

17-25
August
2026
Đurđevac
Croatia

INFOPACK

YOUTH EXCHANGE
2025-1-HR01-KA152-YOU-000298951

WHISPERS FROM THE DESERT



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



ABOUT PROJECT



This project brings together 30 young people from Europe, the Middle East, and the South Mediterranean to explore each other's cultures, natural heritage, and sustainable practices. It offers a unique opportunity to deepen intercultural dialogue, break down stereotypes, and strengthen understanding between regions often perceived as divided.

Through shared experiences in nature—whether learning about deserts, walking through forests, or discovering local traditions—participants will explore the strong links between culture, nature, and sustainability. They will learn calming techniques inspired by nature, reflect on sustainable development, and grow in mutual respect and cultural acceptance. The project creates space for connection, learning, and new perspectives on how we care for the planet and each other.

Objectives:

- To explore nature, culture and sustainable practices of each of the countries and to understand interconnection among those 3 things better
- To learn about each other, support mutual understanding and break stereotypes that exist on relation Europe-Arab countries (often called “east-west clash”)
- To present cultural and natural heritage of Croatia and local area of Durdevac and use local resources for learning, such as visitors centre, Borki forest, river Drava
- To raise the awareness about healing and calming side of nature, learn techniques and to encourage participants to use them more in their lives
- To provide space to learn about deserts and life in deserts from various perspectives
- To share and experience each other's cultures and grow in cultural understanding and acceptance
- To explore different possibilities for sustainability and sustainable development



There will be no any program on travel days (17/08 and 25/8). Program will be implemented from 18-24 August. There will be 4 workshops per day. There will be breaks in between.

IMPORTANT: Parts of the program will be delivered by facilitators, while certain workshops will be responsibility of each of the teams - meaning that they will design, create and implement activities within the frame of given topic, as decided during the preparation meeting.

Preparation meeting will be held online in second half of July. Details will be provided by separate email.



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ABOUT VENUE

Venue: Đurđevac, Croatia

Hostel Borik, Ul. Matije Gupca 135, 48350, Đurđevac



Hostel “Borik” is a lovely, new youth hostel in the town designed specifically for young people, for learning and spending time together. **Rooms are spacious but large** so please, keep in mind that you will share a room with at least 10 other people from the group (gender divided). Bathrooms are shared. All meals and activities will take place within the hostel premises.

Đurđevac is a charming town located in northern Croatia. There is a **zoo with llamas and camels** (yes, we have camels here and they love to take selfies!), **multimedia centre** where you can find out everything about Universe origins, local **museum and gallery** for art lovers....

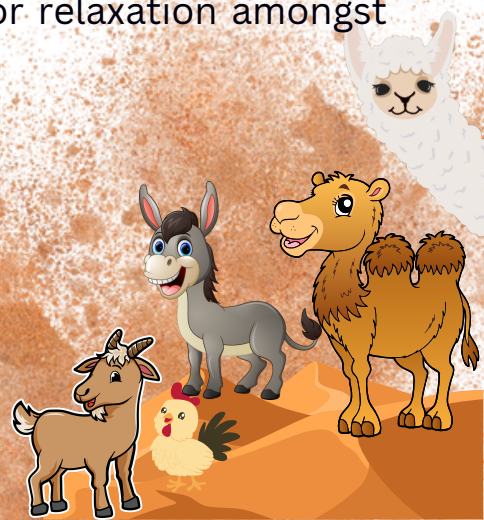
For nature lovers, Đurđevac offers Đurđevački pijesci—a rare desert-like landscape often referred to as the **"Croatian Sahara"** due to its sandy terrain and unique ecosystem. Additionally, the **Borik Forest**, located right behind our hostel, provides nice walking trails and opportunities for relaxation amongst pine trees.



[Here you can find more info about all of those things mentioned above.](#)



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ABOUT PARTICIPANTS

Each partner organisation should select **5 participants** up to the age of 30.

