

# Building Peaceful Bridges Together

22-29 March 2023  
Smolyan, Bulgaria



Co-funded by  
the European Union

**About the project:** The context of the project is the concept of "conflict transformation". It's focus is on the efforts of young people who face cultural differences, social inequalities, stereotypes or hatred to help them understand the best way to solve conflict and build a peaceful and sustainable dialogue. The participating countries are part of the process of internal and external conflicts and a struggle for independence (the dispute over the name of Macedonia with Greece, the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the two conflict areas in Georgia - Abkhazia and Samakablo, the Ukraine-Russia conflict for the Crimea and the Donbass, the eternal historical dispute between Bulgaria and Macedonia). Through the implementation of this project, we are

looking to learning stories with impact across cultural and social conflicts in European societies. We will look at the content and trace the impact of international conflicts on young people, transforming their perceptions and attitudes into the idea of creating peaceful societies and understanding between different countries.

**The main needs** addressed by the project "Building Peaceful Bridges Together" are driven by the opportunity to bring together representatives of youth organizations coming from these "critical" countries of Europe that have been associated with persistent conflicts and accumulated tension for decades and aims at:

1. To train young people with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes related to the transformation of conflicts
2. Promoting the universal understanding between young people across different countries
3. Raise public and civil participation and encourage their active involvement in common causes
4. Encourage young people from different countries to cooperate despite the borders in the name of a common goal – the peace between them and
5. To become a peace ambassadors in Europe and around the world!

**As a result** of the youth exchange, participants will understand the conflicts thoroughly and will have the necessary knowledge to deal with them. They will increase their sense of solidarity and community, which will help them to overcome the stereotypes and prejudices regarding racism and xenophobia and, on the other hand, will promote their active citizenship. They will share with their friends stories, knowledge, skills and competences related to conflict transformation and will be ambassadors of peace. At a global level, the project promotes tolerance and solidarity between young people and countries, which will help develop a quality system of mutual assistance among young people. It will increase their ability to organize themselves as youth societies and work together with young people from other countries to fight injustice and human rights abuse. They will be empowered to transform conflicts to achieve universal peace based on democracy and European values through the implementation of international projects within the European framework.

**The impact** of the project aims to promote universal understanding among young people from different countries and encourage them to cooperate across borders, aiming a common goal - the peace between them. Through the implementation of international projects, sharing of results and good practices,

the cooperation between youth organizations from different countries will be strengthened, the common European values will be spread, such as democracy and respect for human rights and will be facilitated.

**The long-term effects** of the project also aim at building a single European community based on peace, common values and the contribution of every European citizen to its development and progress. This would contribute to initiatives that are held within the project or after it, which solve a global problem - the conflicts around the world and have an impact at European and international level.

**The youth exchange will be fully implemented in English!**

### **Working process:**

**1. Preliminary information** - information material for the host and partner organizations, training program, venue and important information about Bulgaria - transport, climate, currency, prices and more. The information contain requirement for documentation and reporting of travel expenses of participants as well as a list of necessary items and preparation prior to the project. So, if you reading those rows welcome on the first phase!

**2. Evaluation of personal training needs** - filling in form, which will contain information on personal training needs of selected participants. The facilitators will gather information and be able to carry out final tuning of the program so that maximum to meet the needs of the participants.

**3. Online information packages** - it will be several e-info package that will send participants before the start of the project. Info packages will represent a short online course with information on the topics of the project. The project will contain concepts, theories, video presentations and links to the participants on the topic. Info packages will have a role to set wave participants to learn and motivate them before the project, also to prepare them with the necessary knowledge on the topic. Info packages will be prepared by the team-trainers who prepare the program.

**4. Homework** - Participants will receive a list of tasks to prepare to national groups to cover several aspects of training strategic planning, inter-cultural learning, building partnerships and networks. The tasks will be to prepare presentations with the necessary materials: the future course of their organizations, the activities of the organizations and the national culture of the countries.

