

## “RURAL emPOWER” Youth Exchange

Gyulagarak, Armenia

November 7-17<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### Practical Information

#### WELCOME

It is our pleasure to host you in Gyulagarak, Armenia for this great event. Let us share some more important information with you now regarding this meeting. We will do our best to make your stay as comfortable as possible.

To make this event a very successful and enjoyable experience for all of you and for us as well, we have compiled this information guide. Here you can find all important information needed for your preparation.

#### PROJECT SUMMARY

**European Ways NGO (Germany) and Youth and Community Action Club NGO (Armenia)** together with its partners initiates “**RURAL emPOWER**” **youth exchange** project which addresses the issues that the rural youth face in Europe. Rural youth encounter many difficulties to have fair access to education threaten their future seriously as they don’t have many possibilities to get a training (both academic and non-academic) in their region due to financial problems and lack of transport, which prevent them from attending higher education. Young people are forced to choose among some occupations that still exist and enter into a hard struggle of competition among themselves.

The lack of information, skills and competences makes rural youth indifferent towards rural issues. Rural young people don’t realize that they have leadership potential and they can make themselves, peers and communities POWERFUL. This is a fertile ground of absenteeism which can promote frustration and cause migration.

The mentioned problems are everywhere in the world, nearly all the European countries and it is more obvious in the developing countries where day-by-day the rural areas are getting emptier. It is crucial to empower rural youth to create more opportunities for themselves, develop their skills and get involved in the social, economic and political (decision making) life of their communities.

This is the main reason we have developed this mobility for young people. It aims to make young people from rural areas feel POWER for change, through taking a lead in the development process and exploring the benefits of active citizenship and social transformation at local level.

## OBJECTIVES

- To empower young people from rural areas to become mediators/initiative takers of the community projects on rural youth empowerment, community development, youth participation and active citizenship
- To create a friendly environment and open space for rural young people for self-assessment by exploring their leadership potential, enhancing self-confidence and developing project management skills through trainings and coaching
- To promote the importance of the role of young people in rural development and social, economic and political life by sharing the good practices in Europe
- To promote social entrepreneurship among young people from rural areas as a tool for social, economic empowerment of youth and communities
- To redirect young people and youth organization on the rural youth issues and rural empowerment
- To guide young people to prepare rural youth development “project packages”/share best project examples directed to rural youth empowerment and social changes
- To ensure the sustainability and multiplication of project outcomes by creating a network of organizations working with rural youth, PR agencies and potential donors of start-ups to foster rural young people's social, economic and political empowerment

## PARTICIPANTS PROFILE

The target group consists of 42, mainly 18-25 y.o young people. To make the project targeted and to provide territorial representativeness, 7 countries has been selected: Germany, Spain, Italy, Slovakia from the EU and Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine from the EaP region.

**The activity is open both for experienced participants and newcomers in the topic. Please, fill this short application out.**

**[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdU5rHhIVrZEKRfP36tNVtqnJh7qifiXGNqwYPYD\\_9O\\_XuMJg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdU5rHhIVrZEKRfP36tNVtqnJh7qifiXGNqwYPYD_9O_XuMJg/viewform)**

Partner country	Partner organization	Number of Participants
<b>Germany (applicant)</b>	European Ways e.V	5 Participant + 1 Leader
<b>Armenia (host)</b>	Youth and Community Action Club NGO	5 Participant + 1 Leader
<b>Ukraine</b>	"Generation of changes" NGO	5 Participant + 1 Leader
<b>Georgia</b>	LightUP	5 Participant + 1 Leader
<b>Italy</b>	Identities	5 Participant + 1 Leader
<b>Spain</b>	Ticket2Europe	5 Participant + 1 Leader
<b>Slovakia</b>	Youth for Equality	5 Participant + 1 Leader

**AGE limit for Group Leaders: NO Age Limit / AGE limit for participants: From 18 - Till 25**

## PREPERATION OF PARTICIPANTS

\*Bring success stories from their experiences. It can be a successful project related to the rural youth and/or personal accomplishments which will be motivational for the others.

\*Bring warmer clothes as far as we are going to be in the mountains

\*Don't expect to find pubs, restaurants, clubs and shopping malls in the activity vanue. We will mainly be in a rural community and have fun there. 😊

\*Be ready to present your organiations during the NGO Fair.

\*All participants should be ready to present their countries during the intercultural evenings.

***Feel free to bring traditional music, dances, food and drink.***

***IMPORTANT! We encourage not to use video/photo & PowerPoint presentation***

## CONDITIONS

Youth Exchange will be implemented in the frame of the ERASMUS+ Programme. Accommodation, living, working materials & other project (Youth Exchange) related expenses will be funded 100% by the European Commission, except the travel costs (see below).

