **Historical Heritage:** Explore Ancient Stagira, the birthplace of Aristotle, and visit Aristotle Park with its interactive exhibits celebrating his contributions to science and philosophy.
- **Stunning Landscapes:** Enjoy the breathtaking views of Mount Athos, serene beaches along the Aegean Sea, and lush forests perfect for hiking and nature walks.
- **Vibrant Culture:** Experience local traditions through festivals, cuisine, and crafts. The region's warm hospitality and vibrant community life offer a welcoming atmosphere for all visitors.
- **Comprehensive Amenities:** The municipality is well-equipped with essential services including medical facilities, schools, pharmacies, and supermarkets, ensuring a comfortable and convenient stay for residents and visitors.

The meeting's sessions will be primarily delivered in the village of Stratoni, a community of 1.000 inhabitants.



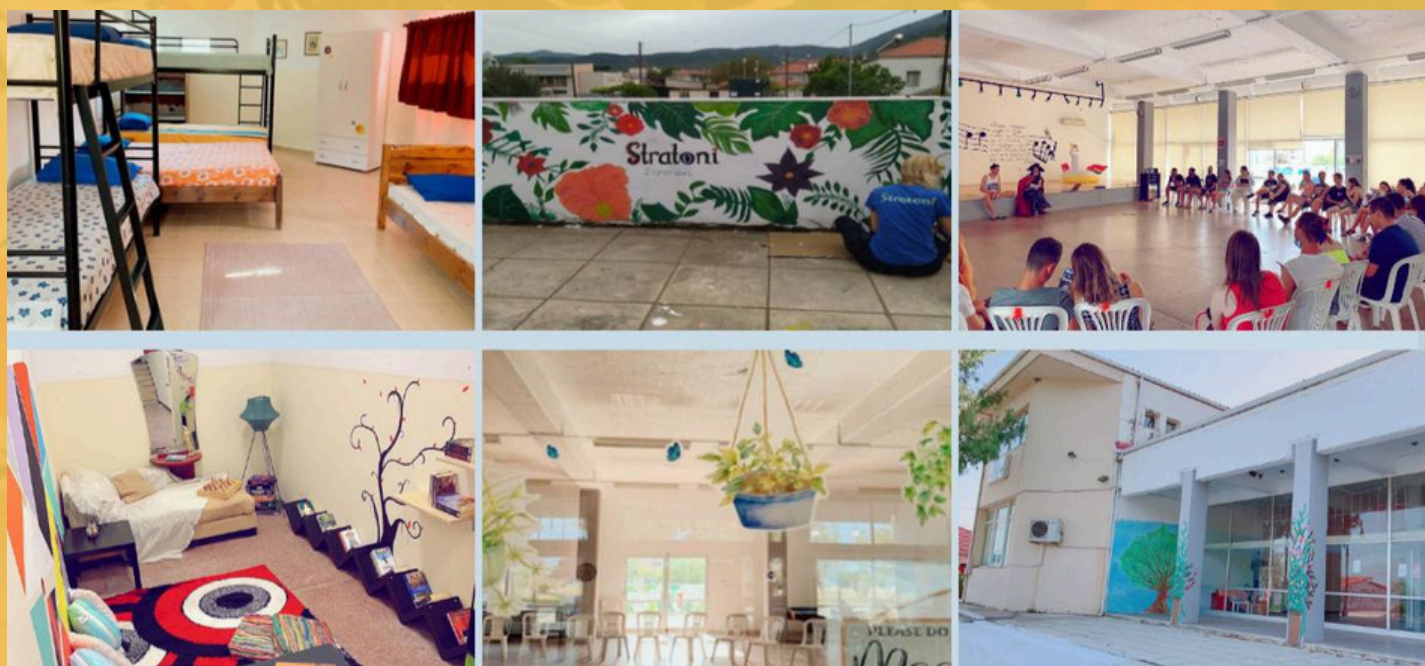
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# Accommodation and location

During the meeting, participants will be accommodated at a two-floor seaside community center in the village of Stratoni, which is designed for hosting training teams and furnished with the relevant equipment. It has been renovated with the effort of USB in order to host such projects, and it's the same space where participants, volunteers and staff members are accommodated during the summer months, when most of the projects take place.

Thus, participants of the project must be ready to live in big, shared rooms for the days of the activity (two rooms can host up to 6 people while the big one up to 10). We will try for room allocation to be as comfortable as possible, always respecting gender. Accommodation also includes bathrooms, internet connection, showers and a spacious green space, and it is a 1-minute walk to the beach. Sessions will be primarily conveniently realised in the big plenary room of the building.

Daily meals, lunch and dinner will be provided in local taverns and restaurants, with breakfast served at the premises.



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# Traveling to Greece

In order to reach the activity location, you will first need to travel to Thessaloniki, where the group pick up will take place. Thessaloniki is the second biggest city in Greece and close to the Halkidiki area. Thessaloniki International Airport "Macedonia" (SKG) is located 13 km south from the center of Thessaloniki, at Thermi.

Participants are requested to arrive in the city on the official travel day (7th October) ideally before-until 20:00, in order to arrange a private bus that will take the group to Stratoni from a central spot in the city in the afternoon of 7th (exact hour will be arranged accordingly with the travel plan of participants). Bus is covered by USB and route will take around 1 hour 30 min to reach Stratoni. In case participants arrive one or two days earlier, they will cover their stay and expenses themselves for the extra days.

To get to the city center from the airport, you need to catch the 01X bus (KTEL-AERODROMIO) line which connects the airport with the city center (if you arrive after 24:00 you get the line 01N which operates same route for night hours).

The line operates every 25'-30'. Ticket costs 1.80 EUR, you can buy the ticket from the machines inside the bus (you'll need cash and the machine doesn't give change), or from the kiosk next to the bus stop. Make sure to keep the ticket as it can also be reimbursed as part of travel budget.



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# Travel budget

Participants will have travel budget and will be reimbursed accordingly with the Erasmus+ guide. In order to receive reimbursement they will provide United Societies of Balkans with all necessary travel documents (boarding passes, booking confirmations, physical tickets) as foreseen, that includes all means of transport they may use.

Travel budget is calculated based on the official distance brands listed below:

- 10 and 99KM: 20 EUR per participant
- 100 and 499 KM: 180 EUR per participant
- 500 and 1999 KM: 275 EUR per participant
- 2000 and 2999 KM: 360 EUR per participant
- 3000 and 3999 KM: 530 EUR per participant



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***We are looking forward to  
meeting you in Greece!***

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