

Info pack

Youth exchange “Tolerance, culture and art”

Dates: 7 September- 15 September 2015

Place: Kazanlak, Bulgaria

Hosting organization summary:

Cultural house “Vazrodna Iskra” was founded in 2000. It is a place where different cultural activities take place. It organizes courses for children, young and adult people: language courses, music, choir singing, folk dances, zumba. Its representatives have won plenty international awards in the field of music and dances. “Vazrodna Iskra” organized the youth exchange “The call of the wild” in August 2013.

Web site: <http://www.vazrodna-iskra.com> (only in Bulgarian)

Contact person: Mariya Slavova, e-mail: m Slavova@ydcma.org, phone: +359 899 307 090



(view of Kazanlak)



(the Thracian tomb, UNESCO world cultural heritage site)

Project summary:

The project “Tolerance, culture and art” is organized by the CULTURAL HOUSE “VAZRODENA ISKRA- 2000”. It is a youth exchange, with participating organizations from Bulgaria, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia, Hungary and Poland. Its main goal is to enhance the generation dialogue and tolerance (between youngsters and the elderly) by getting familiar with other cultures and participation in artistic activities. The project will take place in the town of Kazanlak, famous for its rich historical heritage from Ancient times and Thracian kings. Various activities will be carried out during the exchange. They will be focused particularly on the knowledge and skills which the young people participating in the project will gain through visits to social institutions for elderly people (Centre for elderly people no. 3) and for disabled children (Centre for disabled children).

The main activities will be the following: intercultural evenings, attending historical and cultural landmarks in the context of the project, interactive games, discussions on important topics, debates, music games for self-expression, creative activities for gaining new knowledge and skills in the field of art- drawing, modelling, exhibition with the participant’s works of art, etc. This will demonstrate the unifying power of the meeting with different traditions, the good team work and the activity of the youth in discussing European policies. Together, working in teams, we will search for solution to the aforementioned issues in a non-traditional way.

Location of Kazanlak:



How to reach Kazanlak:

The best way to reach Kazanlak is from Sofia (there is the biggest airport in Bulgaria). From Sofia airport you have to take the metro. The ticket costs 1 lev for a passenger (please take into consideration that passengers with big baggage pay additional ticket for 1 BGN). You have to get off at Central railway station (Централна гара).

Map of Sofia metro:

<http://www.metrosofia.com/images/sofia-metro-lines-may-2015.pdf>

It is possible to catch a taxi. You should walk a little on the right of the exit of the terminal and you will see plenty of taxis there. The most reliable are “OK taxi”. The price to the railway station might be between 10-12 BGN.

There are two options to get to Kazanlak from there: to take a train (recommended) or bus.

By train:

1. Train to Burgas (Бургас) 7:45 (arrives in Kazanlak at 11:17). Ticket costs 11.40 BGN. For groups between 3 and 6 people the ticket for 1 person costs 9.70 BGN.
2. Train to Burgas (Бургас) 13:00 (arrives in Kazanlak at 16:30). Ticket costs 11.40 BGN. For groups between 3 and 6 people the ticket for 1 person costs 9.70 BGN.
3. Train to Burgas (Бургас) 16:30 (arrives in Kazanlak at 19:40). Express train with mandatory seats reservation. Ticket costs 15.40 BGN. For groups between 3 and 6 people the ticket for 1 person costs 13.30 BGN.
4. Train to Varna (Варна) 22:30 (arrives in Kazanlak at 1:49). Ticket costs 11.40 BGN. For groups between 3 and 6 people the ticket for 1 person costs 9.70 BGN.

We don't recommend buying tickets on-line because the on-line reservation system is still subjected to tests.

The website of Bulgarian railways:
<http://www.bdz.bg/en/>

By bus:

The central bus station is located about 50 m from the railway station (warning: there is another small bus station in front of the railway station). You have to search for the ticket desks where they sell tickets to Kazanlak.

