

# BALKAN YOUTH EXCHANGE



YOUTH  
EXCHANGE

REPORT

SAMOBOR MARCH 2015



Erasmus+



# **Balkan Youth Exchange Report**

**In March 2015, Outward Bound Croatia organized a youth exchange which hosted 30 participants from following countries: Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Former Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom and Slovakia.**

**The need for this project originated from religious and national intolerance, lack of dialog and understanding between different religions across the Europe.**

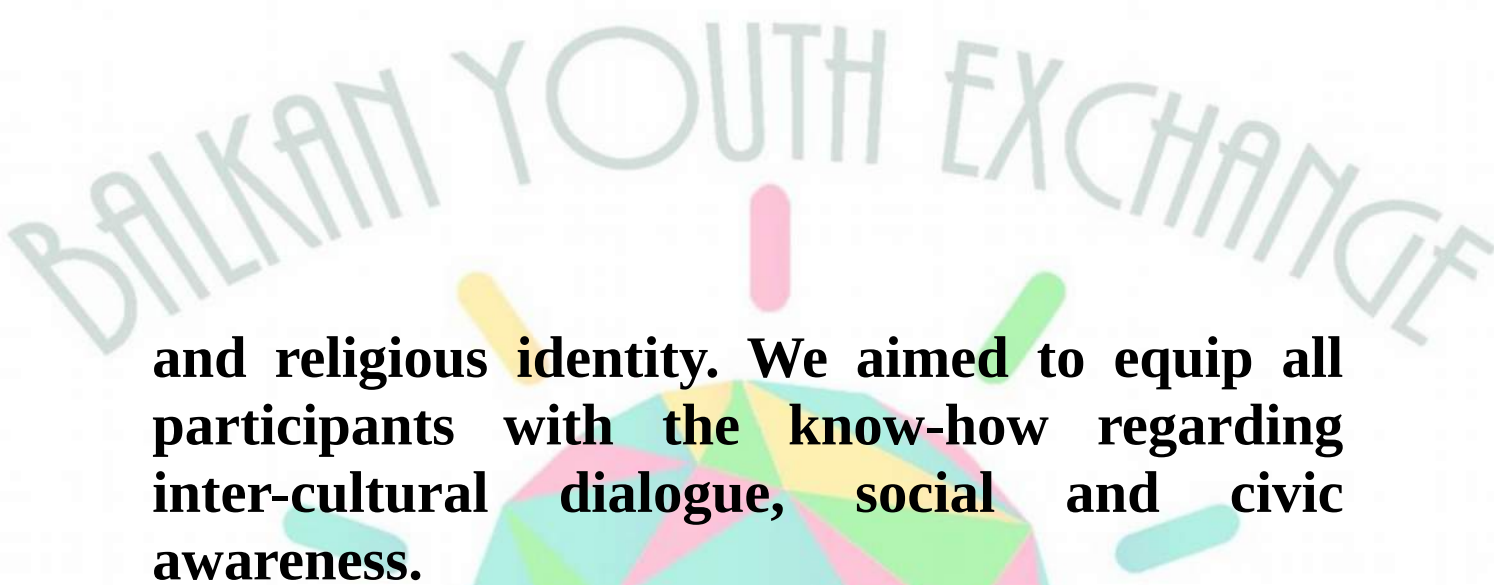
**The participants were chosen by each partner organization - youth involved in the activities of the organizations, interested and motivated for the project, based on a motivational letter. Youth participants were aged between 18 and 30, and included fifteen**



