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EC VENTURE: EXPLORING GREEN BUSSINESS IN ACTION

Study Visit | 16 - 23 April 2024 | Bitola, North Macedonia



DISCLAIMER

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AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The study visit aims to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of green entrepreneurship in youth work. It focuses on showcasing diverse green businesses in North Macedonia that have successfully integrated sustainability practices, emphasizing their positive impacts on the environment and local economies. Participants will also learn from successful green business models in partner countries, gaining insights into practical sustainable practices and the challenges they face. Networking opportunities are provided to boost participants' confidence in promoting green entrepreneurship among youth and bridge the gap between theory and real-world application. The ultimate goal is to motivate participants to apply these insights in their work and initiate green business-related initiatives while fostering reflection on the profound impact of green entrepreneurship on individuals and the community. Overall, the objectives aim to inspire youth workers to champion sustainability and green entrepreneurship in their roles.





PARTICIPANTS PROFILE

The ideal candidates for our study visit are youth workers aged 18 and over from the participating countries, who are not only residents but also deeply involved in their local youth communities. They should have a profound interest in the project's themes, particularly in sustainability and environment.

These participants will be driven to develop a broad set of skills in an international context, including communication, teamwork, problem-solving, conflict management, facilitation, and presentation.

Additionally, these youth workers should be enthusiastic about participating in the Erasmus+ programme, prepared to collaborate in international teams, and keen on sharing their experiences in follow-up activities. Their eagerness to immerse themselves in a diverse, intercultural learning environment is essential, as it significantly enriches the seminar experience and contributes to the project's success.

Their participation will go beyond mere attendance; they will actively embrace comprehensive understanding of green entrepreneurship and sustainability practices in youth work. They will be able to share their insights, and apply their learnings in their communities, aiming to enhance green youth initiatives.



PARTICIPANTS RESPONSIBILITIES

Participants in the study visit will be responsible for not only fully attending but also actively engaging in all workshops and sessions. Their active participation is key to the success of the program.

This responsibility is crucial for deepening their understanding of the study visit's themes and ensuring the workshops are interactive and contribute meaningfully to the group's learning experience.

[Application form](#) 



ACCOMMODATION

We will be staying at “Hotel Premier” in Bitola. You will be accommodated in 2/3 bed rooms. Each room has a private bathroom. Towels and linen are provided however you need to bring your own toiletries. The hotel is located just 1.6km from the city center and the main walking street of Bitola called Shirok Sokak where the bars, restaurants and shops are located.

Useful links:

[https://www.facebook.com/HotelPremier/
Bitola_city_guide](https://www.facebook.com/HotelPremier/Bitola_city_guide)



ABOUT BITOLA

Bitola is located in the southwestern part of the country, 14 km from the Greek border, on an elevation of around 600m above the sea level. It has about 80.000 inhabitants and the majority are Orthodox Christians. Bitola is known as the city of consuls, due to the great significance of the city during the Ottoman Empire. Bitola is also called “The city of piano” especially for the aristocracy that used to live in it. Its image was changing as the history was writing stories on its soil. Bitola is connected to the name of the well known Turkish reformer Mustafa Kemal Atatürk where he finished the Military Academy, and today the building is the seat of the National Museum.

One of the most beautiful archaeological sites in Macedonia, Heraclea Lyncestis, is the most visited attraction in this city. In Bitola you can experience the different historical periods, you can feel the atmosphere of the famous pedestrian and always crowded street Shirok Sokak and enjoy the beautiful and authentic architecture, which will leave you speechless.



HOW TO REACH BITOLA



ARRIVING AT SKOPJE

Skopje Airport Is located 150 km from Bitola. Here is how to reach Bitola form the airport:

- Skopje Airport – Skopje shuttle <https://www.wtransporter.com/>
Price of the ticket 199 MKD (3,22 EUR). Ride time to Skopje 30 min.
- When you arrive at main bus station in Skopje you have to get a bus to Bitola. You cannot book online so you have to buy the ticket at the station. If you travel to and back from Skopje, we recommend to buy a return ticket.



