

# INFO PACK



for project „Xplore Migration”

**27 March – 4 April 2023**

**Bansko, Bulgaria**



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



## SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

Whilst the refugee crisis is ongoing youth have to be aware of migration processes, reasons and consequences, both now and into the future. We therefore aim to prove that migration is not always only negative by interlinking causation factors with effects and consequences. By educating more people about migration, refugees, human right and promoting tolerance with refugees we will encourage solidarity and social cohesion in Europe. They will become more aware of migration processes and realize all sides of it including the benefits for Europe thus they will help to reduce the negative image of migrants and refugees on European scale. Young people will discuss the refugees crisis and learn about migration, they will discuss migration processes, reasons, but also effects of migration, and will be encouraged to be more active in combating intolerance against refugees. We will inform local youth about reasons and consequences of migration and also raise awareness on benefits of migration thus promote positive attitude towards migrants and refugees on European level. We will encourage local youth to get information on the subject of refugees, hate speech and discrimination against them to get acquainted with the No hate speech movement. We hope to encourage some of them to join the NO hate speech movement as activists. In addition, the project will promote positive attitudes and tolerance for refugees. In our view, familiarity with the project, awareness of the problem and the need for more tolerance can influence by reducing the risk of radicalization of young people in the future. Our project will allow participants to gain a better understanding about migration, raise awareness about the hate speech and intolerance towards refugees, promote solidarity with refugees.

The project is seeking the following results:

The project will also have the following results: -fostered intercultural dialogue and strengthened feeling of being European-by involving youth from different social, cultural, educational backgrounds, from different nationalities and ethnic groups, even youth with fewer opportunities and youth with migrant, origin promoting understanding, tolerance and solidarity with refugees, promoting intercultural dialogue in the framework of European values

- developed various skills and attitudes of young people/social, intercultural, language, as well as skills and knowledge on the topic/-the exchange will be focusing on developing certain knowledge, understanding, awareness related to migration processes-understanding it, its benefits, rights of refugees, learning about hate speech and acquiring skills and competences to define, report and combat hate speech, as well as promoting positive attitudes and solidarity with refugees

- strengthened European values and breaking down prejudices and stereotypes-our exchange is based on the European values, specifically in terms of Human rights protection, democracy, active citizenship. The project itself is promoting the European values, especially the European solidarity - towards refugees, also breaking stereotypes and prejudice, by involving migrant and non migrant youth as well as youth from different ethnical and social backgrounds, assuring a safe learning environment, based on tolerance and understanding.

- raised awareness about socially relevant topics such as migration and thus stimulate engagement in society and active participation-the exchange is tackling rather serious current challenges-one of the worst crisis since World WAR II, promoting understanding of migration among youth, trying to also promote their role in integrating refugees, promoting tolerance, acceptance and understanding on local level, engaging youth in voluntary work with refugees, etc.

## ACOMMODATION

Accommodation and food (breakfast, lunch and dinner) for the duration of the activities will be covered by the receiving organization PROVISION International.

All participants will be accommodated in Royal Bansko aparthotel , located in Bansko Bulgaria at the following address: ul. "Kosherinata" 2770, Bansko, Bulgaria



## VENUE

**Bansko** is a town in southwestern Bulgaria, located at the foot of the Pirin Mountains. It is a popular ski resort. The mountain peaks near the town, the numerous lakes and the old pine woods make it a popular site for recreation.



### **FOOD AND SPECIAL NEEDS**

ProVision International will provide participants with three meals per day and two coffee breaks.

- **Special needs:** Any special food diet must be previously informed to the organizers. Please, make sure that we know about your special diet.
- **Extra nights:** For those who come earlier (before 27.03.2023 or/and leave later (after 4 April 2023 unfortunately the project cannot cover the extra nights and food. If your flights are earlier or later than the project dates, you will have to find accommodation for yourself. Of course, you can always contact the organizers to help you in finding a place to stay. The first

provided meal will be the dinner on 27 March 2023. On 04.04. 2023 the breakfast will be provided.