**participants that are facing economic and social obstacles.**

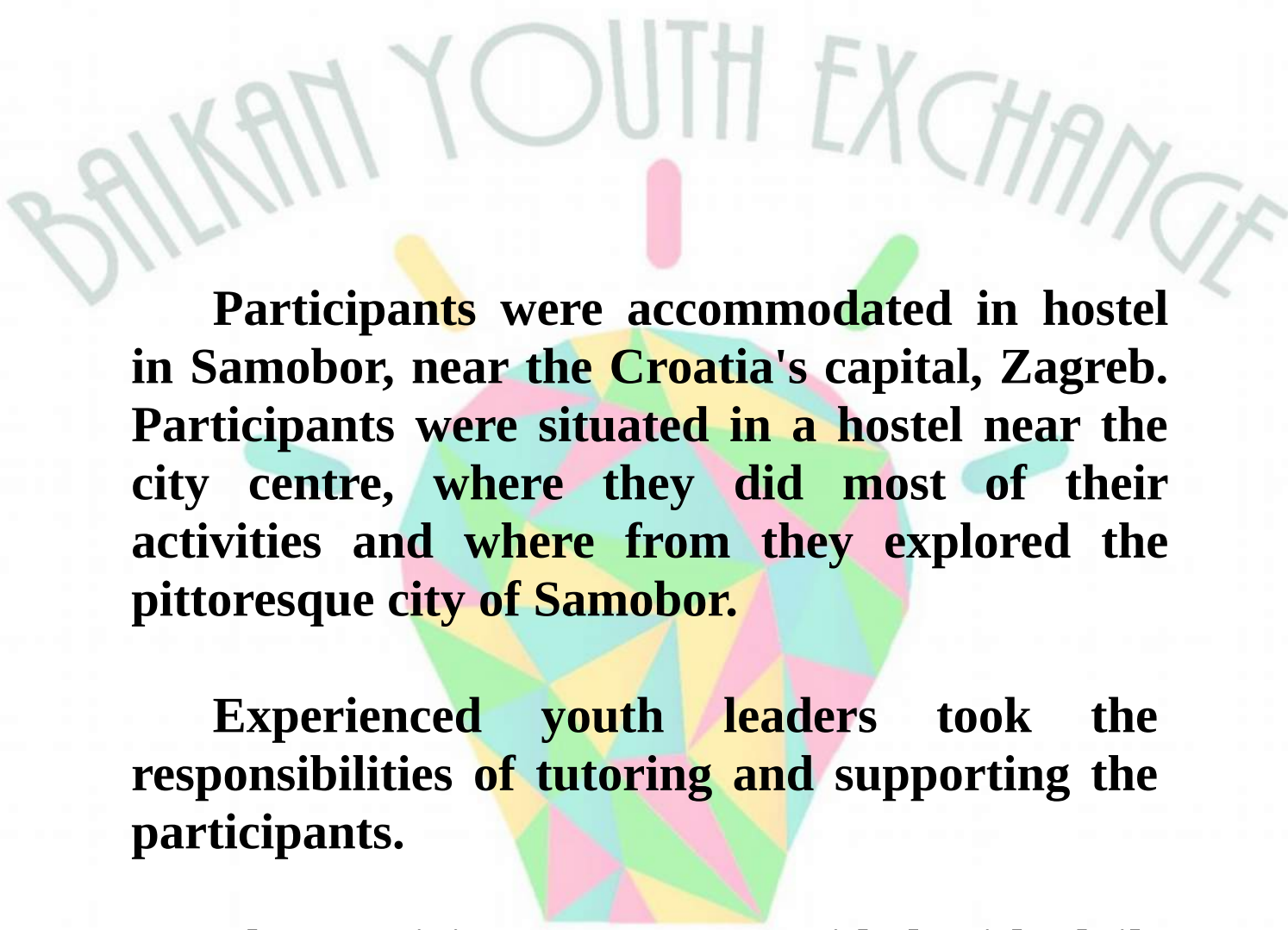
**Youth leaders were youth workers or facilitators in non-formal education active within their organizations, motivated to develop their competences about inter-religious dialogue and to share their experiences with other participants.**

**The main goal was further inclusion of minorities and focus on religious knowledge and dialogue, as was offering a dialogue for youth on topics which are belittled or overlooked in their current societies. All participants were expected to learn about identity formation in society and understanding the difference between national**



**and religious identity. We aimed to equip all participants with the know-how regarding inter-cultural dialogue, social and civic awareness.**

**Additional activities were implemented to challenge stereotypes, conflicts and intolerance based on nationalities and minorities. Participants were expected to improve their knowledge of these subjects and to be able to deal with them in a more positive light, without challenging their beliefs and by working closely within EU values and Charter of Fundamental Rights. Competence of “learning to learn” was practised and improved, since the youth was equipped to deal with challenging obstacles and to be able to organize their own learning and its evaluation.**

The logo for 'Balkan Youth Exchange' is centered on the page. It features the text 'BALKAN YOUTH EXCHANGE' in a light grey, sans-serif font, arched over a stylized map of the Balkan region. The map is composed of various colored triangles in shades of teal, yellow, pink, and light green. A small pink vertical bar is positioned above the map.

**Participants were accommodated in hostel in Samobor, near the Croatia's capital, Zagreb. Participants were situated in a hostel near the city centre, where they did most of their activities and where from they explored the picturesque city of Samobor.**

**Experienced youth leaders took the responsibilities of tutoring and supporting the participants.**

**The participants were provided with daily activities that handle each of the project goals. On the first day of arrival each participant received a welcome packet folder with writing utensils, a notebook for notes on sessions and small book for diary work.**

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**Cultural identity was further encouraged during our daily activities. Ice breakers in the morning and afternoon were adjusted to promote language learning and risk prevention by expressing the need for a safe and understanding environment and a fun place to live, learn, and play.**

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# DAY 2

Getting to know each other

Icebreakers, problem solving tasks

Expectations, fears, contributions

Setting up the learning goals and expected outcomes, personal action plan

Outdoor program CITY BOUND

Reflection groups

Sharing session and discussion

**Intercultural Evening I**

Presentation of tradition, culture, country etc.

