

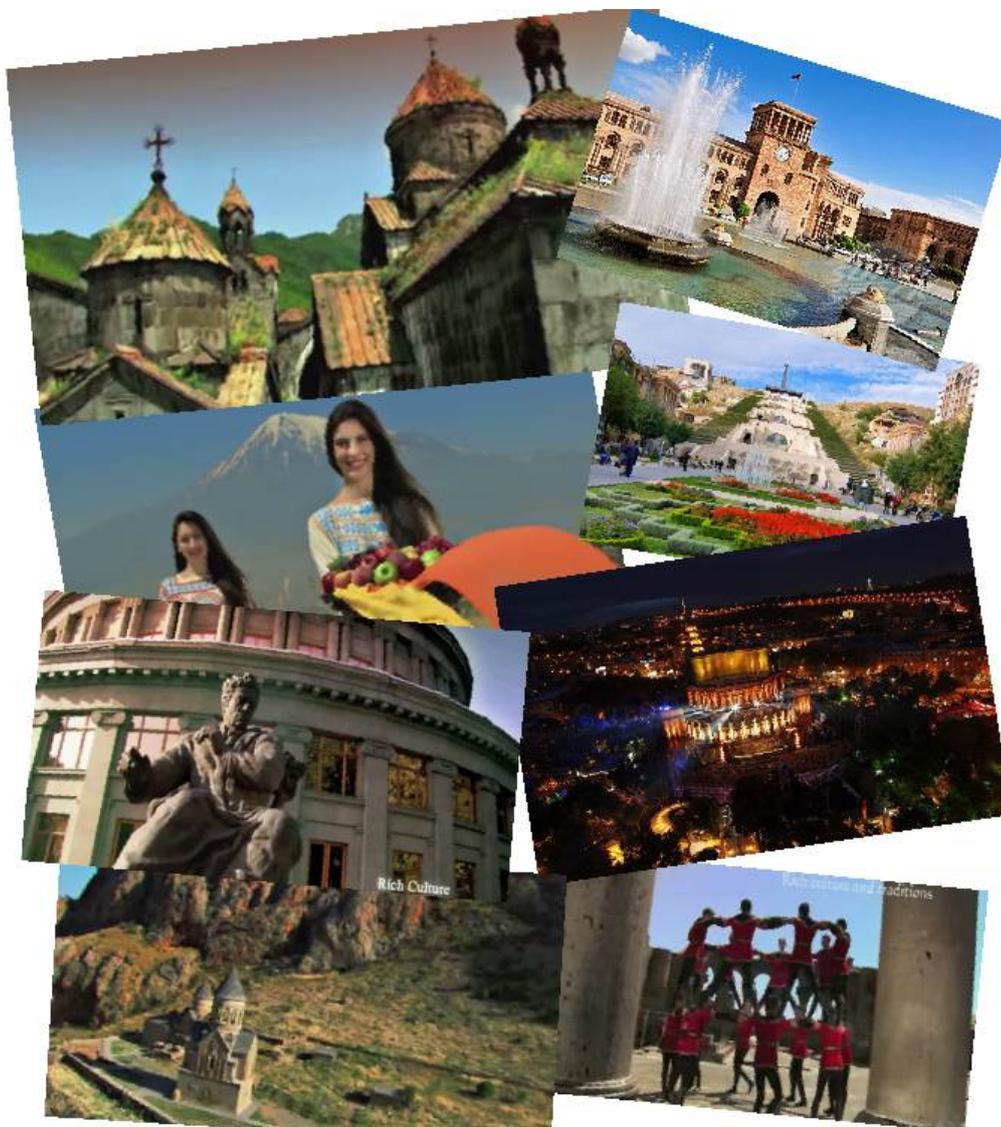


Funded by
the European Union

Achieving Social Inclusion through Culture and Art

Youth Exchange

A1 Yerevan | Armenia 6-15 August 2022



Summary

Countries: Greece, Armenia, Italy and Georgia

Location: Yerevan, Armenia

Dates: 6-15 August 2022

Coordinator Organization: NEANIKOI ORIZONTES M.K.O.