**NB!!! PLEASE KNOW THAT THE TOTAL DURATION OF THE EXTRA STAY SHOULD NOT EXTEND 2 DAYS –MEANING ( 1 DAY BEFORE AND 1 AFTER, OR 2 DAYS BEFORE OR 2 DAYS AFTER) Tickets with longer extra stay will NOT be reimbursed, unless they are approved by the coordinator.**

## ARRIVAL IN VENUE

### How to get to BANSKO?

Although there are some different airports, the best option for everybody is to arrive to Sofia. There are several buses leaving everyday from Sofia to Bansko ( the first one is at 07:00am and the last one is at 16:45).



You will have to use public transportation to get from Sofia to project venue. For that you will need small change – 1.60BGN ( approx. 0.80 euro) for subway ticket and 16 BGN ( 8.11 euro) for bus from Sofia to Bansko.

### If you are arriving at **Sofia airport – Terminal 1**

Outside of the terminal you will find white mini bus with sign TRANSFER SHUTTLE /or simply ask any of the staff where is the free shuttle to Terminal 2/. Once you get in –it will drive you / about 7 min/ to TERMINAL 2 of SOFIA AIRPORT. From there you can get metro / subway /taking the blue line/ - From Sofia airport terminal 2 to station called SERDIKA, there you have to change with the orange line towards OBELYA OR LOMSKO SHOSE and you have to get out at the 2<sup>nd</sup> station which is called CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION. Once you get out from CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION you will see large blue building with the sign Central Bus Station. Inside the station you will be able to get the tickets for the bus. Please check the image below:



If you are arriving at **Sofia airport – Terminal 2**

Once at Terminal 2 of Sofia airport –please go out of the building turn left and go all the way down on the road and you will get to the / subway station of Sofia airport/ 2-3 min walk/ . From there take the blue line/ - From Sofia airport terminal 2 to station called SERDIKA, there you have to change with the orange line towards OBELYA OR LOMSKO SHOSE and you have to get out at the 2<sup>nd</sup> station which is called CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION. Once you get out from CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION you will see large blue building with the sign Central Bus Station. Inside the station you will be able to get the tickets for the bus. Please check the image below:



How to get from **Central Bus station to Bansko**

Once you arrive at CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION go out of the station and you will see large blue building with sign Central Bus Station. Please see the image below:



From there you can buy ticket to Bansko. The journey will be about 3h and it will cost you 16 Bulgarian leva.

There are few buses a day running from Sofia to Basnko with schedule:

| Route         | Departing hour | Price  |
|---------------|----------------|--------|
| Sofia- Basnko | 09:45          | 20 BGN |
|               | 11:25          | 20 BGN |
|               | 14:00          | 20 BGN |
|               | 16:45          | 20 BGN |

If you are arriving after 16:45 and you are not able to get the public bus there is option for renting a private shuttle that needs to be paid by each of the passenger and it's upon request.

