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JUGEND
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TRAINING-COURSE **SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP** FOR SUSTAINABILITY

9-10 SEPTEMBER 2023
POPOVA SHAPKA | NORTH MACEDONIA



THE HOSTING ORGANIZATION:

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



WHO WE ARE?

Our host is **BRIGHT**, a voluntary, non-profit, non-governmental civic association formed in Skopje in 2019.



The Association is carrying out activities for the promotion of moral values, strengthening of inter-ethnic relations and economic development of the state and beyond. Bright strives to foster sustainable and developed local communities and improve the quality of life of citizens. The mission of BRIGHT continuous improvement of the quality of life of citizens through sustainable economic, social and environmental development. Our main goal is achieving sustainable development, protecting and nourishing the environment and tackling climate change.

Although Bright is a young organization formed in 2019, the staff members have relevant experiences participating, coordinating and facilitating different international projects. They are all committed to promote young people's active participation in social issues becoming an active European citizen. Every member has relevant experiences in the field of youth exchanges. Bright's members have been actively involved in different projects' administration and implementation. Many of our members have been active in the worldwide activities with young people connected to development of the rural areas such as making youth strategies of mainly rural municipalities, implementing trainings for volunteering for eco employment, implementing workshops for agro entrepreneurship and community engagement in less developed areas.

ABOUT THE PROJECT



SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Europe is facing several sustainability challenges such as climate change, energy transition, and environmental degradation. These challenges not only impact the economy and the environment but also the well-being of individuals and communities, particularly vulnerable groups such as youth with fewer opportunities.

With a lack of job opportunities and financial instability, many young people face social exclusion and a limited ability to participate in sustainable development initiatives, leading to economic and social inequalities. In addition, young people often lack the necessary skills and knowledge to actively participate in sustainable development initiatives.

This project aims to empower and equip youth workers with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to create sustainable social enterprises that not only address environmental challenges but also generate social and economic benefits. Through the activities, the project will provide youth workers with the necessary knowledge and resources to train young people on sustainable business practices, including topics such as energy efficiency, waste reduction, and social entrepreneurship. By targeting youth with fewer opportunities, the project aims to address social and economic inequalities while fostering a culture of sustainable development.

Apart from the dynamic and creative training programme. There will be many visits of successful social enterprises. In addition, all participants will have a chance to attend a whole day Regional Forum for Social Entrepreneurs in Skopje as part of a RISE, Western Balkan region project. The Forum will consist of inspiring lectures from successful Social Entrepreneurs from all over Europe and will promote the trends in the social entrepreneurship field.



THE OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the training-course are to:

- enhance the capacity of youth workers to engage and empower young people with sustainable development skills and knowledge;
- promote sustainable development practices among young people, particularly those with fewer opportunities, to contribute to a more resilient and equitable society;
- facilitate cross-cultural learning and collaboration among youth workers from different European countries, sharing best practices and innovative ideas;
- empower youth workers and youth leaders to implement employability programs and social entrepreneurship projects for young people with fewer opportunities.



THE PARTICIPANTS:

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE:

- Dedicated youth workers to work with young people with fewer opportunities in their local reality (working with orphans, refugees and migrants young people is desirable, but not necessary);
- Have the basic knowledge of ecology and climate change facilitation of based learning processes;
- Are ready to participate in all activities of the training-course, both in the theoretical and practical part;
- Have a desire to apply their competences in developing new non-formal education tools that would increase the social inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities (orphans, refugees and migrant young people);
- Are supported by their respective organizations in applying their competencies and newly developed tools in working with young people with fewer opportunities.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

Fill the **Application Form** here:

<https://forms.gle/ZMXztiBBu4p6SRsn8>



THE PARTNERS

This project included ten partner organizations from ten countries, the leading organization being Lucky Punch Jugendhilfe gGmbH from Germany, and the host organization Association for Education and Sustainable Development BRIGHT from North Macedonia.

