

BE THE CHANGE *- special edition*



The amazing world of Erasmus+

Volume 1 Special Edition

06-14 February 2017



STRUGA 2017

8 countries, 41 participants , a mix
of cultures , a safe learning space
a creative working time through
multimedia tools. Read more inside

THE CHANGE MAKERS ARE HERE



CULTURE AS A WAY OF BEING

“We are all different which is great because we are all unique. Without diversity life would be very boring” - Catherine Pulsifer

By Armenia Alexandru-Daniel— Romania

Culture is the lens with which we evaluate everything around us. We evaluate what is proper or improper, normal or abnormal through our culture. Culture is that what shapes us, it shapes our identity and influences our behavior. Culture is our way of being, it refers to the shared language, beliefs, values, norms and behaviors.

Cultural diversity is a driving force of development which supports the idea that every person can make a unique and positive contribution to the larger society because of, rather than in spite of, their differences. Imagine a place where diversity is recognized and respected, various cultural ideas are acknowledged and valued, contributions from all groups are encouraged, people are empowered to achieve their full potential and all the differences are celebrated.

On the second activity of Erasmus + Project called “Bring the change: Power of Multimedia-Bridge of Diversity”, are involved 8 countries among which is Romania, Greece, Kosovo, Albania, Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom and Serbia. The project aims are to encourage active cooperation with partner organizations and active young people who are able to represent their country abroad and use properly gained experience in the future.

The main purpose of this activity is to offer a space to young people from different countries, in which they will have chance to develop their knowledge, share the experiences and

make self-realization through the power of non formal education and learning by doing approach.

It is especially important to take a close attention at the educational significance of this project. Participation in activities such as the training, seminars and youth exchange will give to the youngsters all the information about the meaning of being an honorable representative of the European family and about the contribution of youth in building a better future for their countries.

In this Erasmus + project we identified ourselves with the rule of “6 What’s”: What language do you speak? What is your religion? What holidays do you celebrate? What is your racial identification? What is your ethnic identity? What is your culture?. All of these were part of formal and informal discussion while getting to know more about each other and discussing about the great value of culture diversity. Because in whole Europe are estimated at 105 million people, or 14% of 770 million Europeans and the three of them are Turkish, Russian and Romanian.

The project is innovative and offers a large scale by its nature. It will help youngsters to get new skills and experience in intercultural environments forging a new vision on these issues and acquire new skills to enable them to better realize their own capabilities.



AS DAYS GO BY

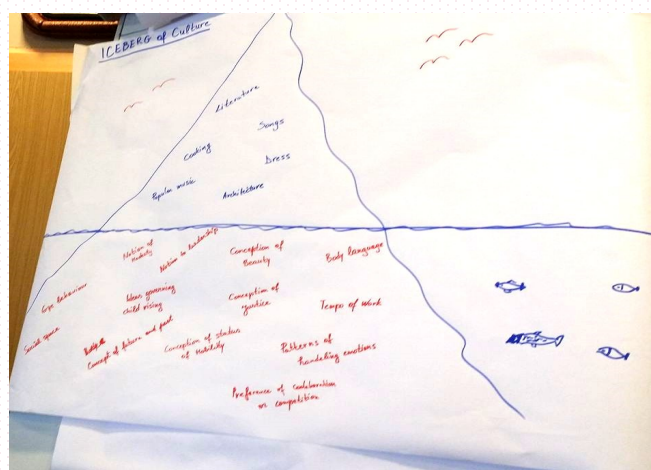
By SHADIE ADEMI, MKD

The Youth Exchange “Bring the change-Power of Multimedia” took place from 06-14 February 2017 in Struga, Macedonia. It involved 8 organizations from which work in the field of youth under Erasmus + Youth in Action Programme. 41 participants from UK, Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia, Turkey, Serbia, Greece and Romania joined the youth exchange to share and learn together in a multicultural environment.

