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PAN EUROPEAN NETWORK ORGANISATION



Erasmus+

INVITATION TO
the youth exchange
Our Europe, Our Future (or?)
Loisy, France

DATE: 04-12 July 2016 (7 activity days) (4th is arrival day, 11th evening or 12^h morning is departure)

Please, confirm your arrival/departure dates before booking the tickets!

VENUE: Near Metz (Loisy), France

WORKING LANGUAGE: English (but it's also not a problem if you or someone of your group doesn't speak it)

PARTICIPANTS: 7 participants (of age 18 - 25) + 1 group leader (of any age)

COUNTRIES:

- Italy
- Spain
- Romania
- Estonia
- France



SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT:

The "Our Europe - Our Future! (or ?)" project aims to react to a recent wave of Eurosceptic attitudes in many European countries, including the Turkey. The last elections to the European Parliament meant a significant victory for various Eurosceptic or anti-European political parties. The global economic crisis and



TOGETHER PAN EUROPEAN NETWORK ORGANISATION
1, RUE DU COETLOSQUET
F-57000 METZ
FRANCE@NETWORK-TOGETHER.EU
TEL: +33 (0)668152827 FAX: +33 (0)387309840

www.network-together.eu



structural problems within the Eurozone left many people in precarious situations. Rightly or wrongly, the European Union is often blamed for this. European countries are divided in how to react to key global development, such as the conflict in Ukraine or the threat of Islamic extremism. These differences also weaken the credit of the European institutions. Recent election results in Greece are another sign that it is difficult to find common solutions to European economic problems. The reasons for Euroscepticism are different in the France, in Estonia, in Italy or in the Romania. However, there is a strong underlying crisis of confidence in the European integration.

Young people from the various groups involved in this project felt a need to discuss and reflect on this crisis. The aim of the project is not to promote European integration without any critical thinking. Our objective is instead to explain the role of the European Union, its institutional and political processes and how they influence our every-day life. We believe there is a lack of understanding of what the European Union really does and how. A few young people interested in European affairs decided to put together a program that would use non-formal education methodology to help young people understand the EU.

This would then be the basis for discussions and reflection on the future of Europe. Why is there a crisis of confidence? Why do people vote anti-European political parties and what does it mean? Why do some countries even consider leaving the EU? Is there any way to reform and save the European Union with its 28 Member States?

Young people often think that nobody listens to their voice and they cannot participate in the political processes. However, any kind of political participation presupposes some knowledge about the processes and how to take part in them. Thus, we decided together to organize a youth exchange dealing with these issues in an interactive way. Young people will not be only recipients of lots of information, they will create the program themselves and be responsible for their own learning process, they will play simulation games etc. We hope that by this approach, we can encourage them to be more interested in European issues and then hopefully spread the European awareness to their peers, families and communities.

The theme of European citizenship and increasing of the European awareness are priorities of our organization and we develop various projects dealing with this topic both on the local and on the international level in the framework of our organization.

The project also aims to encourage youth participation. Young people can be important social actors driving positive change in their communities and promoting



active citizenship. During the simulation game, they will take part in simulated political processes, have to listen to each other's opinion, shape their own views, present their arguments and come to a compromise. These are important skills for young citizens and it will help them to participate in the future. This project should motivate young people to become multipliers in their own local communities and promote European citizenship.

At the same time, the youth exchange will also be an opportunity for intercultural learning for the young participants. They will be able to get to know different countries, different cultures, make themselves more open and tolerant. This is also part of the concept, since the topic of European citizenship is very much an intercultural one and it is very important to look on it from different cultural points of view. Participants will come from different backgrounds and they will bring different approach to the theme.

We will try to involve young people with fewer opportunities in the project. We will discuss the profile with the partner organizations during the APV and invite them to include in their teams also disadvantaged young people.

ACCOMMODATION:



The youth exchange will take place in a middle of nature, in a small village called Loisy, which is close to the city of Metz. We will have the complete leisure time activities centre rented for us. Inside the accommodation we have 2 activity rooms, big kitchen, dining room and lot of space to do any kind of sport.

Some pictures from Accommodation:



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FOOD:

The food will be prepared and served for you in the centre. The help in the kitchen and with the dishes is very much welcome from the participants. We will eat simple and typical French food.

No alcoholic drinks will be allowed on the place, apart from Intercultural dinner.

If you have some special needs for food (vegetarian, etc.), please, inform us about it beforehand. We can provide you with just **“with/without meat”** vegetarian food, but if you have some very complicated diet, or as a vegetarian you would like to have some special ingredients, we would appreciate if you could **take** the food that you need **with you**.

TRAVEL COST:

It is very important that you keep **ALL** your travel documents, including the boarding passes, if travelling by plane. You must **give us all your tickets**, including also your return tickets that must be already bought for the moment of the reimbursement (during the youth exchange itself), otherwise if we do not have a ticket, we cannot consider it for the reimbursement. It is very-very important.

