



Asociación
Socio-Cultural
Verdesur Alcalá



Co-funded by
the European Union

Improv for Peace

*13th of May- 21st of May
Alcala la Real, Spain*

Erasmus+ Youth Exchange

Date of Participant Selection : 15th of April 2024
Deadline of Finalising Travel Arrangements : 1st of May 2024



About the Project

The ongoing war in Ukraine, the pandemic, the economic crisis, the conflicts around the world is rising in past-years. We are all aware of the problems the EU is facing: the democratic deficit, the rise of populism and illiberal tendencies, the migration policy, climate change, quite different interpretations of what Europe should stand for and what the European values are or should be. But also cyberspace, dilemmas on how to balance security measures with civil liberties, management of technological progress, the gaps between highly-educated and less-educated people, between urban and rural communities, between generations, the ones who profit from the globalization and the ones less fortunate who struggle with poverty.

In its broadest sense, theatre has focused on storytelling, commemoration, social learning, and, more recently, commercial entertainment. Within its form, theatre has the potential to capture and recreate cultures and conflict through the imaginations of participants. Regardless of the form or venue, theatre consistently involves actors, those who enact intention as performance, and audience, those who witness the development of these enactments. Therefore, the use of theatre for the peace building process gives young people a space to express their feelings and thoughts directly in a critical way.

The project focuses on creating an awareness about the social peace issues in Europe through making the young people improvise and use theatre as a tool. With the project we aim to develop skills of young people to increase their skills to express themselves in non-violent ways through out the usage of the theatre as a tool while creating awareness about the social peace issues in Europe. The participants will work on the issues that they will see important in their own communities and enact these situations by using the Forum Theatre methodology.

During the project, we plan to cover the themes related to peace : radicalisation, racism and discrimination and conflict management through the usage of theatre tools based on Forum Theatre Methodology of Augusto Boal. While covering these themes, the participants will develop their own theatre peace and will present to the local community, we will do that in English and invite people from local community to engage in this activity. The young people from our volunteer will provide translation to the audience through caption translation to Spanish from English. In that way, both our local area and young people will experience the interculturality of our world and the issues in front of peace and it will create an awareness.

The specific objectives of the project:

- To develop an attitude among young people about the inequalities and conflicts in Europe and neighbouring countries
- To qualify young people as forum theatre practitioners to implement their own activities in their communities
- To use art especially theatre as a tool for empowerment and peace development
- To make young people express their feelings and amounts about the differences and reflecting on them through the use of theatre
- To create a local impact in Alcalá la Real and making the local community aware about the social peace issues through the theatre piece that the participants will make

Participant Profile

- Have an experience on theatre or willing to learn about theatre methodologies and its usage in youth work
- Have willingness to do street theatre activities and motivation to work with theatre to promote peace
- Sensitive to the social issues
- Has a basic level of English (A2 – B1)
- Willing to develop activities upon their return
- Have no experience abroad (the positive selection criteria)
- Willing to discuss about the social peace issues in Europe
- Willing to engage in open theatre with the local community and promote improv and theatre of the oppressed in their own countries
- Willing to involve in intercultural and international activities

Information About the City

Alcalá la Real is situated 71 kilometres (44 mi) from the provincial capital, Jaén, and 53 kilometres (33 mi) from Granada, on the slopes of La Mota, a hill in the Sierra Sur. It has an area of 261.36 km². The town is dominated by a large Moorish fortress around which, some centuries ago, the settlement evolved. Alcalá la Real is connected to the Guadalquivir valley via the Guadajoz tributary.



Remains from the Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age show the human presence in the area in Prehistoric times. It has been hypothesized that this was one of the last places inhabited by Neanderthal Man. Despite the presence of remains from the Iberians, dating to the late Bronze Age, the first traces of urban structures (perhaps identifiable with the ancient Sucaelo) date to the Roman times. Archaeological findings include a marble statue of Hercules, now in the National Archaeological Museum of Spain at Madrid.

After the Muslim conquest in 713, the town was renamed Qal'at (قلعة), an Arabic term meaning "fortified city". In the following centuries, Umayyad caliph Al-Hakam II (971–976) had a series of watchtowers built to defend the city from the Viking/Norman incursions; today 12 of the 15 original towers remain. Around the year 1000 the main of these tower, the Mota, became a true fortress, one of the mainstays of the Al-Andalus defence against the Christian Reconquista. In the 12th century it was the fief of the Banu Said family, and became known as Qal'at Banu Said, or Alcalá de Benzaide in Christian sources.

