



Erasmus+ Youth Exchange

Behind the Curtain

4-14th September 2019

Osterholz-Scharmbeck – Germany

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Dear Participant,

Welcome to the “**Behind the Curtain**”, multinational Erasmus+ youth exchange of more than 40 young people, 18-30 years old that come from 7 different European countries: Croatia, Italy, Serbia, Spain, Cyprus, Greece and Germany. During this youth exchange **theater methods** are used as ways of informal learning, boosting imagination and creativity.

This project was inspired by several other theatre projects of **NaturKultur**, as well as by cooperation with our partners on this project, some of which have rich experience when it comes to theatre as great tool in informal education.

Play is sometimes associated with wasting of time and laziness, and many forget creativity as its fundament. We encourage play as a powerful tool for positive personal change that leads to change on the level of society. We strongly believe that play can change us, our communities, our states and Europe for better! That is why YOU are here!

This Preparation Pack is designed to help you prepare for our project in terms of “theory and practice”.



Project in short and its aims

One of the strategic goals of NaturKultur is to increase awareness among youth about **human rights, non-discrimination, tolerance and inclusion**. We encourage young people to take proactive role in the processes in their local communities. We want young people to be informed, and what is more important – to get inspired to be actively involved in our European future! We are in particular moved by recent happenings and debates in Europe: migrant crisis, borders issues, Brexit, enlargement, rise of right-wing political parties and endangered human rights. We do not want to solely watch what is going on, but instead to say loudly what we think and whenever possible – to act!

Our objectives with this project are to stimulate reflection over the topic of inclusions and exclusion through storytelling. Through storytelling and exchange of

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ideas, participants will also reflect on how they perceive others and how they may be perceived themselves.

The objectives of this project are:

- To encourage critical thinking, inclusive attitudes and intercultural competences of participants, so they can **act as leaders** in their society and **open for constructive dialogue** with and among young people;
- To equip youth participants with relevant puppet theatre and general **storytelling tools and methodologies** to stimulate youth and understanding of fundamental values of inclusion, tolerance, respect and freedom;
- To increase understanding among youth participants, in regards to the issue of exclusion and inequality and how they can play role in **preventing this problem**.

Activities of the project



The activities planned to be implemented cover workshops which include discussion and debate over the topic of inclusion and exclusion, workshops in which participants learn the components of storytelling, constructing their story into a script for a play and learning how to situate a moral and message into a story. Participants will also exercise what they learn throughout the puppet theatre workshops, creating their

own puppet theatre play which will be performed to the local community in northern Germany as well as distributed by a web video platform such as YouTube.

TIMETABLE OF THE PROJECT

Time	04-Sep	05-Sep	06-Sep	07-Sep	08-Sep	09-Sep	10-Sep	11-Sep	12-Sep	13-Sep	14-Sep	
08:00	Arrival	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	
09:30		Get to know each other / Name games	Trust building games	Puppet theatre introduction	Presenting ideas & giving feedback	Puppets and stage building	Performing in front of other groups + feedbacks	Developing ideas for future puppets use	Travel to Stiftung Friedehorst (Bremer)	Open space	Departure	
10:00		Rules, safety and protection	Treasure hunt (topic: inclusion)	Puppet characters	How to create a puppet	Rehearsal		Last preparation	Performance in Kulturhaus for broader audience	Travel back to Kulturhaus		Erasmus+ and future steps
10:30		Expectation setting		Forming puppet teams	Developing a story: a step further							Erasmus+ and future steps
11:00		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		
11:30												Team building games...
12:00		...and more team building games	Storytelling and creating a message	Team work on story and characters	Reflection: how is the work going?	Reflection	Reflection	Reflection	Reflection			
12:30		ERASMUS+ info point, Youthpass	Reflection	Reflection	Reflection					Reflection		Reflection
13:15						Dinner	German dinner	Croatian dinner	Spanish dinner			
15:00		Get to know evening	German party	Croatian party	Spanish party					Greek party		Serbian party
15:10						Dinner	German dinner	Croatian dinner	Spanish dinner			
15:30		Get to know evening	German party	Croatian party	Spanish party					Greek party		Serbian party
16:00						Get to know evening	German party	Croatian party	Spanish party			
16:30		Get to know evening	German party	Croatian party	Spanish party					Greek party		Serbian party
17:00						Get to know evening	German party	Croatian party	Spanish party			
17:30	Get to know evening	German party	Croatian party	Spanish party	Greek party					Serbian party		Italian dinner
18:00						Get to know evening	German party	Croatian party	Spanish party		Greek party	
18:30	Get to know evening	German party	Croatian party	Spanish party	Greek party					Serbian party		Italian dinner
19:00						Get to know evening	German party	Croatian party	Spanish party		Greek party	
19:30	Get to know evening	German party	Croatian party	Spanish party	Greek party					Serbian party		Italian dinner
20:00						Get to know evening	German party	Croatian party	Spanish party		Greek party	
22:00	Get to know evening	German party	Croatian party	Spanish party	Greek party					Serbian party		Italian dinner

