

Asociatia Alternativa Eco

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Co-funded by
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InfoPack

Youth Exchange, 19 – 29 September 2024 (activity days)

18 September - 30 September 2024 (travel days)

Brebu, Caras-Severin County, Romania

Entrepreneurship Opportunities in Sustainable Agriculture



About our organization

The [Eco Alternative Association](#) is an apolitical, non-governmental, non-discriminatory, civic and independent organization from other state bodies, established by free choice and the initiative of the founding members in June 2020. The aim of the association is raising interest in ecology among the young generation, in active citizenship and sustainable living solutions.

Even though the Eco Alternative Association is still in the growing process, we are relying on our team's vast experience in the field, in implementing and facilitating projects aimed for the community, working with young people, and implementing activities based on non-formal education methods.

PLEASE READ ALL INFORMATION CAREFULLY BEFORE APPLYING FOR THIS YOUTH EXCHANGE!

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Entrepreneurship Opportunities in Sustainable Agriculture is a 11 days long youth exchange that will bring together 40 participants and 8 group leaders from Greece, Spain, Egypt, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Armenia, Moldova and Romania, who are interested in entrepreneurship as well as employment opportunities in sustainable agriculture, techniques for natural fertilization, healthy harvesting, natural ecosystems and farming entrepreneurial skills.

- Promote the opportunities of the Erasmus+ Program and the Youthpass certificate.
- Open discussions about what is sustainable agriculture, good and bad practices regarding agriculture in Europe, where they can share information from their own countries.
- Group discussions regarding employment in the field of Agriculture
- Sharing sustainable business ideas where participants can get creative regarding the topic.
- Visiting different farms in the neighboring areas and to start learning supported by experts about macro level of agriculture.
- Presentation of a documentary followed by discussions on the topic and a presentation about Permaculture as a new tool for sustainable agriculture in our countries.
- Critical thinking, decision making and problem-solving activities followed by a Good practice guide where participants will create an online video, with all the information they've learned.

The objectives of our project are the following:

- ❖ to help the participants through informative sessions and interactive workshops to identify and access financial resources to develop sustainable agricultural projects in their regions.
- ❖ to help youngsters create a proper CV, and to help them access EURES Portal
- ❖ to provide the young participants with a better understanding of agriculture and the opportunities it offers by organizing field trips to local farms, agricultural cooperatives and agricultural research centers.
- ❖ to present information about rural lifestyle, traditions, and culture to the young participants during the 11-day activities.
- ❖ to encourage intercultural dialogue and learning and a sense of being European among the participants.
- ❖ to equip the participants with the skills to implement sustainable agriculture methods in their communities.

- ❖ to increase tolerance and acceptance among participants from eight countries, including those with fewer opportunities, during the 11-day activities.
- ❖ to encourage participants to adopt a healthier lifestyle through the acquired knowledge.
- ❖ to increase knowledge and understanding of other cultures and countries by enabling them to create international relations and networking, actively participate in the society and develop a sense of European identity and citizenship.

PARTICIPANTS

From each partner there will be **1 group leader** (youth workers experienced in non-formal education, aged 18+) and **5 participants (18-25 years old)**. **A total of 6 persons / national group**. It's preferable that the participants are coming from disadvantaged areas and be interested in the subject of youth exchange.



PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

- Greece: Youth for Change
- Spain: 2Europa
- Egypt: Have a dream
- Macedonia: Regionalna Romska Obrazovna Mladinska Asocijacija
- Bulgaria: Teen Spirit - Chepelare
- Armenia: "Yeghvard" Youth Ecological NGO
- Moldova: "MilleniuM" Training and Development Institute
- Romania: Asociatia Alternativa Eco

ACCOMMODATION

For this YE, the participants will be accommodated in [La Padure Hotel](#), in Brebu village near Resita, in 3-4 bed rooms, mixed international (very important for group dynamics), but not gender ☺. Each room has its own bathroom.



