

I AM A LEADER!

DISCOVER EUROPE INCLUSION ACTION

NEWS LETTER



Erasmus+



Co-funded by
the European Union



YOUTH ON BOARD

Brings you along on the amazing 7-day train journey across 4 countries of Europe!



THROUGH ERASMUS+

And the Inclusion Action, this project aimed to equip young people with leadership abilities and professional skills, while giving a unique opportunity to explore parts of Europe using trains as way of GREEN TRANSPORT.

Dare to be different!





WHO WE ARE:



YOUTH
on
BOARD



Youth on board is a youth-driven non-profit organization, striving to promote youth development and empowerment through philanthropy. Run by youths, for youths, we plan and execute events to show the impact one can make in the community while encouraging the act of giving back.

I AM A LEADER

ROUTE:

Shtip - Sofia
- 1 night in Sofia -

Sofia - Budapest
- 2 nights in Budapest -

Budapest - Vienna
- 2 nights in Vienna -

Vienna - Ljubljana
- 1 night in Ljubljana -

Ljubljana - Skopje



ABOUT

THE PROJECT

Through “I Am a Leader”, Youth on Board aims to equip participants with essential leadership skills in addition to soft skills such as time management, teamwork, communication, public speaking, etc. With this action we will provide participants with these skills while offering them a once in a lifetime opportunity to travel across Europe, plan their routes, meet new people, experience new cultures and see new places.

OBJECTIVES

GREEN TRAVEL

The main objective of this project, aside from providing participants with leadership abilities and soft skills, is to promote GREEN TRAVEL using Europe’s railway system. Each day hundreds of planes pass over our skies polluting our air. Through train travel carbon emission is lowered.

Another key objective is promoting youth interconnectedness across Europe. What is a better way of doing this than travel? Through the project participants will engage with different cultures, traditions, types of people with diverse backgrounds, try different cuisines and drinks. This will enrich the youth’s cultural awareness raising inclusivity.

Where do we start!?

26-27.11



FIRST STOP

Gorna Oryahovitsa

The group began their journey on 26th of November early in the night. They started from Shtip and rode till Sofia, where they caught their first train to Gorna Oryahovitsa.

Here they enjoyed a traditional Bulgarian meal while gathered together with locals who took them in. They had story times with the locals and learned about the towns history, importance and got to know Bulgarian culture.



Storytelling



- the town dates back to the 5th millennium;
- it is crucial for sugar production in Bulgaria;
- They have 10+ cultural festivals per year;
- We have the same religion (St, Atanas, St, Georgi, St Troica, St. Nikola) ;
- Famous Hut Bojur;

what they learned



TESTIMONIALS



What **Ivo Ivanovski**
had to say:

“The past two days have been filled with adventure, and fun and i will never forget them. In the beginning of our travel we had very big delays due to the snow, but we managed to find a solution. That snow that we celebrated at first taught me persistence, patience, rational thinking and that people are willing to help.”

After the first days



What **Sara Dimitrova**
had to say:

“Our journey started on Sunday, when we all headed for new adventures and challenges, but the snow changed our plans so we had to think of alternatives. From the very beginning, we started to think rationally, cooperate as a team and solve the problems that arose. From the whole situation, I learned to be patient and cooperate as a team. All united together, we overcame the obstacles and arrived in Budapest. Here the atmosphere is wonderful, everywhere smells of croissants and coffee, and we went to explore this beautiful city.”



The second leg of the journey

• Budapest!

27 - 29.11



SECOND STOP

What is the goal?

The goal behind the implementation of this project is to help youngsters develop as leaders while traveling Europe. For Budapest, the objective of the group as investigators was to talk with locals and find out more about Hungarian history and culture. As each person took a turn, they formed opinions, shared thoughts and gained new knowledge. Together they developed as a group and laid the foundations for their leadership journey as they all took an initiative to talk, investigate, plan and gather facts.



Tome asked about the Parliament:

- The architect went blind before its completion;
- 100.000 people were involved in construction;
- It has different symbolism depending from view;

Sara found out about Fisherman's Bastion: 

- It is not that old;
- Each tower is a different Magyar tribe;
- Name comes from fisherman legend;

Stefanija learned the tragic legend behind the shoes on the Danube river. **Liljana** learned that the Chain Bridge was destroyed and rebuilt in 1949!

