

INFO PACK

for project „Skills 4 Employability”



12-20 June 2022

Bansko, Bulgaria



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



SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

The proposal aims to introduce participants and local youth with certain social problems but also propose alternatives to solve, and it mostly by volunteering as a method of acquiring skills and additional qualifications to enhance the competitiveness of the youth in labor market. Our project will include mostly young people who are unemployed for a long time looking for work, but not enough qualified. The project will introduce youth the new possibility to acquire skills which can them in their way to find employment opportunities. Since volunteering remains underdeveloped in some countries, we would like to present it as a valuable method for acquiring valuable soft skills and experience to be used by youth to become successful in labor market. Since the target group is specific and certainly not random, we have studied its needs based on the experience of the partners.

We aim to introduce volunteering-how and what skills are acquired, how are validated at national and EU level, how to become volunteers on different levels in relation also to employability skills, the meaning of soft skills and how important they are for finding a job nowadays. All these we believe will help them to improve their competence in the future and be able to find work more easily. The overall aim is to present volunteering as a tool for developing useful knowledge, skills and competences to help youth combat unemployment.

Objectives:

- present country realities and trends related to youth unemployment in Europe
- to provide youth with understanding and knowledge of the modern employability skills and the importance of soft skills
- to raise awareness on the value and benefits of volunteering in terms of acquiring skills, knowledge and competences that can be suitable for the labor market
- to raise awareness on different opportunities and programs for volunteering on national and European levels

The youth will get acquainted with the situation in different countries, the methods of the European institutions to tackle youth unemployment, strategies and Erasmus+ and more about the ESC as an opportunity to gain experience and acquire competences. This exchange will inspire youth and give them confidence that they can deal with the problem, it will open up new horizons will trigger interest in mobility and volunteering on local and international level and thus increase their further development. Another goal of the project is to build tolerance and understanding between young people from different countries and the ability to work in a multicultural environment, which again is very valuable. The project will involve youth from specific target groups, will inspire and empower them, will give them another perspective of acquiring skills, and sense of belonging by embracing the value of volunteering-being part of something bigger

ACCOMMODATION

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

Alternativi 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 12 June 2022 or/and leave later (after 20 June 2022 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 12 June 2022 On 20 June 2022 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?

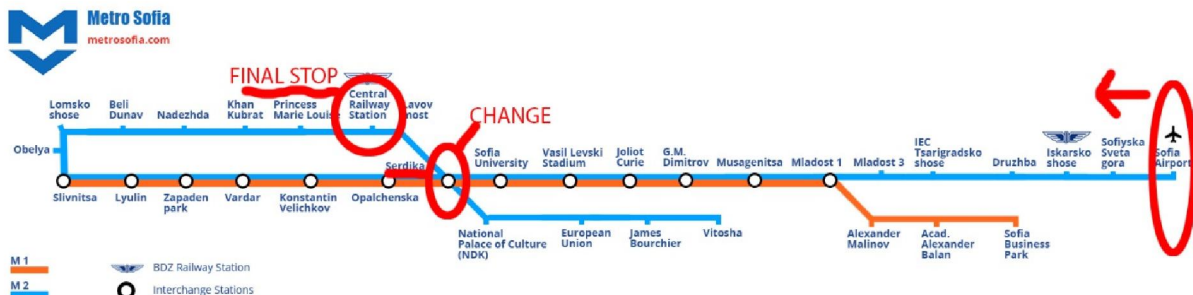
Although there are some different airports, the best option for everybody is to arrive to Sofia. There are several buses leaving everyday from Sofia to Bansko (the first one is at 07:00am and the last one is at 16:45).



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.

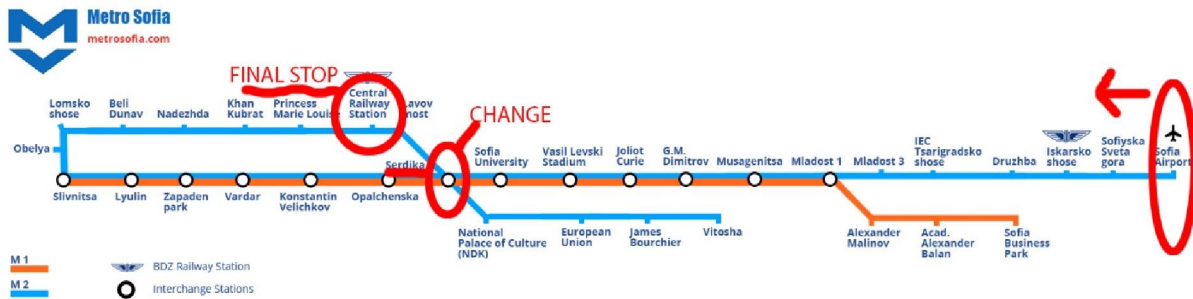
If you are arriving at Sofia airport – Terminal 1

