



Co-funded by
the European Union

Training Course
**Helping youth from
small towns and
villages**

Madan, Bulgaria
07 - 16 April, 2025



ЦЕНТЪР ЗА РАЗВИТИЕ
НА ЧОВЕШКИТЕ РЕСУРСИ



Hosting organisation

The Association "Children with Special Needs" is a non-governmental organization with the following main objectives:

- To support the diagnosis and treatment of children with special needs and to promote the social integration of young people with special needs.
- To encourage the free initiative of young people in the region.

The association collaborates with partners from Greece, Romania, North Macedonia, Turkiye, Hungary, Albania, Italy, Spain, Serbia, Georgia, Poland, and Bulgaria. Their shared primary goal is to ensure that participants will have a week full of profound and unforgettable experiences.

The association holds Erasmus+ accreditation and a Quality Label for ESC. It has been working with young people from the region for over 13 years.



About the project

This training course is designed to empower young people from small towns and villages by equipping them with essential skills and knowledge to improve local infrastructure, create better job opportunities, and enhance educational prospects within their communities. The course emphasizes the critical role of youth in decision-making processes and the decentralization of activities that directly benefit local areas.

Participants will explore strategies to foster community development while preserving traditional values and promoting a positive image of rural and small-town regions. By engaging in this program, young individuals will gain the tools to advocate for progress, drive sustainable development, and ensure equal opportunities for personal and professional growth.

The course also focuses on building leadership and teamwork skills, encouraging young people to take active roles in shaping their communities' future. Through practical workshops, mentorship, and collaborative activities, participants will be empowered to contribute meaningfully to the prosperity and resilience of their hometowns and villages.



Useful information

01 - Date and Location

The event will occur from 07.04.25 to 16.04.25 in Madan, Bulgaria.

- Arrival: Afternoon or evening of 06.04.25
- Departure: Morning of 17.04.25

02 - Partners and Participants

The project seeks 3 participants (18+) each from Turkey, North Macedonia, Lithuania, Hungary, and Bulgaria. (It is recommended to ensure gender equality among participants.)

03 - Travel Cost

Participants are encouraged to choose eco-friendly travel options (e.g., car-sharing or trains). Travel expenses will be reimbursed according to the Erasmus+ distance band calculator.

04 - Food and Accommodation

- Three meals a day will be provided.
- Participants with special dietary needs (vegetarian, vegan, halal, allergies, etc.) are requested to inform organizers of their preferences in advance.
- If participants require specific or uncommon ingredients not readily available in Bulgaria, they are encouraged to bring their own food.

Accommodation

Participants will be accommodated at Hostel "Chayka" upon their arrival. Each participant will complete a declaration of compliance with the internal rules of the accommodation and fill out a registration form. A brief meeting will be held with the working team and representatives of the partner organizations to clarify any logistical details.

Participants will be assigned to two-bed rooms with separate toilets. Room assignments will be made according to the participants' gender.



Tips for a better experience

Every participant needs to bring:

- Towels and suitable clothes for both indoor and outdoor activities (check the weather in advance).
- Good mood.

Every group needs to bring:

- Traditional food and drinks for the intercultural evening.
- One computer per group.

Every group has to prepare:

- Ice breakers.
- Game ideas for workshops.
- An interactive presentation about your country for the intercultural evening.

By participating in the project you are agreeing that Association "Children with Special Needs" will use your personal data under the agreement in accordance with applicable European and national data protection legislation.



About Madan

The city

Madan is a city in southern Bulgaria, located in the heart of the Rhodopes mountain range. It is situated in the Smolyan region and is a medium-sized city in the area. The city serves as the administrative center of the Madan municipality, which encompasses the city of Madan and 44 villages, with a total population of 15,500 people.

The name

The name of the city originates from the old Arabic-Turkish word *maden*, which translates to "mineral, ore, mine." It is preserved in older maps as *Maden köy* - meaning "ore village." Another theory suggests that *madan* refers to a primitive mechanical device for processing and crushing ore, known as the "self-made" tool.

The museums

In 1984, the Crystal Hall "Rhodope Crystal" was established in Madan. This museum houses a collection of mineral crystal specimens extracted from the local mines since its inception. It features 581 exhibits.

For more information: <https://www.madan.bg/home.html>



Educator Pass 2025

You are welcome to join our new educational programme for 2025! Dive into non-formal learning exploration for a 75 euro fee that will unlock your potential to join all training courses, professional study visits, events in Lithuania and abroad until the end of the year, and also supports us to find new exciting and exclusive opportunities for community members!

Please do not pay any fee until you receive a confirmation letter to join the programme. If you want to join the project, please fill the application form, whether you have already participated or not. Bear in mind that Tavo Europa keeps the right to send the most suitable and motivated participants to all of our projects.

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