Ivo learned about the historical importance of Buda Castle, as one of the most famous UNESCO protected sites and once home to the royal family.

Group investigation



TESTIMONIALS



What **Liljana Miteva** had to say:

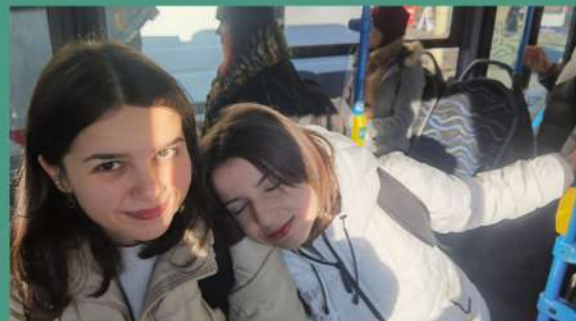
After three days



“After we arrived and settled in the apartment, we immediately went to explore Budapest. The nightlife is very interesting, there are parties, music and playful people at every turn.

We started the day with coffee and croissants, planning the day and the places we want to visit Budapest, the capital of Hungary, is a city with a rich history and culture. From magnificent architecture to a romantic riverside walk, Budapest offers a variety of visitor experiences. With its cultural mosaic and picturesque landscapes, Budapest is a city that combines the past and the present, making the visitor feel like a part of it, a postcard that everyone will enjoy.

After hours of walking and exploring, we returned to the center and decided to ride the trolley that has a beautiful view of the whole city.”





**THIRD
STOP**



THE THIRD CHECKPOINT VIENNA



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

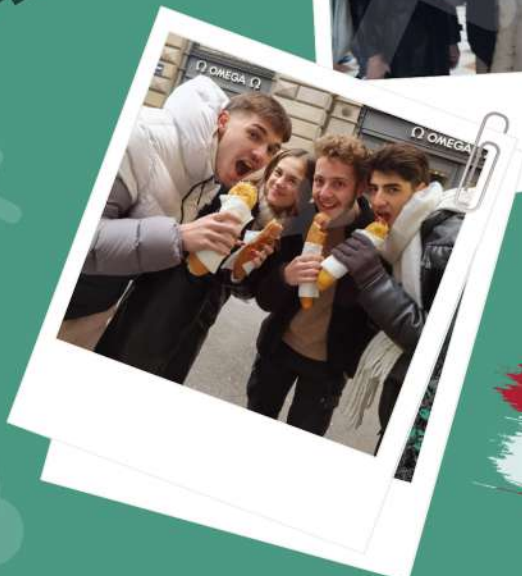
The three day stay in Vienna predicted an agenda filled with cultural enrichment through visiting museums, heritage sites, cultural places, etc., while training crucial skills such as communication, planning, coordination and learning to be open-minded, to engage in new cultures, have new experiences and meet new people.



**Individual
investigation**



Vienna put our participants in the roles of individual investigators. They go the task to separate from the group and individually find interesting facts about certain cultural places by asking locals. Through this they developed their sense of individuality, leadership and communication



29-01.12



SchonnBrunn Palace (Ivo's journey)

*It was initially a hunting lodge;
Birthplace of queen Marie Antoinette;
It has 1,441 rooms and 41 are open;
Translated it means "beautiful well";*

Belvedere Palace (Stefanija's journey)

*Almost destroyed by WWII bombings;
Showcases the best of Austrian art;
Summer Home of Prince Eugene;
Eugene's niece refused the Palace;*

St. Stephen's Cathedral (Liljana's journey)

*It is inspired by gothic architecture;
Was burned in the Battle of Vienna in
April 1945 and then reconstructed;
Most popular tourist place in Vienna;*



What they found!