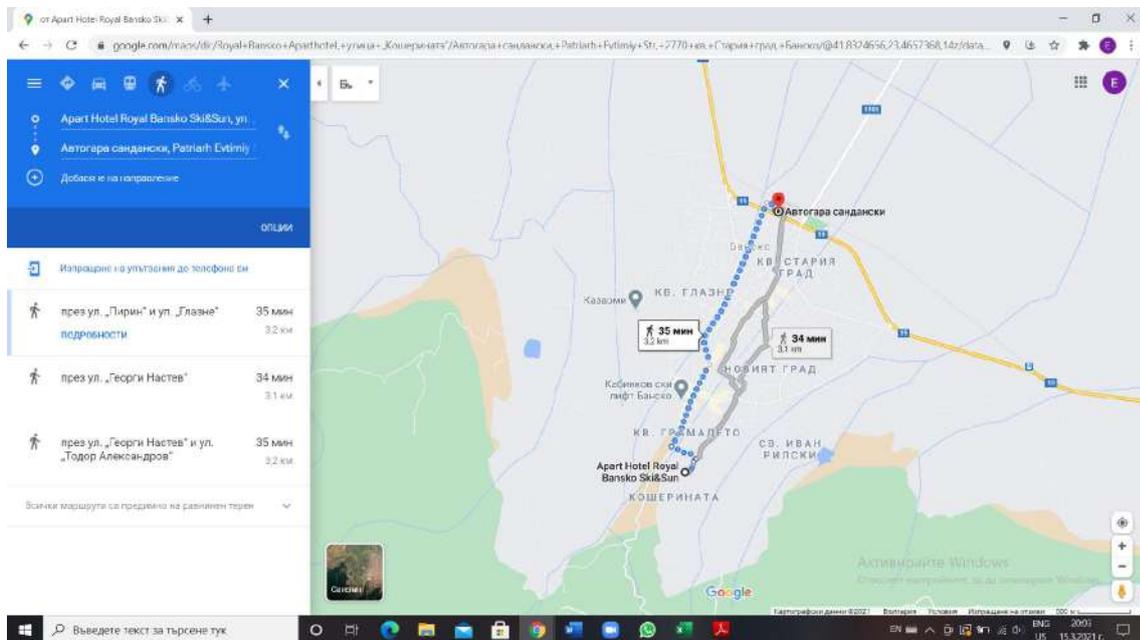
**For the way back from Bansko to Sofia**

| Route          | Departing hour | Arrival hour | Price  |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| Bansko - Sofia | 05:05          | 08:05        | 20 BGN |
|                | 06:50          | 10:20        | 20 BGN |
|                | 12:50          | 15:50        | 20 BGN |

**From Bansko bus station to hotel Royal apart hotel Bansko:**

You have two options to get to the hotel.

- 1) Is to take a taxi which you can find just Infront of the main entrance of the Bus station and will costs you about 10-15 BGN /5-7 euros/ per car. So if you are more people you can share the costs
- 2) You can walk to the hotel following the map below and will be approx. 25-30 min



**TRAVEL COSTS AND REIMBURSEMENT**

**Travel costs:** Please note that travel costs will be reimbursed on the basis of original tickets, boarding passes and invoices/receipts for travel. Do not forget to collect and bring all of them. Only cheapest/economy class travel will be reimbursed and a public transport.

**!!! Once the group is selected the leader should contact the organizers for confirmation to buy tickets. PLEASE DO NOT buy your tickets without having confirmation from the organizers.**

**!!!Please know that tickets that are not confirmed may not be reimbursed**

As soon as you filled the registration form and your participation is confirmed, you are kindly requested to submit your travel proposal for **validation** including detailed information about the

name(s) of the participant(s) envisaged, itinerary (departure, arrival, dates, hours, transport company), type of transport (flight, bus, train etc.) and the website where you got the offer from:

- subject: [Travel validation] - Your country;
- address: provisioninternational.office@gmail.com
- deadline: 1 March 2023

**ProVision International and is not responsible of reimbursing tickets without our prior validation.**

## **REIMBURSEMENT**

How to provide the needed justifying documents? (Remember! If anything is missing from the list below, unfortunately we are not able to reimburse the costs). We will try to do cash reimbursement to all participants only if they can provide electronic version of all tickets before they depart from Bulgaria.

**1. Flight tickets** (economic class/low cost if possible) – all the following are needed:

**e-ticket** (you receive it by e-mail after you buy the flight);

**fiscal invoice** (ask your travel agency or check on the website where you buy the ticket how can you get a fiscal invoice). The invoice can be issued on the name of traveler, or on the name of the organisation you represent;

**proof of payment** (signed and stamped): can be a receipt from where you buy the tickets, can be a payment order (if you pay by bank transfer) or can be a bank or an account statement (if you pay by internet banking);

**boarding pass** (you get it online and print it at home 24h-30h before the flight or directly in the airport);

In the exceptional case when the amount on your invoice is different that the amount charged, a personal declaration will be needed and only the amount charged is subject of reimbursement.

