

# **INFO PACK**

for project „ EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY ”



**17 May – 25 May 2021**

**Bansko, Bulgaria**



## **SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT**

We aim not only to provide participants with training and skills, but to foster a sense of initiative, a desire for volunteering and active participation in European civil society, an awareness of the meaning of volunteering as a symbol of solidarity, the importance of European values and a sense of belonging to the European family. In this way, we strive for a long lasting effect by applying and multiplying these attitudes, skills and knowledge - to raise awareness among young people about European topics - what is European citizenship, European values, and by sharing the experience of their peers , to embrace European values and ideas, to realize the true meaning of volunteering as a symbol of solidarity and, above all, to feel proud Europeans. The young people will become aware of volunteering - its benefits for personal and social and community development, its importance to the community, how volunteering help solving certain social issues, will become aware of the volunteering as a core value; the project will encourage their volunteer spirit, desire and motivation to be active in the community through volunteering. Realizing the nature of volunteering, accepting it as a value, encouraging the volunteering spirit, desire and motivation to participate in volunteering activities and initiatives is an outcome we expect, not only from the participants themselves, but also for the target groups of the follow-up activities. Following these, we expect an increase in the number of volunteers for our partner organizations at the local level, as well as subsequently those who wish to become part of the ESC.

### **Main objectives of the project:**

- To encourage understanding of young people of the European Union and European citizenship
- Encourage sense of belonging to the principles of the European Union and its values
- Raising awareness on volunteering benefits for personal and community development
- Embrace volunteering and encourage active participation of young people in civil society
- Introduce young people the opportunities given by Erasmus+ program and European solidarity corps and encourage their participation

## 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 Royal Bansko aparthotel, located in Bansko Bulgaria at the following address: ul. "Kosherinata" 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 17<sup>th</sup> of May) or/and leave later (after 25<sup>th</sup> of May), 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 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2021. On 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2021, 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) . Or in case a transport is missing and the stay should be longer than 2 extra days you can request confirmation from us.**

## **ARRIVAL IN VENUE**

### **How to get to BANSKO?**

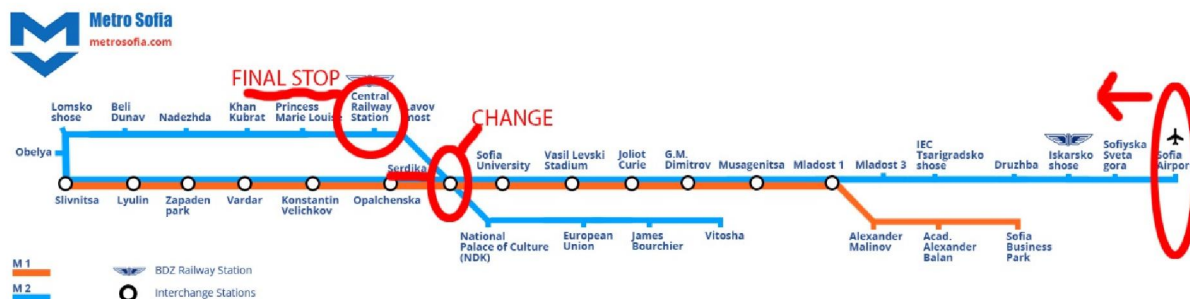
Although there are some different airports, the best option for everybody is to arrive to Sofia. There are several buses leaving everyday from Sofia to Bansko ( the first one is at 07:00am and the last one is at 16:45).



