

INFO PACK



for project „ Youth workers 4 Human Rights”

27 March - 03 April 2023

Bansko, Bulgaria



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

The pandemic had come and left everybody unprepared. It showed even more clearly also the existing issues related to social injustice, social exclusion and discrimination. The pandemic also revealed the weaknesses of each industry as well as youth work itself-the lack of digital competences of youth workers in general, low level of digital literacy in the sector, difficulties to transform normal daily youth work activities into digital format and provide same quality services and activities for youth. All partners within the consortium were facing difficulties to maintain the same connection with our local community youth left youth alone in those difficult times. Thus young people who were already vulnerable and in danger of falling into social exclusion and especially minority youth were left out with any support system and help from NGOs while the online environment was becoming the battle field for raising hate speech, hatred, hostility and anger towards minority groups especially. The pandemic had brought back some existing stigmas but also flamed new challenges for minorities to face thus youth workers need to get equipped with the right knowledge, understanding, awareness, skills and competence set to understand the situations of minority youth, challenges related to human rights violations of specific minority groups , develop understanding of minority rights and minority rights issues on European level, get to know tools, methods, best practices to support, engage, mentor and do advocacy work for minority youth. After a thorough internal evaluation questionnaire filled by youth workers and staff members within our partner consortium we have identified the missing pieces of the puzzle in terms of understanding, knowledge, skills and competence set of the youth workers thus we needed to address them to increase the capacity of our NGOs to address the current challenges of minority youth we all work with and deliver more quality minority rights campaigns and actions. The focus of the project will be investing in the capacity of youth workers and respectively their organizations to tackle minority youth issues on local and European level. The project also focuses on directly increasing the quality of activities and services provided by the partner consortium for minority youth groups they work with on local level by actively involving youth workers/coordinators/staff members directly working on minority issues at the sending organizations. The aims of the project proposal are related to :

- providing deeper understanding of minority, minority groups, minority rights and challenges
- raising awareness on current issues, effect of COVID19 and all other factors related to minority youth /specific foe each minority group related to all aspects of life/
- develop skills, competences and knowledge on ways of promoting, protecting and educating about minority rights
- providing understanding and getting experience in advocacy for minority rights

ACOMMODATION

Accommodation and food (breakfast, lunch and dinner) for the duration of the activities will be covered by the receiving organization PROVISION International.

All participants will be accommodated in Royal Bansko apart hotel , located in Bansko Bulgaria at the following address: ul. "Kosherinata" 2770, Bansko, Bulgaria



VENUE

Bansko is a town in southwestern Bulgaria, located at the foot of the Pirin Mountains. It is a popular ski resort. The mountain peaks near the town, the numerous lakes and the old pine woods make it a popular site for recreation.



FOOD AND SPECIAL NEEDS

ProVision International will provide participants with three meals per day and two coffee breaks.

- **Special needs:** Any special food diet must be previously informed to the organizers. Please, make sure that we know about your special diet.
- **Extra nights:** For those who come earlier (before 27 March 2023 or/and leave later (after 3 April 2023 unfortunately the project cannot cover the extra nights and food. If your flights are earlier or later than the project dates, you will have to find accommodation for yourself. Of course, you can always contact the organizers to help you in finding a place to stay. The first provided meal will be the dinner on 27 March 2023. On 03 April 2023 the breakfast will be provided.

NB!!! PLEASE KNOW THAT THE TOTAL DURATION OF THE EXTRA STAY SHOULD NOT EXTEND 2 DAYS –MEANING (1 DAY BEFORE AND 1 AFTER, OR 2 DAYS BEFORE OR 2 DAYS AFTER) Tickets with longer extra stay will NOT be reimbursed, unless they are approved by the coordinator.

ARRIVAL IN VENUE

How to get to BANSKO?

Although there are some different airports, the best option for everybody is to arrive to Sofia. There are several buses leaving everyday from Sofia to Bansko (the first one is at 07:00am and the last one is at 16:45).



You will have to use public transportation to get from Sofia to project venue. For that you will need small change – 1.60BGN (approx. 0.80 euro) for subway ticket and 16 BGN (8.11 euro) for bus from Sofia to Bansko.

If you are arriving at Sofia airport – Terminal 1

Outside of the terminal you will find white mini bus with sign TRANSFER SHUTTLE /or simply ask any of the staff where is the free shuttle to Terminal 2/. Once you get in –it will drive you / about 7 min/ to TERMINAL 2 of SOFIA AIRPORT. From there you can get metro / subway /taking the blue line/ - From Sofia airport terminal 2 to station called SERDIKA, there you have to change with the orange line towards OBELYA OR LOMSKO SHOSE and you have to get out at the 2nd station which is called CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION. Once you get out from CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION you will see large blue building with the sign Central Bus Station. Inside the station you will be able to get the tickets for the bus. Please check the image below:



If you are arriving at Sofia airport – Terminal 2

Once at Terminal 2 of Sofia airport –please go out of the building turn left and go all the way down on the road and you will get to the / subway station of Sofia airport/ 2-3 min walk/ . From there take the blue line/ - From Sofia airport terminal 2 to station called SERDIKA, there you have to change with the orange line towards OBELYA OR LOMSKO SHOSE and you have to get out at the 2nd station which is called CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION. Once you get out from CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION you will see large blue building with the sign Central Bus Station. Inside the station you will be able to get the tickets for the bus. Please check the image below:



How to get from **Central Bus station** to **Bansko**

Once you arrive at CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION go out of the station and you will see large blue building with sign Central Bus Station. Please see the image below:



From there you can buy ticket to Bansko. The journey will be about 3h and it will cost you 20 Bulgarian leva.

