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Youth Exchange

# Art Is My Weapon

STRUGA, NORTH MACEDONIA

As part of ERASMUS KA2 PROJECT

# INFO PACK

Reference Number:

*2020-1-UK01-KA227-YOU-094444*



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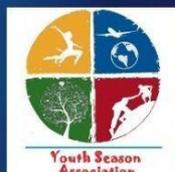
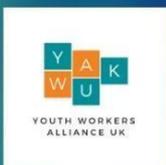


ART IS MY  
WEAPON

YOUTH EXCHANGE

# KA2 "ART IS MY WEAPON"

DATE: 06-14.05.2022  
STRUGA, NORTH  
MACEDONIA





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## Basic Information about the Project

**Project Title:** Art Is My Weapon

**Duration of the Activity:** 06 - 14 May 2022 (7 working days + 2 travel days; arrival on the 6<sup>th</sup> and departure on the 14<sup>th</sup> May)

**Location:** Struga, North Macedonia

**Target Group:** 42 young people from 6 European countries who are interested in painting graffiti and murals for solidarity, unity, inclusion & equity, **who are artists or do art as a hobby and have artistic skills (who do well with color, know how to draw, paint, preferably graffiti and/or murals).**

- Each national group will be formed of 1 group leader + 6 participants (7 in total).

**THIS YOUTH EXCHANGE is only for participants involved in ARTS & CREATIVITY!**

**Please keep in mind that the selected participants WILL PAINT A BIG WALL which is part of a football field in Struga, thus all selected participants will actively contribute to execution of the final product - graffiti & murals painted on the wall.**

## ABOUT THE PROJECT IDEA

### Context and Objective

The COVID-19 crisis has hit the cultural and creative sectors particularly hard. These sectors stimulate innovation, as well as have various positive social impacts, such as well-being and health, education, inclusion, urban regeneration, etc. The lockdown and social distancing measures have made evident the importance of arts and culture for people's mental well-being and this recognition provides a new opportunity to capitalize on the role of arts and culture in the face of the Covid-19 emergency. Thus, the main aim of the project is to equip young people and youth workers with the necessary tools and competencies needed in order to use their art skills through painting murals addressing solidarity, unity, inclusion, and equity as European values of crucial importance in the face of Covid-19 emergency.



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## Background

The 'Art Is My Weapon' project consists of 2 main mobilities. Non-formal methods related to art and creativity were developed by youth workers the Training Course implemented in December 2021, which are part of a digital Toolkit. Now, these methods will be implemented during this Youth Exchange in Struga, North Macedonia and video tutorials will be created showcasing the implementation of the creative methods part of the Toolkit. Also, the participants will get together to plan, design and paint murals on a big wall in Struga, as well as design and plan the upcoming activities in their local communities.

## Partner Organisations

- Youth Work Alliance UK - United Kingdom
- Youth Council Next Generation - North Macedonia
- Youth Season Association - Turkey
- Associao My Madeira Island – Portugal
- Zdruzenje Epeka - Slovenia
- Asociacion Cultural Y Deportiva LAHOYA - Spain

## Target Group of Participants

- Young people aged **18 to 30** residents of participant's countries,
- Motivated to paint murals for solidarity, unity, inclusion and equity,
- **Who have artistic skills (know how to draw & paint, preferably graffiti and/or murals)**
- Able to communicate in English,
- Motivated to collaborate and participate in all the project activities,
- Interested to take part in an Erasmus+ youth project, to work in an international environment and share their experiences in the follow up period,
- Young people with fewer opportunities (economic, social, educational, geographical obstacles, or cultural differences).
- Gender balance will be taken into consideration as well.



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## Profile of Group Leaders

- A Group leader is expected to be a person with previous experience in youth work and the Erasmus+ Programme who is ready to take part before, during and after the project, to facilitate part of the project's activities and to provide support to the participants, especially during the implementation phase, but also during the preparation and follow up period. There is no age limit set for the Group leaders.

## COVID Regulations & Entry to North Macedonia

To enter North Macedonia you need a valid passport and one of the following Covid-19 related documents:

- Vaccination certificate with two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine,
  - Negative PCR test taken within 72 hours prior to travel,
  - Negative rapid antigen test taken within 48 hours prior to travel, or
  - Certificate of COVID-19 recovery issued within the previous 180 days, counting from the day of recovery.
- 
- All of the current information can be accessed at the following [LINK](#).

