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# INFOPACK

Youth Exchange: **Equal Voices, Equal Choices**

**21.05-29.05**

Struga, North Macedonia

## About the project

**Equal Voices, equal Choices** is designed by young people for young people aiming to create a unique and transformative experience for young people by empowering them to become advocates for gender equality in their communities. This project is designed to address pressing social issues while at the same time equipping participants with relevant knowledge, skills and competencies needed to drive positive change on a local level. By bringing together young people from diverse backgrounds, including those with fewer opportunities, we aim to create an inclusive and supportive environment where everyone can thrive.

### Specific objectives of this project

1. To raise awareness among the participants about gender inequality and its impact.
2. To equip the participants with journalism skills, such as storytelling, media production and blog writing) to promote gender equality.
3. To raise awareness on local and national level about gender inequality through social media campaigns, articles and digital content created by the participants.
4. To encourage participants to become advocates for gender equality in their communities.
5. To strengthen the capacity of partner organizations to use media and journalism as tools for promotion of gender equality.

## **Project activities:**

### **1. Youth Exchange: 21.05-29.05, Struga, North Macedonia**

The main activity for this project is the Youth Exchange which will take place in Struga, North Macedonia. It will be implemented from 21.05-29.05 during which 42 people will gather to participate in this activity on the topic of journalism as a tool for promotion of gender equality. These participants will come from 6 different partner countries, Portugal, Greece, Albania, Czech Republic, Hungary and North Macedonia. Each group will have 6 participants aged 18-25 y.o and 1 team leader aged 18+ y.o. *Each group will include at least two participants with fewer opportunities and gender balance will be ensured.*

## **Project activities:**

### **2. Local activities (1-15 June, 2026)**

After the end of the main activity, participants will be responsible for the organization and implementation of the local activity. They will have the support and guidance in the process but it will be their responsibility to implement it in order to present what they have learned and created during the project and also to inspire other people to talk more openly about this topic and maybe become active advocates for gender equality.

They will also be included in the dissemination of the project by sharing information about the project and its outputs on the web pages of the partner organizations and the social media platforms.

## Travel costs & reimbursement

The organizers cover 100% of the real travel costs from your home to the venue and back considering the general limit applied for each participant – Distance Band. If the ticket will be bought more expensive, the difference between the limit approved and its price will be covered by each participant. The reimbursements will be done only by bank transfer after the training course, upon sending all travel documents and international bank details and only in the account of the partner organization, as it will be settle into Partnership Agreement. **Reimbursement of travel costs will only be done upon full attendance of the mobility and only after receiving the next documents, in original:**

### For plane:

- Boarding passes
- Electronic tickets
- Invoice
- Proof of payment - Receipt for cash payment or account extract/credit card slip/bank statement with details of the transaction in case you will pay by credit card/bank transfer;

### For bus:

- Tickets
- Invoice (if the case)
- Proof of payment - Receipt for cash payment or account extract/credit card slip/bank statement with details of the transaction in case you will pay by credit card/bank transfer;

### For Car:

- Gasoline Bills
- Invoice and proof of payment if you rent a car for coming in Ohrid from your country.

**Do NOT buy your tickets before consulting us.**

## Any wishes to stay shorter or longer should be consulted with organizers prior any booking!

Taxi costs are not eligible for reimbursements. Reimbursement will be done in EUR, regardless of the currency indicated on the ticket and receipt/invoice.

Please check the table below with the information on the travel budget limits for round trip! If travel costs exceed the amount budgeted in the project, the organizers will only be able to reimburse participants the sum mentioned on the limits of the budget. We encourage you to use green transport if possible, such as: train, bus, boat, carpooling /car sharing, bike. Participants are therefore strongly advised to book their tickets well in advance.

The above table is showing the amounts per distances and the responsibility for checking the distances in the [Distance Band Calculator](#) belongs to each partner association

| <b>TRAVEL DISTANCE</b> | <b>STANDARD TRAVEL</b> | <b>GREEN TRAVEL</b> |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 10 – 99 km             | 28 EUR                 | 56 EUR              |
| 100 – 499 km           | 211 EUR                | 285 EUR             |
| 500 – 1999 km          | 309 EUR                | 417 EUR             |
| 2000 – 2999 km         | 395 EUR                | 535 EUR             |
| 3000 – 3999 km         | 580 EUR                | 785 EUR             |

## How to get to Struga

### **Option 1:**

**Nearest Airport:** Ohrid St. Paul the Apostle Airport

- Distance to Struga: ~10 km
- Travel time: 10–15 minutes
- Taxi cost: approx. 10–15 EUR

This is the closest and most convenient option when available.

