

YOUTH EXCHANGE

ROOTS OF BELONGING

*Fužine, Croatia,
October 14th- 21st 2024.*



Discover, Connect, Belong!

Roots of Belonging is an **8-day Youth Exchange** set in the breathtaking mountain retreat of **Fužine, Croatia**. It will gather **35 participants from Croatia, Ukraine, Slovenia, Kosovo, and Poland**.

Together we will **explore and strengthen the concepts of connection and belonging among young people**. We will engage in dynamic activities to foster personal growth, build connections, and create a supportive community.



Application
deadline:

10th of September!

[CLICK HERE TO
APPLY!](#)



Hosted by Amazonas

Amazonas Association was registered in Zagreb in 2004. Our vision is an open, playful and solidary society. Our values are inclusiveness, optimism and change. Our activities are based on the implementation of programs and projects aimed at educating, empowering and increasing the quality of life of children, youth and adults in the local community.

We have three main areas of work:

1. Social support - empowering of children, youngsters and families at risk of social exclusion
2. Active and mobile youth - non formal learning of young people, for young people, including mobility projects
3. Educations of experts - training courses as well as development of the education materials for experts in the field of youth and social support.

Through our work we are very much movement based and we use capoeira as well as various sport and movement forms, as a tool to reach positive psychosocial change.

More info find on our [website](#).



PARTNERS:

**HEureka Generator
(Poland)**

SVOI (Ukraine)

**NO EXCUSE
(Slovenia)**

**Building the Balkans
(Kosovo)**



Co-funded by
the European Union



The overall goal is to empower young people to build strong connections and a sense of belonging in diverse communities, while developing skills to positively impact their local, national, and global communities.

YE objectives

- *To reflect on social connections and community using different group exercises.*
- *To explore and express diverse identities through creative workshops and peer discussions*
- *To address feelings of loneliness and isolation by developing strategies for resilience and community support during interactive sessions.*
- *To create a video that captures their shared experiences, insights, and reflections on connection and belonging.*

Connection and belonging are vital for young people as they relate to their communities, helping them feel valued, understood, and essential for their well-being and personal growth. When young people feel a sense of belonging in a community—whether in a local neighborhood, school group, or online network—they are more likely to engage positively and contribute meaningfully. Connection goes beyond mere social interaction; it involves building and maintaining relationships that nurture personal growth, resilience, and well-being. Supportive friendships, mentorship, and community engagement are key in fostering these connections, helping young people develop the skills and confidence they need to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

With this project, we aim to explore and strengthen the concepts of connection and belonging among young people. We want to create a supportive environment where young people can engage in self-exploration, express their identities, and form lasting relationships, both online and offline.



WHO CAN APPLY

- **young people who are ready to spend time in a small town surrounded by hills, and who are excited to explore and deepen their understanding of connection and belonging with others.**
- **6 young people** from each partner country plus **1 group leader**
- Young people **age 16 to 30**
- Group leader can be older than 30 years, but needs to be 21+
- The main criteria in the selection process will be **the motivation of the young person** to participate in the youth exchange





PARTICIPANTS CONTRIBUTION

Before coming to the activity, each country group **must prepare**:

- Make a small research within your local community -
- **on perceptions of social connections and community involvement.** You can prepare this in a presentation, discussion, quiz, or movie.
- Make a **list of resilience strategies and community support methods** that have been effective in your country. You can prepare this in a presentation, discussion, quiz, or movie.
- Select themes for creative workshops that allow participants to **express their identities.** Consider topics such as personal storytelling, identity through art, or cultural expression.

FINAL RESULT

As a final result of exploration in this project, we will create a **video that captures their shared experiences, insights, and reflections on connection and belonging**, which can be used to inspire and support other young people in their communities.

INTERCULTURAL EVENING...

... is one time evening program where each country will present their country in a way they choose. It can be through traditional dances, sketches, food, quiz, poster.

You can bring specific food / drinks /accessories you want to share at intercultural evening.



ACCOMODATION

Fužinarska kuća is located in the beautiful ambiance of idyllic Fužine. From stunning lakes and forests to caves, this area offers countless possibilities for an active vacation as well as relaxation in picturesque nature. Fužinarska kuća is an ideal place for hosting workshops, playrooms, seminars, courses, and conferences. It specializes in catering to both small and large groups. Decorated in a mountain style with a cozy, homely atmosphere and a delicious kitchen that adapts to all the needs of its guests.

[CLICK TO FIND ON THE MAP](#)

Participants will be accommodated in double rooms.





LOCATION

Fužine is a village and a municipality located in Primorje-Gorski Kotar County, 10 km away from the coast and 30 km away from the city of Rijeka. It is situated at 722 meters above sea level while being surrounded by mountains and three large artificial accumulation lakes. For more information on this beautiful area please visit **FUŽINE TOURIST BOARD**.

HOW TO REACH:

There are frequent buses to Fužine from both Zagreb (capital) and Rijeka.

Travel costs will be reimbursed according to Erasmus+ **distance calculator**, depending on your place of origin (in the country of your sending organization).

DISTANCE	STANDARD TRAVEL (GRANT IN EURO)	GREEN TRAVEL (GRANT IN EURO)
0-9	0	0
10-99	56 EUR	28 EUR
100-499	285 EUR	211 EUR
500-1999	417 EUR	309 EUR
2000-2999	535 EUR	395 EUR
3000-3999	785 EUR	580 EUR
4000-7999	1188 EUR	1188 EUR

MONEY / COSTS

As of January 1st 2023, official currency in Croatia is EURO.

In case your country is using another currency, we recommend you buy euros from your Country as exchange office are not so common anymore.

ATM's are available in Fužine.

We look forward to see you in Fužine!
Please apply before September 10th using the link on the first page.