

# INFO PACK

EMPOWER FOR BETTER COMMUNITY DEVELOPEMENT



**5 November – 13 November 2021**

**Bansko, Bulgaria**



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



## **SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT**

The need of the project comes from the existing growing tension and violence among smaller ethnic/migrant groups and the increasing tensions within many EU countries in regard to nationalism and racism. After extensive analyses on the situations in all the partner countries and the long-term experience of our partners in the field, together we have developed the concept of the current project proposal. Chauvinism, racism and discrimination, combined with violence and threatening acts against minorities raises the need to seek effective strategies to address the problems of conflict, radicalization and violence among young people. With the ongoing refugee crisis in Europe, the level of violence is increasing among all countries.. In addition to that we have the so called frozen conflicts on some spots in Europe such as Turkey-Cyprus, Serbia-Kosovo-spots that hold the potential to cause clashes ad conflict at any time. The project will cover different types of conflicts and in different settings and consequently ways of transforming conflicts by non-violent actions.

The objectives of the Training Course are:

- To develop a set of knowledge, skills and competences of youth workers in conflict transformation and peace-building;
- To equip youth workers with an understanding of non-violence concepts and human rights education that can be applied to their local communities to prevent conflicts and violent radicalization among local youths;
- To motivate participants to advocate for non-violent actions on the local, national and international levels, and for them to act as multipliers and ambassadors of peace;
- To encourage cooperation between the organizations for further actions on youth peacebuilding initiatives;
- To promote the European values of intercultural dialogues, peace, anti-discrimination, diversity, respect of human rights, tolerance and solidarity.

## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation and food (breakfast, lunch and dinner) for the duration of the activities will be covered by the receiving organization PROVISION International.

All participants will be accommodated in Royal Bansko aparthotel , located in Bansko Bulgaria at the following address: ul. "Kosherinata" 2770, Bansko, Bulgaria





## VENUE

**Bansko** is a town in southwestern Bulgaria, located at the foot of the Pirin Mountains. It is a popular ski resort. The mountain peaks near the town, the numerous lakes and the old pine woods make it a popular site for recreation.



## FOOD AND SPECIAL NEEDS

PRO VISION International will provide participants with three meals per day and two coffee breaks.

- **Special needs:** Any special food diet must be previously informed to the organizers. Please, make sure that we know about your special diet.

- Extra nights: For those who come earlier (before 5<sup>th</sup> of November) or/and leave later (after 13<sup>th</sup> of November), unfortunately the project cannot cover the extra nights and food. If your flights are earlier or later than the project dates, you will have to find accommodation for yourself. Of course, you can always contact the organizers to help you in finding a place to stay. The first provided meal will be the dinner on 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2021. On 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021, the breakfast will be provided.

**NB!!! PLEASE KNOW THAT THE TOTAL DURATION OF THE EXTRA STAY SHOULD NOT EXTEND 2 DAYS –MEANING ( 1 DAY BEFORE AND 1 AFTER, OR 2 DAYS BEFORE OR 2 DAYS AFTER) . Or in case a transport is missing and the stay should be longer than 2 extra days you can request confirmation from us.**

## **ARRIVAL IN VENUE**

### **How to get to BANSKO?**

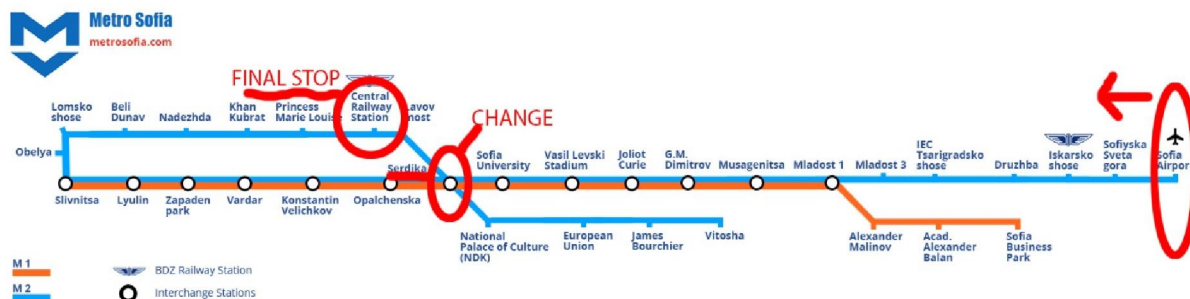
Although there are some different airports, the best option for everybody is to arrive to Sofia. There are several buses leaving everyday from Sofia to Bansko ( the first one is at 07:00am and the last one is at 16:45).



