

IT STARTS WITH YOU.



Eco Energy

**Training course
for youth workers**

21.8 - 30.8 2023 SREDNOGOROVO, BULGARIA

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Participants & Timing

Participants can be from all countries members of the EU, 18+, youth workers.

The project will be implemented from: 21.08.23 (arrival day) - 30.08.23 (departure day). The participants will be accommodated in the eco-centre in Srednogorovo (13 kilometres away from the city of Kazanlak) and a guest house in the village.



Hosting organization

“Youth Development Center-Mutual Aid” (YDCMA) organization was founded in 2004. The main goal of the organization is to support the development of young people and their physical, creative and spiritual qualities to be good citizens of Bulgaria and Europe.

For more information visit the website <http://theyouth.info/>

**YDCMA
Bulgaria**



**Co-funded by
the European Union**





Project details:

Environmental problems in Europe today are not to be ignored, despite all attempts to solve them through various initiatives at the European and national level. This training project aims to give participants particular and practical knowledge on how to organize eco-campaigns and collaborate with local authorities to find the right solutions. Participants will share their experience not only in organizing eco initiatives, but also how they work with local youth, as well as how they contact local and central authorities (e.g. Municipality, Ministry).

The main topics of this training course are: recycling, composting, separate waste collection, eco education, contact with the institutions, eco policy. Through various role-playing games, presentations, making short video films, and other informal methods, participants will develop their organizational and social skills, as well as understand more about planning, preparing and implementing eco-initiatives and campaigns.

During the project itself, we will base our activities on the "zero waste" philosophy - this is how we will show in practice that we think about nature.

Activities will be based on the principles of sustainability and diversity, as well as non-formal and informal learning. It is very important that the participants are active and share their experience and knowledge. The task of the organizers is to provide trainers-experts on the given topics.



Eco center Green Europe

The organization started to create, the Eco festival at dam lake Koprinka in 2011. After that we move it back to Kazanlak and the village of Koprinka and Srednogorovo. The festival itself was inspired by two volunteers - one from the "Peace Corps" and the second one from Lithuania by EVS program, as a part of the project called "Ecology development" (2011) and continued till today. In order to continue and develop, sustainable and environmental ideas, the organization constructed creating an eco-centre. There we can show, various techniques like an environmentally friendly lifestyle. It will include a lot of demonstrations, workshops, and good practices, in front of kids from the locals in order to build, an ecological way of thinking for the future generation.

The eco center is located in the beautiful village of Srednogorovo near the town of Kazanlak

About Kazanlak

And also, you have to know as "Kanzas" city and Valley of Roses lie down in the geographical centre of Bulgaria, 200 km east of Sofia and 108 km northeast of Plovdiv.



**The beautiful majesty of the Balkan mountains
combines with the fertility of the Tundzha river
valley.**



Damask Rose is one of the most important natural treasures in the region. Kazanlak, the main center for the production of the Bulgarian rose oil (85% of world's total), is famous worldwide thanks to this traditional activity that is several centuries long. Rose-picking lasts for about a month (from May 20 to June 20, depending on weather conditions) and it is part of the popular Rose Festival.

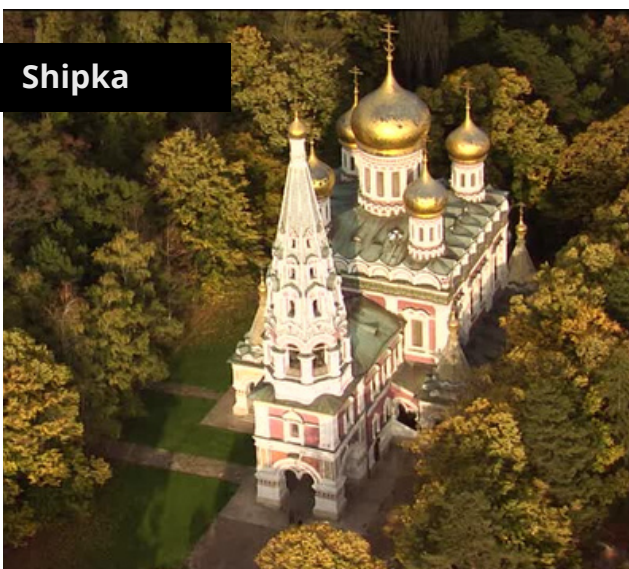


Buzludzha

Kazanlak is among the 15 biggest industrial centers of Bulgaria, also called as city of guns and roses for the Arsenal weapon factory, one of the main employers in the region. The population is around 46.000 people (2016).

