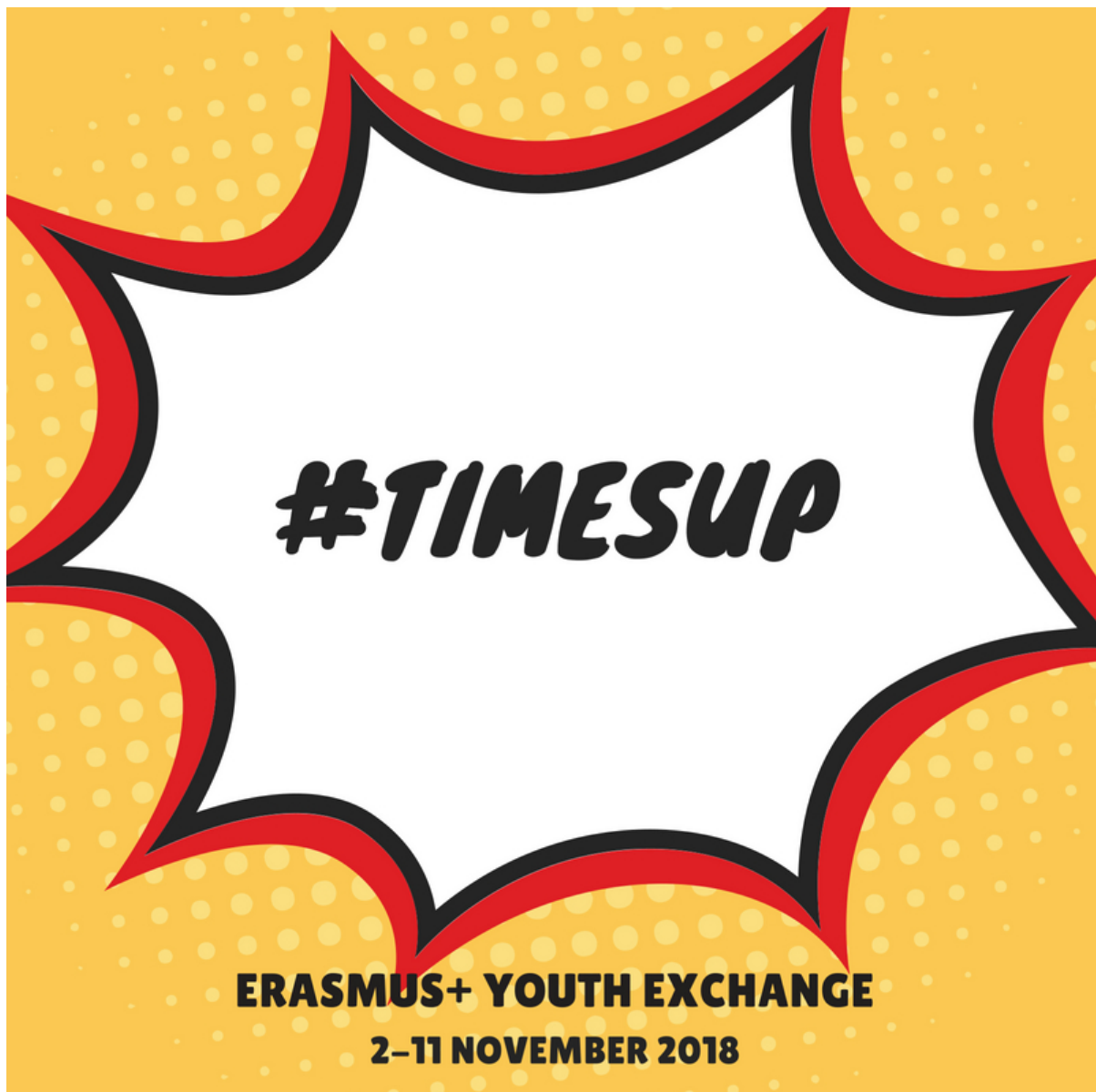

#timesup

Youth Exchange, Zadar 2-11 November 2018



Introduction to Youth Exchange

In the last year the world has been rocked by scandals of sexual harassment against women, which even reached the White House. Discrimination against women is nothing new, what is new is that women are fighting back through social movements like #timesup and #metoo. At the same time, conservative counter revolution in Eastern Europe is trying to roll back women's rights, especially abortion, as well as fighting against adopting Istanbul Convention for the protection of women and children from violence.