We started the YE with different activities to break the ice and get to know each other. An important moment of this day was when we were asked to reflect on our expectations, contributions and what are the fears that might block our learning process during the course. It was done in a very interactive and creative way which gave us space to think and process what we want to learn here. Our leaders were also creative enough to give us tasks for a treasure hunt in the city of Struga to discover the city and meet the locals by finding out some cultural places. Divided in small mixed teams we went in city and fulfilled the tasks that we later reported with the whole team of participants. We ended the day with the intercultural evening event where everybody represented it's country, showing to the group their cultural elements through, food, music and lifestyle.

Next day brought us in the main topic, cultural diversity! We started to elaborate more deep the topic using the Iceberg Model of Culture method as a great example to

see the first impact that we get where we are in different place with different cultures. We went further into learning more about how Identity and belonging influence our cultural vies. It was interesting to create our “Molecule of Identity” with 5 main elements and then share with each other and discussing on how important identity is. The session continued with the group working on creating 4 human statues in groups representing racism, xenophobia, stereotypes and prejudices. Final step was to write down on a silent floor discussion what can we as youth workers and young people do to promote cultural diversity. Afternoon sessions were dedicated to sharing the country realities in cultural aspects through collage method with old magazines. It was also very interesting to see similarities and differences among each country presented. Another intercultural evening followed to close the day.



AS DAYS GO BY

This day gave us very important information and insight on technical issues that we would need to use in the next days. Morning started with general information on how to write good articles for Web and Blog. We learned the Inverted pyramid writing style and the 5 W's (+ one H) rule that would help us create good content during the workshops. At same time we had a good presentation on how to take good photographs, how to work with the light, learning tips and techniques to capture good pictures and which tools should we use to edit and to make that picture of a thousand words. The morning session is then closed with how all of this will also be used in working with multimedia and video editing tips. After this we were introduced to the 4 Working Groups and we selected the one we liked to participate in. The working groups were Photo and Video, Photo Collage, Theater of the oppressed and Blog Articles. Each group was led by our team leaders with experience in the topic and we continued the work for the whole day in preparing our own outputs.



All the day was dedicated to working in our small working groups. It was very good pot for us to put the information received the first days into action and to concretely work for our products which will be exhibited at the end of the exchange. Each team selected their place of work and we met at the end of the day all together to check with all the team and have guidance from our leaders for the next day.

Learning does not only happen in a room, or in a programme. Learning also happens by visiting the culture itself and exploring it through meeting people. So this day we all went to Ohrid in a cultural exploration. Our task was also to take pictures, interview some people and observe the cultural aspects of the city. The trip was very beautiful and helped us also bond much more with each other while exploring a new city that has a lot of history and cultural values to offer.

AS DAYS GO BY

This day was our last day to work in our small groups and put all the materials together. Multimedia group was editing and shooting their last scenes. The theatre group was rehearsing for their final show. The photo collage group worked in making the final video of their work. And us in the blog articles edited the final writings and articles collected, made the lay out and finalize a PDF newsletter which we called “Be the change- Struga Special Edition”.



Tomorrow will be our last day and will be dedicated to learning more about the Erasmus+ programme, its main elements and the space it offers for us as young people. We will also have an intro to the importance of Youthpass certificate which we will also receive for this activity. We will have a corner to start new project ideas that hopefully will be applied for the future by our associations and as well we will think of the next steps we can take to disseminate the results of this activity. Our activity will be closed with the final evaluation and a farewell party in the evening.

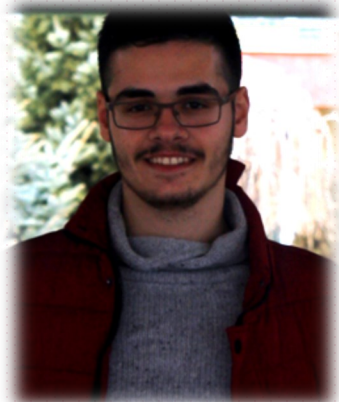


INTERVIEWS WITH PARTICIPANTS

By Endrit –Kosovo and Ruqaiah –UK

As part of our workshop we decided to also take some small interviews from participants of the youth exchange. Here is what our participants say about this experience:

Teo from Greece



Q: What did you learn in this activity?

