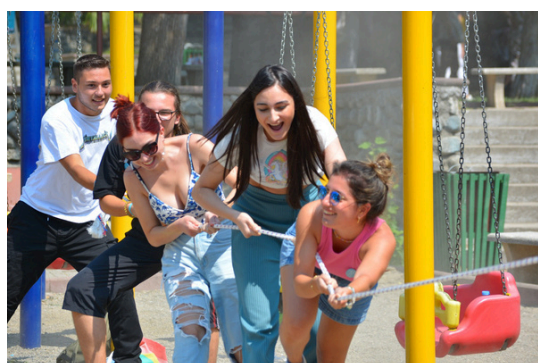


YOUTH EXCHANGE

# COOPERATION FOR A COMMON FUTURE

*Krusevo, North Macedonia*

*21.07.2025 - 28.07.2025*







## About the hosting organization

Youth Alliance-Krusevo (YAK) is an independent, non-governmental and non-profitable organization established in Krusevo (1999) with the vision for supporting, involving and empowering young people for their active participation in the society. YAK strives to develop active community leaders, to promote youth engagement for sustainable economic development of the community and to inspire young people to be multipliers of the European values. YAK is run by young people for young people enabling a strong experience to all its stakeholders based on our values and principles: inclusiveness, democracy, solidarity, tolerance, understanding, support and cooperation.



## The Initiative

The youth exchange will bring together young people from North Macedonia and Greece for a transformative week of dialogue and cross-border collaboration. Hosted in the historic town of Krusevo, this program is designed to foster meaningful youth cooperation, build mutual understanding, and spark innovative joint initiatives.

Through interactive workshops, simulation exercises, field visits, and collaborative group work, young people will explore the challenges and opportunities of regional cooperation. The agenda includes panel discussions with youth workers and policymakers, cultural exchange evenings, and interesting field visits. A highlight of the exchange will be the final pitching session, where participants will present their joint action ideas to a jury of local stakeholders.

The exchange will not only promote intercultural learning and youth empowerment, but also aims to plant the seeds for long-term partnerships and shared initiatives that strengthen bilateral ties.

From “Meet My Country” evenings to local field visits and peer-to-peer learning, this exchange is more than just a program—it’s a launchpad for a common future built on solidarity, cooperation, and youth-driven change.





# PROJECT PARTNERS AND PARTICIPANTS



<i>Organization</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Number of participants</i>
<u>YOUTH ALLIANCE - KRUSEVO</u>	North Macedonia	10
<u>SEE IN ACTION</u>	Greece	10

***Desired profile of participants:***

- young people (18 to 24 years old)
- communicative level of English;
- demonstrated interest in bilateral youth cooperation and motivation to engage and contribute actively;
- willingness to engage in an intercultural environment and show respect for different cultures, backgrounds, and perspectives;
- able to express ideas, share experiences, and contribute to the discussions;
- ability to transfer lessons learned in their communities and peers;
- readiness to actively participate in the dissemination of results and contribute to follow-up activities;
- willingness to take part in both individual tasks and collaborative group activities.

The youth exchange welcomes both newcomers (first-time participants in international youth projects) and those with previous experience in youth exchanges, training courses, or volunteering (e.g., Erasmus+ or ESC projects).

The deadline for selecting the participants is 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025.