After the dissolution of the caliphate and its fragmentation in a series of taifa small kingdoms, Qa'lat was a stronghold of the Kingdom of Granada. From here numerous raids were launched against Jaén and other frontier areas of the Kingdom of Castile. The city was finally captured on 15 August 1341 by Alfonso XI of Castile, who conceded it the title of "Real" (Royal), which after that was part of its name.



Alcalá remained under the jurisdiction of Jorquera until 1364, when king Peter I gave it the privilege of a Government Council, under the royal crown and the state of Villena. It was elevated to the rank of city in 1432 by king John II. After a flourishing period, the conquest of Granada in 1492 stripped Alcalá of its strategical importance. The population started to move from the upper hill to the now safer slopes, thus gradually creating the current settlement. The city remained under the marquises of Villena until the early 16th century, when the centralism introduced by the Catholic Monarchs started to reduce the power of the barons, although the marquise remained in existence until the 19th century. The depopulation of the La Mota hill ended after the Peninsular War against the Napoleonic troops who occupied the fortress from 1810 and 1812. On retreat the Napoleonic forces set fire to the upper city, resulting in partial destruction of the Abbey Church.

Before the Project!

Due to the nature of the project, we expect participants to do activities prior to the project activity to equalise the knowledge of the participants and make the most out of the youth exchange. After the selection of the participants, we will give participants' an access to involve in the online platform that we have been developing for the project. In the online platform, there will be tasks to complete which will take 2-3 hours of participants prior to the project activity.

Please be noted, these activities should be completed prior to the project activity and not doing so will be resulted with not receiving the reimbursement of the travel expenses. The travel expenses will be provided in cash or bank transfer during the project and in case of the non-completion of the tasks, the participants will not receive reimbursement until the tasks are complete.

-Getting to know each other : We will ask participants to fill out a Google Docs document about themselves and their experiences about theatre and youth work. This task will be completed individually by the each group member prior to the project activity.

-Case development: This activity will be free format, participants will write a case on the topic of peace in their own country, city or small community. We will provide you with a format and guidelines to develop these cases. Which will be used by participants during the in-person activity.

-What do theater and peace mean to me? : You will be asked to explain in a video what theater and peace mean to them and upload these videos to YouTube as a group.

These activities will not take more than a day of you :) if you do it in total prior to the project. So please, as a group do it so that we can have a fruitful youth exchange. They are crucial for the implementation of the project, so we can deal with the activities in a intensive manner.

Travel Costs

General Rules

We will reimburse travel cost during the youth exchange regarding to travel budget of the country in bank transfer or cash depending on the need of the participants.

! Note: Reimbursement of travel costs will only be done upon presentation of all (including return tickets) original tickets, receipt/ invoices and boarding passes. You will receive an e-mail about the Google Drive to upload your documents after your selection. In the drive, prior to the start of the project, all tickets (**except than the ones which cannot be bought prior to the travel (metro tickets, bus tickets etc.)**) has to be uploaded so that, we can provide your reimbursement during the project.

This will be very helpful for us to begin processing the financial and reimbursement data so that all payments may be made as efficiently as possible. **Not uploaded tickets (except than the ones explained above) will not be reimbursed.**

Please do not lose your boarding passes; you will need them for reimbursement of travel cost.

!!! Note: Reimbursement will be done in EUR, regardless of the currency indicated on the ticket and receipt/invoice. Any tickets purchased in a local currency other than EUR, will then be converted and calculated according to the exchange rate of the January 2024 as stated in the official European Commission web-site at <http://ec.europa.eu/budget/inforeuro/index.cfm?Language=en>

Keep in mind !

You should arrive to Alcala la Real in 13th of May and leave on 21st of May. We will not have any activities during the arrival (13th) and departure days (21st). You can stay up to 2 days before or after the project in Spain. You should arrange your own accommodation in that case, during this time no accommodation and food costs will not be reimbursed or provided by us.

