



VILLAGERS ARE MASTERS

ERASMUS+ YOUTH EXCHANGE
20-28 MAY, 2019
MERSIN, TURKEY

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES:

LITHUANIA CZECH REPUBLIC GREECE ROMANIA TURKEY ITALY

01

PROJECT NAME

Villagers Are Masters

02

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

ERASMUS+ Youth exchange

03

DURATION

20 – 28 May, 2019

04

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

**Turkey, Lithuania, Czech Republic,
Greece, Italy, Romania**

05

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

6 per country (36 in total)

SUMMARY

There are numerous challenges that European societies are facing. One of the sensitive problems that is widely seen across the EU (however, often wrongly-considered as not acute) is social exclusion of villagers in urban areas. This results in young people from villages starting studies in universities and moving to cities facing discrimination, negative stereotypes and, hence, less opportunities.

This was just proven by an email survey carried out through the network of our partner organisations in August, 2017. In short, it has confirmed that people from rural areas are seen as less educated and are less likely to make friends/contacts (Lithuania, Czech Republic, Greece), or even sometimes downright consider as second-class citizens (Romania, Turkey, Italy).

In order to tackle this, youth organizations from the mentioned countries have united for this project. The aims of which are to change the approach to- and opinion about people from countryside, minimize negative stereotypes towards them and reduce the ensuing social exclusion. To accomplish this, youth exchange - "Villagers are Masters" will be hosted in Turkey on May 20-28 of 2019. It will involve 36 participants both from rural and urban areas (18-30 years old). Priority will be given to those from disadvantaged backgrounds and with fewer opportunities.

In order to reach the key aim of the project mentioned above, the following OBJECTIVES have been set:

- 1) to raise youth's awareness of social exclusion that people from the villages are facing in urban areas, as well as to provide them with specific tools and support to fight that;
- 2) to identify the most common stereotypes towards people whose place of origin is countryside, and find ways to tackle that;
- 3) to spread tolerance, strengthen equality and combat marginalisation;
- 4) to increase cooperation between village and city youth in order to create opportunities for joint work and social initiatives.

The project also aims to 5) help the participants increase their social responsibility; 6) involve the youth in discussions and decision making in an international environment; (7) keep the youth active; (8) enhance their social skills and multilingualism.

In order to achieve these objectives, a range of NFE methods developed by all the partner organisations will be employed. Involvement, creativity and initiative of all the participants will be

encouraged throughout the activities, which were planned to avoid any negative-bias, separation or ghettoising of youngsters from rural areas.

These will include: 1) interactive workshops on stereotypes, social exclusion, marginalisation, etc.; 2) discussions in non-formal environment, 3) analyses of relevant video materials; 5) visit to the local village community; 6) sessions with relevant guest speakers; 7) social actions/flash-mobs in the city; 8) creative art sessions on the topic; 9) surveys carried out in the city and, subsequent, 'myth-breaking'; 10) specialized group exercises, games, 11) feedbacks, reflections, evaluations and much more. In order to facilitate integration of the participants: 13) cultural evenings, 14) energizers, 15) ice-breaking and socializing activities will also be organised. Since the project goal is to reach the public and disseminate the results effectively: 16) special 'Video-book'; 17) photo albums; 18) webpage/blog on the topic will be prepared by the participants. All of this will ensure that the project would induce a positive effect on the participants, organisations and the target groups (urban and rural youth and, more generally, wider public) in regional, national and international levels.

The participants will not only improve a number of skills and competences required for reducing social exclusion, but will also get a chance to extend their social networks. This would make them more competent in their future endeavours.

The organisations and participants will share the resources about social exclusion related to rural areas through various activities in their respective counties. Results' dissemination will be also facilitated through involvement of local media and spreading of 'Video-book' prepared during the project. Ideally, the target groups themselves will be disseminating the results even further. The project is anticipated to not only help participating youth enhance their skills and competences, but also increase general awareness of the issue in the participating countries.

As a result, reduction of social polarisation and stereotypes towards villages is expected in the long-term. Additionally, more social problems could be solved by stronger cooperation between urban and rural areas.

FINANCES & TRAVEL

BUDGET LIMITS

1. Accommodation, living and other project related expenses: 100% funded by the EU.
2. 100 % of the travel costs, but no more than the maximum compensation amounts given below, will be reimbursed upon presenting all necessary tickets & invoices.

