

Asociacija „Aktyvus jaunimas“

# Democracy through Dialogue not Conflict

Erasmus+ meeting between youth and policy makers in Kaunas, Lithuania



Democracy through  
Dialogue not  
Conflict



# Erasmus+

## DEMOCRACY THROUGH DIALOGUE NOT CONFLICT

### SUMMARY

- **Place:** Kaunas, Lithuania;
- **Participating countries:** Lithuania (host), Italy, Slovakia, Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia;
- **The project is:** **Key action 3** – dialogue between young people and policy makers;
- **Duration:** 8 days + 2 days for travel (**9-18 JUNE**, 2015); **Participants per country:** 6;
- **Policy makers:** chiefly from Lithuania; yet we expect Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries' and, possibly, Italy representatives as well.

### SHORT DESCRIPTION

Today's societies of EaP countries are facing increasing inner divides and polarization, regarding their European-integration plans. This ensues in social exclusion, poverty and even emergence of separatist movements, which put the very integrity of countries at risk. One of the ways to tackle this is higher domestic and international youth cooperation and involvement in decision making process. To promote reforms that support this approach, a project "Democracy through Dialogue not Conflict" will be hosted in Lithuania (June, 2015).

The main objectives of the project is to: 1) **identify** the most severe problems, that could potentially be solved by youth; 2) **find out** good examples of international and domestic youth cooperation and work in rural and/or post-conflict areas; 3) **teach** the key skills needed for campaigning and proposing initiatives; 4) **come up with initiatives** regarding youth participation in the decision making processes; 5) **campaign for** collaboration of youth NGOs and public institutions; 6) **propose** initiatives to the relevant policy makers across the involved countries and beyond.



## FINANCES & TRAVEL BUDGET LIMITS

**Accommodation, living and other project / exchange related expenses:** 100% funded by the EU.  
This includes everything except for travel costs.

**Travel (flights, other means of transport) expenses** are compensated (up to 100%), based on the distance from your location of residence to the location of the project. These distances must be calculated using the [distance calculator](#) supported by the European Commission.

Country	Distance in KM	Compensation in €
Ukraine	500-1999	170
Moldova	500-1999	170
Georgia	2000-2999	270
Slovakia	500-1999	170
Italy	500-1999	170

## MONEY

Lithuanian currency since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 2015 is the euro (€). The prices are relatively cheap, e.g.:

- 1 city bus ride is 0.70 EUR.

## TRANSPORTATION

Firstly, you should find a flight to **Kaunas (KUN)** or **Vilnius (VNO)** airports. Flying to Riga (RIX) or Palanga (PLQ) airports may also be an option, albeit much less preferable. The arrival day is 9<sup>th</sup> of June, 2015 and the departure day is 18<sup>th</sup> of June, 2015. If you want to spend more time in Lithuania, it is possible to spend maximum 2 days before and after the project and book the travel tickets accordingly.

- Coming to the venue from Kaunas airport is quite simple: there is a cheap and often city bus (no. 29 or 29E) connection. You can buy tickets at the driver and it costs 0.70 EUR per person.
- If you are coming from Vilnius, it is the best to first take a train from the airport to Vilnius train station and then change to the train going to Kaunas. Total cost: 6 EUR.
- The address of the main venue is **Papilio str. 9, Kaunas**. If you have troubles finding it, we will meet you in the city centre upon your arrival and take you there.

We will reimburse the travel expenses during / after the exchange, in accordance with the Erasmus+ framework. **In order to make the reimbursement, it is compulsory that you have all the necessary documents with you.** If your travel costs exceed the official limits, the reimbursement will be limited to the maximum amount of travel costs allocated for each country. If you fail to provide all the necessary travel documents, we will be unable to reimburse you. For plane travel, the original documents that we need are:

- (1) E-ticket / boarding pass; (2) Invoice / proof of payment / receipt.

## ACCOMMODATION & FOOD

**Venue:** Domus Pacis Guest House. **Website:** <http://www.domuspacis.lt/en>

Active Youth Association  
Address: Lygybės 21-86, Kaunas, Lithuania  
Tel.: +370 643 31871 | +370 691 94709 | info@activeyouth.lt  
<http://activeyouth.lt/en> | <http://democracy-dialogue.org>



Located at the very city centre, next to a park (has a skate-park, football field, basketball courts).



**Rooms:** with 2, 3, 4 beds. Towels and bed linen will be provided. The **Main Activity Room** is located at the same building.

**WiFi** internet connection will be supplied (however, might be a bit limited) by the organizers.

Organizers will provide participants with three meals per day and two coffee breaks. Breakfasts will be served at the guest house, while lunches and dinners will take place at cafes nearby.

