



Erasmus+

INFO PACK

YOUTH EXCHANGE

NOVEMBER 4TH - 11TH

LOCATION Kaunas, Lithuania

TOPICS Sustainability, global education, active citizenship, pop culture

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Estonia, Lithuania, Spain, Slovenia, Cyprus, Portugal, Bulgaria



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

We are living in an age often portrayed as being dominated by consumer capitalism and the products of a capitalistic mass culture - for example, shopping malls, tablets, smartphones, Youtube, Instagram and the World Wide Web. Young Europeans spend an increasing amount of their time-consuming digital media. While time spent watching television may be falling, the use of online media has grown rapidly, facilitated through a range of services such as video streams, chat rooms, blogs or social media: “instastories”.

Consumers of all ages and backgrounds, but children and youth in particular, often are criticized for mindlessly buying into these cultural artifacts. Popular consumption of cultural phenomena such as computer games, memes, social media (Facebook, Twitter, Reddit and etc.) trends, comics, pop stars and the television shows like Game of Thrones, South Park produce texts of a sort and reproduce stereotypes, which in turn evoke different responses and shape personal perspectives. The value of popular culture as a vehicle for the construction of knowledge and the development of understanding within the learning environment is significant. Popular culture as a teaching tool can be used to generate greater interest in some of the content of sustainable development and global citizenship, promote greater comprehension and understanding of key theories and concepts of digital citizenship, media literacy, social-emotional learning

The project seeks to embrace edutainment (learning through games, TV shows, social media and etc.) and uses edutainment in order to exhilarate learning process and introduce the sustainable development discourse, critical media literacy, cyber hygiene, online safety. The project will strengthen youngsters' critical thinking and media literacy, so they can judge and overcome the ever-present threats of fake news, cyber bullying, radicalisation, oppose stereotypes created by mass culture.

The overall aim of the project is to reinforce active and digital global citizenship among young Europeans and make them become promoters of the fundamental values, such as solidarity, tolerance, sustainable development, respect for diversity, equality, justice and peace



PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- ④ To raise awareness among young Europeans on interconnectivity existing among people and countries and cultures across the globe;
- ④ To examine concepts and issues surrounding popular culture and its linkages with sustainability and global education on national and global level;
- ④ To build active global citizenship skills of young Europeans in order to make them active towards coping with the challenges in the global society;
- ④ To foster civic and digital actions of youngsters towards sustainable future of the communities in Europe and around the world

PROJECT METHODS

The exchange will be organized by applying global education methodologies and edutainment (learning through pop culture and its various forms) approach aimed to empower learners to engage and assume active roles, both locally and globally, to face and resolve global challenges and ultimately to become proactive contributors to a more just, peaceful, tolerant, inclusive, secure and sustainable world. 6-steps approach will be used in order to train tomorrow's global citizens. These steps include:

EXPLORING GENERATING FINDING OUT DECIDING TAKING ACTION REFLECTING

VENUE AND ACCOMMODATION

Sadauskų sodyba homestead Address: Jurbarko pl. 351, Antalkių km., Vilkijos sen., Kauno rajonas, LT 54217
Website: <http://www.sadauskusodyba.lt/en/>

The Venue is a bit out of Kaunas, but is gorgeous and surrounded by real Lithuanian nature.

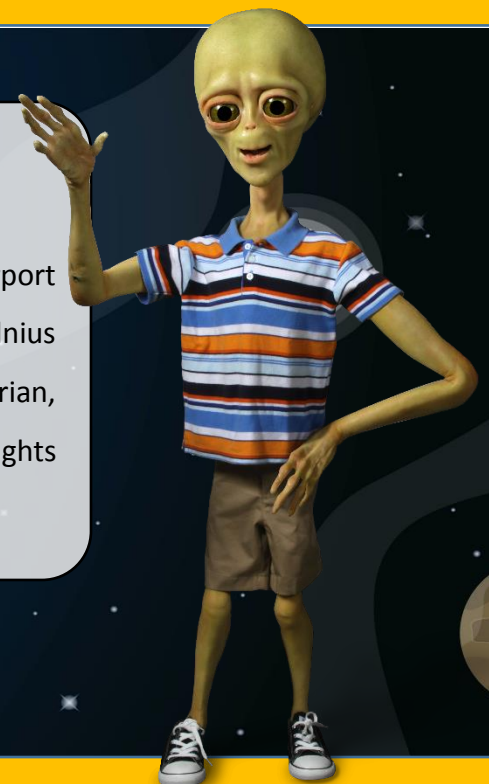
Participants will be living in shared rooms: 2-4 persons per room

Food will also be cooked in the homestead. If you have any allergies or special dietaries, just let us know by filling the participants form. If you need other help regarding your difficulties, please let us know. Also, as the location is a bit far from the town, please make sure, that you have everything that you will need for the week before arriving to the place.



REACHING KAUNAS:

Flights to Lithuania: there are 2 main airports in Lithuania: Vilnius airport and Kaunas airport. We first suggest checking the connections to Vilnius airport, since most of the biggest airlines (Lufthansa, LOT, Austrian, Scandinavian, etc.) operate from there. Direct Ryanair and Wizz Air flights to Kaunas are available from 17 European airports.



REACHING KAUNAS FROM VILNIUS AIRPORT:

By train – there is a train connection from Vilnius airport to Kaunas. First, you will need to take a train to go to the central train station in Vilnius, and then to take another train to Kaunas. For the timetable and ticket prices, please, check here: <https://www.traukiniobilietas.lt/portal/en>.