*It is advised to re-check this information a week before the journey as the restrictions might change.*

**Please be aware that every participant is responsible to check regulations before traveling from their own country.**



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## Travel Costs

Country	Maximum travel cost per participant
UK	275 EUR
Spain	275 EUR
Turkey	275 EUR
Portugal	360 EUR
Slovenia	275 EUR
North Macedonia	20 EUR

The project is funded by the Erasmus+ programme. Travel costs are covered up-to the sums indicated in the table as per the Erasmus+ rules. If participants spend more than the allowed budget, it will be participants' responsibility to pay the rest of the traveling cost as their contribution to participating in the project. If participants spend less than the indicated amounts, they will be only covered for the amount they spent on the basis of provided documents.

## Travel Arrangements

### ➤ Bus services to/from Skopje Airport

The shuttle bus service between Skopje and the city center is operated by [WTransporter](#). In the inner city of Skopje, there are three bus stops:

1. Capitol Mall,
2. **International Bus Station (bus and railway station)**, and
3. Hotel Holiday Inn.

Get off at the second stop **International Bus Station (bus and railway station)** and we will wait for you there and transport you to the project venue Hotel Ambassador. The bus ride takes 30 to 40 minutes. [WTransporter](#) runs every day of the week and leaves 3 to 5 times a day in the direction of the city and Skopje Airport. Tickets are available at the [WTransporter counter inside the terminal if you wish to pay by credit/debit card](#), as well as, [from the bus driver with cash in Macedonian Denars](#). The cost for a one-way ticket is 180 Macedonian Denars which equals 3 Euros. Please consult the website and timetable of [WTransporter](#) for available times.

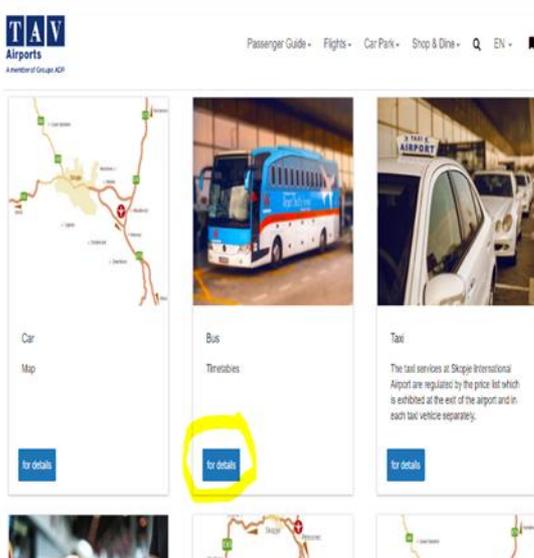


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You can also check the timetable of WTransporter on the official [website of Skopje Airport](#) if you scroll a little bit down, click 'for details' button under the picture of the shuttle bus and then click on **Direction: AIRPORT – SKOPJE** (see pictures below).

**IMPORTANT:** The national currency in Republic of North Macedonia is Macedonian Denar and by the law Euros or any other currencies are not accepted. If you must exchange Euros on the airport it is advised to do so at the Macedonian post office since they have the best exchange rates. The exchange office on the airport is not so recommended because of the higher exchange rates, thus don't exchange high amounts at the exchange office found at the airport.



### Bus

**Direction: AIRPORT - SKOPJE**  
**Direction: SKOPJE - AIRPORT**

Click on the links above to view the timetables.

**One-way ticket price: 180 denars**

Contact:  
V2V TRANSPORTER DOOEL  
Phone numbers:  
+ 389 (0) 2 3115 539  
+ 389 (0) 70 233 882  
[www.wtransporter.com](http://www.wtransporter.com)