LGBTI people are fighting for equality and they have come a long way in the last few decades in Western and Northern Europe but their progress has been much slower in Eastern Europe. Often a threat to the traditional family by same-sex marriages is highlighted as the main opposition point by the conservatives yet traditional marriages are in crises in Europe - far more people get divorced, far more opt for cohabitation and civil partnerships and there is a rise of single-parent families.

These are all very important issues that interest young people, but in many societies sexuality and gender are taboos and is not being taught well in schools. This is why young people decided to organize this YE.

This youth exchange will gather 42 participants from Croatia, Spain, Denmark, Turkey, Georgia, Armenia, Serbia and Ukraine. **Croatia and Serbia have 6 participants while Armenia, Georgia, Turkey, Ukraine and Denmark have 5 participants, all including youth leaders.**

At this youth exchange the participants will learn about the following topics:

- gender roles and gender discrimination
- social views of sex and sexuality
- sexual and gender minorities (LGBTI)
- responsible sexual behaviour, including contraception and consent
- domestic violence
- marriage and alternative forms of family

Aims and Objectives

Last year has seen the rise of a #metoo movement, which has highlighted discrimination and violence against women. Even though it would be favorable if this is a phenomenon reserved for a handful of very rich and powerful men, the truth is that sexual harassment and discrimination is widespread in society. One of the reasons is the lack of good sexual education. Many people grow up with wrong ideas of what is a respectful way of treating people you are attracted to, including your partners, which results in acts of sexual harassment and violence in family and relationships. The goal of this project is that young people learn how to respect your sexual and love partner, irrespective of their gender or sexual orientation. The project idea was created by Croatian, Serbian and Danish young people during Beauty Lies in Diversity YE in Portugal, where they learned about stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination and now they want to focus on how it relates to concepts of sexuality and gender.

Objectives:

- create understanding of respectful way of treating women and LGBTI people

Our societies are dominated by heterosexual and cisgender men. Throughout history men were thought that they were superior to women and women were thought to accept it without complaining. At the same time, until a few decades ago much of Europe was criminalizing LGBTI people. Even though we have come a long way in creating a more equal society, we are a long way from full equality, which can be evidenced by women earning less than men, having lower employment rates (even though they are more educated than men) and similar. Young people will critically think about gender roles, stereotypes and prejudice against women, LGBTI but also against men. As a result they will treat women and LGBTI people better, which will reduce discrimination against these groups.

- reduce violence in relationships

In many countries violence against women is widespread and often the culprit is their husband or boyfriend. However, it would be wrong to assume that this is the only type of violence in relationships, it is just the most common. Violence exists in same-sex relationships between both men and women and less often of women against men. In relationships there is often a more dominant partner - stronger, more successful - and the problem is when this person misuses his/her position to bully its partner. Young people will learn about root causes of this behaviour - gender roles, entitlement - how to recognize this type of behaviour and how to avoid it in their own relationship.

- learn about responsible sexual behaviour

For too long responsible sexual orientation was reduced to using contraception. This is still an important issue, but in this YE young people will also focus on the issue of consent (no means no!), porn addiction and taking and sharing nude photos of themselves and of their partner. Rape sometimes happens because the perpetrator does not consider his action to be rape - e.g. having sex with a partner who likes you, but is momentarily not able to give consent (e.g. too much alcohol). At the same time, some youth is very careless about protecting their privacy and sometimes their sexual lives end up on social media or on websites (so called kitty porn). Young people will learn how to protect themselves from these situations.