The hostel has internet, video projector, indoor conference room, own dining room and a large green yard to enjoy the free time. It is located near the main road but surrounded by forest. It is a very pleasant rustic place. **You should bring your own hygienic products, flip flops, house shoes, including towels.** Bed sheets are provided by the hotel. Some photos of the accommodation bellow:

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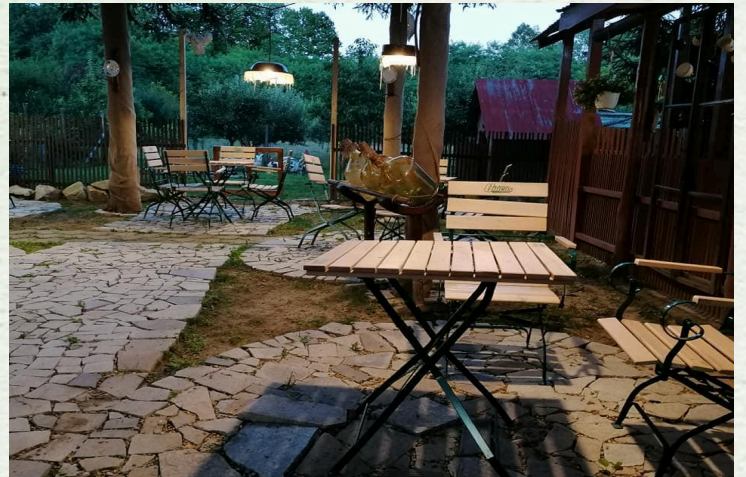
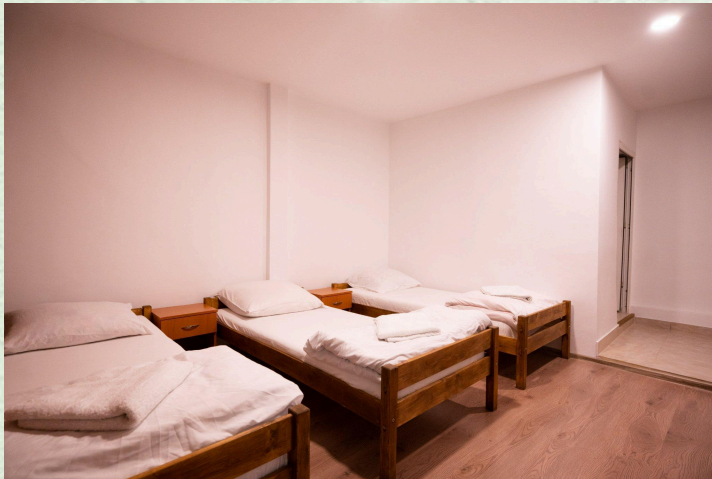
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FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

- Accommodation, food and materials during activity days as well as visa costs (if needed) are fully covered by the project.
- Travel costs for the youth mobility will be reimbursed when invoices, e-tickets, boarding passes and other tickets are delivered to the host NGO (**Eco Alternative Association**) according to Erasmus + rules. We have a specific reimbursement document. The reimbursement document will be filled by the participants on the last day of activities.
- Any costs related to selected seats, luggage insurance etc. cannot be covered. In some specific scenarios if the priority ticket gives you extra luggage and it's cheaper than buying separately it can be reimbursed.



- Please keep in mind that from the total amount of grant/participant we will cover the transfers from Timisoara, Belgrade, Budapest or other places. Please discuss with the organizers and the sending organization before buying the tickets.