- **GERMANY** - Lucky Punch Jugendhilfe gGmbH
- **NORTH MACEDONIA** - *BRIGHT*
- **SERBIA** - CRVENI KRST KRUŠEVAC
- **SPAIN** - YOUTH BCN
- **TURKIYE** - Demokrasi ve Hukuk Calismalari Dernegi
- **ITALY** - MAEK APS
- **GREECE** - Odysseus Educational board
- **BULGARIA** - YOUTH SENATEBULGARIA
- **ROMANIA** - Asociatia Culturala Moldavia
- **HUNGARY** – Lélektér Alapítvány.



THE VENUE

The **SHARR MOUNTAIN** is the fourth national park in North Macedonia and the first since the country's independence. Nestled in the heart of the Balkans, the Sharr Mountain National Park is a breathtaking natural gem that will leave you awe-inspired by its majestic beauty. With its towering peaks, pristine alpine meadows, and crystal-clear lakes, the Sharr Mountain National Park offers an enchanting escape into a world of untouched wilderness. Home to an incredible diversity of flora and fauna, the park is a haven for nature enthusiasts and wildlife lovers, providing a sanctuary for rare and endangered species. The park's extensive network of hiking trails beckons adventurers of all levels, offering unforgettable journeys through picturesque landscapes, lush forests, and panoramic vistas.

The Sharr Mountain National Park is renowned for its rich cultural heritage, with ancient archaeological sites and traditional villages that provide a glimpse into the region's fascinating history and customs. The park offers a wide range of outdoor activities, including mountaineering, rock climbing, mountain biking, and birdwatching, ensuring there's something for everyone to enjoy.

The warm hospitality of the local communities surrounding the park adds an extra layer of charm to your visit, as you savor traditional cuisine and immerse yourself in the warm embrace of Macedonian culture.



Local communities and organizations have embraced ecotourism as a sustainable approach to tourism in the Sharr Mountain region. They offer guided tours that promote responsible travel, educate visitors about the park's biodiversity, and contribute to the conservation efforts. Some communities surrounding the park have adopted sustainable agricultural practices. They prioritize organic farming methods, preserve traditional seed varieties, and promote sustainable land management techniques to minimize the environmental impact and maintain the ecological balance. Several social entrepreneurship initiatives have emerged in the Sharr Mountain area. These enterprises focus on empowering local communities by creating sustainable livelihood opportunities. For example, cooperatives have been formed to produce and market organic products, such as honey, herbs, and handicrafts, promoting fair trade practices and supporting the local economy.



The Sharr Mountain National Park is a true natural treasure, inviting you to discover its wonders, embrace its serenity, and forge a deep connection with the extraordinary beauty of North Macedonia's wilderness.

THE ACCOMMODATION



Hotel *Tetex* **ARENA**, Popova Shapka, Tetovo, North Macedonia.

The participants will be accommodated in double and triple rooms with provided clean towels.

The hairdryer is provided, and there is an option for washing clothes.

The hotel has fast Wi-Fi, a swimming pool, and a SPA centre.

Regarding food: breakfast, lunch, dinner and two coffee breaks will be served at the hotel.



THE BUDGET

There is **NO PARTICIPATION FEE** by the organizers.

Food, accommodation and local travel costs (only during the duration of the activity program) will be covered by the grant from the National Agency for the Erasmus+ Programme of EU.

According to the rules of the National Agency, travel reimbursements can only be made by bank transfer to the Partner Organization if they are based on real costs.

The bank transfer will be executed after reception of all of the original documents (receipts, invoices, boarding passes and reimbursement claims) by post. Additionally, the form generated by the National Agency must be completed, the online evaluation form through the Mobility Tool should be completed by all participants, and the dissemination of the results must be completed, all according to the budget limits set by the Erasmus+ Programme.