- learn about different cultural perspectives of sex and romantic relationships

There are different views of what sexual relations should be about how should a harmonious relationship between partners should look like (be it between a man and a woman or between same sex couples). Young people will learn about religious and liberal views of sex but also that sexual activity and relationships are viewed differently in different cultures. They will investigate the reasons why some activities are considered "normal" in one country but "immoral" in another country. In this way they will become more critical of their own culture and more inclined to accept other and different viewpoints.



People's Square, Zadar

Youth Exchange Structure

Day 1 will be devoted to getting to know each other and creating a positive and healthy group atmosphere. Since the topic of the YE is very personal and a taboo in many societies, we will devote a bit more time to get the participants to trust each other and feel more comfortable sharing their personal stories and experiences.

On Day 2 we will discuss gender. We will start with more general discussions about gender, discrimination and privilege and we will finish the day with a workshop based on personal reflection of how participants have experienced privilege and discrimination in their lives based on their gender. We have chosen gender to be on Day 2 because the topic is still less controversial so participants still have time to build trust between them before we move to Day 3 and a far more controversial topic of sexuality. On this day we will focus on different views of human sexuality and on LGBTI people (sexual and gender minorities) and how they are discriminated.

Day 4 and 5 will be devoted to responsible sexual behaviour. We will start with the issue of how sexual education in school or lack of it informs young people's opinions of what is acceptable behaviour with their lovers. We will focus specifically on issues of consent for sexual intercourse, contraception, STDs and pornography.

On Day 6 we will move to less taboo topic of relationships. After learning about gender roles and sexuality we will explore how good relationships can be built. We will compare different types of relationships - old formal ones like marriages and new and less formal ones like cohabitation.

Day 7 and 8 will be devoted to creating the final outputs of the YE (videos, posters and publication). This will be the opportunity for participants to sum up what they learned into messages and express them through video or poster.

Type of learning promoted will be non-formal learning and self-directed learning. In self-directed learning the youth leaders create the structure while the participants provide context. In self-directed learning participants take initiative and responsibility for learning, they select, manage, and assess their own learning activities, which gives the participants independence in setting goals and defining what is worthwhile to learn. It is an environment in which motivation and volition are critical and where youth leaders provide scaffolding, mentoring, advising, while peers provide collaboration. The characteristics of non-formal learning include:

- No fixed structure
- Relevance to the needs of disadvantaged groups

- A focus on clearly defined purposes
- Flexibility in organization and methods.

The methods used during the YE will be in accordance with the type of learning and will be based on group work and peer learning, feedback and active participation. Among the methods we plan to use are: personal reflection (river of privilege), story telling (Abigail's story), practical demonstration (how to use contraception), discussing examples (tricky situations regarding consent for sexual intercourse) and creative workshops of creating videos and posters. We also plan to use energizers, name games, ice breakers, group building games, group discussion and peer learning.

The methods are appropriate for the participants because they give them an opportunity to teach each other what they know from their own personal experience. Also, the methods encourage young people to be creative - when they create videos, posters and publication. The methods will enable them to learn more about their countries (e.g. sexual education and LGBTI rights in partner countries) but also to learn things they did not know while preparing for this YE (many different forms of contraception).



Saint Donatus Church, Zadar

Hosting Organization

Platypus is an NGO which strives to create a more equal, tolerant and inclusive society. Its main focus is on particularly marginalized and vulnerable groups, above all LGBTI and refugees/asylum seekers/migrants. These two groups were selected as priorities because our treatment of these groups will decide how will Croatia look like in the future - more like Sweden or more like Viktor Orbán's Hungary. Platypus has been established by a group of young people and youth workers with a long history of volunteering and social activism in LGBTI and human rights organizations. Platypus was set up because of the dissatisfaction with the work of other LGBTI organizations. Platypus sees LGBTI people as complex individuals who are not defined only by their sexuality and gender identity. Instead, these are curious beings who wish to explore many other interests and passions. Platypus' goal is to set up activities where LGBTI youth can explore ecology, religion, arts and other areas not related to LGBTI issues in a safe and inspiring environment.