Total Travel Budget/person:

Egypt	309 EUR
North Macedonia	285 EUR*
Bulgaria	285 EUR*
Spain	395 EUR
Greece	309 EUR
Armenia	309 EUR
Moldova	417 EUR*
Romania	56 EUR

Distance (in a straight line)	Green	Plane (more than 50% of travel)
10 – 99 km	56 EUR	28 EUR
100 – 499 km	285 EUR	211 EUR
500 – 1 999 km	417 EUR	309 EUR
2 000 – 2 999 km	535 EUR	395 EUR

Visa budget/group:

Egypt: 480 EUR

Armenia: 210 EUR

* For North Macedonia, Bulgaria and Moldova this budget is for green travel (no plane). In case you are coming by plane, the budget will be smaller. More details in the table above. (211 EUR for North Macedonia and Bulgaria, 309 EUR for Moldova)

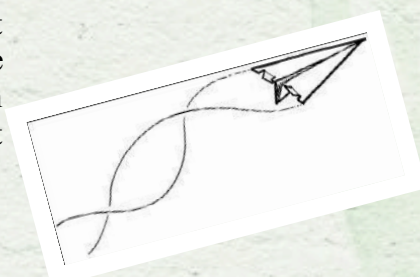
In the table above, you can find the total amount of travel budget that you can spend, according to the country that you live in. Everything above the budget will be supported by the participant. Participants need to manage their travel expenses carefully, avoiding excessive spending.

***Traveling to/from the venue from/to Timisoara will be organized by the host once we know the arrival/departure times. For this 30 EUR/person will be deducted from travel grants provided by Erasmus+.**

How to get there? ...

If you travel by plane

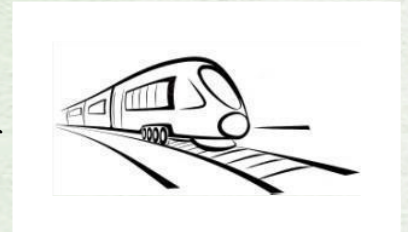
- The nearest airport is **Timisoara**, from where we will pick you up and bring you to the venue (around 110 Km);
- Another option is **Belgrade** – we can also arrange pickups but it will be a specific hour for picking up all groups, depending on the arrival of the last group. This will ensure a cheaper transfer which will be taken directly from the reimbursement budget, you will not have to pay it yourself.



- We can assist you in coming even from **Budapest** (from where a 2 way transfer is around 60 Euro) by contracting the transfer companies from Timisoara, which will pick you up from the airport or train station. You can also take a train from there to Timisoara, which is a bit cheaper.

If you travel by train

If you travel by train the final stop should be **Timisoara Nord** or **Resita Nord**, from where we will pick you up! Timisoara has direct trains from most of the European cities. (Link to check out the connections: <https://www.bahn.de/p/view/index.shtml>)



Regardless of the way you choose to travel, first inform your sending NGO which will inform us about your plans and wait for confirmation!

Other information...

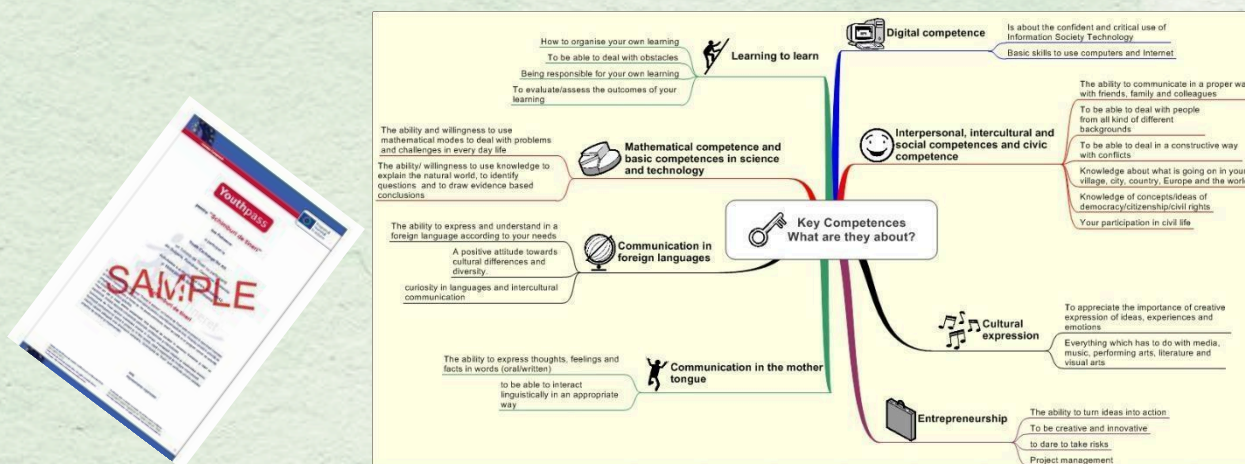
The currency - In Romania the currency is **RON**, we do not use Euro. The exchange rate can change but usually is like this 1 **Euro** = **4.98 Lei**. Do not exchange for less than 4.9 Lei. We advise you to use Revolut or other debit cards. **In Romania you can pay with the debit/credit card almost everywhere**. Life in Romania is usually cheaper than other West European Countries. There is no supermarket in the village but small family shops. In Resita (the nearest city), you will be able to go to Carrefour, Kaufland, Lidl Supermarkets and souvenir shops, if you desire. We may arrange supermarket shopping trips by car, but not daily.