Travel Costs

As it is closed to Granada, one of the nicest cities in Spain, We recommend you to visit Granada before or after the project and so, take that into consideration when buying tickets. Be aware, we will NOT ORGANIZE ANY EXCURSION TO GRANADA DURING THE PROJECT, and GOING TO GRANADA DURING THE PROJECT IS COMPLETELY FORBIDDEN so, if you want to visit that city, must do before or after the project, never during the project time.

Travel Costs will be covered regardless of the budget in actual costs upon the presentation of the receipts (Please check below about the travel allowances)

The travel costs will be reimbursed up to the amounts indicated below for the countries.

Country	Pax	Travel Allowance
Croatia	6	275 EUR
Denmark	6	360 EUR
Estonia	6	360 EUR
Germany	6	275 EUR
Hungary	6	360 EUR

Travel Arrangements :

We will try to arrange private transportation for the participants according to the time schedules of the arrivals and departure. In case the participants are coming from Madrid Airport(MAD), they should take a bus to Granada. For the other cases that arrives to following airports, we will provide a transportation from the airport/city to Alcala la Real :

- Sevilla Airport (SVQ)
- Malaga Airport (AGP)
- Granada Airport (GRX)

For buying the bus ticket, you can use alsa.es, there is no any other bus company operates in Spain. That's the only page that has bus services.

!!!!!! BEAR IN MIND !!!!!!

AT ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, ANY FLIGHT BOUGHT FROM KIWI, EDREAMS, GOTOGATE OR LIKEWISE TRAVEL AGENCIES WILL NOT BE REIMBURSED EVEN IT IS CHEAPER OR WHATSOEVER. IN CASE OF FLIGHT CANCELLATIONS, DELAYS AND ETC OR ADDITIONAL COSTS WILL NOT BE COVERED BY US!

THAT'S THE REASON, WE SUGGEST YOU TO BY FLIGHT TICKETS AT ANY CIRCUMSTANCE FROM THE WEBPAGE OF THE COMPANY THAT YOU ARE GOING TO FLY WITH.

List of To-Do and Not-To Do Before the Project



Uploaded the all tickets to drive before 1st of May
Bought tickets on time
Arriving in 13th of May (latest)
Departing in 21st of May (earliest)
Bought tickets from the flight company page
Flying to Sevilla / Malaga or Granada
No plans to visit Granada during the project
NO TRAVELLING AROUND SPAIN TO COME TO THE PROJECT



Arriving later than 13th of May
Departing before than 21st of May
Buying tickets from travel agency pages
Travelling around Spain before the project
Flying to Barcelona or Alicante or some other airport not in Andalucia
Visiting Granada during the project

These are forbidden acts, if you do, we cannot accommodate it and we want to inform you about it before! So please DON'T!

Participant Info Form

Please fill out the following form before you start to make your travel arrangements :

<https://forms.office.com/e/srPCRYcjA7> **(Please fill this form before 15th of April 2024)**

In case of any hesitations or issues that you want to discuss or raise any questions in your mind, do not hesitate to write to us.

Accommodation

We will provide you with double with private bathroom or quadruple or quintuple rooms with shared bedroom according to your genders in the dormitory. You will need to bring towels and necessary personal hygiene products that you might think it is important to have. We will try to put you in the in different rooms mixed concerning to nationality and with people from same gender.

The place has laundry, kitchen and likewise facilitates and the activities will not be carried in the accommodation place due to size of the group.



You packed the following :



Slippers - Towel - Water Bottle - Tooth brush

You are happy to share the room with other people! You can stay in bunk bed alike in the picture in the right!



You didn't pack your slippers, towel or tooth brush, we will not be able to provide these during your stay in the accommodation. During your arrival day, the volunteers can assist you to get them, but we suggest you to get them in advance, so you don't have to spend money on them once you are in Spain.

You cannot share the room or cannot stay in bunk-bed!

- We do not provide and will not be able to provide any single room at any circumstance.
- We do not have any beds rather than bunk beds, so please be sure while coming that you are alright to sleep in a bunk bed (up or down, you manage with your room mate :))
- Projects are for you to engage with the other people from different countries, unless you have a special need or justification to stay with people same country, the participants will stay in mixed rooms.

Contact Information

For the urgent cases, in the border, during your arrival if you could not find our team or you miss the flight or some assistance you need! Please feel free to call :

Mariano : +34 658 34 74 14

Estibaliz : +34 601 52 69 71

Onur : +34 644 829 402

E-mail : asociacionverdesur@gmail.com