# AGENDA & PREPARATION OF PARTICIPANTS

Timetable	<u>21.07.2025</u> <u>(Monday)</u>	<u>22.07.2025</u> <u>(Tuesday)</u>	<u>23.07.2025</u> <u>(Wednesday)</u>	<u>24.07.2025</u> <u>(Thursday)</u>	<u>25.07.2025</u> <u>(Friday)</u>	<u>26.07.2025</u> <u>(Saturday)</u>	<u>27.07.2025</u> <u>(Sunday)</u>	<u>28.07.2025</u> <u>(Monday)</u>
09.30 - 11.00	Arrival of participants	Official opening session with YAK and SEE in Action team	Interactive session: Challenges facing youth cooperation	Workshop: Communication, Negotiation, and Conflict Resolution	Field visits 'Let's find the cooperation locally'	Learning session: How to design and manage a cross-border youth project	Finalization of joint initiatives	Emotional "See you soon" circle
11.00 - 11.30	Coffee Break							
11.30 - 13.00	Arrival of participants	Workshop: Understanding Youth Cooperation	Group work: Case studies from North Macedonia and Greece	Simulation exercise: Youth Cooperation	Field visits 'Let's find the cooperation locally'	Group work: Develop joint actions	Pitching session to an invited jury (local stakeholders, youth organizations)	Emotional "See you soon" circle
13.00 - 15.00	Lunch break							
15.00 - 16.30	Presentation of the program, rules, and expectations	Ice-breaking exercises	Panel discussion with youth workers and decision-makers relevant for the bilateral youth cooperation (I)	Simulation exercise: Youth Cooperation	Interactive workshop: Designing our vision for youth cooperation	Group work: Develop joint actions	Evaluation of learning outcomes	Departure of participants
16.30 - 17.00	Coffee break							
17.00 - 18.30	Presentation of the rules, and expectations of the youth exchange	Evening cultural exchange: "Meet My Country" presentations ... Daily Reflection	Panel discussion with youth workers and decision-makers relevant for the bilateral youth cooperation (II) ... Daily Reflection	Free evening for informal networking	"World Café" discussions	Mid-term presentations with peer feedback	Farewell party and certificate ceremony	Departure of participants
19.30 - 21.00	Dinner							

## ***Preparation of the participants:***

Participating organizations will have the possibility to decide how the participants will be prepared for the activity, taking into consideration their previous experience. Once participants are selected, organizations will be responsible for their preparation, which includes: assisting with travel and logistical arrangements, guiding the programme activities, preparing participants for working effectively in an international and intercultural team, etc.

Following the youth exchange, organizations are expected to organize a follow-up evaluation meeting with their participants. They should also support participants in sharing their experiences and lessons learned within their organizations and communities, and in participating in any follow-up activities related to the project.

All participants will have access to a closed Facebook group, which will serve as a platform for preparation and ongoing communication. Participants can use the group to ask questions, clarify uncertainties, get to know each other before the exchange, share experiences and lessons learned after the activity, and stay connected for potential future collaboration and project development.



## ABOUT KRUSEVO



Krusevo is a small but historically significant town located in the mountains of North Macedonia, at an elevation of 1,350 meters, making it the highest town in the country and one of the highest in the Balkans.

Visitors are drawn to its well-preserved traditional architecture, vibrant arts and crafts scene, and rich cultural heritage. Krusevo is also a hub for outdoor activities such as hiking, paragliding, and skiing in the winter months. The town is home to several important landmarks, including the Makedonium, a monument honoring the Ilinden fighters, and the house of revolutionary Nikola Karev, which is now a museum.

The town is also significant in the Orthodox Christian tradition, with many beautiful churches and monasteries dotting the landscape. Krusevo offers a peaceful and picturesque retreat, blending natural beauty with a deep historical legacy.

During your free time, you can explore the local area, including:

- Makedonium Monument
- Nikola Martinoski Gallery
- Monastery of St. Preobrazenie
- Krusevo Lake

More details on organized excursions and activities will be shared during the event.

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## WEATHER

As Krusevo is the highest town on the Balkans, the weather in this period is mostly sunny and pleasant.

