**Youth Exchange on the topic of discrimination**

Erasmus+: Youth in Action project idea

*Looking for a hosting organisation!*

**When?**

During the summer 2018

Duration: 8 days, of which 2 are travel days (can be changed)

**Where?**

Depends on the applicant organisation

**Who?**

The target group for the project is young people aged 13-17 who are interested in the topic of discrimination and motivated to make a change. The youth group from Kavadarci (Macedonia) consist of 7 youngsters (3 boys, 4 girls) of whom 3 have participated in a previous Youth Exchange project and for the others this is a completely new experience. The group has had 3 meetings for the planning of the project and as a result the youngsters have chosen the topic they like, brainstormed for possible activities and are ready to take an active role in implementing the project.

Youth association Kreaktiv is supporting the participants in preparation, implementation and follow-up of the project. Kreaktiv has a lot of experience with Erasmus+: Youth in Action programme, including sending and receiving EVS volunteers, organising Youth Exchanges and taking part in other projects abroad. Kreaktiv wishes to give the youngsters a life-changing experience of international cooperation and is ready to help with the application procedure, implementation of the Youth Exchange and final reporting.

**Why?**

The vision of this project is to stop discrimination towards ethnic minorities (like roma community), religious minorities, immigrants and people identifying themselves as LGBTQ . Different types of discrimination were chosen based on the experiences of young people in Kavadarci. In addition, the following issues were brought out by the youngsters: discrimination based on skin colour, body type, good or bad grades in school, family wealth etc. The group of youngsters behind this project idea believe that they can change the situation and attitudes of people in their community by being a good example to the other youngsters. Although we speak different languages and come from different cultural backgrounds we have the same problems in every country and a Youth Exchange is a good opportunity to share good examples of how to avoid discrimination.

**What?**

The activity programme of the project will be developed together with all project partners. However, during the preparation meetings the youngsters from Kavadarci have come up with their suggestions for non-formal activities. The days of the Youth Exchange could be divided between different topics. The first days would be an introduction to the topic of discrimination and focusing on getting to know each other and the situation in different countries. During the next days we would discuss the sub-topics of discrimination towards immigrants, religious or ethnic minorities and LGBTQ people. The Youth Exchange would conclude with planning follow-up activities on local or international level. The methods would include games, simulations, discussion groups, debates and study visits.

**What next?**

If you are working for similar goals and with a similar target group and would be ready to organise a Youth Exchange in your country, then please contact us and send us a description of your organisation (or school or informal group) and plans for the February application deadline.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

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Youth Worker

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