Accommodation

The participants will be accommodated in the eco-centre in the village of Srednogorovo (13 kilometres away from the city of Kazanlak) and in guest house in the village. There will be not more than 4 people in a room



Shipka

Travel costs

Participants in training for youth workers can have their travel expenses reimbursed according to Erasmus + travel calculator:

<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/distance-calculator>

Money

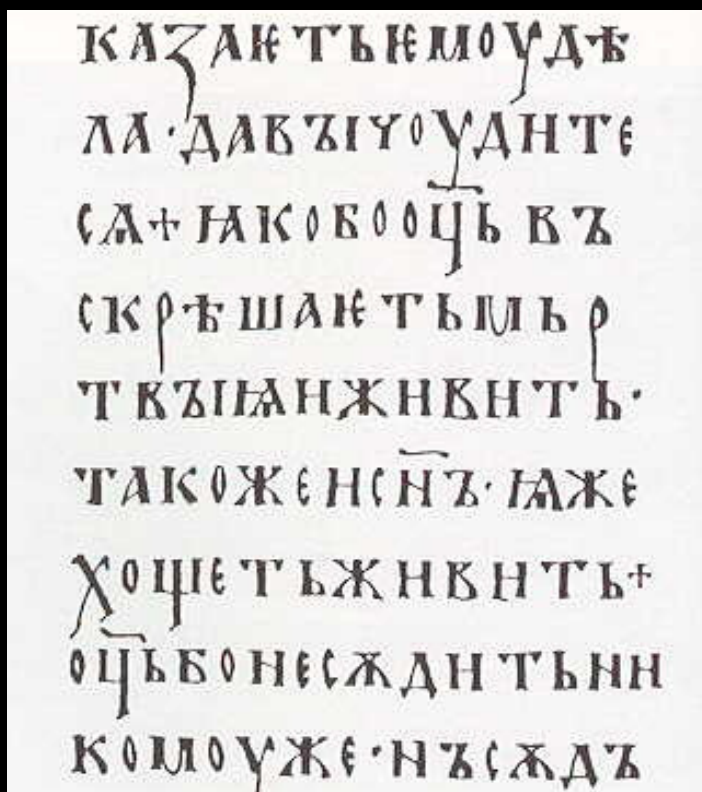
The reimbursement covers only travelling by plane, train and bus metro... The money paid for a taxi cannot be reimbursed! Please keep all receipts and invoices with you.

IMPORTANT: You will get your reimbursement after WE HAVE RECEIVED all your travel documents.

Useful info

Bulgarian is the official language in the country. The alphabet is the Cyrillic **so you need to get familiar with it prior to your arrival**. You can also remember some important phrases which will be useful. Of course, most young people speak English, at least at a basic level, but keep in mind that people above 40 years old probably will not be able to communicate with you in English, including officers at the ticket desks of train/bus station as well as drivers.

A curious custom: You should be careful when you ask people about the way or something else, because **Bulgarians nod their head for "no", and shake their head for "yes", in contrast with the other parts of Europe.**



Yes



No

How to reach Kazanlak

If you don't have BGN (1 EUR is 2 BGN +/- 0.05), take at least 50 leva from the bank machine (ATM) at the airport because you need money for the transport.

1) From Sofia Airport to the city centre

- Please keep in mind that only Terminal 2 (the newer and bigger one) is connected to the metro line. From Terminal 1 you should take a bus to the city centre or the free airport shuttle to Terminal 2.
- A single ticket in Sofia costs around 2 BGN for one trip, for more info :
<https://www.sofiatraffic.bg/en/common>

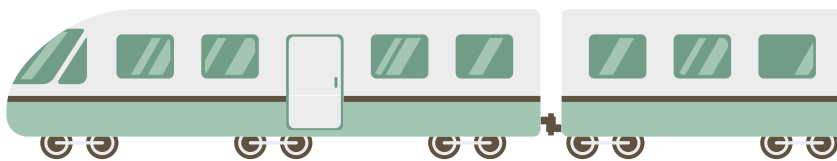


2) From Sofia to Kazanlak

A train is a better option. It travels around 3.30 h and is cheaper. A bus will take you to Kazanlak within 4 hours and the tickets would be almost double as expensive. More info:

<https://www.bdz.bg/en>

<https://www.centralnaavtogara.bg/>



We will take you from Kazanlak central bus station or train station. Please send me a text message (WhatsApp, Viber, FB Messenger) when you are on the bus/train with your arrival time in Kazanlak

Contact Maria Slavova:
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**We look forward to
seeing you!**