You will have to use public transportation to get from Sofia to project venue. For that you will need small change – 1.60BGN ( approx. 0.80 euro) for subway ticket and 16 BGN ( 8.11 euro) for bus from Sofia to Bansko.

### **If you are arriving at Sofia airport – Terminal 1**

Outside of the terminal you will find white mini bus with sign TRANSFER SHUTTLE /or simply ask any of the staff where is the free shuttle to Terminal 2/. Once you get in – it will drive you / about 7 min/ to TERMINAL 2 of SOFIA AIRPORT. From there you can get metro / subway /taking the blue line/ - From Sofia airport terminal 2 to station called SERDIKA, there you have to change with the orange line towards OBELYA OR LOMSKO SHOSE and you have to get out at the 2<sup>nd</sup> station which is called CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION. Once you get out from CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION you will see large blue building with the sign Central Bus Station. Inside the station you will be able to get the tickets for the bus. Please check the image below:



## If you are arriving at **Sofia airport – Terminal 2**

Once at Terminal 2 of Sofia airport –please go out of the building turn left and go all the way down on the road and you will get to the / subway station of Sofia airport/ 2-3 min walk/ . From there take the blue line/ - From Sofia airport terminal 2 to station called SERDIKA, there you have to change with the orange line towards OBELYA OR LOMSKO SHOSE and you have to get out at the 2<sup>nd</sup> station which is called CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION. Once you get out from CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION you will see large blue building with the sign Central Bus Station. Inside the station you will be able to get the tickets for the bus. Please check the image below:



## How to get from **Central Bus station** to **Bansko**

Once you arrive at CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION go out of the station and you will see large blue building with sign Central Bus Station. Please see the image below:



From there you can buy ticket to Bansko. The journey will be about 3h and it will cost you 16 Bulgarian leva.

There are few buses a day running from Sofia to Basnko with schedule:

Route	Departing hour	Price
Sofia- Basnko	09:45	16 BGN
	11:25	16 BGN
	14:00	16 BGN
	16:45	16 BGN

**If you are arriving after 16:45 and you are not able to get the public bus there is option for renting a private shuttle that needs to be paid by each of the passenger and it's upon request.**