Hofburg (Tome's journey)

*It is a complex of buildings in the
center that was formerly a palace;
The oldest part is the Swiss Wing and
it belonged to Duke Albert;*

Museum Quartier (Sara's journey)

*It is a huge area in Vienna that has a
mix of modern and Baroque
architecture;
It is a home to hundreds of museums;*

TESTIMONIALS




“Vienna captured my heart! St. Stephen's Cathedral, the imperial splendor of Belvedere and Hofburg palaces, and the enchanting Schonbrunn Palace with its lush gardens and exquisite interiors created a symphony for my senses. Each corner echoed the charm of the past, immersing me in a historical novel. The Museum Quartier served as a cultural oasis, blending contemporary art with a vibrant atmosphere, showcasing Vienna's rich artistic scene. The Natural History Museum was a treasure trove of wonders, leaving me in awe of our planet's history. Vienna, you seamlessly blend tradition with modernity, captivating my heart at every turn.”



What **Stefaniya Delizhova** had to say:



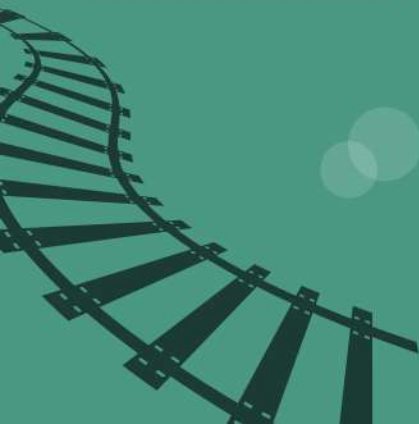
After five days



“My trip to Vienna was a breathtaking experience, filled with awe-inspiring history and cultural gems. St. Stephen's Cathedral, with its towering spires, was a standout architectural masterpiece. Exploring the city took me back to the opulent Habsburg dynasty era, showcased by the grandiose palaces like Belvedere and Hofburg. Schonbrunn Palace offered a peaceful retreat with its manicured gardens and regal interiors. The Museum Quartier delighted my senses with its mix of contemporary art and cultural exploration. Vienna's commitment to preserving heritage and fostering expression was evident at the Natural History Museum.”



What **Tome Filov** had to say:





The final destination

**FOURTH
STOP**

Ljubljana



**Peer to Peer
Learning**



The group spent their last days in the beautiful Ljubljana. They got settled into their last accommodation and blended into the enormous crowd that filled the streets to view the lighting of the Christmas lights.

For this last part of the journey the youngsters engaged in peer to peer learning through conversing with local youth and Macedonian students in Ljubljana. Individually they all sat down with a counter-part to share their experience so far, what they learned, how they have grown as a leader and their thoughts on the countries visited. Through this, engaging in dialogue with peers to learn from each other and get feedback.

**ACHIEVING
THE GOAL**

What they had to say:

01-02.12

Stefanija "For me, it is a transformative tool that fosters cultural awareness through shared experiences, creating dialogues about collective growth."

Tome "In my view, peer-to-peer learning is an opportunity to challenge biases, encouraging self-reflection and fostering active listening."

Sara "I believe in the potential of peer-to-peer learning, advocating for inclusive spaces where individuals can share insights and skills to create a supportive environment for mutual growth and learning."

Ivo "I am passionate about the promoting peer-to-peer learning, where the exchange of knowledge creates a community-driven environment, enriching our collective understanding."

Liljana "Peer-to-peer learning serves as a tool for self-observation and introspection, providing a platform for individuals to learn not only from others but also about themselves."



TESTIMONIALS



“Our brief two-day journey to Ljubljana was nothing short of extraordinary, and I couldn't have asked for a more delightful experience as the group leader. Ljubljana, with its charming ambiance, cast its enchantment upon us from the moment we set foot in the city. This entire 7-day journey across Europe has been a once in a life time experience, taking me from the lowest of lows to experiences bliss with an amazing group of people and in a train as the cherry on top. Together we got to visit breathtaking cities, explore new culture, develop our leadership abilities, gain new soft skills and just find a way to be ourselves. As a group leader, witnessing the shared enthusiasm and camaraderie among our travelers made this trip truly memorable. Ljubljana, you've earned a special place in our collective travel memories!”

After seven days



Thank you for the attention!

If you are interested to find out more follow our social media:



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YOUTH
on
BOARD



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