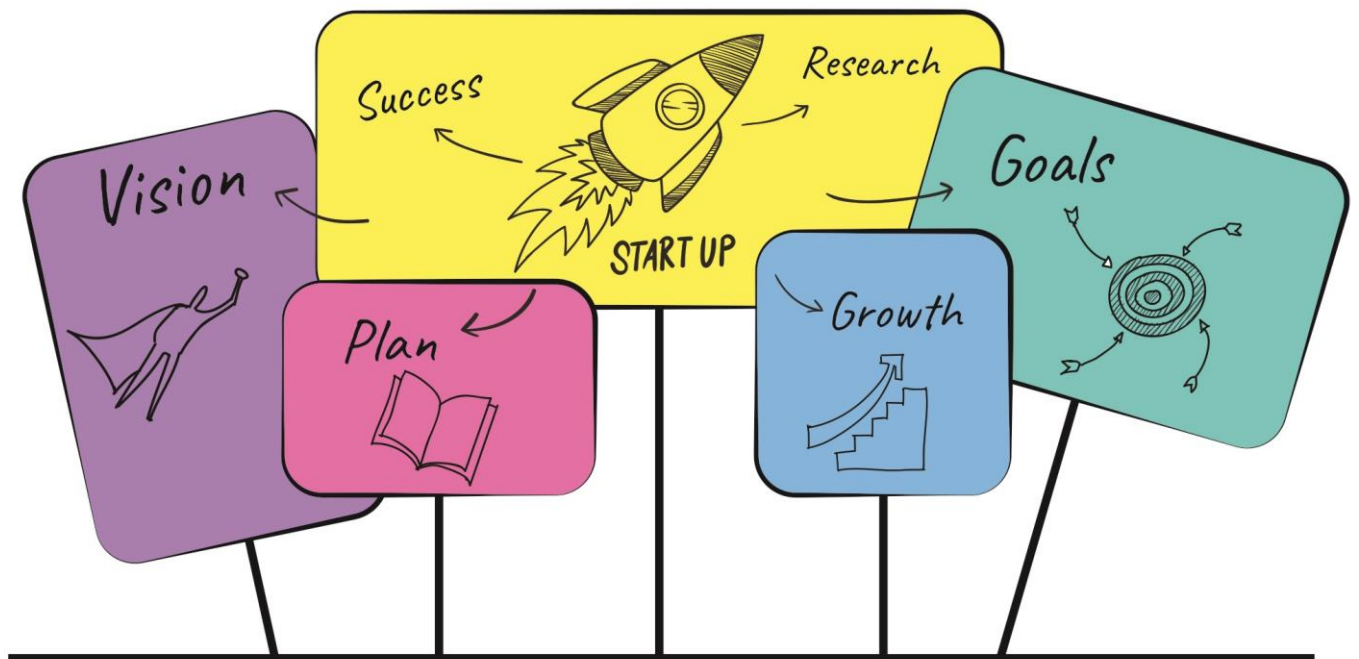




## Youth exchange



# Entrepreneurship for Youth Empowerment

2-10 August 2021 in Smolyan, Bulgaria



Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

## About the project:

According to the national statistics center of our country and Eurostat, the number of graduated youngsters have been increasing substantially the last decade, having achieved 31,9% in 2015. Even though this it is still far from the EU 2020 goal of 40%, it is still a notorious increase of nearly 20%. However, despite this, unemployment in many countries is still above the 10% line according to Eurostat' February 2017 findings on unemployment which has led to major difficulties in finding a job experienced by the youth sector. This fact together with the fact that youngsters do not have sufficient knowledge about entrepreneurship and how to create their own job opportunity has encouraged creation of this project. According to the data of Eurostat it takes on average 2 years to find a job after the university. This period of time is possible to be longer to 4 years in countries that are still under the effect generated with the economic crisis. The number of entrepreneurs in these countries is constantly decreasing and many entrepreneur souls disappear before arising. The question is if it is possible to prevent crisis without having entrepreneurs. We set activities in our activity plan with the aim of coping with this problem. The project will include partners from Bulgaria and Greece , whose unemployment rates are still too very far from the EU 2020 aims, Poland, an example of success with nearly 5% of unemployed community, Poland and Portugal with an average rate considering the established target and Spain who has seen the biggest registered increase in the number of entrepreneurs from 2007 to 2015 bringing together the best cases with the average and not so good realities.