There are few buses a day running from Sofia to Basnko with schedule:

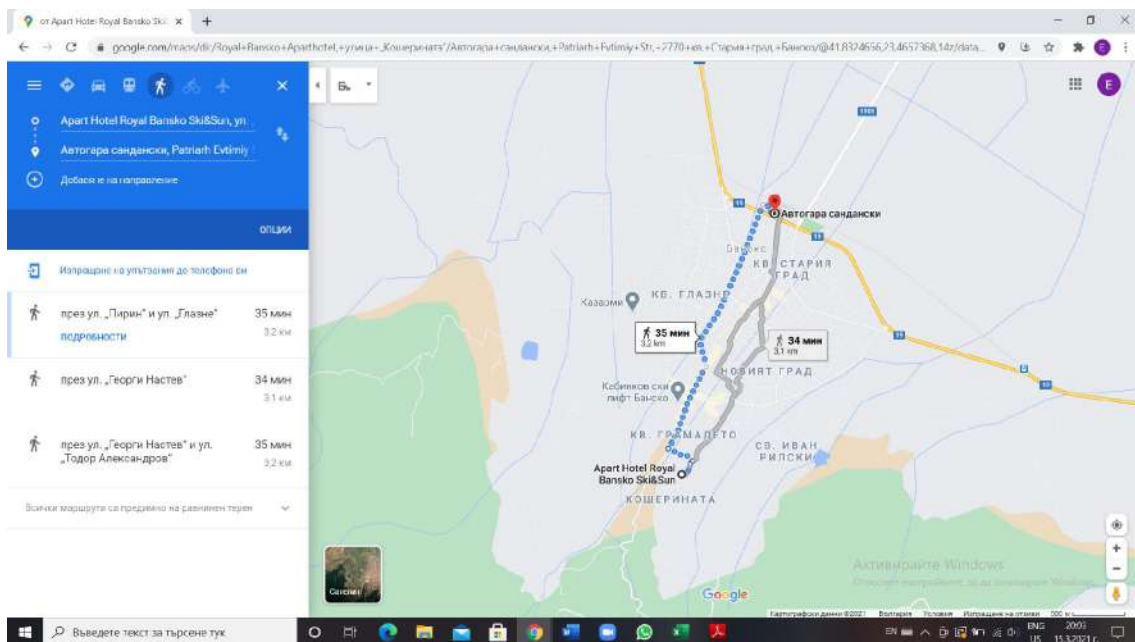
Route	Departing hour	Price
Sofia- Basnko	09:45	20 BGN
	11:25	20 BGN
	14:00	20 BGN
	16:45	20 BGN

If you are arriving after 16:45 and you are not able to get the public bus there is option for renting a private shuttle that needs to be paid by each of the passenger and it's upon request.

From Bansko bus station to hotel Royal apart hotel Bansko:

You have two options to get to the hotel.

- 1) Is to take a taxi which you can find just in front of the main entrance of the Bus station and will costs you about 10-15 BGN /5-7 euros/ per car. So if you are more people you can share the costs
- 2) You can walk to the hotel following the map below and will be approx. 25-30 min



TRAVEL COSTS AND REIMBURSEMENT

Travel costs: Please note that travel costs will be reimbursed on the basis of original tickets, boarding passes and invoices/receipts for travel. Do not forget to collect and bring all of them. Only cheapest/economy class travel will be reimbursed and a public transport.

!!! Once the group is selected the leader should contact the organizers for confirmation to buy tickets. PLEASE DO NOT buy your tickets without having confirmation from the organizers.

!!!Please know that tickets that are not confirmed may not be reimbursed

As soon as you filled the registration form and your participation is confirmed, you are kindly requested to submit your travel proposal for **validation** including detailed information about the name(s) of the participant(s) envisaged, itinerary (departure, arrival, dates, hours, transport company), type of transport (flight, bus, train etc.) and the website where you got the offer from:

- subject: [Travel validation] - Your country;
- address: provisioninternational.office@gmail.com

- deadline: 1 March 2023

ProVision International and is not responsible of reimbursing tickets without our prior validation.

REIMBURSEMENT

How to provide the needed justifying documents? (Remember! If anything is missing from the list below, unfortunately we are not able to reimburse the costs). We will try to do cash reimbursement to all participants only if they can provide electronic versión of all tickets before they depart from Bulgaria.