SKOPJE - BITOLA BUS TIMETABLE

Time	Place	Carrier	Price	Returned
06:00	BITOLA	GALEB OHRID	730	1020
09:00	BITOLA	TRANSCOPE BITOLA	630	980
13:30	BITOLA	TRANSCOPE BITOLA	630	980
15:30	BITOLA	TRANSCOPE BITOLA	630	980
17:00	BITOLA	TRANSCOPE BITOLA	630	980
19:00	BITOLA	TRANSCOPE BITOLA	630	980
21:00	BITOLA	TRANSCOPE BITOLA	630	980

AFTER ARRIVING TO BITOLA MAIN BUS STATION SOMEONE FROM OUR TEAM WILL PICK YOU UP AND BRING YOU TO THE HOTEL.



ARRIVING AT THESSALONIKI

If you find a better connection to the Thessaloniki airport you can then find a bus to reach Florina where a member of our team will pick you up. How to reach Florina:

The bus route 01X provides direct connectivity from Thessaloniki Airport to the "Macedonia" Intercity Bus Station (KTEL) in Thessaloniki. (<https://thessaloniki-skg-airport.com/bus/#:~:text=Bus%20Route%2001X%20directly%20connects,55%20minutes>)

Frequency and Timings: The bus 01X operates from 6:10 am to 10:40 pm, running every 20-25 minutes. It runs 2 to 3 times per hour, 7 days a week.

Journey Duration: The journey to the city center takes approximately 40 minutes, and reaching the final stop (KTEL Station) takes about 50-55 minutes.

Bus Stop Location at the Airport: The bus stop is situated at the departures area, in front of entrance 3 of Terminal 1.

Night Service: For late evening, night, and early morning travel, bus 1N operates between the airport and the KTEL station from 22:00 hours to 04:45 hours.

From **Thessaloníki** ⇌ To **Florina**

1 Monday, 2 Tuesday , 3 Wednesday, 4 Thursday, 5 Friday, 6 Saturday, 7 Sunday
WARNING wherever exists a dash (-) there is no schedule

Departure	Day	Arrival	Duration		Information
06:00	1 2 3 4 5 - -	8:45	2h 45m		Via Edessa
11:30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	14:15	2h 45m		Via Edessa
14:30	1 2 3 4 5 - -	16:50	2h 20m		
16:00	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	18:45	2h 45m	 *	Via Edessa
19:30	1 2 3 4 5 6 -	21:50	2h 20m		
19:30	- - - - - 7	22:15	2h 45m		Via Edessa
20:00	- - - - 5 - 7	22:20	2h 20m		

The arrival of the routes has been calculated based on regular conditions.

0% Simple:	15,60 €	25% Simple:	11,70 €	50% Simple:	7,80 €
0% Return:	26,00 €	25% Return:	18,00 €	50% Return:	- €

Special prices information

Thessaloniki – Florina bus

<https://ktelmacedonia.gr/en/routes/tid=36>

We wish you safe travel and please do not hesitate to ask us about any doubts for traveling in the neighboring countries and any transport in North Macedonia.

P.S. If you are arriving in late hours, we can organize a car to pick you up from any airport nearby.

TRAVEL DISTANCE AND BUDGET BY COUNTRY

GREEN TRAVEL

The Erasmus+ programme offers Green Travel Support for people travelling to their destination using sustainable modes of transport. Examples of sustainable means of transport are: cycling, carpooling, the bus or the train. To qualify for Green Travel Support, you must use sustainable means of transport for most of your journey (outward and return).

Green Travel Support is available if your destination lies within 100 km to 4000 km travel distance. If you receive Green Travel Support, you will receive a higher travel allowance than the standard travel allowance.

Participants from Greece and Serbia are expected to use the green travel on the project and will receive a higher travel budget.



TRAVEL DISTANCE AND BUDGET BY COUNTRY

REIMBURSEMENT

The organizers will reimburse your travel costs from your home city to Bitola, N. Macedonia and back based on the above table. Reimbursement of travel costs will only be done upon full attendance in the project program and presentation of the original tickets.