A: I learned a lot more about cultural diversity, about different personalities. I also learned some new songs.

Q: Did the activity meet your expectation?

A: I was expecting to learn more about culture and make new friends and to be honest I did not expect it to be this good. I learned a lot of new things and also had lots of fun.

Q: What did you like most about this week?

A: I love the freedom of speech people have in these activities. I also appreciate the experience that I get from knowing the other cultures and meeting different people.

Alay from United Kingdom

Q: Did you learn something new this week that you are going to tell your friends when you go home?

A: I've got a lot to tell them in fact. I learned a lot about culture diversity through the workshops we had. I



learned film-making and photography skills, which were new to me. I also learned more about team work and gained some insight of different languages. Had a good time and met lots of new people.

Q: What is your favorite thing about the programme?

A: the possibility to meet new people from different cultures and

Fisnik from Macedonia



Q: What are you going to tell your friends when you go home?

A: I am going to tell them everything about the project, the good time we had here, meeting new people. Also the new things I learned from different countries and cultures.

Q: Do you think you learned something new this week

A: Yes, absolutely. I learned more about cultural diversity, about different countries participating. Also I learned a lot more about techniques in non-formal education, which is something I want to get involved too for the future.

Q: What is your favourite thing about the programme?

A: The different countries coming all together and promotion of cultural diversity.

Mira from Serbia

Q: Would you recommend your friends to attend these activities, and if so what would you say?

A: Yes, I will tell them that there are many projects, many great experiences to learn new skills. I would recommend to all young people to use Erasmus+ to gain new experience, to learn and travel more to meet new cultures.

INTERVIEWS WITH PARTICIPANTS

Q: Did you learn anything new this week?

A: I learned how to make a blog, how to write good articles. I also learned more about myself.

Q: What were your expectations and were they met?

A: I was expecting to gain more experience, learn a bit about new languages, to see how leaders work in leading workshops, and also to meet some new people. And yes, I am happy that my expectations were met, and the activity was even better to what I expected.

Q: How have you found your experience so far?

A: Good, really enjoyable. I like that its very good organised.

Q: Tell us one thing out of the programme that you like the most?

A: The fireplace is what I like most in this aspect. There's so many different conversations happening there. It the spot for meeting people from different cultures and talk to them in a friendly way.



A: I learned that we (people) can do everything together and that groups are very good for people to work in.

Q: What do you like the most this week?

A: I love energisers and working in smaller groups.

Diana from Kosovo

Q:How was this activity for you?

A: It was very good experience. I learned a lot about how to make videos and editing. I also learned how to take good photography. It was nice to meet good people from different countries and explore Struga and Ohrid which are beautiful.



Q: What were you expecting to learn here?

A: To learn new skills in video making and photography and to stay in contact with friends.

Ozgur from Turkey

Q: How was this activity, how did you like it?

A: The project is very good. You meet new friends in these activities. You experience different cultures, songs, food.

Q: What did you learn here?



What is Erasmus + for you?

By Mira, Serbia

During my participation in projects of Erasmus+ Programme, I met a lot of different people, saw a lot of different places, learned about a lot of different topics and tools such as: video, music, comics etc., it was always a place for exchanging thoughts. Most of the people that I met through these activities share same opinions about Erasmus+. Here is what they think of this experience:

"This a beautiful experience. I hope that in the future I will have an opportunities to participate in other projects as well, because here I gained a lot of new experience and met new people." - Nikola, Romania

"I will recommended this Programme to everyone, the activities, for good experience, the learning opportunities and the possibility to meet new people." - Adonis, Greece

"This is a great opportunity for youth because it encourages mobility of youth with fewer opportunities, youth which are socially, economically, geographically, culturally threatened or disadvantaged. I like to support projects and all activities with quality implementation and good content of the project itself." - Goga, Serbia

Talking with people in my surrounding I found out that a lot of them do not know about the Programme. One that know share their knowledge about it as much as they can to their society and you. They are people from different countries, different ages, and different professions.