Hosting organization: “Catalyst” Educational NGO

Travel to Armenia: Armenia is open for all travelers. Entry to Armenia requires negative PCR test [check your travel notices before travel] or proof of vaccination. (see <https://www.gov.am/en/covid-travel-restrictions/>) There are no restrictions in Armenia currently and all business including bars and restaurants operate normally.

About the project:

As the pandemic spreads globally, many vulnerable youth such as migrants, refugees or homeless youth are in precarious situations. They tend to be already in a situation without even their minimum requirements being met on health, education, employment and well-being. United Nations suggests this pandemic will likely increase inequality, exclusion, discrimination and global unemployment in the medium and long term. Thus, issues related to social inclusion remain even more relevant today.

Existing studies note that painting, drama, dance, music, literature, photography, film and other art forms provide all young people including immigrants and refugees a creative space for exploration and expression of identities, for challenging discrimination and social exclusion and for fostering intercultural dialogue.

The project “Achieving Social Inclusion through Culture and Art” aims to create a platform where young people experience and practice artistic and cultural communication that leads to social inclusion and become change agents in their local communities in general and among refugees/asylum seekers and migrant communities in particular



We believe inclusion is possible only through renewal on all **4 levels (Mind, Body, Heart and Spirit)**. This course will explore this model that leads to personal and then society level harmony and inclusion.

Phase #1: Youth Exchange A1 in Yerevan, Armenia (6-15 August 2022)

32 young people from 4 countries (Greece, Armenia, Georgia and Italy) will gather in Armenia to reach the following objectives:

- Improve intercultural competences and integration of young people through cultural and artistic expression.
- Empower participants to engage in their communities through artistic and cultural activities (e.g. Local Inclusion Clubs in Phase #2) that foster dialogue and mutual understanding.
- Analyze the current situation and risks facing young people today, particularly young people among refugees/asylum seekers, migrants
- Explore the concept and root causes of radicalization and extremism among youth and how artistic and cultural activities can help alleviate the problem and guide people towards harmony and inclusion.
- Decide themes, topics and methods of the Youth Exchange Activity A2

Phase #2: Participants will pilot and facilitate “Local Inclusion Clubs” giving disadvantaged youth opportunity to experience and practice artistic and cultural dialogue activities in local communities. The network of 8 clubs will reach 200 disadvantaged youth and prepare the ground for Phase #3.
Phase #3: Youth Exchange A2 in Greece (TBD).

Learn and share!

Participants of this project will be encouraged to facilitate/co-facilitate, share and present topics within the theme of the project. We aim to create a mutual learning environment where everyone can share and learn at the same time.

Unforgettable intercultural experience!

The project aims to provide a unforgettable and rich intercultural experience where people from different countries and culture bring their touch and insights to the project creating a synergy of learning and new friendships.

Supporting participants with fewer opportunities

The project is geared towards young people with fewer opportunities and the new comers to this field. There might be participants with different level of English command and educational backgrounds. Participants will be expected to contribute to creating an inclusive and supportive environment for everyone.

For employers and educational institutions: Erasmus + Programme is an official programme of the European Union. Employers and educational institutions of potential participants are encouraged to provide leave days for their employees and students so that they can properly participate in this project.

Arrival and Departure dates

Yerevan | Armenia 6-15 August 2022

Arrival: 5 August 2022 in Yerevan (Hostel check in after 15:00)

Departure: 16 August 2022 from Yerevan (Hostel check out by 11:00)

Note:

- 1. Erasmus + requires participants to arrive before the activity starts and leave after the activity ends. NO LATE ARRIVALS OR EARLY DEPARTURES.** If you have any travel concerns/questions, always discuss with organizers.
- 2. Bear in mind that according to the guidelines of Erasmus+ program the travel back must be realized by participants on direct way within maximum of 2 days. In case of longer stays or indirect travel (holiday travel, etc) there is no chance of reimbursement. **Always get the approval from your Sending Organization for your flight before purchasing it.****
- 3. Early arrivals or late departures** are at the responsibility of the participants to pay for stay. If you arrive early or leave later than the dates above you have to cover your own accommodation or food.