Furthermore, Platypus was created to build bridges between LGBTI community and other groups. While most other LGBTI NGOs are focused on working exclusively with LGBTI people, Platypus tries to bring the LGBTI perspective (the perspective of being marginalized and vulnerable) to resolving problems of other discriminated groups. Refugees and LGBTI people have a lot in common - both are marginalized and unable to defend themselves when the majority turns against them. Fighting for the rights of refugees is not just about refugees, it is about every other marginalized and vulnerable community. Platypus' ambition is to support marginalized groups by creating cross-group communities (gay-straight alliance and local-migrant alliance). Often lack of meaningful social contact (e.g. friendships) between marginalized youth and mainstream society leads to isolation and destructive behavior of marginalized youth, which further diminishes the whole group in the eyes of the mainstream society, which creates a vicious cycle.

Platypus' goal is not to implement big national campaigns to change the perceptions of the mainstream society about some marginalized groups. There are already NGOs who are working in this area. Platypus wishes to create more interaction between marginalized and mainstream youth by organizing activities in which both can participate and through this interaction they will break stereotypes they might have about the other group.

Venue

The youth exchange will take place in a youth hostel in Zadar. The hostel will also provide food and a space for workshops. Its capacity is 308 beds and it is right next to the sea and is around 5 km away from the bus station. Its other facilities include terrace with bar and restaurant and sport grounds - football and basketball. Participants will be placed in shared rooms with participants from other countries.

Zadar is an ancient city, built in the center of the Croatian Adriatic, full of historical and cultural monuments. It is three thousand years old, a city of old, tumultuous and dynamic history, often destructed, looted, devastated, every time emerging from the ruins stronger, richer and more beautiful. Zadar appeared for the first time in history in the 4th century B.C. as a settlement of the Illyrian tribe of Liburnians – the name Jader was mentioned, and through history it changed into Idassa (Greek source), Jadera (Roman source), Diadora, Zara (during Venetian rule and later Italian) up to today's name of Zadar.

After the year 59 B.C. Zadar became a Roman municipium, and in 48 B.C. a colony of Roman citizens. During Roman rule Zadar acquired the characteristics of a city with a regular road network, a main square – forum, and next to it an elevated capitolium with a temple. In the 7th century Zadar became the center (capital) of the Byzantine theme (province) of Dalmatia. At the beginning of the 9th century Zadar was mentioned as seat of bishop Donatus and the Byzantine leader Paulus. At the time a church was erected on the Roman forum, the church of the Holy Trinity, today St. Donat, for which it can be said to be the symbol of the city. Larger settling of Croats in Zadar was marked in the 10th century. The foundations of the Romanesque church of St. Mary, the church of St. Grisogone and the cathedral of St Anastasia have been preserved from that period. In 1202 the city was conquered and burned by the Crusaders and Venetians. The first Gothic churches in Dalmatia, St. Francis and St. Dominic, were built after that time, and the gold-plated silver sarcophagus of St. Simeon must be distinguished among the treasures of the period. The 15th and 16th centuries are characterized by significant activities of Croatian writers who wrote in the national Croatian language (Petar Zoranić, Brne Krnarutić, Šime Budinić, Jerolim Vidulić ...).

The Austrians (1797) took over the government of Zadar after the Venetians, to be followed by the French (from 1806 to 1813). After a short time of French rule, Zadar remained under Austrian rule until 1918. With the Treaty of Rapallo, Zadar fell under Italian rule, and after the II World War it was annexed to Croatia (within the framework of the Federation of Yugoslavia). Following the Republic of Croatia's declaration of independence and subsequent Serbian aggression on Croatian territory, Zadar and its surroundings were attacked in October 1991. The Serbian rebels aimed to conquer and destroy the city and its region, attacking with a destructive force that had never been seen so far.

Zadar's hinterland was controlled by rebels and significantly devastated. The city itself was repeatedly targeted and cultural heritage of Zadar was heavily damaged.