1. Flight tickets (economic class/low cost if possible) – all the following are needed:

e-ticket (you receive it by e-mail after you buy the flight);

fiscal invoice (ask your travel agency or check on the website where you buy the ticket how can you get a fiscal invoice). The invoice can be issued on the name of traveler, or on the name of the organisation you represent;

proof of payment (signed and stamped): can be a receipt from where you buy the tickets, can be a payment order (if you pay by bank transfer) or can be a bank or an account statement (if you pay by internet banking);

boarding pass (you get it online and print it at home 24h-30h before the flight or directly in the airport);

In the exceptional case when the amount on your invoice is different that the amount charged, a personal declaration will be needed and only the amount charged is subject of reimbursement.

2. Train tickets (make sure the date, the itinerary and the price are visible on the ticket, if you can get an invoice is even better);

3. Bus tickets (make sure the date, the itinerary and the price are visible on the ticket, if you can get an invoice it is better);

4. Private car transport and Taxi (including Bla Bla car, uber and such) – will not be reimbursed

5. Please note that additional services on your bookings won't be reimbursed (priority boardings , extra leg room in the place, additional luggages and etc)

Important! Try to provide the documents above in English, or Bulgarian. If the documents are written in other languages we **will** need a declaration from you to explain the information provided in each document (in English).

MANDATORY MEANS OF TRANSPORT TO BE USED! NO EXEPTIONS ALLOWED!

Country	Number of participants	Travel cost limits	Approved Means of transport
Bulgaria	3 participants	0	N/A
Italy	3 participants	220 euro	Plane
Latvia	3 participants	220 euro	Plane
Greece	3 participants	150 euro	Bus/car/train
Romania	3 participants	150 euro	Car/train/bus
Slovakia	3 participants	220 euro	Plane
Spain	3 participants	220 euro	Plane
Serbia	3 participants	150 euro	Car/train/bus
France	3 participants	220 euro	Plane
Germany	3 participants	220 euro	Plane

CONTRIBUTION FEE: There is no participation fee for this project!

Vaccination status:

All participants should be vaccinated in order to participate in the project.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION (currency)

Currency: in Bulgaria, we use ЛВ – Bulgarian Leva. 1 EUR is 1.95 lv. You will need them to travel inside Bulgaria (bus, taxi or whatever you will use to move around it), so make sure you change a little bit when you arrive at the airport or before coming here. In case you will need to change again, we will help you out on spot.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

***The daily schedule will be provided within the next email very shortly**

Intercultural nights: For the intercultural evenings, we kindly ask you to prepare interactive presentation of your country. You can present it along with your food and drinks, music, traditional dances, etc. You can do it in the way you think is more suitable for the group, so be as creative as you want.

You are more than welcome to bring traditional food and drinks for this evening. It will be possible to cook there in case you want to prepare something for that night, but you should buy the ingredients or bring them from your countries. You can also bring your flag, posters, postcards, leaflets or any kind of gift you want to give to the participants in order them to have a picture of where you come from. Videos or games are also a good idea to be implemented during that night!

INSURANCE:



Medical insurance: procuring a medical insurance valid during your stay in Bulgaria is your own responsibility. European Union citizens are entitled to have an European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) which you can get for free from your health authorities and you can use in Bulgaria and in any other EU country as well. Anyway, you can also choose a private insurance for the duration of your stay (it should not cost more than 10 EUR depending on the provider and issuing country). Although it might be not mandatory to enter Bulgaria, if you choose to not have a health insurance **you need to be ready to cover any medical related cost. We strongly encourage you to get a medical insurance for your stay!**

PARTICIPANT PROFILE:

- ✓ -Youth workers, leaders, coordinators over 18 years old
- ✓ Currently involved in working with young people on the regular basis.
- ✓ Interested to acquire new competences in the field of human rights
- ✓ Ready to actively participate in the whole project (preparation, training course and follow-up).
- ✓ Ready to organize at least one follow-up activity using the experience from this training (individually or together with another person from the same country) within 1 months after the training with youth with their local community and planning activities for the sustainability of the project.
- ✓ Ready to implement one activity for publicity to share results from the training –blog interviews, article
- ✓ Good level of communication in English

WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU – CHECK LIST

- ✓ All travel documents;
- ✓ All material and things that you need for the program (as homework);
- ✓ Anything you need for the intercultural night(food, drinks, brochures and etc)
- ✓ Energizers that could be done in the mornings / after lunch break;
- ✓ Swimsuit and flip-flops/there is pool in the hotel.
- ✓ Comfortable clothes for the activities



- outside and inside conference room;
- ✓ Anything you think you will need during your stay in Bulgaria and of course, GOOD MOOD!

IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXCHANGE PLEASE FILL THE APPLICATION FORM BELOW NOT LATER THAN 1 March 2023

<https://forms.gle/webJkMpVT8xynnE8A>

C O N T A C T S

Mobility coordinator: Georgi Kuzmanov

Phone N: 00359888122125

Email: provisioninternational.office@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ProVisionInternational>