Participant profiles:

32 Participants

- Young people citizens of Greece, Armenia, Georgia, Italy (6+2 per country)
- Age limit: max 30 (Note: NO age limit for group leaders)
- Gender balance: Equal number of male and female participants will be invited.

- Priority given to participants with fewer opportunities.
- Be committed to attend the full duration of the course and implement follow up and dissemination activities after the project.
- Preferable: ability and willingness to contribute to lead a session or facilitate a group activity

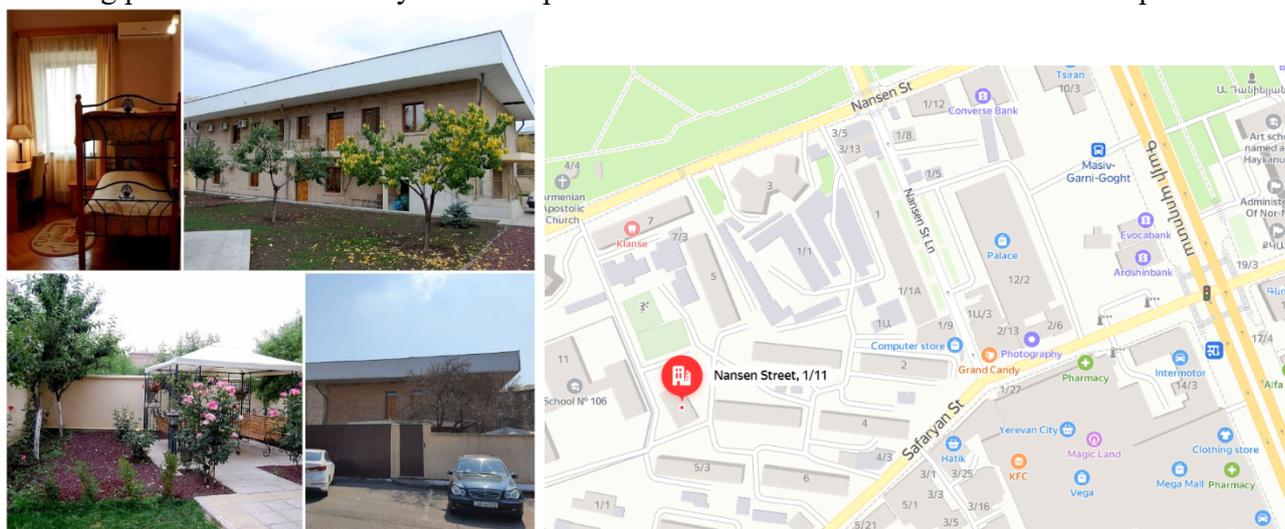
Registration of participants is final only upon purchase of flight tickets and/or payment of the registration fee.

Accommodation and food

The project will be implemented in the framework of the Erasmus + Programme. Accommodation and food will be covered 100% by the organizer.

Venue Address: **Nansen Street, 1/11, Yerevan Armenia** (adjacent to Evangelical Baptist Church of Armenia) (Phone: +37455511221)

The venue is in a very beautiful neighborhood in Yerevan. You can easily walk to [Mega Mall](#) which is the biggest shopping mall in Armenia and [Aquatec Sport Complex](#) which has indoor and outdoor swimming pools. There are many beautiful parks around the venue filled with artistic sculptures.



Use the maps below to find the place when you arrive:

Yandex Map <https://yandex.com/maps/-/CCUBZ-CAwA>

Google Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/2qYiKrStE3TWG8Vf8>

Towels are available in the rooms. There is WiFi Internet Connection in the reception hall

Participants will share rooms. 3-9 person

Participants will be provided with three meals per day & a coffee break.

Important notice on food: Please, keep in mind, that the provided food may differ from the food you are used to have in your country, and, even in case of providing food for special groups, e.g. (if you are heavily meat eater or vegetarian) it may not fully meet your expectations. We strongly recommend participants to inform the organizers IN ADVANCE about any special needs.