Today Zadar is a preserved monument of various historical times and cultures that have placed their boundaries and visible outlines of their urban appearance. During its existence it was for many centuries the home of the Ilyrian Liburni and for 1000 years the capital city of Dalmatia. Rich in history, it is currently a focal point in civilisation, and most of all city with an unquestionable future: its accepted concept of development into an international, Mediterranean and Adriatic metropolis is being realised. It is a city with a rich Croatian national identity created in the present, which successfully adheres to the newest trends in globalisation and informatisation.

Zadar is a city rich in spiritual and material culture, as well as in a touristic identity created in the present. It was created around the Roman forum, a city inside well-kept walls, a city of old Croatian monuments. Full of archives, museums and libraries, it is the keeper of literary and musical treasure, it is the city inside with the oldest University among Croats (1396). It was long ago the place where the first Croatian novel and the first newspapers in the Croatian language were created. It is protected by four guardian saints: Zoilo, Simeon, Grisogone and Anastasia.



HI Hostel in Zadar

Transportation

Zadar has an airport but most of its services are budget airlines which fly mostly during the summer and the tourist season. The similar story is with other airports on the Croatian coast - Split, Rijeka and Pula. However, do check if there are some cheap flights available to these destinations.

Zagreb is the largest airport in Croatia. From Zagreb airport you first have to take the airport bus (30 HRK one way) to Zagreb bus station and there you take the bus to Zadar, which runs regularly throughout the day. The tickets cost around 115 HRK one way and the trip lasts for around 4 hours.

Venice, if Zagreb does not have cheap and good connections it is worth a while to research flights to Venice. From Venice you have to take a flixbus to Rijeka (the third largest city in Croatia, north of Zadar), where you have to change to another bus to Zadar. The trip is around 3 and a half hours.

Once at Zadar bus station, take local bus number 5. The name of the line is Puntamika, which is also the name of the bus stop you need to get out. The hostel is around 100 meters from the bus station.

It is allowed to arrive/leave Croatia +/- two days before/after the youth exchange.

Travel refunding

Transportation costs will be reimbursed upon obtaining originals or scanned invoices and boarding passes. The maximum travel reimbursement per participant will be:

360€ - Georgia and Armenia

275€ - for Spain, Denmark, Turkey and Ukraine

180€ - for Croatia and Serbia

In case you are unable to find flights within the budget limits please contact us ASAP.

Other important information

Useful phrases

Croatian alphabet has 30 letters and includes letters like ć, č, š, ž, đ, dž which do not exist in English alphabet. Nj and lj are also independent letters. However, Croatian alphabet does not contain q, w, x or y.

Expressions		Common Signs	
Hello	Bok	Open	Otvoreno
How are you?	Kaki ste?	Closed	Zatvoreno
Fine thank you.	Dobro, hvala.	Toilette	WC
Thank you.	Hvala	Men's	Muški
You are welcome.	Nema na čemu.	Women's	Ženski
Yes	Da	Entrance	Ulaz
No	Ne	Exit	Izlaz
Good morning	Dobro jutro	Push	Gurni
Good afternoon	Dobar dan	Pull	Povuci
Good evening	Dobro večer		
Good night	Laku noć		
Excuse me	Oprostite		
I don't speak Croatian	Ne govorim hrvatski.		
Do you speak English?	Pričate li engleski?		

Croatian currency is kuna (HRK) and it is semi-pegged to Euro and it is around 7.5 kunas for 1 euro.

Croatia is not in the Schengen zone so if you are traveling by land you will need to show your passport/ID on the border.

Croatia has virtually free health care service so make sure all participants have European Health Insurance Card.

Phone number for emergencies (police, ambulance, firefighters) is 112.

Things to bring:

- Necessary documents such as passports, travel documents, etc.
- Some promotional materials of your organization or country – if you wish
- Personal care products
- Each team has to have at least one laptop and camera
- A typical taste (typical drink, food, sweets, snacks...) of your country for the “intercultural evening”
- Endless amounts of good mood and motivation for work and leisure!

...AND OF COURSE Positive attitude, desire to learn and meet cool new people!

We encourage participants to be an active part of this project, embracing responsibility and enjoy the cultural side of this experience!

And now, pack your bags, fill your heads with ideas and come meet us and many other young Europeans in Zadar.

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