**5. Youth exchange** - the program activities will be between 22-29 March 2023 in Smolyan, Bulgaria. You will have more details bellow.

### Selection of participants:

Number of participants: 5 per country

Age: 15-30 years + 1 leader without age limit

Profiles of participants: Young people, students, youth leaders, human rights activists, no-hate speech activists, youth workers, members of NGOs, volunteers actively work in youth field, young people without any experience under Erasmus+ program.

Countries: Bulgaria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Greece, Georgia, North Macedonia

**APPLY here:** <https://forms.gle/roueSvzhN2kEhsh1A>

**Deadline: 16 February 2023**

### Traveling:

**We will organize private bus from Sofia to Smolyan and back.**

**About your arrival: You have to be in Sofia before 14:00h on 22 March 2023**

**About your departure: Looking for options after 15:00h on 25 January 2023 from Sofia to your home.**

You can stay 3-4 days before and after project activities in Bulgaria. If you plan to arrive earlier or leave later and you need to find an accommodation, let us know, so that we can support you. Your expenses out of the days of the program activities are not covered by the organizers.

## Reimbursement information:

The organisers will reimburse of your travel costs from your home city to Smolyan, Bulgaria and back. Reimbursement will be done on the bank account of partner organization from your country who will forward you the reimbursement once when organizers collect all your original tickets, boarding passes and reports from dissemination activities.

**NOTE:** Please note if you bought your ticket in your local currency which might be different than EUR. We will calculate your travel costs according to the exchange rates from official European Commission web-site: [www.ec.europa.eu/budget/inforeuro/index.cfm?Language=en](http://www.ec.europa.eu/budget/inforeuro/index.cfm?Language=en)

Please **DO NOT BUY** any tickets before approval of the organizers!

Travel limits:

Greece and North Macedonia: 180 euros

Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine: 275 euros

Azerbaijan: 360 euros

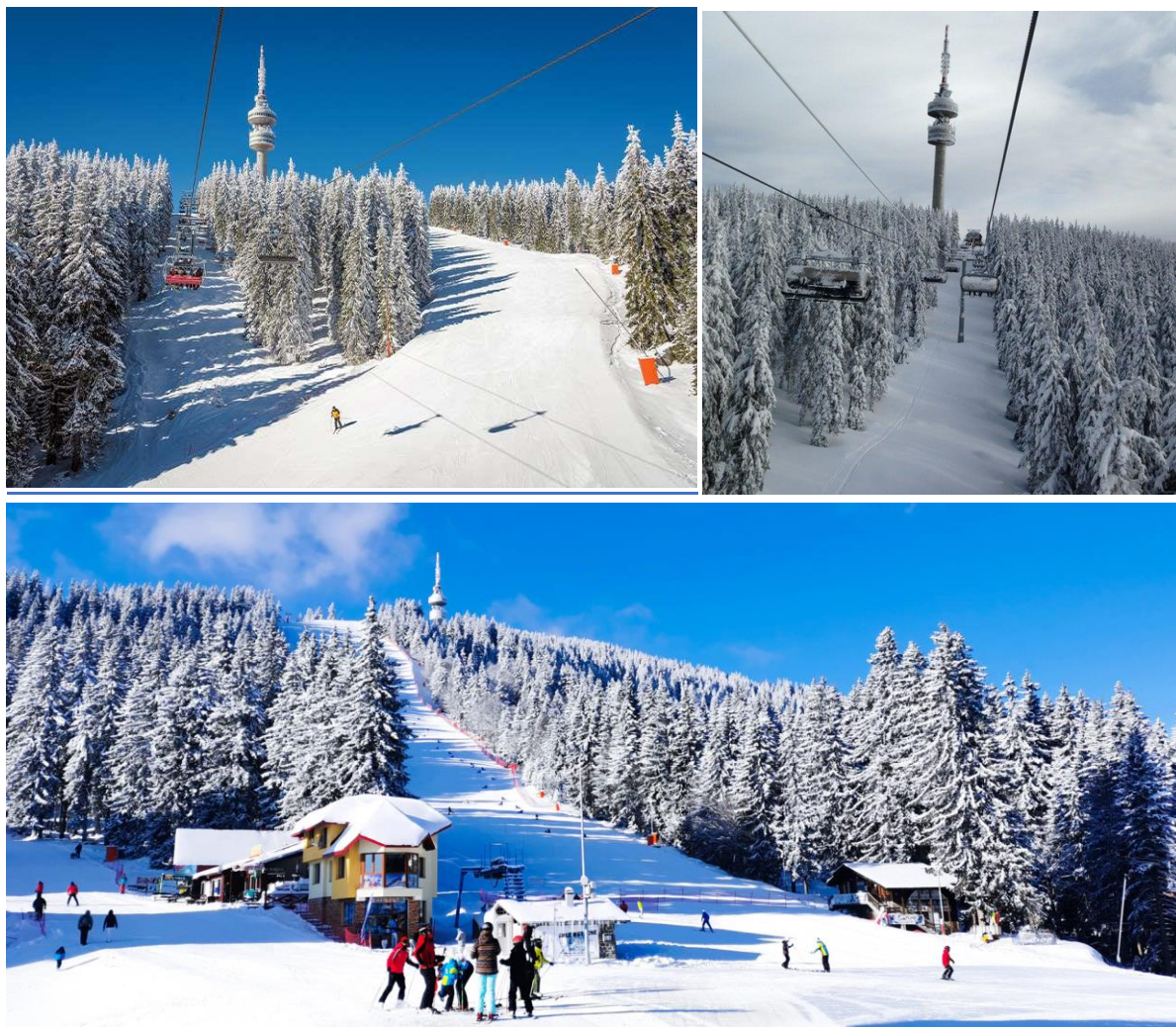
## Venue:

The project will take place in hotel “Dikas” - <https://www.hotel-dikas.com>  
Participants will be accommodated in double and triple rooms with bathroom (included towels), TV, WiFi and balcony. Accommodation and full board meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) are covered by organizers.





## Free day for ski included in the program!



NOTE: We will provide bus from Smolyan to Pamporovo resort (ski zone).  
Ski equipment and daily card for lift are not covered by organizers.

## Important dates:

**16 February 2023 - Deadline for submitting of application forms;**

**16-20 February 2023 - Selection of participants;**

**30 February 2023 - Deadline to buy your tickets;**

**22 March 2023 - Arrival day before 14:00h. in Sofia;**

**29 March 2023 - Departure day after 15:00h. from Sofia;**

## **CONTACTS:**

International Youth Activity Center – Bulgaria

Email address: [iyac.bulgaria@gmail.com](mailto:iyac.bulgaria@gmail.com)

Contact person: Nikolay Nikolov

## **Enjoy the videos from our previous projects:**

Youth exchange “Say YES to Human rights”

<https://youtu.be/ctuTYffGin4>

Training course “Youth workers for peaceful conflict transformation”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-irq2m1N8u4>

Youth exchange “Say NO to discrimination”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MdAkA17MyXw>

Training course “Critical Thinking Skills”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRo6lLa\\_Owc&t=237s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRo6lLa_Owc&t=237s)

Youth exchange “Change your old life to achieve your new aims as a Leader”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M98yhiohRKw>

Training course “Social Entrepreneurship Training 2”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YlF\\_98Q03Rc&t=63s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YlF_98Q03Rc&t=63s)

Youth exchange “Say NO to discrimination 2” - [https://youtu.be/8j\\_5svdEu24](https://youtu.be/8j_5svdEu24)

Youth exchange “Critical Thinking Skills 2” - <https://youtu.be/o8-XW7DTito>

Training course “Social Entrepreneurs in Action!”

<https://youtu.be/Wbp3d9ZaZaU>

Youth exchange “Let’s touch to the High-tech leadership skills”

<https://youtu.be/TeQWicf-KlI>

**Thank you and see you soon!**