**NOTICE!!! Health and travel insurance need to be covered by the participants**

### **TRAVEL COST LIMITS BY COUNTRY**

Travel (flights, other means of transport) expenses are compensated (up to 100%), based on the distance from location of organisation to the location of the project. These distances must be calculated using the distance calculator supported by the European Commission.

<b>20€</b>	<b><i>Per Participant from ARMENIA</i></b>
<b>180€</b>	<b><i>Per Participant from GEORGIA</i></b>
<b>275€</b>	<b><i>Per Participant from UKRAINE</i></b>
<b>360€</b>	<b><i>Per Participant from GERMANY,SLOVAKIA,ITALY</i></b>
<b>820€</b>	<b><i>Per Participant from SPAIN</i></b>

## TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

**Participants are requested to have all tickets for round trip!**

We will need few important documents for your travel reimbursement:

1. Boarding pass (Plane)
2. E-ticket (Plane)
3. Any other kind of tickets, bills & payment proof, which you will receive during the travel.
4. Payment proof (from card history) for the PLANE ticket & for every ticket purchased online.

a) If you pay by CASH - we will need ORIGINAL INVOICE from company with STAMP & SIGNATURE.

b) If you pay by CARD - we will need PRINT FROM CARD HISTORY (From i-Banking).

**Travel reimbursement for ALL COUNTRIES will be done by BANK transfer approximately in 1 month after the activity, based on full travel documents from all the Groups and participants.**

## ACCOMMODATION & FOOD

Activity will be held in Gyulagarak which is a rural community 10km away from the nearest big town Stepanavan. The venue perfectly fits with the topic of the youth exchange, the air is really fresh and the mountainous view is really breathtaking. The participants will be accommodated in the comfortable rooms of the Grig Eco House Resort (<https://www.booking.com/hotel/am/grig-house-eco-resort.en-gb.html>). There will be 2-3 participants in one room with same Gender and different nationalities. The organizers will provide participants with 3 times meal per day & two Coffee breaks. **We strongly recommend you to inform the organisers about any special needs of participants such as special diet (i.e. vegetarian, gluten free etc.) or other.**

## WEATHER AND TIME

The weather in Armenia in November is cooler. As far as we are going to be in the mountainous area it is going to be a bit colder than in Yerevan or Ararat valley. Check the weather forecast out (<https://www.accuweather.com/en/am/gyulagarak/12303/month/12303?monyr=11/01/2017>) in Gyulagarak before you come. It is going to be 10°C during the day and in some days we will have -1°C at night. Please, bring warmer clothes with you. ☺ BTW, Armenia is in UTC + 4 hours time zone.

## CURRENCY

The currency of Armenia is Armenian dram (AMD). There are a lot of exchanges in big cities, but it will be difficult to exchange money in Gyulagarak. So, we encourage you to exchange your money in a bigger city before you arrive to the activity venue. You should bring with you either EURO, USD or RUR. You can check the rate in <http://www.rate.am/>.

## TRANSPORT DETAILS

Participants have several possibilities to arrive in Armenia. You can fly to Yerevan Zvartnots Airport or Tbilisi airport (this is cheaper) and take a minibus to Stepanavan or taxi to Gyulagarak. Gyulagarak is 166km away from Tbilisi and 130km from Yerevan. The ticket of the minibus from Tbilisi to Stepanavan almost will be the same price as the taxi so we recommend you to take a shared taxi. If you have any trouble finding good taxis we can help you out with that, but we cannot organize your pick up from Tbilisi airport. Instead, we can pick you up from Stepanavan and take to Gyulagarak.

The minibuses from Yerevan (Kilikia Bus Station) to Stepanavan cost 1500AMD, but they only work during the day. You can take a shared taxi which will cost approximately 10EURO per person. Make sure you bargain about the price and take the bills in order to get reimbursed. It is very hard to find a taxi which provides receipts, but contact us and we will recommend you good taxi services.

If we can get the whole group arrive in Yerevan during the day we will organize your transportation from Yerevan to Gyulagarak.

From Zvartnots airport to Yerevan city center you can get by bus which costs 300AMD or by taxi which will cost 2000-2500AMD (don't pay more than this).

If you need any assistance, please contact us beforehand and we will try to find solutions.

We kindly ask everyone to go to this link and fill it out when you already have your tickets [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1OHU6yjd\\_YUOJL\\_QzQbvlrxirCacQeqLmtatvfvf\\_K38s/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1OHU6yjd_YUOJL_QzQbvlrxirCacQeqLmtatvfvf_K38s/edit?usp=sharing)

**! Please note that if some participants will stay longer for holiday reasons, organisers will not provide them with transportation to/from the airport.**

## VISA ARRANGEMENTS

Participants with passport of EU states, Ukraine, Georgia do not need VISA to enter the territory of Armenia. You will need to have only a **Valid for next 6 month & not Damaged international Passport.**

**IMPORTANT: check the validity of your passports before the departure.**

**If you have any question don't hesitate to contact us!**

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