# DAY 3

Current relationships and challenges among countries of SEE

Presentation, learning groups, discussion

What is Religion? Creating common understanding of diversities in religion

Interactive discussion

Visits to religious institutions

Learning groups, discussion

Reflection

**Intercultural evening**



# DAY 4

National identity and prevention of intolerance as consequence of war

Sharing session and discussion

Religion diversity

Presentation and discussion

Minorities, majority – conflict resolution

Presentation, learning groups, discussion

**Roleplay – video workshop**

Presentation of videos

**Night in town**

# DAY 5

Stereotype, prejudice, discrimination

Presentation and discussion

Stereotype, prejudice, discrimination II

Sharing and interactive discussion

Reflection groups

Sharing groups and discussion

**NGO Fair**  
**Presentation of the organisations**

# DAY 6

Sharing realities and problem of youth in each countries,  
developing possible solutions

Method chosen by participants

Instrument for protection of youth

Theory and practical examples

Outdoor program

Outward Bound activities for improvement of teamwork,  
organizational skills, buidling trust and better team performance

**Participants' turn to organize night for  
Themselves (fun activities)**

# DAY 7

Best Practice and Examples of Work with peace building

Theory and practical examples

Peace building ideas

Theory and practical examples

Planning peacebuilding activities

Method chosen by participants

Preparation of peacebuilding flash mob

Method chosen by participants

**Barbecue**  
**Organized fun activities**

# DAY 8

European integration or how EU can help us

Workshops

Non-Formal Learning YouthPass

Theory and practical examples

Erasmus+ programme (Quiz)

Theory and practical examples

Sharing the goals of our youth exchange with local community

Setting up the learning goals and expected outcomes, personal action plan

Reflection groups

Sharing session and discussion

**Movie night**  
**Organized fun activities**

# DAY 9

Closing the learning

Workshops

Youthpass

Workshops and certification

Evaluation

Evaluation using non-formal methods and evaluation forms

**Free afternoon**

**Farewell party**

# Impressions and experiences from the participants

*"Some of the kindest people in the world. What you do everyday makes a small part of the world population wiser and more harmonius. If you keep doing it eventually you will spread your love (light) all over the world. I am so glad that I had the chance to meet you and converse and share ideas"*

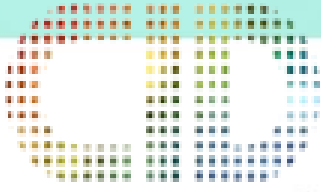
*"The people were amazing. Everyone cared for each other, respected and loved [others], which is the thing I appreciate!"*

*"I have learned valuable leadership skills and now can handle all types of challenges which face me."*

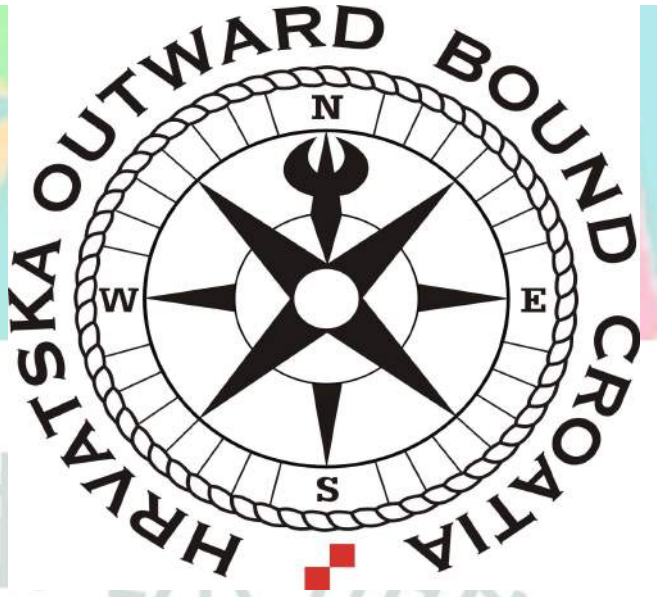
*"I got more information about how others experience their religious status and more information about some religion that we don't practice in my country."*