By bus - if the train option is not convenient, you can also check the following options to reach Kaunas by bus:

Take a **mini bus** from the airport (the stop is located outside the airport, close to the exit B) to Vilnius bus station and then the bus to Kaunas. For the timetable of buses from Vilnius bus station, please, check here: <https://www.autobusubilietai.lt/?lang=0>

Take Airport Express directly from Vilnius airport to Kaunas. For the timetable, please, check: <https://www.ollex.lt/en/express/Vilnius-airport/buy-a-ticket>

N.B. This bus drops-off passenger at the beginning of the Savanoriai avenue in Kaunas. So, from there, you need to use either public transportation or a taxi to reach the city centre.

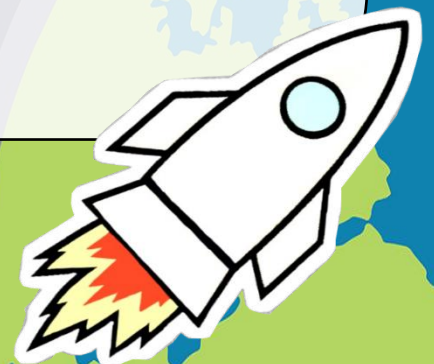
REACHING KAUNAS CITY CENTER FROM KAUNAS AIRPORT:

Bus No. 29 connects Kaunas International Airport with the city centre. The journey takes about 45 minutes with the bus timetable being coordinated with flight schedules.

Taxi service is also available for those who need a speedier transfer. We usually recommend using Bolt (previously – Taxify).

- Reaching the Venue:

From the Kaunas bus station you can take bus no. 153 and get off on the stop “Antalkiai”. From there the Venue will be reached in 5 min by foot. Another option is to take a taxi (“Bolt”), which should cost approximately 17 euro per trip.



TRAVEL DAYS

- Arrival day- 3th of November
- Working days- 5th to 11th of November
- Departure day- 12th of November

PARTICIPANTS



This Youth Exchange is intended for 36 participants from all 7 partner countries. Each team from each country will be a combination of 4 participants and 1 group leader (5 participants and 1 leader from Lithuania). All participants should be 16- 24 years old, leaders must be at least 18 years old.

Every partner organisation is organising selection process by themselves while paying attention to gender balance. We are encouraging youngsters who are willing to get ready and create a positive change locally or globally join and dig some topics together! And we also supporting youth with fewer opportunities, geographic and economic obstacles to join this beautiful 7-day odyssey with us!

Application deadline: **25th of September**

PREPARATION

- # Health insurance (or E111 card if you are from an EU country).
- # Don't forget to bring with you any medicine you might need



TRAVEL COST AND REIMBURSEMENT

The 100% costs of travel will be reimbursed according to Erasmus+ travel framework.
The reimbursement procedure will be as following:

After you come back you will have to send all ORIGINAL boarding passes, invoices and tickets by post or other means to the address of your sending organisation. After they receive all documents from you and the paperwork is done (including participants feedback about the project and a small tiny homework), we will make a bank transaction to your sending organisation. If you cannot provide us with invoice, it is important to check if the price is written on the ticket itself. **Only the most economical way of travelling will be approved!**

Portugal	360 eu		Slovenia	275 eu
Spain	360 eu		Bulgaria	275 eu
Cyprus	360 eu		Estonia	180 eu

FINANCIAL PROCEDURE

During all the activities of this project, the financial rules will follow the rules of Erasmus Plus programme as follow:

- Each participant will receive 100% of his/her reimbursement only after:
Presentation of travel documents (boarding passes, invoices and other necessary documents)
- Full active participation in all activities

HOMEWORK AND PREPARATION

I know, I know. Maybe it is a bit tiring to think about homework, but hey, trust me! It will be fun! The following tasks:

Task. No. 1. Each participant is required to prepare a 350/500-word analysis of a meme of their choosing that relates to one or more topics and themes of the exchange (e. g., human rights, diversity, gender roles, sustainability, ecology and etc.). Need meme samples?

If only bananas had robust, natural, bio-degradable packaging of their own. Some sort of peelable skin, perhaps.



Travels from 1950 to 2015
in an expensive time machine



Went to grocery store



Task No. 2. Every participant has to find and make a short and easy, half-structured self-analysis of the most consumed social media and mass culture content example (e.g. a public figure on Instagram, Youtube star pewdiepie, somebody on Facebook, TV series, music bands, podcasts, video games) and bring it to the project. By looking who you follow, try to answer the question, why do you follow that person/hero/figure?

Task No. 3. Don't forget to bring some typical sweets from your country or region. Our coffee breaks will be way more delicious! You can also bring some food or snacks you want to share during our exciting International Nights! Our Intercultural evenings will be done in a non-traditional way. Each country before coming to Kaunas will get a special topic.

Based on that topic you and your national team will have to prepare a **performance/show/theater/concert/presentation** related to your country and that given topic. The topics will vary from sports, dance, art to music, architecture...



PARTNERS

VŠĮ PASAULIO PILIECIŲ AKADEMIJA	Lithuania
INSTITOUTO NEUROEPISTIMONKAI TECHNOLOGIAS KYPROU	Cyprus
C.E.G.A. START ZA EFEKTIVNIGRAZHDANSKI ALTERNATIVI	Bulgaria
SAL FUERA ELX	Spain
MITTETULUNDUSUHING YOUTHSENATE TALLINN	Estonia
DRUSTVO HUMANITAS-CENTERZA GLOBALNO UCENJE INSODELOVANJE	Slovenia
Associação Academia Cidadã	Portugal

ABOUT US



Hey, we are young and ambitious non-governmental organization aiming to promote key values of active global citizenship and welfare among young people in Lithuania and abroad. We believe that everything starts with us and only we can make even the craziest and most utopian ideas happen! We are so excited to host you and learn from each other! So don't think too long, start this space odyssey with us!

CONTACTS



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