## ВОЗЕН РЕД од АЕРОДРОМ до СКОПЈЕ BUS TIMETABLE from AIRPORT to SKOPJE ORARI i UDHËTIMIT nga AEROPORT në SHKUPI

СТАНИЦИ BUS STOPS STACION	ПОНЕДЛИНИК MONDAY E Hënë	ВТОРНИК TUESDAY E Martë	СРЕДА WEDNESDAY E Mërcurë	ЧЕТВРТОК THURSDAY E Enjte	ПЕТОК FRIDAY E Premte	САБОТА SATURDAY E Shtunë	НЕДЕЛА SUNDAY E Diel
Аеродром Скопје Airpor Skopje	00:20; 11:40; 13:00; 17:50; 20:30;	01:00; 13:20; 17:40; 18:45;	08:50; 12:30; 18:00;	00:15; 11:40; 13:00; 18:30; 20:30;	00:25; 12:55; 18:40; 20:30;	01:10; 11:40; 13:10; 18:00; 20:20;	00:30; 11:40; 18:40;
Капитол Мол Capitol Mall	00:50; 12:10; 13:30; 18:20; 21:00;	01:30; 13:50; 18:10; 19:15;	09:20; 13:00; 18:30;	00:45; 12:10; 13:30; 19:00; 21:00;	00:55; 13:25; 19:10; 21:00;	01:40; 12:10; 13:40; 18:30; 20:50;	01:00; 12:10; 19:10;
Транспортен Центар International Bus Station	00:55; 12:15; 13:35; 18:25; 21:05;	01:35; 13:55; 18:15; 19:20;	09:25; 13:05; 18:35;	00:50; 12:15; 13:35; 19:05; 21:05;	01:00; 13:30; 19:15; 21:05;	01:45; 12:15; 13:45; 18:35; 20:55;	01:05; 12:15; 19:15;
Хотел 'Холидеј Инн' Hotel 'Holiday Inn'	01:00; 12:20; 13:40; 18:30; 21:10;	01:40; 14:00; 18:10; 19:25;	09:30; 13:10; 18:40;	00:55; 12:20; 13:40; 19:10; 21:10;	01:05; 13:35; 19:20; 21:10;	01:50; 12:20; 13:50; 18:40; 21:00;	01:10; 12:20; 19:20;



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**NOTE:** You should be looking at the departure times in the column Airport Skopje (circled with blue) according to the day and time of your arrival at the airport. Don't forget to double check the schedule a day before your departure because it is changing according to flight arrivals.

Furthermore, we kindly ask you to save all documents (original tickets, boarding passes, invoices or bills with the ticket price) which are related to your travel, since the documentation background is obligatory for reimbursement.

**IMPORTANT:** We are not able to reimburse missing tickets, as well as, cannot refund any travel costs done by TAXI according to the rules of the Erasmus+ Programme.

**NOTE:** You should be looking at the departure times in the columns according to the day (marked with yellow) and time of your arrival at the airport. Don't forget to double check the schedule a day before your departure because it is changing according to flight arrivals.

### Traveling from Skopje to Struga

The bus shuttle from the airport can drop you off directly to the **International Bus Station** (bus and railway station), and from there you can take a bus that goes to the city of Struga. Few bus lines run every day.

The link to the bus website can be found [HERE](#) where you can choose the English version in order to see the timetable.



Below is the current schedule in Macedonian language, which shows the flow of bus lines and their frequency.



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Превозник	Линија	Време на поаѓање	Еднонасочен билет	Повратен билет	Режим
ВАКЧАРЕ	Струга-Скопје	15:45:00	530	730	ПОН; ВТО; СРЕ; ЧЕТ; ПЕТ; САБ;
ВАКЧАРЕ	Струга-Скопје	14:30:00	530	730	ПОН; ВТО; СРЕ; ЧЕТ; ПЕТ; САБ; НЕД; ПРАЗНИЦИ;
ВАКЧАРЕ	Струга-Скопје	17:30:00	530	730	ПОН; ВТО; СРЕ; ЧЕТ; ПЕТ; САБ; НЕД; ПРАЗНИЦИ;
ВАКЧАРЕ	Струга-Скопје	05:30:00	530	730	ПОН; ВТО; СРЕ; ЧЕТ; ПЕТ; САБ; НЕД; ПРАЗНИЦИ;
ВАКЧАРЕ	Струга-Скопје	12:30:00	530	730	ПОН; ВТО; СРЕ; ЧЕТ; ПЕТ; САБ; НЕД; ПРАЗНИЦИ;
ВАКЧАРЕ	Струга-Скопје	05:30:00	530	730	ПОН; ВТО; СРЕ; ЧЕТ; ПЕТ; САБ; НЕД; ПРАЗНИЦИ;
ДОКО-ТРАНС	Струга-Скопје	14:00:00	430	680	ПОН; ВТО; СРЕ; ЧЕТ; ПЕТ; САБ; ПРАЗНИЦИ;
ЕУРО БУС	Струга-Скопје	11:00:00	500	800	ПОН; ВТО; СРЕ; ЧЕТ; ПЕТ; САБ; НЕД; ПРАЗНИЦИ;
ЕУРО ЛИНИА	Скопје-Струга-Скопје	16:00:00	500	750	ПОН; ВТО; СРЕ; ЧЕТ; ПЕТ; САБ;
ЕУРО ЛИНИА	с.Делгождо-Скопје	13:15:00	500	750	ПОН; ВТО; СРЕ; ЧЕТ; ПЕТ; САБ; НЕД; ПРАЗНИЦИ;

**The one-way ticket price** in the local currency Macedonian denar ranges from 500 to 530 denars, which is equivalent of 8 or 9 Euros depending on the company and time of departure.