Participants will improve their qualifications of expressing themselves both in their native languages and in a foreign language by the activities throughout the project with personal development activities to cope better with the problem of unemployment. They will be individuals who take active part in the society, who understand the structure and the principles of the European Union mechanism. Our participants will develop an understanding of what entrepreneurship means, gaining knowledge about entrepreneurship, the opportunities available for them, how to prepare work plan and learning about the process of being and becoming an entrepreneur. Our participants will learn about new cultures and traditions and they will be able to reflect on the importance of knowing foreign languages and the importance of language itself.

The potential of newly engaged entrepreneurs is waiting to be unlocked. This unlocked potential is creating more solutions for the future by decreasing the unemployment rates and by raising awareness towards entrepreneurship for a consequent increase in the number of entrepreneurs.

**The youth exchange will be fully implemented in English!**

## 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 2-10 August 2021 in Smolyan, Bulgaria. You will have more details bellow.

**6. Mentoring phase** - in the next 3 months after program activities (10 August – 10 November, 2021), each participant will receive mentoring support (if necessary) in two directions: directly mentoring - for the implementation of new tools and methods learned during the project; sharing of materials our team will share useful information related with the topic of the project.

### **Selection of participants:**

Number of participants: 6 (5+1 leader) per country

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

Profiles of participants: Young people, students, youth leaders, entrepreneurs, youth workers, members of NGOs, volunteers actively work in youth field.

Countries: Bulgaria, Portugal, Poland, Greece and Spain

**APPLY here:** <https://forms.gle/VwckKxDMJyUSKfwEA>

**Deadline: 20 June 2021**

## Travel and reimbursement information

We will provide the bus from Sofia to Smolyan in the day of arrival and departure!

Please, try to look for travel options which allow you to be in Sofia before 14.00h. on 2 August 2021 and after 15:00h. on 10 August 2021. If you plan to arrive earlier or leave later and you need to find an accommodation, let us know, so that we can support you. Your expenses out of the days of the program activities will not be reimbursed by the organizers.

Travel limits:

Greece 180€

Poland 275€

Spain and Portugal 360€

The organisers will reimburse of your travel costs from your home city to Smolyan, 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](http://www.ec.europa.eu/budget/inforeuro/index.cfm?Language=en)

**NOTE:** If you plan to travel outside the official project dates you need approval by IYAC Bulgaria, first. National agency from Bulgaria usually approve traveling 2 days before/after the project dates but in any case in order to check and confirm it please contact us at [iyac.bulgaria@gmail.com](mailto:iyac.bulgaria@gmail.com)

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

## COVID-19 measures

We will cover all expenses about PCR test till the limit of travel costs. For example: If your travel tickets is 120 euros and PCR test is 60 euros. We will cover all 60 euros, cause your travel limit is 180 euros. But if your tickets is 150 euros, we will be able to reimburse only 30 euros for PCR test.

Organizers will provide masks, disinfectants and helmets.

## Venue:

The project will take place in hotel “Dikas” - <https://www.hotel-dikas.com> Participants will be accommodated in double and triple rooms with bathroom (included towels), TV, WiFi and balcony. Accommodation and full board meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) are covered by organizers.



## Important dates:

**20 June 2021** Deadline for submitting of application forms;

**20-24 June 2021** Selection of participants;

**1 July 2021** Deadline to buy your tickets and send the copies of them;

**2 August 2021** Arrival day before 14:00h. in Sofia;

**10 August 2021** Departure day after 15:00h. from Sofia;

## Project partners:

International Youth Activity Center (IYAC), Bulgaria

Email address: [iyac.bulgaria@gmail.com](mailto:iyac.bulgaria@gmail.com)

Contact person: Nikolay Nikolov

INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH AND TRAINING ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, Greece

Email address: [despina.papadaki@gmail.com](mailto:despina.papadaki@gmail.com)

Contact person: Despina Papadaki

Europejskie Forum Młodzieży "FRATERNITAS", Poland

Email address: [heike@interia.pl](mailto:heike@interia.pl)

Contact person: Lukasz Radecki

Association Euro-Med EVE, Spain

Email address: [euromuevete@gmail.com](mailto:euromuevete@gmail.com)

Contact person: Joanna Mielcarek

Conexão Jovem, Portugal

Email address: [a.henrique.antunes@gmail.com](mailto:a.henrique.antunes@gmail.com)

Contact person: Almeno Antunes