Travel and reimbursement

Travel expenses will be covered 100% according to Erasmus + limits as follow:

(note: PCR tests for travel are also covered by this budget)

Country	Calculated start city	Maximum Reimbursement amount
Greece	Megara	EUR 275
Armenia	Abovyan	Will be organized by organizers
Georgia	Tbilisi	Will be organized by organizers
Italy	Roma	EUR 360



Important! Please read carefully!



- **Maximum reimbursement amount** is the maximum amount a participant can be reimbursed. Anything above this amount will have to be covered by the participant.
- **Travel costs related to COVID (e.g PCR test)** can be included in this reimbursed amount.
- **Entry to Armenia requires negative PCR tests or proof of vaccination. Check this link for latest requirements.** <https://www.gov.am/en/covid-travel-restrictions/>
- **To be reimbursed:** Participants must fill a reimbursement form and provide tickets, invoices, and boarding passes. We will send extra details later.
- **Travel will be reimbursed via bank transfer within maximum 2 months** after the project and after submission of all travel documentation including return boarding passes (Does not apply to Georgia & Armenia). 2 months is the limit. Practically though, if possible we plan to reimburse participants sooner than later.
- Bear in mind that according to the guidelines of Erasmus+ program the travel back must be realized by participants on direct way within maximum of 2 days. In case of longer stays or indirect travel (holiday travel, etc) there is no chance of reimbursement. **Always get the approval from organizers for your flight before purchasing it.**
- **Travel might not be reimbursed if participant arrives late (after the start of the activity) or leaves before the activity is over.** In case of travel concerns, always discuss with organizers in advance.

For Participants from Georgia

We will schedule an eco-friendly bus to pick all Georgian Participants from Tbilisi center and bring to Yerevan. Return will also be organized. Further details will be provided.

Visa:

EU and CIS member state citizens do not need a visa to enter Armenia. In case of need, you can apply for e-visa here <http://www.mfa.am/eVisa/>

Please, check the validity of the passports before the departure!

Watch for your passport! Do not lose it while traveling!

Local Money:

The Armenian Currency is called ARMENIAN DRAM. In the shops US dollars and Euros are not taken. There are many places in Yerevan where you may exchange money (from Euros and US dollars). We recommend using cash instead of credit or debit cards as fees usually have to be paid when withdrawing money in Armenia.

The approximate exchange rate is:

1 USD - 490 AMD ; 1 EUR - 580 AMD;

You can always check the exchange rate at: www.cba.am

Taxi services in Yerevan

There are official airport taxi services at the airport. You can also order taxi via your mobile using [GG](#) and [Yandex](#) upon arrival. The cost of Taxi ride to hostel should be around 10-15 EUR

Armenian Mobile Phones:

There are three mobile operators in Armenia: Beeline, VivaCell-MTS and Orange. In case you need an **Armenian Mobile/Sim card**, please inform the organizers and we'll help you get one!

Things to bring and do

Mandatory!

- **Health Insurance including COVID coverage recommended.**

Make sure you have an insurance (travel, health, accident, liability), to inform you this costs cannot be reimbursed, and it's fully on participants.

Make sure your health insurance covers cost in case you get sick with COVID. Should you get sick while in Armenia or not able to return to your home country you need to cover your own costs related to treatment, quarantine or further stay if any.

- Bring Healty food and drinks from your country/region for the intercultural evening (We kindly ask all participants to bring some national drinks, snacks and music from their home countries, as a contribution to the intercultural evening, please bring already prepared snacks/food, you will have possibility to cook.
- Bring sweets from your countries as we are going to have intercultural coffee breaks
- Your Country Flag
- Medicine, if you have allergies/or you periodically need medicine, please bring what you may need!
- Within 30 days after the end of the course participants must implement a dissemination activity in their country and send to projects.youth@yahoo.com a small written report with pictures and explanation.

Recommended!

- Music, games, photo camera, cash, Photo camera
- laptop (we will have wifi access in the reception of the hotel)

Organizers:

The project in Armenia will be implemented by “Catalyst” Educational NGO in cooperation with its partners and is responsible for organization, administration and logistics in Armenia.

Contacts:

Lead Facilitator/Tigran B. projects.youth@yahoo.com

General Supervision/Office: liana.avanesyan@yahoo.com | +374 55 801038