One way to buy a ticket is electronically, but often does not work well using the English version. Thus, we advise you to buy it there when you arrive at the International Bus Station (bus and railway station) for the first upcoming bus line. The price will remain the same.

In case you need any help with this, we are at your disposal all the time.

## Accommodation

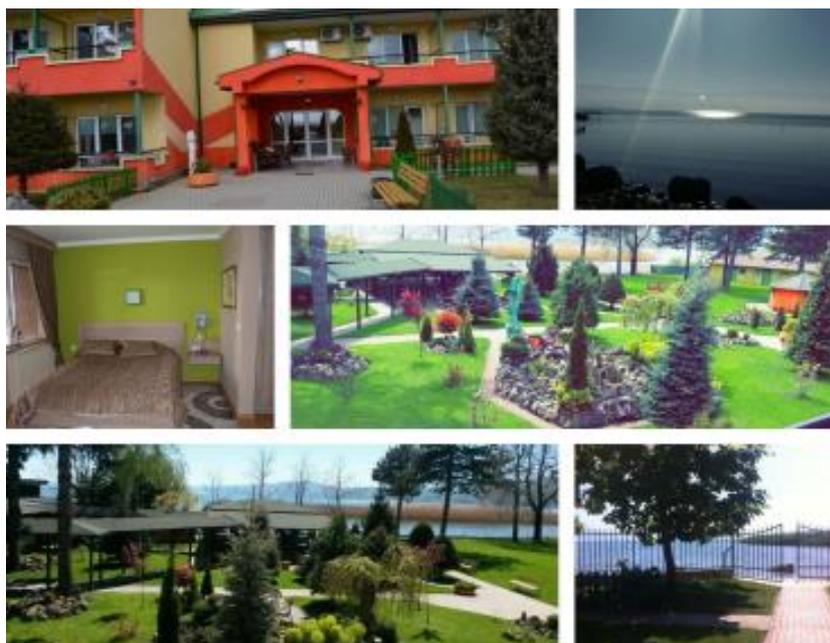
**Red Cross Hotel Solferino** - The hotel is located on the shores of Lake Ohrid, with a beautifully landscaped park, summer terrace, private beach, private parking, and a field for sports activities. It has 18 triple rooms, 15 double and 3 suites, all modernly decorated with balconies overlooking the lake. Each room is equipped with a TV with cable connection, wireless internet, bathroom and terrace. The hotel has an air-conditioned restaurant with 130 seats, two conference rooms equipped with the latest technology. It has a big yard, as well as a court for group sports such as basketball, football.



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One of the walls of the football court is faced towards one of the main streets in Struga - Partizanska, and it is very much destroyed. Many young people from Struga and those who come and stay in Solferino hotel during projects use this court, thus Solferino will provide the wall of the court (2m tall and 60m long) which will be painted with murals addressing solidarity, unity, inclusion and equity, by the participants during this Youth exchange.



➤ [LINK](#) of Hotel Solferino's pictures

➤ [LINK](#) of Hotel Solferino's Facebook page



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## Travel Documents & Reimbursement

**We kindly ask you to save all documents** which are related to your travels: flight tickets, invoices, boarding passes, bus/train tickets for national transportation in your country and North Macedonia. Documentation background is obligatory for reimbursement.

**Important:** Please do not lose any travel documents and tickets otherwise we will not be able to reimburse you! We are not able to reimburse **missing tickets**, as well as, cannot refund any travel costs done by **TAXI** according to the rules of the Erasmus+ Programme.

- The payment will be done via one bank transfer once we have the originals of all the transportation tickets including the ones from your return journeys, and the participants have filled the online questionnaire that the European Commission sends to validate the participants' project costs. The bank fee will be shared; each part will pay the fees of its bank.

## Insurance

All participants are advised to purchase a travel health insurance on their own cost for the duration of their stay, just in case.

## Things to Bring with You

- Passport or ID,
- Travel health insurance,
- Comfortable clothes and shoes for the activities + older clothes for the painting part (taking in consideration that we will paint outside you might consider bringing extra face masks),
- Check the weather forecast before arriving in order to bring suitable clothes,
- Personal care products: shampoo, toothpaste, etc.,
- Slippers,
- Camera and laptops (if you wish to bring one),
- Pills and medicines you might need,
- Positive attitude.

## Suggestion:

- We highly encourage the participants to bring their own mug, thermos and/or water bottle.



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*For any further questions you may contact us at*

[artismyweapon1@gmail.com](mailto:artismyweapon1@gmail.com)

**See you in Struga, North Macedonia!**