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# Project partner organisations



center for  
intercultural  
dialogue



Registered Charity No. 1148866



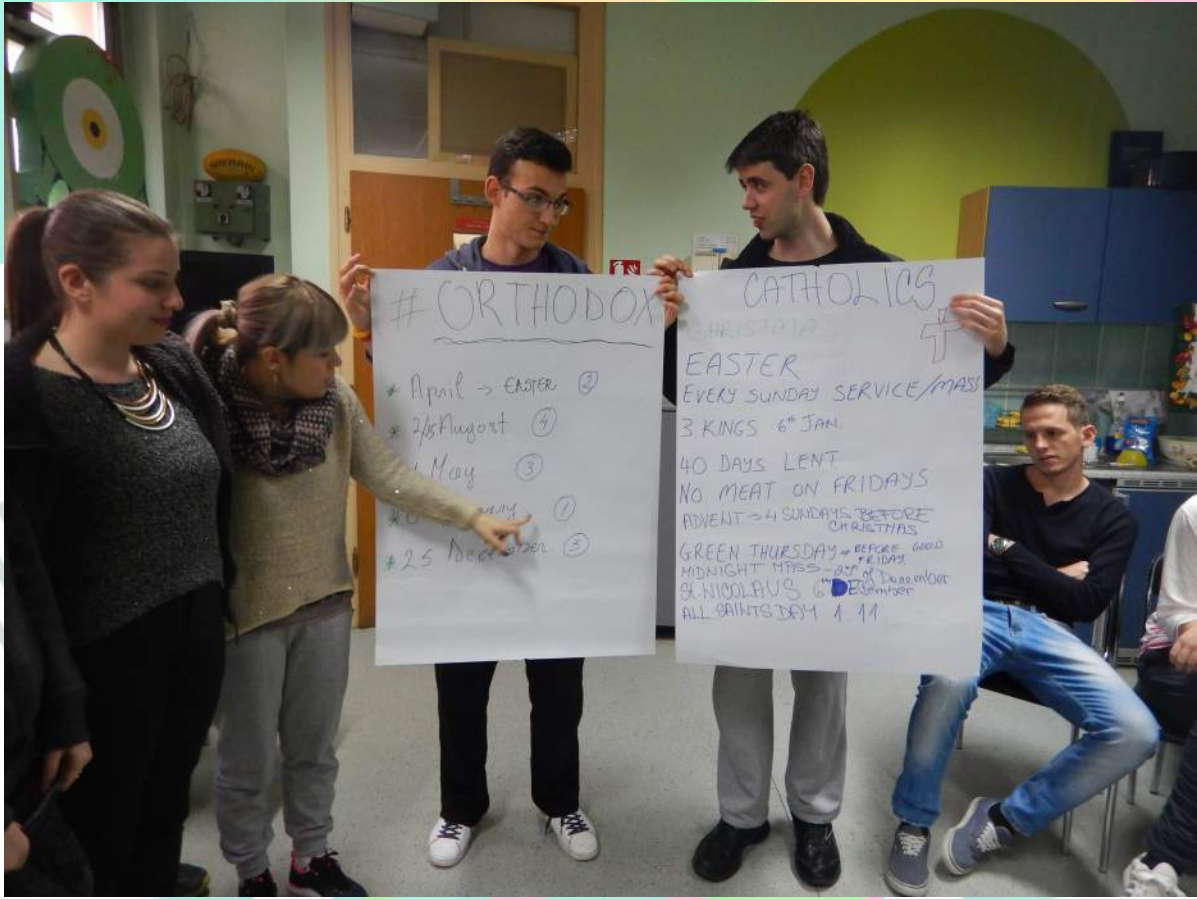
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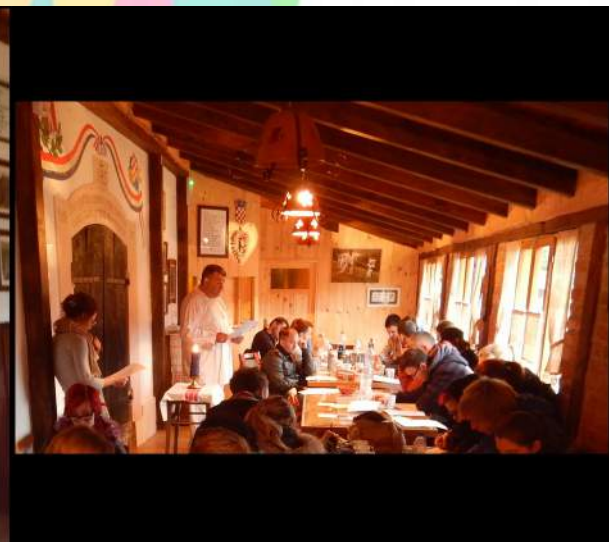
# Workshops



# Workshops



# Sharing with the local religious institutions



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# Intercultural evening



# Peacebuilding



# Outdoor activities



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