

INVITATION TO

The youth exchange
“Religious citizen in laic and non laic states”
Loisy, France

DATE: 1-10.02.2018 (8 activity days)

1st arrival, 10th departure

Please, confirm your arrival/departure dates before booking the tickets!

VENUE: Loisy, France

WORKING LANGUAGE: English (but it's also not a problem if you or someone of your group doesn't speak it)

PARTICIPANTS: 8 participants (of age 16 - 30)

COUNTRIES:

- France
- Bulgaria
- Lituania
- Poland
- Turkey

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT:



Nowadays, unfortunately, when the issue of refugees is so burning all over Europe, we are facing more and more the situations of discrimination, xenophobia, and division of the society into separate groups.

This whole tendency is really getting more and more actual and for this reason our NGO who is active in the suburbs of Thionville and Yutz, live this religious mixture. A few weeks ago an old woman was killed because she was a Jew, as soon as the president of France speak to representative of a religion and give a sign of support it brings debates, In Poland a partner country of the project the president give some hint to a will of a catholic state, one of the biggest fear from migrants is the religion and the link with terrorism is unfortunately common, this is why especially in a laic Europe the religion topic is important to tackle for young people.

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We decided not to stay indifferent to all these debates and to face them and bring our concrete contribution to the general situation.

Religious citizen in laic and non-laic states is an international youth exchange that will bring together in Moselle, young people from France, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Poland and Turkey in order to go deeper into discussions about our religions in order to understand better all our cultural roots and realize, where the cultural similarities and differences come from.

The exchange aims to address the religious diversity and discrimination issues that are becoming increasingly pertinent in European society, and it is especially highlighted with the migrants' crisis. Using interactive and participatory methods, it will deal effectively with general prejudice and discrimination and will provide young people with tools for situations, where religious diversity and discrimination are a concern.

We want to focus and to investigate the roots of every religion, so that to better understand also their way of thinking, that is shaped by the cultural environment, where they grew up in. Religious dialogue and understanding is part of the intercultural education and is sometimes neglected nowadays and is even some taboo.

The partners live in countries where roman catholic, orthodox, muslim, judaist have big place in the society.

Idea is to discuss and debate several important issues that do not exist in the formal systems of education. It will give the participants the chance for individual reflection about beliefs, cultural reflection about role of the religion in their country, connection to tradition, the way it is practiced in their own circles, as well as influence their perception and see them as some intruders or barriers. At the same time, it will encourage the participants to share that reflection in small groups and on plenaries, where they will mix with other young people from different countries. Overall, the participants will also have a chance to interact with and listen to the inputs of experts, who will connect the topic of religion and the intercultural learning. All that methods, used during the exchange will create the situation of common learning and exchange and will provide tools to improve the quality of youth work in home countries of participants. It will help them to acknowledge the topic of religious diversity in their local and international projects, especially there where it might influence inclusion (organizations that work with migrants, minorities, multi ethnic communities). In this way the exchange will create a great chance for the capacity building as it will offer not only reflection, but also tools to approach the topic of diversity in general.

The objectives of the exchange will work for the long-term aim, which is conducting change in the European societies by strengthening the capacities of the young people from 5 different program countries, thus bringing even though small, but still very concrete steps to the improvement of the global situation and will fight xenophobia and promote inclusion.

ACCOMMODATION:

The youth exchange will take place in a middle of nature, in a small village called Loisy, which is close to the city of Metz.

Some pictures from Accommodation:



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in the centre. The help in the kitchen
from the participants.



your **country** can be allowed on the place

If you have some special needs for food (vegetarian, etc.), please, inform us about it beforehand. We can provide you with just **“with/without meat”** vegetarian food, but if you have some very complicated diet, or as a vegetarian you would like to have some special ingredients, we would appreciate if you could **take** the food that you need **with you**.



TRAVEL COST:

We will reimburse to you **100% of all your actual cheap travel costs** for the way go and back within a limit. Confirm us before you book the price of the ticket. It is very important that you keep ALL your travel documents, including the boarding passes, if travelling by plane. You must **give us all your tickets**, including also your return tickets that must be already bought for the moment of the reimbursement (during the youth exchange itself), otherwise if we do not have a ticket, we cannot consider it for the reimbursement. It is very-very important. You must use **the cheapest travel option** that is possible (buses, trains, low cost airlines, etc.)

We will only reimburse you the travel costs if you participate in the WHOLE youth exchange. If you have any questions about the travel costs or financial matters, please contact us before you buy your tickets.

It is very important that you choose the cheapest travelling way that is possible (using low costs airlines). Also, only the flight cost will be reimbursed and no any extras, like extra luggage, priority boardings and so on.

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Logistics:

WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT EACH PARTICIPANT OWNS A TRAVEL INSURANCE FOR THE FULL DURATION OF THE PROJECT WITH TRAVEL DAYS INCLUDED!

Please, make sure also that you have a valid European health card with you.

Security:

Please don't take any big cash amount of money with you. We will live in a commonly shared space and it is your personal responsibility to take care of your own belongings.



FINANCES:

- There is a **participation fee of 40 euros** that will be charged from every participant of the exchange. This fee is obligatory.
- 100% of costs of simple accommodation and basic food are covered by our NGO.
- **The travel costs will not be reimbursed to people who are not taking part of the entire youth exchange or not respecting the rules of the exchange.**

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS:



- Age: 16 - 30 (1 group leader can be above 30)
- 8 participants from each country
Please, try to keep gender balance in your groups
- Erasmus+ is a program which supports disadvantage young people, so we would like to make this project open for these young people with fewer opportunities, so do not hesitate to include people with fewer opportunities into your group! The accommodation is adapted to special needs, so there is no problem with this. If you are thinking or you know there will be people with some handicap in your group, please tell us as soon as possible just to have it in mind! And we will prioritize this people for selection.
- English is our work language but is not obligation. We will have some meetings and discussions, so it will be recommended at least basic knowledge or translation into your groups. Don't be afraid of language! We will find the way to solve it!
- People who is interested in the topic.
- Young people who share the volunteering spirit.
- Young, motivated, nice, cheerful, smiling participants and good mood!!



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YOUTHPASS:



Each participant will receive a YouthPass, which:

- Certificate of non-formal education (you will take part on an educational activity)
- You can include it in your CV and use it for school, university, new job, etc.

In the beginning of the project we will divided participants into a small groups that later will work every evening in the reflection groups where they'll talk about the day, activities, what they have learned, etc. With all these notes, at the end of the Exchange will be a workshop where the participants will work in their own YouthPass

YouthPass will be reached on the end of exchange.

YOU WILL NEED...

- **Sleeping bag**
- Towels and personal things.
- Typical food for **intercultural evening**.



We make intercultural dinner on 1st evening and we make just intercultural dinner on idea to enjoy the specialties from all countries, so we will have just this as a meal.

We want people to bring enough food, eventually food to warm up for their delegations as diverse as possible, and to bring a bit of typical alcohol to taste.

We will provide a nice local table for them from our side.

This is how it will look like if everybody do his job and we will be full of nice food:

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- Poster, leaflets, card, videos, typical music... from your country, region, city.
- Info, presentation, material, stickers... from your organization.
- Warm clothes.
- Camera, laptop and other equipment making life and work easier.
- Ideas, games, ice breakings, dances and folk for your cultural evening.
- Good mood and energy to be active!

If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to contact us!

Join us on Facebook!

See you soon.