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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:



## If you are arriving at **Sofia airport – Terminal 2**

Once at Terminal 2 of Sofia airport –please go out of the building turn left and go all the way down on the road and you will get to the / subway station of Sofia airport/ 2-3 min walk/ . From there take 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:



## How to get from **Central Bus station** to **Bansko**

Once you arrive at CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION go out of the station and you will see large blue building with sign Central Bus Station. Please see 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**

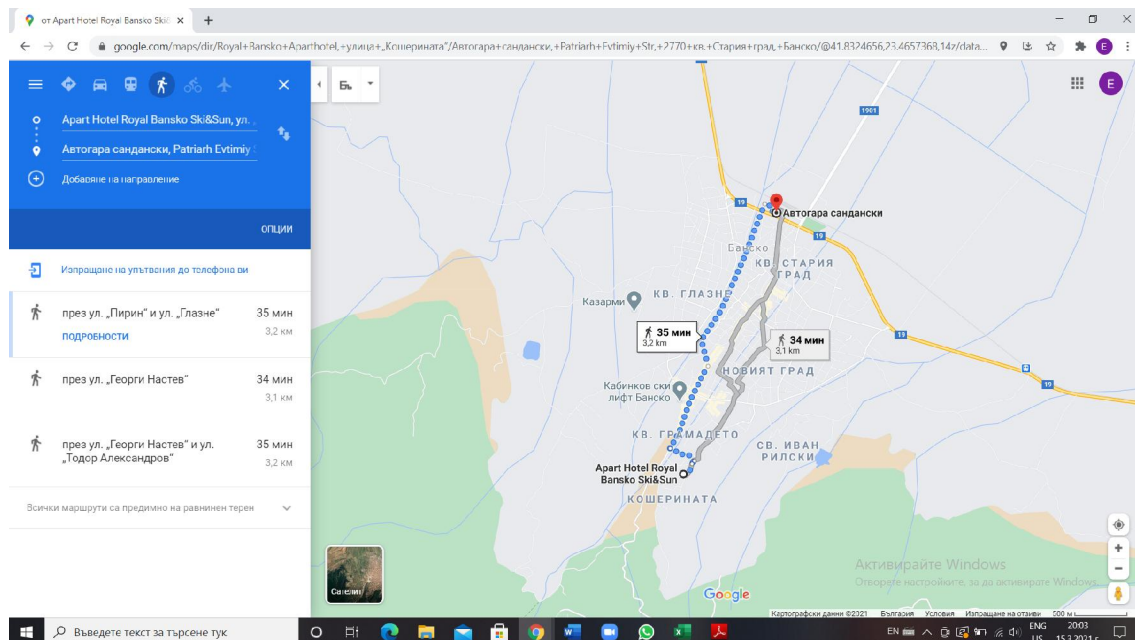
Route	Departing hour	Arrival hour	Price
Basnko - Sofia	05:05	08:05	16 BGN
	06:50	10:20	16 BGN
	12:50	15:50	16 BGN

**From Bansko bus station to Royal Bansko Aparthotel:**

You have two options to get to the hotel.

- 1) Is to take a taxi which you can find just infront 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. **Please know that taxi service can not be reimbursed.**
- 2) You can walk to the hotel





**NB! In any case if we are able to schedule pick up of most/all participants from Sofia we will directly do that and bring them to Bansko.**

## **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**

**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 (extra leg room in the plane, checked in bags and adicional bags and etc)**

Country	Number of participants	Travel cost limits
Bulgaria	6+1 leader	0
Romania	6+1 leader	180
Latvia	6+1 leader	275
Poland	6+1 leader	275
Italy	6+1 leader	275
Spain	6+1 leader	275

**CONTRIBUTION FEE:** There is no contribution fee for the project

**PCR test:** As the project was developed and aimed to be implemented before COVID-19 happened, we did not include any exeptional costs for tests, however we will cover 50 % of the PCR tests related to entering/going out from Bulgaria.

#### **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 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 6 participants +1 leader per country with the following profile:**

- Young people at age 18 – 30
- Interested in the project topic
- 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 20 April 2021 :**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfgp8EFd2zxTmCs12OoKd\\_900EIfR57HyXC2cIKyE\\_yLKjC5A/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&gxids=7628](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfgp8EFd2zxTmCs12OoKd_900EIfR57HyXC2cIKyE_yLKjC5A/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&gxids=7628)

## C O N T A C T S



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