

INFO PACK

for project „ Online Activism 4 Youth work”



1 July 2019– 8 July 2019

Bansko, Bulgaria

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

The overall aim of the project is to provide youth workers and NGOs with the adequate measures knowledge, skills, competences and experience using online activism for preventing youth radicalization.

By providing an overall understanding of hate speech, human rights and online activism and providing space to analyse concrete case studies and learn from best practices, participants will increase their competences to look at their context with a wider scope and develop their critical thinking. Therefore, youth workers participating in the training will gain the skills to plan and intervene in these situations with transformative approaches through the implementation of non violent online campaigns and activities. The training will provide knowledge and skills for developing online campaigns and activities through digital tools and counter and alternative narratives. Therefore, a variety of non-formal educational tools such simulation exercises, group work, case studies, debates and theater methods will be accompanied with feedback and evaluation sessions. Moreover, a round table with activists will be organized to share their experience with the participants and help them build their own campaigns.

With the growing concern about online radicalization and the noticeable increase in openly extremist groups in Europe, more and more Member States are facing threats from radicalization of youth. Throughout the EU, the risk of radicalization leading to extremist violence is growing. Since the start of the conflict in Syria, in 2011, thousands of foreign fighters have traveled from Western Europe to fight in Syria and Iraq. The Internet has played a significant role in the radicalization and recruitment of foreign fighters and continues to do so. Many reports confirm the importance of social networks as a tool used by ISIS to recruit young people. For instance the Europol report of 2017 EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report points out that the majority of the terrorist attackers in 2016 and 2017 are precisely young people born and grown up in Europe, also pointing to the role of social networks for their radicalization. Radicalization Awareness Network warns of rising dangers for young Europeans. Social networking is the main activity young people aged 16-24 use the internet for, something which extremist groups are well aware of. This is why they are using social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to draw young people to their cause. There is extremist material available online including; articles, images, videos encouraging hate or violence, posts on social media, websites created by terrorist organizations, terrorist training materials and videos glorifying war and violence.

Main objectives of the project:

- to provide deeper understanding of counter and alternative narratives as a tool for fighting hate speech and violent extremism
- to provide practical tools and knowledge how to build online campaigns
- to strengthen the potential and capacity of the NGOs to counter youth radicalization using online activism
- promoting the European values of democracy, respect for human rights, diversity, intercultural dialogue

ACCOMMODATION

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

All participants will be accommodated in hotel Casa Karina, located in Bansko Bulgaria at the following address: Krlev dvor 5, 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

Alternativi 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 1st of July) or/and leave later (after 8th of July), unfortunately the project cannot cover the extra nights and

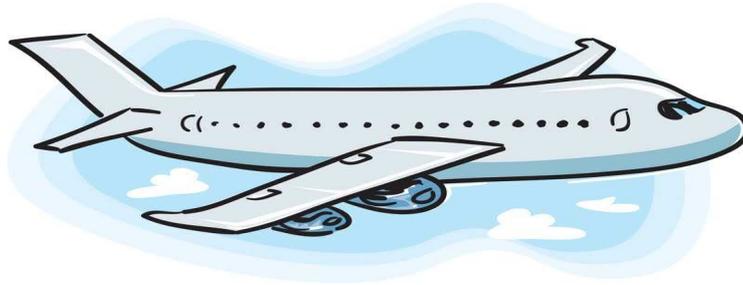
food. If your flights are earlier or later than the project dates, you will have to find accommodation for yourself. Of course, you can always contact the organizers to help you in finding a place to stay. The first provided meal will be the dinner on 1st of July 2019. On 8th of July 2019, the breakfast 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 reimbursement.

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:

From there you can buy ticket to Bansko. The journey will be about 3h and it will cost you 16 Bulgarian leva.