**For the way back from Bansko to Sofia**

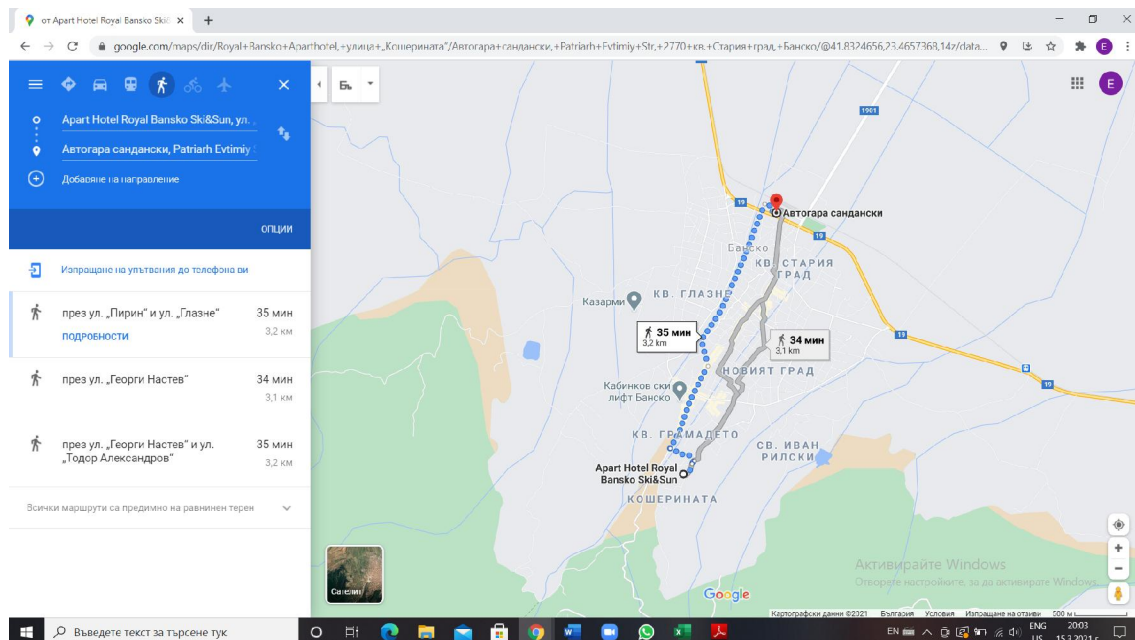
Route	Departing hour	Arrival hour	Price
Basnko - Sofia	05:05	08:05	16 BGN
	06:50	10:20	16 BGN
	12:50	15:50	16 BGN

**From Bansko bus station to Royal Bansko Aparthotel:**

You have two options to get to the hotel.

- 1) Is to take a taxi which you can find just infront of the main entrance of the Bus station and will costs you about 10-15 BGN /5-7 euros/ per car. So if you are more people you can share the costs. **Please know that taxi service can not be reimbursed.**
- 2) You can walk to the hotel





**NB! In any case if we are able to schedule pick up of most/all participants from Sofia we will directly do that and bring them to Bansko.**

## **TRAVEL COSTS AND REIMBURSEMENT**

**Travel costs:** Please note that travel costs will be reimbursed on the basis of original tickets, boarding passes and invoices/receipts for travel. Do not forget to collect and bring all of them.

**Only cheapest/economy class travel will be reimbursed and a public transport.!!! Please know that this might be an option with connecting flight or longer delays.**

**PLEASE DO NOT buy your tickets without having confirmation from the organizers.**

**!!!Please know that tickets that are not confirmed may not be reimbursed**

**PROVISION International is not responsible of reimbursing tickets without our prior validation.**

## **REIMBURSEMENT**

How to provide the needed justifying documents? (Remember! If anything is missing from the list below, unfortunately we are not able to reimburse the costs). We will try to do cash reimbursement to all participants only if they can provide electronic version of all tickets before they depart from Bulgaria.

**1.Flight tickets** (economic class/low cost if possible) – all the following are needed:

**e-ticket** (you receive it by e-mail after you buy the flight);



**fiscal invoice** (ask your travel agency or check on the website where you buy the ticket how can you get a fiscal invoice). The invoice can be issued on the name of traveler, or on the name of the organisation you represent;

**proof of payment** (signed and stamped): can be a receipt from where you buy the tickets, can be a payment order (if you pay by bank transfer) or can be a bank or an account statement (if you pay by internet banking);

**boarding pass** (you get it online and print it at home 24h-30h before the flight or directly in the airport);

In the exceptional case when the amount on your invoice is different that the amount charged, a personal declaration will be needed and only the amount charged is subject of reimbursement.

**2.Train tickets** (make sure the date, the itinerary and the price are visible on the ticket, if you can get an invoice is even better);

**3.Bus tickets** (make sure the date, the itinerary and the price are visible on the ticket, if you can get an invoice it is better);

**4.Private car transport and Taxi ( including Bla Bla car, uber and such) – will not be reimbursed** doesn't matter the reason you needed to use it.