Please, pay attention, that there are **the ceilings** for the travel costs per every country that **we cannot go above** (if your ticket is more expensive, you need to cover the difference on your own).

You must use the cheapest travel option that is possible (buses, trains, low cost airlines, etc.)

Travel ceilings (100%):

- Spain - 170 €
- Italy - 170 €
- Romania - 170 €
- EE - 170 €





We will only reimburse you the travel costs if you participate in the WHOLE youth exchange.

If you have any questions about the travel costs or financial matters, please contact us before you buy your tickets.

MONEY:



- There is **a participation fee of 30 euros** that will be charged from every participant of the exchange. This fee is obligatory. It will also give the right to become an official member of the "Together" network.
- your travelling costs will be reimbursed on the condition that the person has all the **bills, tickets** and **boarding passes** (when travelling by a plane) to present to us.
- 100% of costs of simple accommodation and basic food are covered by "Together".
- **The travel costs will not be reimbursed to people who are not taking part of the entire youth exchange or not respecting the rules of the exchange.**

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS:



- Age: 18 – 25 (if under 18 or between 25 and 30 let us know).
- 7 young participants from each country plus one group leader (who is not age limit).
Please, try to keep gender balance in your groups!! 4 -3 girls, 4 – 3 boys!
- Youth in Action is a program which supports disadvantage young people, so we would like to make this project open for these young people with fewer opportunities, so do not hesitate to including people with fewer opportunities into your group! The accommodation is adapted to special needs, so there is no problem with this. If you are thinking or you know there will be people with some handicap in your group, please tell us as soon as possible just to have it in mind! And we will prioritize this people for selection.
- English is our work language, but is not obligation. We will have some meetings and discussions so it will be recommended at least basic knowledge or translation into your groups. Don't be afraid of language! We will find the



way to solve it!

- People who is interested in the topic.
- Young people who share the volunteering spirit.
- Young, motivated, nice, cheerful, smiling participants and good mood!!



YOUTHPASS:



Each participant will receive a YouthPass, which:

- Certificate of non-formal education (you will take part on an educational activity)
- You can include it in your CV and use it for school, university, new job, etc.

In the beginning of the project we will divided participants into a small groups that later will work every evening in the reflection groups where they'll talk about the day, activities, what they have learned, etc. With all these notes, at the end of the Exchange will be a workshop where the participants will work in their own YouthPass. YouthPass will be reached on the end of exchange.

YOU WILL NEED...



- **Sleeping bag**
- Towels and personal things.
- Typical food for **intercultural evening**.
- Poster, leaflets, card, videos, typical music... from your country, region, city.
- Info, presentation, material, stickers... from your organization.
- Warm clothes.
- Camera, laptop and other equipment making life and work easier.
- Ideas, games, ice breakings, dances and folk for your cultural evening.
- Good mood and energy to be active!

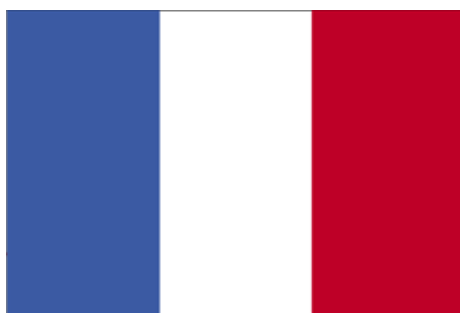


It may be useful...

Common French Words:

ENGLISH	FRENCH
Hello	Bonjour
What is your name?	Comment t'appelle tu?
I am...	Je suis...
How old are you?	Quel age as tu?
Where are you from?	D'ou es tu?
I am from...	Je suis de...
Thank you!	Merci!
You're welcome!	Bienvenue!
Good night!	Bonne nuit!
Yes	Oui
No	Non
I like you	Je t'apprécie
I love you	Je t'aime
Smile	Sourire
Can I have some drinks, please?	Peux je avoir quelque chose a boire, s'il vous plait ?
Goodbye !	Au revoir !
See you !	A bientôt !

General Facts about France:



Population: 60,656,178

Territory: total: 547,030 sq. km; land: 545,630 sq. km; water: 1,400 sq. km



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Government type: Republic

Time: France is in Central European time zone (e.g. the same as in Austria or Poland, but one hour less than in Estonia)

Electricity: French voltage is 220V, 50Hz

Money: euro (EUR)

Dress: Dress in France is usually casual – you can find here everything from traditional dresses until the highest podium fashion

Weather: generally cool winters and mild summers, but mild winters and hot summers along the Mediterranean. We advise you to check how to wear before your arrival on the web page: www.meteofrance.com

If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to contact us!

Mails:

Goran.dajovski@network-together.eu



Together
1, rue du coetlosquet
57000 Metz

See you very soon!

TOGETHER team