10:30 (company: Kumaks/Кумакс). Ticket costs 17 BGN. The duration of the journey is about 3.30 h.

15:00 (the same company)

17:30 (the same company. Instead of a bus, you will travel by a mini bus, so we don't recommend this hour of departure))

The name of **Kazanlak** in Bulgarian is written **Казанлък**. The second “a” is pronounced like “I” in “first”.

Accommodation:

All the participants will be accommodated in a 3-star hotel in the center of Kazanlak, located near the central square. All local landmarks are located within walking distance. The famous Thracian tomb is 15 mins away on foot. The railway station is 5 mins away on foot. Food will be provided by the hosting organization.

Travel expenses:

According to the conditions of the Erasmus + programme, participants in youth exchanges can have their travel expenses reimbursed within the amount given below. The reimbursement covers your departure from your home town (residence) to the place of activities (Kazanlak). You must depart from the country you represent: for example, if you are a representative of Spain, you must depart from Spain.

The reimbursement covers only traveling by plane, train and bus. Money paid for taxi cannot be reimbursed! Please keep all receipts and invoices with you.

Country	Travel expenses covered by the project
---------	--

Poland	170 euro
Portugal	270 euro
Spain	270 euro
Slovenia	170 euro
Hungary	170 euro

Timetable of the activities:

Please check the attached file.

What to prepare for the activities:

- Energizers (each day a different national team will perform them)
- Presentations about good practices of tolerance from your organization or country
- Short movies about the problems of the elderly, disabled people, etc. (you can download them)
- Souvenirs, food and drinks typical of your country (for the intercultural nights)

Other practical advices:

Insurance: We advice every participant to get a European Health Insurance Card, and/or to get an insurance with an insurance company.

Weather: The weather in the beginning of September could be warm. In the past years the temperatures reached 25-30 degrees.

Currency: The currency in Bulgaria is lev (BGN). Its rate to Euro is fixed on 1 Euro = 1.955 BGN.

Language: Bulgarian is a Slavic language. Young people often speak English, but people like drivers, ticket sellers, shop assistants usually do not speak English, so it is good if you learn some useful phrases in Bulgarian (see below).

The alphabet used in Bulgaria is Cyrillic, so it is recommended also to get some knowledge about it.

In case you have any questions, please, let us know trough e-mail: m Slavova@ydcma.org with the subject "Tolerance, culture and art".

Useful phrases in Bulgarian:

Да (da) - yes

Не (ne)- no

Добър ден (dobyр den) – Hello (official)

Добро утро (dobro utro)- Good morning

Лека нощ (leka nosht)- Good night

Здравей/здравейте (zdravey/zdraveyte) – Hello (to 1 person/to more persons)

Довиждане (dovijdane)- Goodbye

Чао (chao)- Bye (informal)

Аз съм от (Az sym ot)- I am from:

-Испания (Ispaniya) Spain

-Полша (Polsha) Poland

-Словения (Sloveniya) Slovenia

-Португалия (Portugaliya) Portugal

-Унгария (Ungariya) Hungary

Извинете (izvinete)- excuse me

Благодаря (blagodarya)- thank you

Моля (molya)- please, you are welcome

Не разбирам (ne razbiram)- I don't understand

Говоря английски- I speak English

Извинете, къде е автогарата/гарата/тоалетната? (izvinete, kyde e avtogarata/garata/toaletnata)- excuse me, where is the bus station/rail station/toilet?

Влак (vlak)- train

Гара (gara)- railway station

Автобус (avtobus)- bus

Автогара (avtogara)- bus station

Един билет/два билета/три билета/четири билета/пет билета до Казанлък (edin bilet/dva bileta/tri bileta/chetiri bileta/pet bileta do Kazanlak)- One/two/three/four/five tickets to Kazanlak

Колко струва това? (Kolko struva tova)- How much is this?

Търся... (tyrsya)- I am looking for...

Additional phrases: http://wikitravel.org/en/Bulgarian_phrasebook