



Erasmus+ Key Action 1. Mobility of Young People – Youth Exchange in Cyprus

Tearing down walls, building bridges



“TEARING DOWN WALLS, BUILDING BRIDGES”

Host: Cyprus Youth Clubs Organisation- KOKEN

Main theme for the project: Social inclusion of refugees

Summary: This 5- day Youth Exchange has as a main aim to raise awareness on the refugee crisis through a reflection of their stories and conditions and to focus on the crucial role that civil society has/ can have for a full and encompassing integration of refugees in our communities.

Furthermore, the project will represent an example of active citizenship that comes directly from young people of Europe which will help to disseminate fundamental values such as solidarity, human dignity and respect through a bottom-up approach that will enhance cooperation and unity between people.

Objectives:

- Highlight the indispensable and decisive participation of people in the inclusion process
- Show the reality of the drama refugees are living
- Illustrate the pivotal role of civil society in the integration process
- Share good practices and promote active citizenship
- Encourage volunteerism

Background:

The current refugee crisis has been affecting our everyday life in the recent years. In order to face such an issue, the European Union has been promoting, not without difficulty, top-down institutional solutions which have often found complications and adversity in their implementation. Economic, political and social factors have been undermining the success of these initiatives, which have been only partially carried out and faced serious problems. The economic crisis can be considered as one of the main reasons why the integration of refugees

found a strong resistance in the civil society, especially considering the bad economic conditions that have been affecting European population, who saw the migrants issue as a threat to their well-being. As a consequence, the need of a counter-narrative to populism emerged which must highlight the benefits that refugees can bring to our society, especially in this time of crisis, painting them as a resource rather than a threat or danger. It is of the utmost importance for the integration process to be developed not only from a top-down institutional level, but also from a bottom-up perspective.

As stated in the European Agenda of Migration, a solid long-term policy needs to be developed to manage migration: together with the short-term emergency responses, in fact, it is of the utmost importance to make sure that those who have arrived and have a right to stay become a full part of our society. In order to ensure full integration it is essential to recognize and enhance the role of civil society, whose efforts should be considered part of EU policy-making on migration. As a consequence, local players play a pivotal role in the bottom-up approach towards the refugee crisis and the European civil society is to be considered the main actor in this process.

In light of these considerations, this project will focus on the bottom-up integration that comes directly from the European civil society, which will at the same time fight racism and discrimination, “tearing down” the walls of hate and hostility, and help to “building bridges” of solidarity, peace and unity.

Profile of the participants: Youth leaders, volunteers, youth workers and young people in general

Number of participants: We encourage organizations to participate with 4 people each (age 18- 30) and 1 group leader (no age limit).

Project type: Erasmus+ Key Action 1. Mobility of Youth Workers. Youth Workers' Training & Networking.

Place: Cyprus (city to be confirmed)

Dates and duration: 5 full days plus 2 days for travelling (March 2018 to be confirmed)

Deadline for expression of interest: 30th of July 2017

Contact person: Theognosia Petrou

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Cost: Food and accommodation is FREE. Participants will be reimbursed for the travel cost on display of their boarding passes.

Participation fee: 15 euros each participant.

Travel cost: we will cover **the exact amount of your travel cost according to the receipts you will provide** as long as it is **not more** than the amount foreseen by the European Commission. You can calculate the travel cost using the distance calculator supported by the European Commission http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/tools/distance_en.htm

You will need to keep the receipts and the boarding passes.

Safety & Insurance: a responsibility of the participants. We advise all participants to have with them the European Health Card.

How to participate: Send us the mandate (signed and scanned) and the Participants' Identification Form at projects@cyprusyouth.org with the subject: YE- TEARING DOWN WALLS.