Outside of the terminal you will find white mini bus with sign TRANSFER SHUTTLE /or simply ask any of the stuff 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 2nd 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 SHOES and you have to get out at the 2nd 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 Bansko with [schedule](#):

Route	Departing hour	Price
Sofia- Bansko	09:45	16 BGN
	11:25	16 BGN
	14:00	16 BGN
	16:45	16 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.

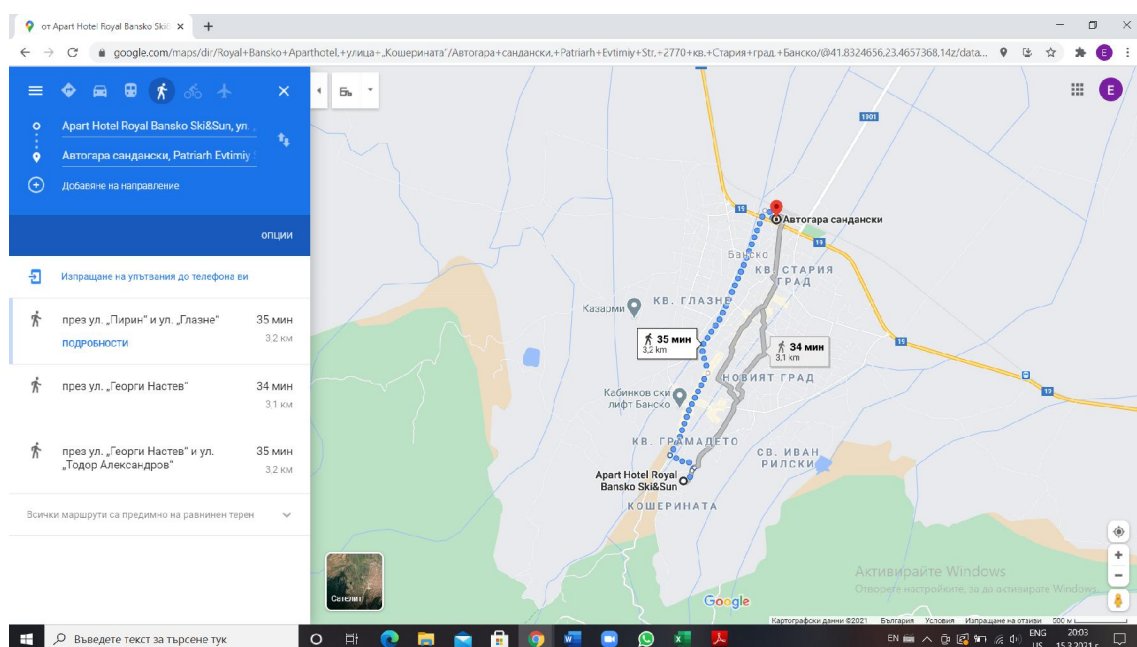
For the way back from Bansko to Sofia

Route	Departing hour	Arrival hour	Price
Bansko - Sofia	05:05	08:05	16 BGN
	06:50	10:20	16 BGN
	12:50	15:50	16 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 in front 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: mobility-center@alternativbg.org
- deadline: 10 May 022

Alternativi 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 (priority boardings , extra leg room in the place, additional luggages 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).

Country	Number of participants	Travel cost limits	Means of transport
Bulgaria	7pax + 1 leader	0 euro	n/a
Spain	7pax + 1 leader	275 euro	Plane
Italy	7pax + 1 leader	275 euro	Plane
Turkey	7pax + 1 leader	180 euro	Bus/train/car
Romania	7pax + 1 leader	180 euro	Bus/train/car

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 50 % of the PCR tests related to entering/going out from Bulgaria if such are applicable. If such required please confirm with the organizers in advance.

Vaccination status:

All participants must be vaccinated in order to participate in the project.



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 18-30 years old with no age limit for the leader
- ✓ -Motivated to participate in the project
- ✓ -They are NOT on their 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 5 May 2022

<https://forms.gle/dMZFSaVLYJTQZ4r87>

CONTACTS



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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/alternativi.international>