So what does E+YiA stand for?

Erasmus+ also **aims** to promote the sustainable development of its partners in the field of higher education, and contribute to achieving the objectives of the EU Youth Strategy.

Specific issues tackled by the programme include:

- ⇒ Reducing unemployment, especially among young people
- ⇒ Promoting adult learn-

ing, especially for new skills and skills required by the labour market.

- ⇒ Encouraging young people to take part in European democracy
- ⇒ Supporting innovation, cooperation and reform
- ⇒ Reducing early school leaving
- ⇒ Promoting cooperation and mobility with the EU's partner countries

Where to find out more:
ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus



What is Erasmus + for you?

Goga, the team leader from Serbia explains us that Erasmus + is composed of three main Key Actions.
 Key Action 1 - Learning Mobility of Individuals
 Key Action 2 - Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices
 Key Action 3 - Support to policy reform

Project applicants under the Erasmus+ Youth in Action can be Program Countries (EU) and the Partner Countries such Western Balkans. WB countries and other partner countries only have access to some actions such as the Capacity Building in the Field of Youth under KA 2. This KA allows us to apply for various activities such as training courses, seminars, youth exchanges, European voluntary service, job shadowing and partnership building events.

LET'S EXPLORE A BIT MORE ...

Q: What is a Youth Exchange?

Youth Exchange is about meeting new people and their cultures, and it's a great start for entering the world of Erasmus+ for any young person. It has more participants, more free time to communicate with others and to explore. In both activities Youth Exchange and Training Course you work in small groups, in big group, you use outdoor education, theater role plays, simulation activities etc. Number of participants in this activity depends from the project, but each group should be composed of a min-



imum of 4 participants and 1 team leader. The whole activity can host up to 60 participants. It is particular as an activity because you don't have trainers, but Team Leaders who take care of the programme and are more experienced than the young participants. One special feature here is NFE. Non-formal education is the real thing, is everything that we do not learn in schools and we need in real life and in this projects we can find them. You receive a Youthpass certificate by attending a YE. **Marice - Macedonia**

Q: What is a Training Course?

Training Course is learning from the people who are professional on the specific topic, it is organized and planned learning process. It lasts from 7 – 10 days usually. Anyone over 18 years old can participate and the topics are various in kind. Trainers help you learn new skills, get new competencies and improve knowledge through different non formal education methods and learning by doing. Differently from a YE, the trainings are more intense, but you can really learn a lot in these activities. If you are open minded, what to learn and meet new cultures, and you have a wish for a new opportunities, just do it, participate in a training course. This is for the people who want to spend quality time, to gain more knowledge and experience, meet new people, cultures and also learn more about themselves. **RYAN - UK**

THE TEAM

Alex - Romania

Endrit - Kosovo

Ira- Albania

Mira- Serbia

Shadie - Macedonia

Ruqiaiah - UK



WHO ARE WE?

Our association was created in 2008 by a group of young people from living in Tirana, Albania. Our members have participated in many European activities in youth field like youth exchanges, seminars, training, campaign for youth rights within youth programme and some other youth activities. The main aim of our association is to foster youth participation of young people in civil society, to bring social change, development and improvement of society when we live, using different tools and mainly focused in youth field. We have been engaged in different youth activities as volunteers and during this period we have gained a lot of experience increasing our knowledge with a direct impact in our personal and social development. We work in local, national and European level engaging youngsters in different activities for many years now.

The main areas of our work are: human rights education, inclusion, participation, citizenship, education, volunteering ect. Our main target group that we work with is youngsters with fewer opportunities such as: youngsters from rural areas, youngsters from minority background, youngsters who face social problems in their life etc.

Some of the activities we organize are: campaigns, seminars, youth exchanges, training courses, flash mobs, local actions, street actions, meetings etc. The experience accumulated in the past in implementation of youth exchanges, seminars, training courses and other activities has enriched our staff experience.

Find out more on www.youth4society.org