Country	Amount
Lithuania, Czech Republic	Up to 360 EUR per participant
Greece, Romania, Italy	Up to 275 EUR per participant

We will **reimburse** the travel expenses **during 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) **Tickets and Boarding Passes**
- 2) **Invoice / Receipt**

Keep your bus / train tickets as well! Travel by cars / taxis is not reimbursed.

Contribution Fee: 15 EUR contribution is going to be used for transportation from/to the airport to/from the venue and for one-day cultural trip.

MONEY

The official currency in Turkey is Turkish Lira (TL). Change your money to TL at the airport and you won't have any difficulties here. The prices in Turkey are not high as well (e.g. coke - 0.45 EUR, bus ride - 0.60 EUR, Meal in Inexpensive Restaurant 4.30 EUR).

You can check [cost of living](#) in Turkey.

GETTING TO TURKEY

The fastest and most secure way to reach Turkey is by plane. Firstly, you **MUST** find a flight to Istanbul (IST) and later to Adana (ADA) airport. You can find cheap domestic flights at [PEGASUS AIRLINES](#) or [TURKISH AIRLINES](#). **The arrival day is 20th of May and the departure day is 28th of May, 2019.** Try to find a suitable option for the flights on these days.

Cheap flights are always available [HERE](#).

We will provide transportation from Adana Airport to the venue. More information about pick up times will be provided in our facebook group.

VISA: No Visa is required for **Lithuania, Romania, Greece, Czech Republic** citizens.

Participants from Poland have to apply for online visa (VISA fee won't be reimbursed):

- Online visa is **18 EUR** (Online visa takes only 5 minutes. Check [HERE](#))
- Airport visa is **26 EUR**.

IMPORTANT: Participants will need to have international passports. Please, check the validity of your passport before the departure – **passport must be valid at least 6 months beyond the date of your intended stay.**

ACCOMODATION & FOOD

Venue: TBA.

Rooms: with 2-4 beds. Towels and bed linen will be provided. The Main Activity Room is located at the same building. WiFi internet connection is available (however, might be a bit limited). Organizers will provide participants with three meals per day and two coffee breaks. Food will be served at the hotel or cafeterias nearby. We strongly recommend each participant to **inform the organizers about any special dietary needs** in advance.

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. Any damages to the property of the guest house or the organizers will be deducted from the travel reimbursements of the ones responsible.

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! Those who fail to do that will be expelled from the exchange.



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 note that EU healthcare insurance card is not valid in Turkey.

Each of the participating countries should:

- Bring all your travel documents as presented above;
- Find interesting videos / games / exercises / educational activities for the rural entrepreneurship. Prepare energisers that could be done in the morning.
- 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.).
- Prepare a presentation about a topic related to the objectives of the project (in country teams). We'll post the topics that you can choose from a bit later. Follow the information!
- Each of you individually has to bring an interesting cup or any souvenir (e.g. with your country design, creative, or funny). At the beginning of the project you will exchange these gifts with one another so that you would have a thing to remember!
- If you have relevant experience connected to the rural development and rural entrepreneurship – please let us know beforehand.
- Bring clothing and shoes that can be used for sports and/or strenuous activities (such as dancing). Don't forget mosquito repellent and other relevant clothing/stuff for living in a farmstead.
- Bring good spirit, joy and happiness!
- More preparation needed for the activities will be posted online after the participants are selected.

ABOUT TURKEY

Check the following websites to get to know more about our lovely Turkey:

- [Turkey Home](#)
- [Visit Turkey](#)
- [Go to Turkey](#)
- [Lovely travel Mersin](#)



ADDITIONAL STAY

The hosting organization is covering the accommodation **ONLY** for the stay during the mobility. In case of earlier arrival or later departure, participants themselves must cover the accommodation. In addition, we can only cover tickets 4 days (3 nights) earlier or after the project date. If you are planning to stay longer after the project or arrive earlier, please inform us before booking your ticket. Otherwise, we cannot guarantee your reimbursement. Please note any indirect routes taken for personal travel will not be reimbursed.

For additional days in Turkey we suggest you to use [Airbnb](#) (18 EUR discount inside), [Booking.com](#) (12 EUR discount inside).

LIST OF PARTNERS



Turkey

[European Integration Group](#)



Lithuania

[Active Youth Association](#)



Italy

[High on Life](#)



Czech Republic

[Czech Youth Association](#)



Greece

[Youth Fully Yours GR](#)



Romania

[Asociatia Tineret pentru Dezvoltare Durabila](#)

CONTACT PERSONS



Tomas Jenkelevič



Turgut Kaan Akkoca



Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further information.

See you soon!