No.	Country of residence	Number of participants	Limit for the travel reimbursement
1.	GERMANY	3	275 €
2.	NORTH MACEDONIA	3	/
3.	SERBIA	3	180 €
4.	SPAIN	3	275 €
5.	TURKIYE	3	275 €
6.	ITALY	3	275 €
7.	GREECE	3	275 €
8.	BULGARIA	3	180 €
9.	ROMANIA	3	275 €
10.	HUNGARY	3	275 €



THE RULES FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT:

1. Only the cheapest means of transportation will be accepted between the Partner Organization country and the actual venue. Before purchasing any ticket please send your proposed travelling itinerary including the itemized cost to **slobodan.antic12@gmail.com** for confirmation. Participants will be reimbursed based on the least expensive route, real costs (we can only reimburse tickets which are accompanied by the receipts). Please keep in mind that we do not accept invoices from taxis and travel agencies.
2. Only participants who take part in all activities organized during the training course and who respect the rules of the hosting organization are entitled to be reimbursed.
3. Only the interrupted travel expenses incurred within the activity start and end dates can be accepted for reimbursement. If you wish to stay in North Macedonia or at the venue itself longer than the activity end date and you obtain tickets for the same or lower value as the one on the actual travel dates, then you can travel one day prior, or one day after the training course as well; however, if participants decide to arrive earlier or stay longer (up to 2 days), all costs related to that will be paid by the participants themselves.
4. In order to avoid any unnecessary issues (e.g. loss of documents by the post) please send us scanned copies of all documents by email to **slobodan.antic12@gmail.com** before mailing them via regular post. Please note that no flight tickets will be reimbursed if the original or electronic invoice is not provided as well.
5. All expenses must be converted to euros by using the official exchange rate of the European Central Bank (ECB) on the date when the expense was paid.

Link to ECB: **<http://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/exchange/eurofxref/html/index.en.html>**

6. In case if a participant(s) fail to engage in the activity's daily program due to late arrival or early departure and therefore does not attend 80% of the sessions, the amount granted per participant per day will be deducted from the travel reimbursement. The maximum to be reimbursed per participant is highlighted in the table above and it was calculated by the distance calculator of the European Commission.
7. Insurance costs do not fall within the scope of reimbursement eligibility. This means that each participant must support his/her own insurance that covers: travel (including damage to or loss of luggage) wherever relevant; accident and serious illness (including permanent or temporary incapacity) as defined in the Erasmus + Programme Guide.

THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

TRAVEL AND HEALTH INSURANCE:

All participants **must** bring their European Insurance Card or **health insurance**. We recommend taking out travel insurance also.



PASSPORTS AND VISAS:

Please make sure that your travel documents (passport or ID) are valid for at least 6 months from the date of return and make sure that you have travel insurance (travel health and accident insurance) that includes Covid-19 issues. In the case that you need Visa to enter North Macedonia, please let us know, so that we can assist you.

Foreign citizens may enter North Macedonia with valid passports. Visas are not required for all EU, and Schengen citizens. If you need more information on the Visas and custom regulations visit the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia.

WEATHER:

Weather in September it might be cold. Around **15-20** degrees Celsius. However, please do have something warmer in case it gets colder, because Popova Shapka is in the mountains, and it can be cold during the night.



MONEY EXCHANGE

The official currency is DENAR (MKD). Bills can only be paid in MKD. The foreign currencies can be exchanged in the official exchange offices across the city or banks and post offices.

You should change money when you arrive to North Macedonia, in order to buy bus or train tickets only in Macedonian Denar (MKD).

Here are some examples of local prices:

One coffee at a coffee shop costs around 1 €.

One juice in a pub cost 1 - 1,5 €.

One cake in a patisserie cost around 2 €.

Two breads in a bakery cost around 1 €.

Exchange rate **1€** = around **60** MKD.



ELECTRICITY

Electricity in North Macedonia is 220V; 50Hz. Continental Europe (Schuko) plugs are used.

THINGS TO BRING:

- Some traditional snacks, local food, music and drinks that you want to share with the others (intercultural evening can be organized in case you as a group want to organize it)
- Representative materials about your sending organization, country, city, town, or the region that you came from (brochures, presentations, CD's, etc.)
- And always welcome
- Good mood and a lot of smiles 😊

THANKS A LOT FOR KEEPING IN MIND ALL OF THESE!

For any further question,
assistance or clarification
please, do not hesitate to contact us.
We will gladly help you organize your travel
to North Macedonia and Popova Shapka.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU IN NORTH MACEDONIA!

Contact with any questions:

Slobodan Antić

slobodan.antic12@gmail.com

