

Digital Eco Warriors Youth Exchange 13/08-19/08/2022

Murzasichle, Poland

The organizers:

Stowarzyszenie Inicjatyw Europejskich "ACTIVE" (European Initiatives Association "ACTIVE") is a non-profit NGO organisation. It was founded in June 2010 in Kielce. It is composed of young people, mostly students from various parts of central Poland, which is the main area of organisation's activities. At the moment there are about 15 active, registered members and many supporters. The main goals of the association are: organizing european youth exchanges, improving co-operation of young Europeans and their organizations, creating and carrying out various local and regional initiatives, assisting in the process of European integration, working with youth from poor, defavourised regions, co-operating with cultural and scientific institutions in Poland and abroad, promoting: democracy and citizenship development, tolerance, free market economy, cultural heritage, sports, healthy lifestyle and ecology. During regular meetings the members discuss current domestic and foreign issues concerning politics, economy, social matters, youth problems, etc.

The project:

We live in a time when environmental protection has become a priority activity. We believe that it is related to the lack of responsibility and still too low awareness of the society.

At the same time, we live in a time when the Internet and social media are widely available and have become the main source of knowledge, entertainment and communication for young people. The internet and media are undeniably powerful tools that, when used properly, have the power to change the world for the better.

Together with partner organizations, we decided to create an exchange that will allow to use the potential of young people and the Internet to realize the need to save our beautiful planet. "Digital eco warriors" is a youth exchange that will unite young people of different cultures, with different chances to become ecological warriors using social media, their own ideas and skills.

Participants will explore the topics of ecology, creativity and social media. Co-creating youth the project will be guided by its own experiences and methods of non-formal education. We want first all for young people to take initiative to act, to use social media and skills digital technology could contribute to improving the ecological situation in the world. Young people will also get to know the different good examples of active organizations, which will strengthen their willingness to act not only on a personal level and local but also to be involved on a larger scale as active citizens of the Union. Another purpose of the exchange is reaching people with fewer opportunities as well as people who have never participated in erasmus + projects. Participants will gain an unforgettable intercultural experience and gain new knowledge about the countries involved into the project.

They will learn what powerful tools are informal education and social media, contributing to the promotion of such values as environmental protection, active citizenship and equality.

Thanks to the exchange, young people will not only immerse themselves in the subject of ecology and

technology, but also develop their creativity, confidence, willingness to take initiative and responsibility as young citizens.

Young people feel the need to feel empowered and equal with others.

With the help of group leaders and members of the organization, we will meet the participants' need for a safe and friendly environment for learning and development, free from hatred and prejudices, where participants will be able to look for their own ideas and solutions to ecological problems.

Above all, we want young people to take the initiative to act so that they can contribute to the improvement of the ecological situation in the world through social media and digital skills. We want to develop their environmental awareness and strengthen their willingness to act not only on a personal and local level, but also to be involved on a larger scale as active citizens of the Union.

We believe that social media has a great power to unite people and raise public awareness. Thanks to our exchange, we will contribute to the fulfillment of the need to make young people aware of environmental problems and at the same time how to use social media to spread this awareness on a larger scale.

We want these people to be treated as a priority. People from the local community who have not previously had a chance to take part in international exchange and meet peers from other countries.

These activities will help us achieve two priority goals:

1. Social inclusion, commitment and equality of all participants regardless of their origin, religion, health, sexual orientation or social status
2. Debunking stereotypes: We believe that a well-organized youth exchange and meeting participants from different cultures and backgrounds is one of the best ways to prevent tolerance, to prevent hatred and racism.

Additional goals are:

- Making young people aware of ecological problems on many levels. Starting from everyday choices and changing harmful activities to more environmentally friendly ones, to larger-scale activities, public awareness and involvement in green projects.
- Creating innovative cutting edge ideas and strengthening creativity and critical thinking
- Create valuable, publicly available online material.
- Promoting the idea of continuous acquisition of new competences and skills as well as lifelong learning
- Improving the professional, linguistic and personal competences of the participants
- Spreading the values of the European Union and knowledge about Erasmus +
- Strengthening international cooperation, strengthening cooperation and group work
- Increasing the sense of agency and self-confidence of the participants
- Reduce unemployment by strengthening key skills and professional competences as well as promoting innovative ideas.

Transport:

The arrival day to Murzasichle must be 13 08 2022(closest airport it is Krakow – Balice, Katowice Pyrzowice around 100 km).

The departure back will be on 19 08 2022 in the morning,

If you need any help with tickets or transfers please let us know we can arrange it so before you will buy ticket please contact us to be sure that this is best option.

We will reimburse your travel expenses in the last days of the project, in cash (euro). Please bring with you all original receipts, invoices, e-tickets, proof of payment and boarding passes! We strongly encourage you to buy flights that have the possibility to do online check-in and in this way you will be able to give us the return boarding passes as well, without having to send it's to us by post when you return home! Of course, if for your airline is not possible, you still need to send us the boarding passes by post after the project.

It is very important to have all your travel and financial documents with you for each person, otherwise the reimbursement is not possible.

We can arrange all the travel for you as buses, planes etc. for that please ask your team leader.

The group:

We need 8 participants (7+1 leaders) from each of the country. Age limits for the participants are 18-31 years old and 18-35 for leaders.

Rules:

You are expected to participate fully in all activities, unless you are ill. Unauthorized absence from activities and workshops won't be allowed. We would really appreciate energetic and active participation.

Smoking is prohibited inside of the buildings, so all smokers will have to leave the building in case they want to smoke a cigarette.

The location:

The venue of our project is Murzasichle, a village in Polish Mountain area, 100km away from Krakow.

Basic information about accommodation place - U Toski <http://utoski.pl/>

- 2/3/4/5 people in one room
- Rooms have their own bathrooms
- The restaurant will serve all meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) and in some days we will have lunch packs;
- The area is very beautiful and surrounded by nature

What to bring:

- All your travel documents and financial statements/proofs of payment;
- Typical food and drinks from your countries! We will have traditional evenings during the project and basically every evening will belong to a different country. Unfortunately we don't have budget to reimburse you the expenses made for the things that you are bringing. All things that we can buy in Poland we can refund for your evening. Try to be creative and funny! You can bring typical costumes, ornaments, leaflets, posters, flyers, food, sweets, alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks... and so on!

Also, you can show videos, photos, sing music and dance traditional dances from your countries! We are counting on you to make these evenings as interesting as possible and promise to help you in any way that we can!!!

- Clothes: going to have some swimming session, so prepare your swimsuit!
- Towels and whatever you need for taking shower, washing, etc;

Our currency is the Polish Zloty (PLN): 1 Euro = 4.7 PLN

If you have any questions for us please contact Jacek Kubicki (jacekkubicki@op.pl), Project Manager.

We are looking forward to see you in Poland!

Regards from Stowarzyszenie Inicjatyw Europejskich ACTIVE!

