



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

About the project:

A Youth Exchange is a reflection of the interests and need of young people to have the necessary knowledge and skills to think critically from a young age, which in the future will prevent their radicalization and dependence, as well as increase their initiative. Thus turning from unorganized



youth, who are not members and do not (or occasionally) participate in organized activities, in youth activists who will work for the sustainable development of activities and youth policies in the next phase. In the context of the project, the idea of enhancing the achievements of young people, whose basic skills are rated as „poor“, is at stake. About 15% of young people on average submit in this category, but there are also a group of countries where 1/4 of young people are low achievers. The participating countries in this project - The North Macedonia, Spain, Italy, Greece, Bulgaria - also belong to this group, as the countries with the highest share of low achievers or in other words it is twice higher - nearly 30%. Hence the need to improve basic and fundamental skills in over 1/4 of young people in these countries, including both the development of traditional skills and universal skills, cognitive skills and horizontal competencies. This is indispensable regarding their lagging behind on the one hand related to the intellectual development of the population compared to the Western European countries. On the other hand is the importance of the participants' personal attitude towards their social inclusion, active civic participation in political life in these countries, personal and professional realization and employability.

The main goals of the project are to develop critical thinking skills in the participants aimed at developing cognitive skills related to improving multiple personal and professional qualities, such as problem solving, good reasoning, common sense, proper learning, mental discipline, initiative, interpretation, communication / explanation, analysis and evaluation of thinking, formulation of conclusions, self-regulation, self-esteem and realization, which is directly linked to their successful social professional and other realization and with the prevention of forced radicalization of young people. The project steadily continues to work to integrate the results and recommendations of the youth objectives; identified during the Bulgarian Euro-Presidency and to upgrade the skills identified within the youth conference of the last two cycles of structural dialogue, where the need for rational decision making, debate and critical

thinking is becoming increasingly apparent.

For all these reasons, we believe that the impact and outcome of this project will be long-term and can be addressed in two main ways:

1. Effect and result at individual level - concerning the participants in the project, as a result of which their basic and fundamental skills, knowledge and attitudes will be increased, which they will use and apply in their personal realization, active civic participation, social inclusion and professional employment.
2. Effect and result at global level - raising the productivity of the working-age population, which as a result will lead to economic growth and improve socio-economic factors, since nearly 75 million people in Europe (1/3 of the workforce) currently have low basic or professional skills and many do not have sufficient literacy skills to cope with the daily demands of personal, social and economic life.

The youth exchange will be fully implemented in English language!

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 exchange. 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 trainers 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 17 – 24 July 2023 in Golden Sands, Bulgaria. You will have more details bellow.

Selection of participants:

Number of participants: 5 (4+1 leader) per country

Age: 16-29 (1 leader without age limit)

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

Countries: Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, North Macedonia and Spain

APPLY here: <https://forms.gle/wp2AgVQsFnEidsdS9>

Deadline: 25 June 2023

We will make online interviews with all chosen participants.

Travel and reimbursement information

Travel limits:

Greece and North Macedonia - 180€

Italy - 275€

Spain - 360€

The organizers will reimburse of your travel costs from your home city to Golden Sands, Bulgaria. 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

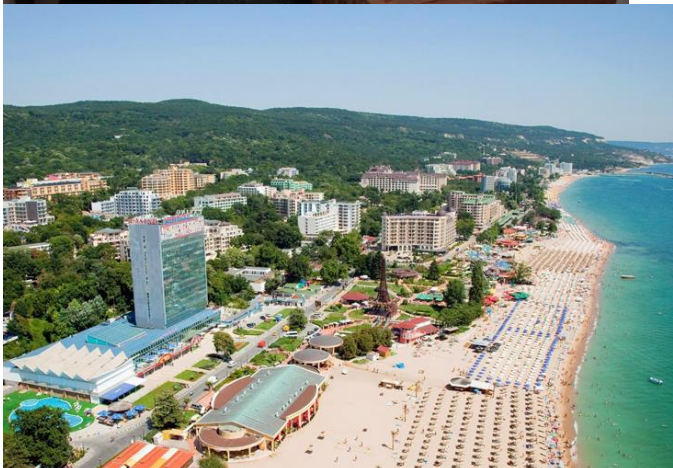
Please **DO NOT BUY** any tickets before approval of the organizers!

Venue:

Hotel Dahlia Garden <https://dahliahotel.eu/> is located in Golden Sands resort, 500 meters from Kabakum Beach and 12km from Varna city .

Accommodation: Hotel Dahlia Garden has 99 rooms. All rooms are air conditioned and have cable TV and mini bar. Each room has a private bathroom with a shower and hairdryer. There is a spacious restaurant with a summer garden which is suitable for various events such as weddings etc. The guests can enjoy a drink at our lobby and pool bars.

About the hotel: For our guests there is a spacious lobby where the reception is located, lobby bar, restaurant, pool bar, outdoor swimming pool with sunbeds and umbrellas provided. Free WIFI is available at our lobby, reception, restaurant, lobby bar, pool bar. `



How to reach the place:

VARNA:

The closest airport is Varna Airport. To get to and from Varna Airport, you may take Bus No409. The duration of the journey to the city center is under 20 minutes and 50 minutes to Golden Sands resort.

You should not have to wait longer than 15 minutes for a bus, which departs from the Bus Station in front of Terminal 2 Arrivals. A ticket can be purchased inside the bus.

BURGAS:

In case you do not find suitable tickets to Varna, you can fly to Burgas Airport and then come by bus to Varna.

SOFIA:

In case you do not find suitable tickets to Varna, you can fly to Sofia and then come by bus to Varna.

BUCHAREST:

Another option is to fly to Bucharest and get a bus from the airport to Varna.

Important dates:

25 June 2023 - Deadline for submitting of application forms

25 - 30 June 2023 - Selection of participants

5 July 2023 - Deadline to buy your tickets

17 July 2023 - Arrival day

24 July 2023 - Departure day

Contacts:

[International Youth Activity Center - Bulgaria](#)

iyac.bulgaria@gmail.com

+359 887928282

Nikolay Nikolov (project coordinator)