Health insurance - all partners have the responsibility in assisting the participants for obtaining the EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) which is free, or the participants will take care of this aspect by themselves. In Romania the Emergency services in Hospitals are free but let's hope it doesn't come to this.

Clothing and weather - as the weather can change from one day to another, we suggest you to have comfortable clothes and shoes for both situations, and be prepared in case of rain (which is most likely). In general, the weather in September is pleasant but who knows nowadays..! We suggest you bring along **mosquito protection and sun lotion** to ensure your comfort while staying in Romania. Nights at the accommodation are pretty cold, so don't forget to bring thick clothes! 😊

!If you have an allergy to dust, pollen and other plants, please take the appropriate medicine with you!

About the Youthpass certificate...



All participants in the youth exchange have the option of receiving a Youthpass certificate which proves their participation in the exchange. Youthpass is a tool to document and recognize learning outcomes from youth work activities. While creating their Youthpass certificate together with a support person, project participants are given the possibility to describe what they have done in their project and which competences they have acquired. Thus, Youthpass supports reflection upon the personal non-formal learning process and outcomes.

- As a Europe-wide recognition instrument for non-formal learning in the youth field, Youthpass strengthens the social recognition of youth work.
- Youthpass supports active European citizenship of young people and of youth workers by describing the added value of their project.
- Youthpass also aims at supporting the employability of young people and of youth workers by raising their awareness of and helping to describe their competences, and by documenting their acquisition of key competences on a certificate.

Your sending NGO should provide all relevant information about the Youthpass certificate and you can also check it yourself on the official website <https://www.youthpass.eu/en/>.

What is expected from you?

1. To understand the topic of the project, to participate in all the sessions, to be active and to respect the others, to be on time and respect the conduct rules, rules of the camp and adopt a non-discriminatory behavior! The rules of the **La Padure Hotel** and rules of conduct will be discussed once more when arriving in the project (you can also see some of the rules in the Participant's contract)
2. Due to the sensitive topic of our youth exchange nowadays, we will NOT tolerate discrimination and any kind of hate speech. Any discriminatory behavior will lead to undisputable measures, including sending the participants home on their own expenses! These rules apply for all participants, refugees, migrants or locals.
3. While in Romania you need to respect the legislation regarding your behavior and legal actions, which will be more explained during preparation and also when coming in the project itself.
4. Work with your group to prepare the activities you have to coordinate in the program. (Example: Intercultural evenings)

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Contact

If you still have any questions, we are more than happy to provide you with the information you need so please contact us via email: velciuvlad1@gmail.com

Contact person for this project is Vlad Velciu.

How to participate in this project? Contact the sending NGO in your country, fill in the application form (they will provide you with the document), sign the participants declaration and start the preparation phase, together with the selected group leader for your country.

See you soon! 🤝