**Alternative Airport:** Skopje International Airport

- Distance to Struga: ~180 km
- Travel time: 3–4 hours

From Skopje to Struga:

- Bus: 3–4 hours, ~10–15 EUR
- Private transfer/taxi: 120–150 EUR (can be shared among participants)

### **Option 2: By Car**

If arriving from neighboring countries:

Approximate travel times:

- From Skopje → 2.5–3 hours
- From Tirana → 2.5–3 hours
- From Thessaloniki → 4–5 hours

Roads are generally in good condition, but expect some mountain roads near the destination.

### **Option 3: By Bus (Regional Travel)**

Struga is well connected by bus with several regional cities.

Direct or indirect connections from:

- Skopje (3–4 hours)
- Tirana (approx. 3 hours)
- Ohrid (15–20 minutes)

Arrival point: Struga Central Bus Station

## **Organized Transfer to the Hotel**

An organized group transport will be arranged:

- Departure point: Struga (exact location will be shared)
- Time: around 18:00 (6:00 PM)
- Destination: Hotel Belica, Struga

We kindly ask all participants to plan their arrival in Struga before 18:00 in order to use the organized transfer.

If you arrive later, let us know so we can arrange your transport to the hotel.

## **Local Transport**

- Taxis are affordable and widely available
- Most places in Struga are within walking distance
- Short taxi rides: approx. 3–5 EUR

## **Accommodation – Hotel Belica**

Participants will be accommodated at Hotel Belica, located in the peaceful mountain area of Gorna Belica, near Struga.

The hotel offers a quiet and natural environment, ideal for group work, learning, and team bonding.

### **Important Note About Location**

There are no markets or shops near the hotel.

Participants are strongly advised to:

- Buy any personal items, snacks, or essentials before arriving at the hotel

### **Room Arrangement**

Participants will be accommodated in:

- 2-bed, 3-bed, and 4-bed rooms
- Rooms will be shared between participants of mixed nationalities
- Gender-separated rooms



## Hotel Facilities

The hotel provides:

- Private bathrooms in rooms
- Free Wi-Fi
- Restaurant (meals will be organized here)
- Outdoor areas and garden
- Swimming pool
- 24-hour reception
- Free parking

The accommodation includes modern rooms with basic amenities to ensure a comfortable stay.

## Location

- Located approx. 14 km from Struga, in a mountain village setting
- Surrounded by nature, fresh air, and scenic views
- Ideal for focusing on project activities without distractions



## Meals

- Meals will be provided at the hotel restaurant
- Typically includes breakfast, lunch, and dinner
- Please inform organizers in advance about any dietary requirements.



## Important Notes

- Respect roommates and shared spaces
- Keep rooms clean and organized
- Follow house rules provided by organizers
- Quiet hours may apply



## **Weather in Late May – Struga**

At the end of May, the weather in Struga and around Lake Ohrid is generally pleasant and spring-like, but can vary slightly due to the mountain location.

### **Average Temperatures**

- Daytime: 20°C – 26°C
- Evening/Night: 10°C – 15°C

Days are usually warm and comfortable, while evenings can be cool, especially in the mountains (like at Hotel Belica).

### **What to Pack**

Participants are advised to bring:

- Light clothes for warm daytime
- Jacket or hoodie for evenings
- Comfortable shoes (for walking & outdoor activities)
- Light rain jacket or umbrella
- Sunglasses & sunscreen

### **Important Note**

Due to the hotel's mountain location, it may feel cooler than in the city, especially at night.

## Preparation

Each of the participating countries should:

- Bring all your travel documents as presented above,
- Find interesting videos/games/exercises/educational activities for the topic, prepare energizers to start the morning with an energy booster,
- Prepare for your country's cultural evening. Please, try to be fun and creative for this any kind of activity is welcome (e.g., video presentations, dances, songs, games, quizzes, posters, flyers, etc.)
- More preparation needed for the activities will be posted online after the participants are selected.
- Bring your Flag! It would be great for visibility activities.

**Come with open minds and open hearts!**

# Contact

If you have any further questions, don't  
hesitate to contact us:

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