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

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

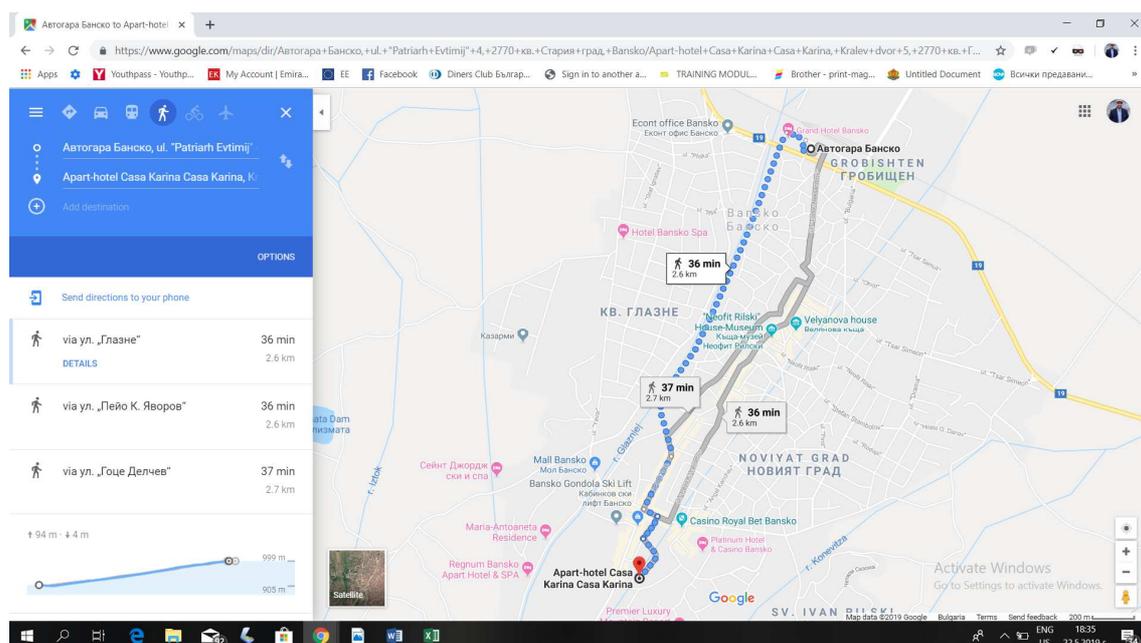
For the way back from Bansko to Sofia

Route	Departing hour	Arrival hour	Price
Basnko - Sofia	05:05	08:05	16 BGN
	06:50	10:20	16 BGN
	12:50	15:50	16 BGN

From Bansko bus station to hotel Casa Karina:

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. 18-20 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.

!!! 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 name - Your country;
- address: office@alternativibg.org
- deadline: June 10, 2019

Alternativi International 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 version 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 plane, checked in bags and adicional bags 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).

Country	Number of participants	Travel cost limits
Bulgaria	3	0
Georgia	3	275
Armenia	3	275
Azerbaijan	3	275
Romania	3	180
Italy	3	275
Latvia	3	275
Denmark	3	275
UK	3	360
Estonia	3	275

CONTRIBUTION FEE: Each participant will have to contribute to the project with 25€ as a participation fee. The fee will contribute for the higher quality of the project and cover the extra costs for the project such as local trips, cultural events, etc.

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:

We are looking for 3 participants per country with the following profile:

- Youth workers, leaders, coordinator, NGO representative
- Youth workers, leaders, coordinator, NGO representative having experience or knowledge in the field
- Be able to communicate in English
- All participants must be over 18 years old
- All participants must be currently residing in the country they will represent and be able to prove it if needed with documents



WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU – CHECK LIST

- ✓ All travel documents;
- ✓ Anything you need for the intercultural night(food, drinks, brochures and etc)
- ✓ 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 3 June 2019 :

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeu4rKO3CcsQQbY_Ke3-Kq67j3U7mhLZkk2pgs9_i11Pj2C3g/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1

C O N T A C T S



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