



Erasmus+KA1\_Youth Exchange

1<sup>st</sup> InfoPack

# CULTURAL & COMMON WALLS

**13 – 22 November 2019**

**(including arrival & departure days)**

**Almudévar, Spain**





Erasmus+

## Context & Background

We are proposing this youth exchange as an initiative meant to get young people closer to their own cultures, to other European cultures and to European identity.

Thanks to Yia and Erasmus+, lots of friendships have been created across Europe. Lots of young people today are meeting in different countries as follow-up of youth exchanges or EVS.

We've noticed, together with other associations in Europe, that among first things to do when young people from different countries meet is to visit the most famous cultural/historical building of the country.

Inspired by EuroStat's "Cultural Statistics 2016" book: "Culture icons is one of Europe's greatest strengths: it is a source of values and identity and gives the continent a sense of belonging. It also contributes to people's well-being, to social cohesion and inclusion. The cultural and creative sectors are a driver of economic growth, job creation and external trade. That is why culture is becoming increasingly important at EU level. In accordance with Article 167 of the Lisbon Treaty, the EU 'shall contribute to the flowering of the cultures of the Member States, while respecting their national and regional diversity and at the same time bringing the common heritage to the fore' and listening young people around Europe, we've linked this research to the idea that they identify themselves with famous buildings from their countries, as part of their cultures and of themselves.

"The concept of cultural heritage tends to be associated with historic monuments and buildings, archaeological sites, paintings, drawings or sculpture. It also brings to mind various types of works of art that are the products of human creativity and artistic expression, such as photographs, books and musical instruments. Cultural heritage is not, however, limited to material objects, but also includes aspects of our heritage that are intangible, such as traditions, music, dance, rituals, knowledge and skills that are passed down from generation to generation. All these aspects of cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, represent the systems of values, beliefs, traditions and lifestyles that characterize past and present societies."

We need, as humans, to start seeing diversity as a resource and not as an obstacle. Mainstream media, history books, museums and cultural places are stressing the idea of present and past "enemies" of the country.

Few information resources are bringing a positive view to the cultural clash, without mention that the present cultures are existing thanks to past national and international conflicts, wars, invasions or dominations, although there's no need to such unpleasant political events when the cultures are accepted and enjoyed the way they are.



## The objectives

- to empower 30 young people with soft skills, knowledge and attitudes for understanding better the main arts: architecture, sculpture and painting, in order to identify the cultural values of own culture and of different cultures, towards an improved common sense, social cohesion and solidarity in terms of cultural respect, during 8 youth exchange activity days, preparation and follow-up phases
- to create a safe platform in which young people will open their minds and will develop their sense of initiative, critical and creative thinking, based on the exchange of experiences, cultural values and ideas, learning to implement interactive methods, performing and visual arts in formal presentations regarding culture and historical events
- to promote EU Values linked to democratic values, cultural heritage and its importance, exploring the cultures of 5 EU countries based on historical buildings as a center tool for enhancing self expression, mutual understanding and European citizenship
- to foster diversity as a growing opportunity meant to bring together people around Europe and complement each other, focusing on cultural diversity and how arts defined cultural identities throughout history, based on non-formal education, intercultural dialogue and informal learning tools



## 2+2 Asociación

Hosting association from Zaragoza, created by ex-EVS volunteers in 2015 with the main aim of promoting non-formal education and intercultural dialogue, empowering respect, community values, creative and critical thinking, is now organizing the second youth exchange in collaboration with “Aspanoa-niños con cancer” and the international partners:



### Quinta das relvas

<https://www.facebook.com/quintadasrelvasbranca/>

### TrikalAct

<https://www.facebook.com/trikalact/>



### Onestin

<https://www.facebook.com/asociatia.onestin/>

### Componibile62

<https://www.facebook.com/componibile62/>



## Costs & Travel

Food, accommodation and materials during the project will be fully covered. Travel costs will be reimbursed within the maximum limit for travel costs, according to the Travel Distance Calculator: **275€/participant (Italy, Greece and Portugal), 360€/participant (Romania)**

**How to reach Almudevar?** You'll find it out in the next Infopack (together with information about the accommodation, what to bring, weather conditions and more specific details). In the meanwhile, have a look on the travel options! You might want to consider arriving at Zaragoza, Barcelona or Madrid airports, according to the best deals!



The reimbursement of the flights will be done after the original return travel tickets will arrive by post to our address or during the last activity day on the account of the sending association (in case all the tickets will be ready).