Additional criteria (not exclusive):

- Participants are actively involved in your organisation and interested in topics covered by the project
- Preferably, participants have at least basic command of English language but it is not a condition
- Group consists of different genders
- Give opportunity to participants with barriers in accessibility and outreach
- It is possible to have **participants below 18** years old but please, let us know about it so we can provide you with documents that need to be signed by parents
- If your group has participants with **specific needs** which require additional logistic preparation, please, let us know as soon as possible

Each partner organization should have **1 group leader (age 18+)** who will be responsible for the team and be a communication point with coordinators.

In total, each organisation should be represented by 6 people. PARTICIPANTS SELECTED AND CONFIRMED BY PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS need to fill in **participants' form** and join projects' **Whatsapp group** latest until **10th July**.



WHATSAPP GROUP



PARTICIPANT'S FORM

P.S. Sometimes, links do not work while clicking on them so try to copy and paste directly to google in order to access the form/group.



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ABOUT VISA

Participants from **Jordan, Tunisia and Egypt** need to obtain visa to enter Croatia. Association Althea, as coordinator, will provide all needed supporting documents and overall support throughout the process.

The process of getting the visa lasts approximately 45 days so we encourage everyone who needs visa to provide their details as soon as possible so we can prepare needed documents. It is your responsibility to contact responsible embassy/consulate, request visa application appointment and follow given instructions to finalise the process.

Please, pay special attention to following:

- while applying for visa, **list the exact project dates (17/08-25/08/2026)** in your application even you may plan to spend additional few days in Croatia. They will give you at least several additional days anyway but adding them to your application will make a confusion and will not match with documents which we will provide which leaves **high probability of your visa being rejected (it happen before!)**
- make sure you provide **all accurate information** to us for the documents that need to be provided from our side. Documents will need to be verified by notary before we submit them to our Ministry of Foreign Affairs so we will not have a chance to correct them additionally.
- before or after the project, **if you will stay additional couple of days in Croatia and you will stay somewhere else**, be aware of the following: in case you are staying in private accommodation (eg. in your friends house) you are **obliged to declare that in the nearest police station** otherwise you will face penalty while leaving Croatia! If you stay in a hotel or a hostel, they will make application for you so you don't have to do it.



Please, provide all needed information here. Once we receive it, we will prepare all needed documents as soon as possible.

Make sure you keep all of your visa related documents and receipts with clearly visible dates, amounts and names because without them you won't be eligible for reimbursement of occurred costs. Visa related costs will be reimbursed on real cost basis after the main activity together with the travel costs.



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ABOUT TRAVELING

Arrival date: 17th August 2026 (only dinner provided)

Departure date: 25th August 2026 (only breakfast provided)

Venue: Đurđevac, Croatia

Hostel Borik, Ul. Matije Gupca 135, 48350, Đurđevac

Closest airport: Franjo Tuđman airport, Zagreb

If you are coming **by car**, this link might be useful:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/CsfQsdxvxH1wNbZr8>

How to reach the venue?

Bus that will take you **from the airport to the main bus terminal in Zagreb** city centre (last stop in the city centre) is at the airport's exit. There is written CROATIA AIRLINES-ZRAČNA LUKA ZAGREB on the bus so you can hardly miss it. Bus goes every 30min during the whole day. The ticket can be bought online or inside the bus from the driver. Price is 8 EURO.
<https://plesoprijevoz.hr/en/zagreb-croatia/>

Once you reach main bus terminal in Zagreb, **bus to Đurđevac** goes from the same place (just check the exact platform). You can buy the ticket online, at the ticket office in main building or in the bus from the driver. Price is 10-15 EUR, depending on where you buy it. Buying by card within the bus is not possible, you need to have cash.

Once you reach Đurđevac, you can take a walk to the hostel (if you get out at the town center - station name is Đurđevac 1) or let us know so we can pick you up (especially if you get out at the main bus terminal - station name Đurđevac). There is 10min walk from the town centre or 20min from the main bus terminal.

If you cannot catch the last bus to Đurđevac, there is a later bus that goes to the nearby **city of Bjelovar** and we can pick you up from there.



Please, make sure you double check the bus schedule on arrival day, in case of additional changes!