Based on the travel distance per participant check the amount that are cover by Erasmus+ Any costs above the lump sum (flat rate) represents your own contribution.

All participants are required to purchase health insurance.

Reimbursement will be done by BANK after receiving all original travel document by post and fulfilling the dissemination requirements.

Note: Transfers by Taxi will not be refunded

Warning: Do not buy any tickets (flight, bus or train) before consulting with us. And please wait for our answer. If you buy a flight ticket without an approval, you may not be reimbursed or be reimbursed partially.

Contact info@sferainternational.org if you have any questions or doubts about your travel.



BUDGET BY COUNTRY

Travel country	Participants	Distance band in km	Travel cost in Eur	Green travel in Eur
North Macedonia	2	0-9	0	
Spain	2	500-2000	275	
Portugal	2	2000-2999	360	
Bulgaria	2	500-2000	275	
Greece	2	100-499	180	+30
Italy	2	500-2000	275	
Czechia	2	500-2000	275	
Latvia	2	500-2000	275	
Serbia	2	100-499	180	+30
Türkiye	2	500-2000	275	



WEATHER



The temperatures in Bitola in April are quite cold with **temperatures between 5°C and 14°C**, warm clothes are a must.

You can expect about **3 to 8 days of rain** in Bitola during the month of April. It's a good idea to bring along your umbrella so that you don't get caught in poor weather.

Please note that Bitola can expect a **few days of snow in April**.

16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
13° / 5°	11° / 4°	12° / 5°	11° / 4°	12° / 5°	13° / 4°	12° / 4°	12° / 5°



FINAL PREPARATIONS

- Intercultural evening –The intercultural evening gives you a unique opportunity in a creative way to promote your country and culture. Show us what you eat, drink, what are your traditions, music, dance..
- NGO Market - The project will include a session when you will present your organizations and you will have time to prepare a flipchart presentation. Feel free to bring promotional materials of your organization to share with the others.
- Morning/Afternoon Energizers: We would be really happy if you prepare some energizers to increase the group energy
- The hotel provides towels but we would recommend that you bring your own toiletries, medicine, shower slippers, etc. anything you need for personal hygiene.
- The currency in N.Macedonia is the Denar (MKD). 1 EURO = 61,5 MKD. It is recommended to bring some euros with you so you can exchange it with denars, as not every place accepts card payments.

ABOUT OUR CULTURE

N. Macedonia is a cultural mosaic, with a rich blend of historical influences and traditions that shape its unique identity. Its music, dance, cuisine, religious art, and festivals all contribute to the vibrant and diverse cultural scene that defines this fascinating Balkan nation.

- **Historical Influence:** North Macedonia has been influenced by a variety of cultures throughout history, including Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman, and Slavic. This has created a unique cultural blend.
- **Language:** The official language is Macedonian, a South Slavic language. Albanian is also widely spoken, especially in the ethnic Albanian communities.
- **Religion:** The predominant religion is Eastern Orthodox Christianity, with a significant Muslim minority.
- **Music and Dance:** Traditional music is an important part of North Macedonian culture, featuring instruments like the tambura, gajda (bagpipe), and tapan (drum). Folk dances, such as the Oro and Tetovo dance, are popular and often performed at celebrations.



ABOUT OUR CULTURE



- Cuisine: Cuisine in North Macedonia is as diverse as its history, with a culinary palette that reflects Mediterranean and Middle Eastern influences. Dishes like Tavče Gravče (baked beans), Ajvar (a red pepper spread), and Macedonian salad are staples in the Macedonian diet. The country is also known for its winemaking tradition, with the Tikveš region being particularly famous for its vineyards.
- Language and literature: The Cyrillic alphabet is used in writing, which is a significant aspect of their national identity. North Macedonian literature has been influenced by its history and multicultural setting. Prominent authors include Grigor Prličev and Blaze Koneski.
- Art and Crafts: Traditional crafts such as embroidery, pottery, and woodcarving play an important role. The country is also known for its Byzantine-style icon paintings.
- Heritage Sites: North Macedonia is home to several UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the ancient city of Ohrid and its lake, renowned for their historical significance and natural beauty.

Meet Our Team



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