**5.Please note that additional services on your bookings won't be reimbursed (extra leg room in the plane, checked in luggage and adicional bags, reserved seats and etc)**

Country	Number of participants	Travel cost limits
Bulgaria	3 participants	0
Italy	3 participants	275
Serbia	3 participants	180
Spain	3 participants	275
Cyprus	3 participants	275
Slovakia	3 participants	275
Romania	3 participants	275
Turkey	3 participants	180

**CONTRIBUTION FEE:** There is no contribution fee for the project

**VISA COSTS:**

Country	Number of participants	Amount per participants
Trukey	3 participants	50

**TESTS for entering Bulgaria:** The tests for entering Bulgaria will be covered at maximum of 100% ONLY in case all participants keep the travel costs LOWER. This will allow us to have a refund for such costs.

It is strongly recommended that all participants are vaccinated so we can avoid any issues in case the current COVID restrictions get changed and the country you are coming from move to red list zone. That will mean that you will have to be fully vaccinated and in addition you will need to have negative PCR to enter the country, otherwise you will need to be in self isolation for 14 days.

### **PRACTICAL INFORMATION (currency)**

Currency: in Bulgaria, we use лв – Bulgarian Leva. 1 EUR is 1.95 lv. You will need them to travel inside Bulgaria (bus, taxi or whatever you will use to move around it), so make sure you change a little bit when you arrive at the airport or before coming here. In case you will need to change again, we will help you out on spot.

### **PLANNED ACTIVITIES**

**\*The daily schedule will be provided within the next email very shortly**

**Intercultural nights:** For the intercultural evenings, we kindly ask you to prepare interactive presentation of your country. You can present it along with your food and drinks, music, traditional dances, etc. You can do it in the way you think is more suitable for the group, so be as creative as you want.

You are more than welcome to bring traditional food and drinks for this evening. It will be possible to cook there in case you want to prepare something for that night, but you should buy the ingredients or bring them from your countries. You can also bring your flag, posters, postcards, leaflets or any kind of gift you want to give to the participants in order them to have a picture of where you come from. Videos or games are also a good idea to be implemented during that night!

### **INSURANCE:**



Medical insurance: procuring a medical insurance valid during your own responsibility. European Union citizens are entitled to have an European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) which you can get for free from your health authorities and you can use in Bulgaria and in any other EU country as well. Anyway, you can also choose a private insurance for the duration of your stay (it should not cost more than 10 EUR depending on the provider and issuing country). Although it might be not mandatory to enter Bulgaria, if you choose to not have a health insurance **you need to be ready to cover any medical related cost.**

**We strongly encourage you to get a medical insurance for your stay!**

## **PARTICIPANT PROFILE:**

**We are looking for 3 participants per country with the following profile:**

- Over 18 years old
- Are interested in developing competences to implement follow-up peacebuilding initiatives;
- Are open-minded to dialogue with other nationalities, including those having on-going conflicts;
- Have an understanding of international youth work;
- Have an awareness of learning environment characteristics (non-formal education);
- Are ready to share and explore confrontational situations in terms of ongoing conflicts;
- Work regularly on the youth field;
- Have a communicative level of English;
- Are ready to commit to a long-term project and the implementation of follow-up activities;
- Are ready to commit time before, during and after the course through research, preparation before course through several tasks, full commitment during the course, and able to organize follow up activities;
- Have the ability to multiply the learning outcomes of the course by engaging other youth in several activities thus ensuring long-lasting effect;
- Have experience in working with young people as a youth worker, facilitator, trainer or social worker;
- Have a lead role and connection to the sending organization in order to ensure the transfer of knowledge and skills to the organizations.



## **WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU – CHECK LIST**



- ✓ All travel documents;
- ✓ Anything you need for the intercultural night( food, drinks, brochures and etc)
- ✓ Swimsuit and flip-flops/there is pool in the hotel.
- ✓ Comfortable clothes for the activities outside and inside conference room;
- ✓ Anything you think you will need during your stay in

Bulgaria and of course, GOOD MOOD!

**IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXCHANGE PLEASE FILL THE APPLICATION FORM BELOW NOT LATER THAN 15 October 2021 :**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSetgigdFXSQc8FATyHvKxB3JnlfKICtvGu5PzoF60yzCLaO1Q/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>

## C O N T A C T S



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