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Profile of Participants

Participants of this youth exchange are people that are interested in theatre and EU-topics, who would like to share experiences with their peers from other countries over the topics of non-discrimination, inclusion, refugees, migrants, human rights, tolerance, peace, friendship, etc. Participants should speak good English, since it is the main working language of the project.

The participants are expected to take active role in the program, to respect others regardless of the social status, nationality or sexual orientation, to create friendly atmosphere, to work harmonically in team and to give their best to spread around the messages we create.

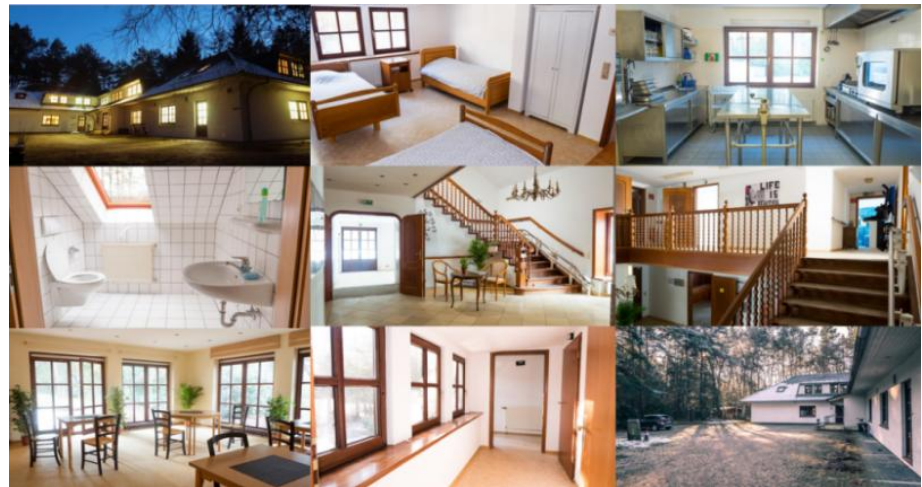
Number of participants per country: 6 (5 + 1 group leader)

Age of participants: 18-30 (group leaders can be older than 30)

Venue:

KulturHaus, Osterholz-Scharmbeck (near Bremen)

We are going to stay in a very simple accommodation something like youth hostel, which is situated in a beautiful natural surroundings.



The rooms are going to be 2-5 beds per room. We are going to be from mixed nationalities, but from the same gender. We will be the only group in the house, one big family. We would do workshops, make party, make national evenings, cook and eat together, load the dishwasher, etc. There are showers in 7 of the rooms, for some rooms there are group showers and there are 4 more separate shower rooms.

Some of the features of the house:

- **It is almost in a middle of nowhere.** Cafes, discos, restaurants and supermarkets are not that close. It is important for the group to stay together all the time, so we will all get to know each other very well.

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- We will be the **only group in the house**. It was important for us not to be bothered with other groups, timetables and rules, so that is why we decided to come here where we would be alone. We will learn and have fun together, cook and eat together and share our culture and ideas. We'll make the rules together and respect the rules that we make.