As the project timetable is intense and full of activities, we highly recommend for the groups who desire to visit Zaragoza/Barcelona or other touristic sites, to arrive/departure one day before/after the youth exchange (on their own expense). The Spanish NA accepts the reimbursements of tickets with dates within 2 days before and/or after the first/last day of the youth exchange.

The project was submitted with a programme of 9 days and an Apv meeting. However, upon the approval, 20% of the budget was cut, together with the suggestion of the Spanish NA to skip the Apv and 2 activities days. However, just one activity day will be shorten from the timetable, as in 2+2 we consider the planned learning process will make no much sense! Soon you'll also receive a general timetable of the activities!



## Project Atmosphere Preparation

In order to foster the civic sense, initiative and community mindset, as well as the idea of taking responsibility of our actions, following the targets the project is pointing at: IDENTITY and CULTURAL UNION, we invite the participants to get out of their comfort zone and step into a COMMON zone. This means we expect to have the activity room, the eating and outdoor places and the common places in generally tidy, before and after using them.

Once we agree with the living together conditions and the community spirit, we'll continue with the activities. Punctuality is one of the most important aspects of the project, as the development of the activities depends on it. Being on time is essential in order to go through all the planned activities, to reflect upon them and their purpose, and to assimilate as much as possible from the learning experience.

The 8 activity days youth exchange is divided in 2 parts, both based on non-formal and artistic methods:

1. The morning activities will include role-plays, simulation games, energizers, open discussions, creative workshops and others, meant to explore topics like: cultural stereotypes and culture in general, architecture, painting and sculpture from the art, cultural, social, human and individual points of view, as well as EU values (democracy, inclusion, solidarity) linked to culture and identities.
2. The afternoon/evening activities will be dedicated to organize, by each group, a creative/interactive presentation about a cultural/historical building from each participant country. The presentation may include: role-plays, simulations, theatre, dances, crafts or any other dynamic that will involve the rest of the group and will get their attention in learning actively and understand the history behind that building.



## Working Methods Preparations...

So, as this youth exchange is meant to be done WITH the participants and not only FOR the participants, supposing a high involvement level, we propose few preparation steps that will warm-up their active participation and make them feel the project is theirs:

- Start considering a possible group and make the final selection (following the general lines of the “participants’ profile” below) as soon as possible
- Introduce the groups to the Erasmus+ programme, especially youth exchanges and their intercultural dimension.
- Introduce the participants to the Youth pass Certificate and non-formal education. Practice with them as many dynamics as possible (name games, ice-breaking, team-building – videos/photos from other projects, etc.)
- Organize as many gatherings as possible for the preparation and try to practice English for getting the participants more confident in interacting with the others





## Participant's profile

- Motivation, enthusiasm, involvement and positive energy are important elements for the success of the project. Students or passionate in arts & culture (especially architecture), are to be considered in the final selection!
- 5 participants 18-30 years old + one team-leader, no age limit. The groups should be as gender balanced as possible. In case you have difficulties to gender balance the group, try to check with other groups that haven't done yet the final selection, in order to have a general gender balance in the whole group.
- It is highly recommended that the group it will eventually be selected from the same town/community, as they should have facilitated an accessible communication channel in order to prepare the **presentation video** (a funny presentation of each team member, including some buildings from their countries) and:
  - the **Cultural/Historical building session**, in which during one entire afternoon session they will have to guide the rest of the group into reproducing in **miniature a building** that influence the cultural identity of the country (could be done with clay, cardboard, recycled material, wood, etc., it's up to each group to choose the methods), in an interactive way, **including the history behind it** (maybe a short performance about how and why was built), **arts & culture** (you may consider reproducing paintings or sculptures too, etc.). **Each national group will create their own dynamics** (e.g. the 6 participants will make the activity in front of the rest of 24... or each one of the 6 members will make groups of 4, treating different aspects and so on).
- There will also be 3 intercultural nights (2 countries each)
- Involve as much as possible people with fewer opportunities (unemployed, coming from disadvantaged areas, immigrants or young people facing cultural or social issues, refugees – if possible, educational and other challenges) and especially young people that are at the first/second similar experience, in order to have a deeper impact at personal level



- The team leader should be a responsible person, able to support, help and motivate both his/her national group and the organizing team during the project (preparation, youth exchange, follow-up)
- Keep the vacation spirit at home and focus on the project's topics (especially if you involve couples in your group)!!!
- Able to take part in the preparation and follow-up activities of the project



For building trust and destroying doubts,

Contact us:



## 2+2 Asociación

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