



Co-funded by
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Training Course

The basics of democracy understanding the rights and responsibilities of citizens

Madan, Bulgaria
07 - 21 April, 2025



ЦЕНТЪР ЗА РАЗВИТИЕ
НА ЧОВЕШКИТЕ РЕСУРСИ



Hosting organisation

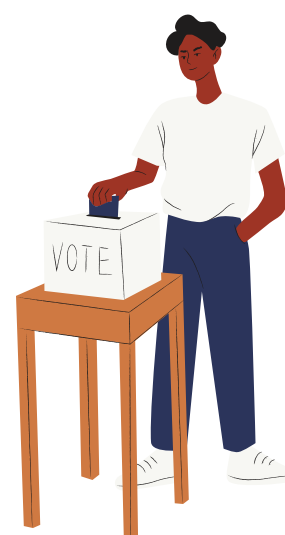
"Life is beautiful" Foundation successfully implements projects under the "Erasmus+" programs and for the support of NGOs in Bulgaria, including "Social realization of visually impaired youth from Bulgaria and Turkey" and "We will find a way". These initiatives contributed to the development of the foundation and the accumulation of experience in the organization and implementation of youth exchanges with international participation. Young people from five countries participated in the "Together" project, and the foundation was awarded a certificate and statuette for its contribution. The foundation leads and coordinates various initiatives, participates in public life and contributes to the informal education of young people, ensuring the successful implementation of project activities and the international mobility of participants.



About the project

This course delves into the fundamental principles underlying democratic systems, with a focus on the rights and responsibilities of citizens. It explores critical themes such as the right to vote, freedom of speech, and participation in public decision-making processes, while emphasizing the importance of active, informed engagement in the democratic process. The course will also examine the pivotal role of civic duties, including respecting the rule of law, contributing to community welfare, and holding leaders accountable. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of how individual actions influence the health and resilience of democratic societies.

Additionally, the course will provide insights into the historical development of democratic institutions, the challenges they face in modern contexts, and strategies to safeguard democratic values in the face of evolving global dynamics. Through interactive discussions, case studies, and practical exercises, this course aims to empower individuals to become proactive and responsible contributors to their communities and democratic governance.



Useful information

01 - Date and location

Date: 07.04 - 21.04.2025 in Madan, Bulgaria.

(arrival on the 06th afternoon/evening, departure on the 22nd morning)

02 - Partners and participants

We are looking for 12 people (18+) from Hungary, Turkey, North Macedonia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Greece, 2 people from each country.

03 - Travel cost

We encourage participants to choose green travel options for their journey (ex: car sharing, trains). The travel expenses will be reimbursed according to the Erasmus/ESC distance band calculator.

04 - Food and accommodation

We will provide 3 meals a day. For participants with special diets (vegetarian, vegan, halal, allergies etc.), please inform us about your food preferences beforehand. If you have some extremely complicated diet or you would like to have some special ingredients that may not be available in Bulgaria, we would appreciate it if you could take the food that you need with you.



Accommodation

Participants will be accommodated in 2-person rooms at hostel "Chayka," in Madan, Bulgaria. The location offers free access to a bar and shop, proximity to the city center, and a shopping area. We can provide the accommodation only on the indicated invitation dates; any additional days the participants need to take care of on their own.

Hostel "Chayka" is located in the heart of the Rhodope Mountains, namely the town of Madan.

It is the perfect choice for people looking for a combination of charm and tranquility. Conveniently located near the famous city of Zlatograd, the winter resort of Pamporovo, and sunny Greece, whose border is no more than 40 minutes away.



Tips for a better experience

Every participant needs to bring:

- Suitable clothes for both inside and outside activities (please check the weather in advance)
- 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.

For more projects: Explore the world and learn together with the help of Tavo Europa. Join the group with more opportunities: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/186132221744993>

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