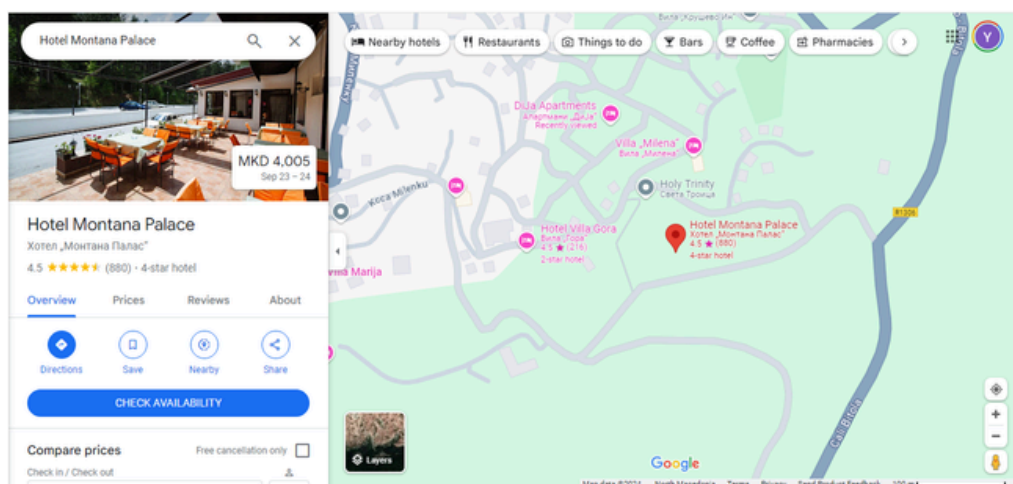
However, take into consideration that the mornings as well as the evenings are chilly. Before going, please check the weather forecast and prepare accordingly.

# ABOUT THE VENUE

The participants will be accommodated in shared rooms at **Hotel Montana** (<https://www.montanapalace.com>). The address is Pitu Guli bb, Krushevo 7550, North Macedonia.

Link to the hotel on Google Maps:

[https://www.google.com/maps/place/Hotel+Montana+Palace/@41.3646265,21.2506207,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m9!3m8!1s0x1356cf0ec889f49f:0x56324ca99f30af59!5m2!4m1!1i2!8m2!3d41.3646225!4d21.2531956!16s%2Fg%2F1tj93q6d?entry=ttu&g\\_ep=EgoyMDI0MDkxOC4xIKXMDSOASAFQAw%3D%3D](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Hotel+Montana+Palace/@41.3646265,21.2506207,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m9!3m8!1s0x1356cf0ec889f49f:0x56324ca99f30af59!5m2!4m1!1i2!8m2!3d41.3646225!4d21.2531956!16s%2Fg%2F1tj93q6d?entry=ttu&g_ep=EgoyMDI0MDkxOC4xIKXMDSOASAFQAw%3D%3D)



Hotel Montana Palace will host all participants.

- **Room types:** Participants will be accommodated in shared twin rooms.
- **Check-in/Check-out:**  
Check-in: Upon arrival on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July, 2025  
Check-out: Midday 28<sup>th</sup> of July, 2025
- **Amenities:** Free Wi-Fi, access to all hotel facilities, and conference services.
- **Three meals daily** (breakfast, lunch, dinner) will be provided at the hotel restaurant. Vegetarian and special dietary needs will be accommodated—please inform us in advance of any requirements.



# FINANCIAL CONDITIONS AND COSTS

The accommodation, meals, working materials, and travel costs will be fully covered by Youth Alliance – Krusevo. Travel costs will be reimbursed according to the Erasmus+ rules for each country. Travel reimbursements will be sent by bank transfer to the partner organization from your country, which is a requirement of our National Agency.

The participants will get their travel reimbursement after the event if:

- Attend all the activities
- Use the cheapest travel option available (taxis and first-class tickets will not be reimbursed)
- Provide all the original tickets and invoices.

Important: Keep all your travel documents and tickets! Do not buy any tickets before getting approval.



# LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

The reimbursement will be in cash during the youth exchange.  
For a successful and smooth process, you are obliged to submit all your travelling documents:



## **TRAVEL BY CAR:**

keep receipts for fuel and pay tolls



## **TRAVEL BY BUS:**

keep all tickets/receipts/invoices/  
booking confirmations



## **TRAVEL BY PLANE:**

keep all tickets, invoices and boarding  
passes



**Submitting all travelling documents during the exchange is mandatory for the refund process.** If you have lost some of the abovementioned documents and don't submit a proof for your travelling and payment, unfortunately we would not be able to complete the refund.



The local currency is **denar (MKD)** [1 EUR = 61.3 MKD].  
***Paying with card in Krusevo is not always available, however there is an ATM in the hotel.***

**Please note that before purchasing any tickets, you must get a confirmation from the hosting organization.**





# IMPORTANT INFORMATION



## HOSTING ORGANIZATION - CONTACT

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