**2. Train tickets** (make sure the date, the itinerary and the price are visible on the ticket, if you can get an invoice is even better);

**3. Bus tickets** (make sure the date, the itinerary and the price are visible on the ticket, if you can get an invoice it is better);

**4. Private car transport and Taxi ( including Bla Bla car, uber and such) – will not be reimbursed**

**5. Please note that additional services on your bookings won't be reimbursed (seat selection , extra leg room in the place, checked in luggage and etc)**

Important! Try to provide the documents above in English, or Bulgarian. If the documents are written in other languages we **will** need a declaration from you to explain the information provided in each document (in English).

**MANDATORY MEANS OF TRANSPORT TO BE USED! NO EXEPTIONS ALLOWED!**

| <b>Country</b> | <b>Number of participants</b> | <b>Travel cost limits</b> | <b>Approved Means of transport</b> |
|----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Bulgaria       | 7 participants                | 0                         | N/A                                |
| Netherlands    | 7 participants                | 275                       | Plane                              |
| Italy          | 7 participants                | 275 euro                  | Plane                              |
| Romania        | 7 participants                | 180 euro                  | Bus/car/train                      |
| Spain          | 7 participants                | 275 euro                  | Plane                              |
| Turkey         | 7 participants                | 180 euro                  | Bus/car/train                      |

**CONTRIBUTION FEE:** There is no participation fee for this project!

**TESTING- Antigen/PCR:** As the project was developed and aimed to be implemented before COVID-19 happened, we did not include any exceptional costs for tests, however we will cover tests related to entering/going out from Bulgaria if such are applicable. If such required please confirm with the organizers in advance.

**PRACTICAL INFORMATION (currency)**

Currency: in Bulgaria, we use лв – Bulgarian Leva. 1 EUR is 1.95 lv. You will need them to travel inside Bulgaria (bus, taxi or whatever you will use to move around it), so make sure you change a little bit when you arrive at the airport or before coming here. In case you will need to change again, we will help you out on spot.

**PLANNED ACTIVITIES**

**\*The daily schedule will be provided within the next email very shortly**

**Intercultural nights:** For the intercultural evenings, we kindly ask you to prepare interactive presentation of your country. You can present it along with your food and drinks, music, traditional dances, etc. You can do it in the way you think is more suitable for the group, so be as creative as you want.

You are more than welcome to bring traditional food and drinks for this evening. It will be possible to cook there in case you want to prepare something for that night, but you should buy the



ingredients or bring them from your countries. You can also bring your flag, posters, postcards, leaflets or any kind of gift you want to give to the participants in order them to have a picture of where you come from. Videos or games are also a good idea to be implemented during that night!



### **INSURANCE:**

Medical insurance: procuring a medical insurance valid during your stay in Bulgaria is your own responsibility. European Union citizens are entitled to have an European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) which you can get for free from your health authorities and you can use in Bulgaria and in any other EU country as well. Anyway, you can also choose a private insurance for the duration of your stay (it should not cost more than 10 EUR depending on the provider and issuing country). Although it might be not mandatory to enter Bulgaria, if you choose to not have a health insurance **you need to be ready to cover any medical related cost. We strongly encourage you to get a medical insurance for your stay!**

### **PARTICIPANT PROFILE:**

- ✓ -Young people between 16-24 years old with no age limit for the leader
- ✓ -Motivated to participate in the project
- ✓ -They are NOT on service under European Solidarity Corps at the moment of the activity

### **WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU – CHECK LIST**

- ✓ All travel documents;
- ✓ All material and things that you need for the program (as homework);
- ✓ Anything you need for the intercultural night( food, drinks, brochures and etc)
- ✓ Energizers that could be done in the mornings / after lunch break;
- ✓ Swimsuit and flip-flops/there is pool in the hotel.
- ✓ Comfortable clothes for the activities outside and inside conference room;
- ✓ Anything you think you will need during your stay in Bulgaria and of course, GOOD MOOD!



**IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXCHANGE PLEASE FILL THE APPLICATION FORM BELOW NOT LATER THAN 1 March 2023**

<https://forms.gle/rbuMWWBER5m6QTFZ6>

## **C O N T A C T S**

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