- We have hired our **own cooking and logistics team** so they would prepare meals for us, we can tell them the things that we want to eat but also, they will make sure that nice and healthy food will be done for the people with food preferences – vegetarians, no pork and so on. Please note that we cannot provide HALAL or fruitarian food and if you are vegan, you should go to the kitchen and help cooking team prepare the food for you. We are not staying at a hotel, so don't expect hotel environment. If you have any concerns about your diet, please contact us.

- **Everything will be up to us**, meaning that everyone should help with something. Either it's setting up the dining tables in order, loading or unloading the dishwasher, or helping with the workshop room setup, or just taking care of the house as if it would be your own, meaning not littering and helping keep the house generally clean.

- In the venue where we will stay, there is rule of **inside shoes**. This means that every participant should bring slippers or some shoes that you are going to use only inside the house.

- You should **bring your own towels** to the exchange. Bed sheets will be provided by the venue where we will stay.

- There is washing machine available in the venue. It costs 2 euro for using the washing machine and 2 euros for using drying machine.

You can find more information and photos about the venue here:
<https://kulturgruppenhaus.de/en/new-home-2/>
<https://www.facebook.com/KulturGruppenHaus/>

Reimbursement

All costs of this project are covered by Erasmus+, and they include food, accommodation and travel.

Be aware that Erasmus + is a co-financing program, so if you exceed the limit on your travel costs, each participant has to cover the difference themselves. Only 2nd class, economy class can be reimbursed. Here is the list of maximal reimbursement for travel per country:

Croatia = €275
Cyprus = €360
Italy = €275
Greece = €360

Serbia = €275
Spain = €275
Germany = €180

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Reimbursement will be done after the end of the exchange, after completing all three tasks:

1. Participating on the whole exchange, respecting all rules of the house and the exchange
2. Sending all tickets and boarding passes after the exchange. You need to keep all original tickets and after the exchange you'll get email in which it will be explained what you need to do.
3. Doing the dissemination of results and sharing what you learned after returning home. We will explain the dissemination of results in more details during the exchange.

The reimbursement procedure is explained in details in the document that we previously sent: "**Guidelines for traveling to NaturKultur projects**".

National evenings

- Each national team is responsible for cooking and presenting your country one night. You will need to prepare the dinner for the whole group. Have in mind that it should be some dish that is typical and that can be made fast, because each country will have only 90 minutes for cooking. At your disposal you will have the cooks who will be there to help you with everything that you need. Each delegation should send us a list of supplies no later than 1st September 2019 on ziga@naturkultur.eu.

If for your meal you need some specific ingredient that cannot be purchased in Germany, you can buy it at home and bring it with you. Keep the receipt and we will reimburse you this money. Each delegation can spend maximum 50 euro for buying and bringing food from your country. You can also use this money to buy some specific products from your country that don't need to be prepared and we can eat it for the breakfast, together with the food, that the cooks are going to make.

You should also decide how else you want to present your country, it can be through dance, games, quizzes or anything else. This will be chance for you to present your country, tradition, culture and everything else that you want to share with the rest of the group.

Facebook group:

To ease communication between participants before and after the project, we have created a Facebook group for this project, which you can find on the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/919188565140400/>

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What to bring with you - CHECKLIST

1. Health insurance - we already explained this earlier in the Info Pack, don't forget to bring your European Health Insurance Card if you are from EU country or other type of insurance if you're not from the EU.
2. All tickets, boarding passes – don't throw any of them, you will need to send them to us after the exchange. If you lose any of the tickets or boarding passes, we won't be able to reimburse you for those tickets.
3. Inside shoes, slippers or other shoes that you will use only inside the house.
4. Towels and toiletry including any medication that you are using
5. Passport or ID card, money if you want to buy souvenirs, etc.
6. Food and materials for your national evening – we will explain this in more details in the next part.
7. Your smile and positive energy! 😊

For further questions don't hesitate to contact us.

See you soon!

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