Don't forget to become friends with us on [Facebook](http://fb.com/activeyouthlt) (<http://fb.com/activeyouthlt>)



*We strongly recommend each participant to inform the ORGANIZERS about any special dietary needs in advance.*

## ABOUT LITHUANIA / KAUNAS

Check the following websites to get to know more about our lovely Lithuania and Kaunas:

- <http://www.likeablelithuania.com/welcome/?lang=en>
- <http://lietuva.lt/en/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/onLithuania>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaunas>
- [http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Tourism-g274948-Kaunas\\_Kaunas\\_County-Vacations.html](http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Tourism-g274948-Kaunas_Kaunas_County-Vacations.html)



## PLANNED ACTIVITIES / SCHEDULE

To really get the most out of the youth exchange we will always start early! After socialising in the night we'll start at 8:00 in the morning with breakfast, strong coffee and some energizers! Each day we'll have two main activity sessions that will be based on non-formal education and learning by doing. They will all be targeted to intercultural exchange, socializing, having fun and, of course, dialogue with various policy makers. We'll all go to lunch and dinner together in the city centre and have coffee breaks during the day. If the weather is good we'll be doing some of the activities outside so that you could enjoy it to the fullest. Naturally, we'll leave free time for you to relax in the city. In the evenings we'll have cultural nights (each country have to prepare for that), which will be followed by further socialising and having fun ☺

### The main activities include:

- Meeting, icebreaking, team building;
- Group exercises, games, quizzes, simulations, educational activities and interactive workshops;
- Country presentations/case studies on the topic;
- Meeting and having round table discussions with the participating policy makers;
- Movie afternoons. Making of a video on the topic in groups as well;
- Activities connected with art – poster, comics making, etc.;
- Role-play and simulation of policy making; initiatives' pitch challenge;
- Informing others - meeting and talking to the local media; preparing an e-booklet;
- Excursions to the city / sightseeing / visiting governmental institutions;
- Playing continuous games such as "The Killer", "Best buddy", filling in "Gossip Boxes", etc.:

Don't forget to become friends with us on [Facebook](http://fb.com/activeyouthlt) (<http://fb.com/activeyouthlt>)

- And of course HAVING FUN! Because that's the key thing, isn't it?

If you have any ideas and suggestions for our activities – don't hesitate to tell those! We want everyone to enjoy the stay in Lithuania!



## PREPARATION

*The organizers will not provide the participants with any kind of insurance! Therefore, we strongly recommend every participant to acquire travel insurance at their own expense for the whole duration of the exchange. Also, please have a valid EU healthcare insurance card (if applicable).*

Each of the participating countries should:

1. Bring all your **travel documents** as discussed above;
2. Prepare a **presentation about the sending organization** (initiatives they have previously participated in, non-formal learning methods used, etc.). We want to get to know each other, to find out how people work with youth in other countries, and maybe to cooperate in the future;
3. Prepare a brief **case study** on situation of democracy and youth involvement in the decision making process in their country. This **should be done before the action** (deadline: **08-06-15**); as we would like to make it available for all the participants on [the project's website](#) in advance.
4. Be ready for serious **round-table discussions and interactive activities with the participating policy makers/politicians/experts** from various countries! It is very important to be able to **understand and contribute** to the ongoing discussions.
5. Find **interesting videos / games / exercises / educational activities related to the topic**. Prepare **energisers** that could be done in the morning.
6. Prepare for your **country's cultural evening**. Please, try to be fun and creative for this! No one likes regular .ppt presentations! Any kind of activities are welcome (e.g. video presentations, dances, songs, games, quizzes, posters, flyers etc.). Don't forget to **bring your national drinks, dishes or snacks** to share with others. Also, please **prepare a mini (and, of course, fun) language course** for the others. We count on you to make these evenings as interactive and fun as possible.

7. **Bring clothing and shoes that can be used for sports and/or strenuous activities** (such as dancing).
8. **Bring good spirit, joy and happiness!!! ☺**

## BASIC RULES

All the participants will be expected to be present and active in all the activities, unless being ill. Unauthorized absence from the activities and workshops won't be tolerated.

Smoking is prohibited everywhere inside buildings, thus all the smokers will have to go outside or to specially designated areas for a cigarette.

Stress, nerves and bad mood is prohibited everywhere. Bring your best mood and big smile with you and keep it through the exchange! Prepare for fun!

## LIST OF PARTNERS

Lithuania (host)	Asociacija "Aktyvus jaunimas"
Italy	In Progress Calabria
Slovakia	Board of European Students of Technology, LBG Bratislava
Ukraine	EUROPEAN MOVEMENT FOR UKRAINE
Georgia	European Diplomats' Association
Moldova	CREATORII

## CONTACT PERSONS

- Paulius Jurgutis
- <https://www.facebook.com/pjurgutis>
- Tel: +370 691 94709
- Gediminas Kondrackis
- <https://fb.com/gediminas.kondrackis>
- Tel: +370 643 31871

If you have any questions, please contact us via e-mail: [info@activeyouth.lt](mailto:info@activeyouth.lt). **See you all in Lithuania!**

THOSE WHO ARE GOING TO OUR PROJECT, PLEASE JOIN OUR [PRIVATE FACEBOOK GROUP](#). LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!