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A BIT MORE ABOUT TRAVELING

Make sure you **coordinate your flights with the bus schedule** to make sure you can catch a bus to the venue because we will have limited transportation options to pick you up from Zagreb! In case this is not possible due to available plane options, before booking your flight, please, contact us to centar.althea@gmail.com or whatsapp +385997307931 to arrange the details.

Travel costs:

Travel costs can be reimbursed up to the maximum amount of **395 EUR per person per round trip/535 EUR for green travel** for Egypt and Jordan; **309/417 for green travel** for Tunisia, Turkiye and Spain.

Travel distance	Green travel	Non-Green travel
10 – 99 km	56 EUR	28 EUR
100 – 499 km	285 EUR	211 EUR
500 – 1999 km	417 EUR	309 EUR
2000 – 2999 km	535 EUR	395 EUR

*considering the distance from the place where the travel started to the venue, based on calculation made by Erasmus+ [distance calculator](#)

Make sure you keep all of your travel documents safe because without them you wont be able to claim reimbursement!

Detailed instructions on how travel documents need to be delivered will be provided by official email after the end of the youth exchange.

Participants can stay in Croatia for the **maximum of 2 extra days in total** out of the official youth exchange dates! All the costs that occur out of the official project dates cannot not be covered by the coordinator-Association Althea or Erasmus+ program and participants need to take care of it by themselves.

While booking flights and/or other means of transportation, keep in mind that **only public transportation and economy class** are eligible (except in exeptional case when there is no public transportation available). Participants are expected to purchase their travel tickets and the actual costs (on the condition that total travel cost does not exceed the specified maximum amounts) will be reimbursed after the project, upon the presentation of relevant justifying documents and after completing post-project activities (such as visibility and results dissemination).



*It is recommended to obtain **travel health insurance** which will cover period of your stay in Croatia. For the participants coming from the EU member states it is recommended to obtain **European Health Insurance Card**. Insurance costs are not eligible for reimbursement, except in case of visa obtaining.*



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ABOUT SOME OTHER THINGS



As a part of post-project activities, participants will also have to do project **visibility and result dissemination activities**. This can be done as a team or individually through different online channels and by organising in-person activities (eg. workshops to present project and project outcomes and Erasmus+ program, different online posts, blogs, videos, articles etc.)

Youthpass

As a participants of Erasmus+ funded projects, everyone will receive a **Youthpass certificate** after the end of the youth exchange. Youthpass certificate is a proof of developed competences (skills, knowledge and attitudes). More information about youthpass and 8 key competences can be found in following link:
<https://www.youthpass.eu/en/>



Online Linguistic Support

The Online Language Support (OLS) is a tool designed to help Erasmus+ participants improve their knowledge of the language in which they will work, study or volunteer abroad so that they can make the most out of this experience. More info can be found here:
<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/online-language-support>



A BIT MORE ABOUT SOME OTHER THINGS

During the youth exchange we will work and learn, but we will also have some fun! This primarily includes:



INTERCULTURAL EVENING

In order to learn more about each others' cultures and traditions, as a part of the project we will have traditional intercultural evening. Plan how to present your country and culture in **creative and interactive** way and do not forget to bring some **snacks or drinks** with you. Each country will have **15min** for the presentation. Since we will have minors, in case you plan to bring **alcohol**, bring limited amount just for tasting!

What else to bring with you?

1. Cheerful spirit, a lot of motivation and curiosity
2. Creativity and 'out of the box' thinking
3. Readiness to get out of your comfort zone
4. Towel, slippers, bath robe, shampoo...all personal and hygienic items that will make you comfortable
5. Ear plugs and sleeping mask could be handy (remember that we will be sharing the rooms with other people and some of us don't go to sleep early :)
6. Comfortable outdoor clothes and shoes for exploring nature and for our outdoor activities
7. Laptop/tablet (not mandatory but if you can, it might get handy at some point)
8. Social and board games for the evenings
9. Anything else that comes to your mind and it can make this project better and more fun

YOUR COMMITMENT



By joining this project, you are saying yes to being fully present before, during and after the youth exchange, contributing to group work, completing your preparation tasks, and sharing what you've learned once back home.

This project is funded by the Erasmus+ programme. Your spot has a real cost – if you can't commit fully, please let your sending organisation know so someone else can take your place.



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