



*A youth exchange funded by the Erasmus + programme*

## **Youth Exchange Infosheet**

**DEAR PARTICIPANTS,**

We are looking forward to meeting and working with you in the **INTERCULTURAL COMICS** international youth exchange funded by the **ERASMUS+: Youth in Action Programme**. Learning by doing and peer to peer learning are the core focus!

**IN THIS INFOPACK YOU WILL ALSO FIND:**

- ✓ Practical issues related to your preparation for this youth exchange
- ✓ A brief presentation of Youth Exchanges funded by Erasmus+ Programme

Please read carefully also the day-by-day programme of the youth exchange (the programme is flexible and may be modified) in order you become aware about what to expect from this experience. And if you have any question, we'll be happy to hear from you!  
We wish you the best for having an unforgettable experience!

**Mediterranea Team**

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## **Intercultural Comics Project**

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In a period of strong exacerbation of policies for welcoming migratory flows, the main objective of the project is to promote intercultural dialogue and social inclusion for young people in situation of fragility. This requirement was detected by the young promoters of the project and the alliance of partners is oriented to enhance the different point of views about intercultural dialogue and immigration's issues. The project involves organizations based in Italy, Malta, Greece, Croatia, Romania and Estonia.

The project aims to give to the participants an unprecedented opportunity to live up to their artistic potential through making a comic book. On the basis of recognized issues, we have defined these

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) Promote intercultural and interreligious dialogue, the values of freedom and tolerance and the respect of human rights encouraging, by non formal activities, critical thought of young people.
- 2) Increase awareness of young people about immigration issues and focus on the necessity of social inclusion for migrants and asylum seekers and refugees.
- 3) Upgrade artistic and professional skills of the participants by the peer learning.

"Intercultural Comics" is an youth exchange that involves 31 youngsters from 6 European countries. All participants share the same passions for the comics and for figurative art and wish to improve their artistic skills. At the same time, they want to address issues about immigration, intercultural/ interreligious dialogue, common values of freedom, tolerance and respect of human rights.

The **PARTICIPANTS** are between 16 and 29 years old, most of them live in rural areas or urban deprivation areas and suffer for some of these problems: lack of cultural, formative and recreational

opportunities, high unemployment rates amongst young people and social marginalisation. Among them there are 12 young migrants and asylum seekers and refugees, identified by promoters organizations during their local events and already entered in social inclusion programme.

Before the youth exchange starts are identified 6 group leaders (one for each country) and one coordinator, they will be required to carry out a preliminar visit (APV) to knows each others, to inspect the accomodation and to decide together how to do the planned activities.

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## Dates

November 2019 – from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> (the 18<sup>th</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup> are the travelling days).

You cannot arrive after the 1st day or leave before the last day. But we can refund your travel tickets in case you wish arrive or leave 2 days before/after the youth exchange, in case you want to have a private tour (but you have to cover food and accommodation by yourself for the extra days, as well for the internal travel tickets).

**Meeting point:** as soon as we'll get all the participants tickets, we'll be able to provide you with the meeting time and place.

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## Activities

During the youth exchange the participants are involved in games, friendly activities and domestic self-management, insights and laboratories. The activities shall first focus on brainstorming and reflection on immigration and human rights issues, after that begins the exploitation laboratory phase in which are addressed purely technical measure (graphics, color and narrative) for the creation of an intercultural comic book. The participants are divided in joint teams so they can use the comics like innovative instrument of communication between different culture.

The laboratories are mixed with gaming moment and role play to know each others and to have team building and during the exchange are planned intercultural evenings and an excursion in Gallipoli, neighbouring costal city that is embleme of cultural mix-up.

All the activities are organised trough non formal methodology of learning like learning by doing and peer education. The whole exchange (all the activities) will be managed by participants themselves to promote a most active partecipazione and to developing transversal competences.

At the end of the exchange is planned a final event open to local public, the participants will expose their intercultural comics achieved during the laboratories. In this forum take place the ceremony of Youthpass delivery.

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## Countries

Italy, Malta, Greece, Croatia, Romania and Estonia

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## Participants

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24 participants (4 each partner) +5 group leaders (representatives from partner organizations) +2 Italian facilitators. Age Range: 16 -29 years.

Participant's profile: All participants share the same passions for the comics and for figurative art and wish to improve their artistic skills. At the same time, they want to address issues about immigration, intercultural/ interreligious dialogue, common values of freedom, tolerance and respect of human rights. Most of them live in rural or urban disadvantaged areas, among them 12 boys are migrants, second generation migrants, asylum seekers or refugees (2 each partner).

Based on our experience, to foster active participation, the meals will be prepared by the participants themselves, and they will sleep in common rooms (divided by sex). So the participants should be easygoing people, open to intercultural dialogue and ready to share knowledge, time and space with people from other countries.

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## Accommodation

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“Ostello Salento” is a structure in Alezio (Lecce) equipped with all the basic comforts and in accordance with the law, where another successful youth exchange was held. The structure is surrounded by greenery, is distributed on a single floor with bathrooms and services with several bedrooms, a large kitchen, common recreation room and outdoor spaces.

The participants will be accommodated in a dormitory with shared rooms and toilets. We will use as self-management approach, so the participants will be divided in mixed groups (gender and nationality) to cook and to clean. These groups (in rotation) will be responsible to cook and clean the spaces. There will be no washing machine: we'll have so much fun, that you won't need it. Please before arriving, remember to bring all the materials you need for the activities and free time on a USB key (video, presentations, files, movies, ..).

Link: <https://www.ostellosalento.com/>

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## Hosting organization

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The APV meeting and youth exchange will be organized by the Italian hosting organization, Mediterranea Associazione per lo Sviluppo Locale (<http://www.medinforma.it>). Mediterranea is not-for-profit organisation, whose mission is to promote EU policies addressing in particular youth, women and people with less opportunities. Since 1992 Mediterranea performs activities in the fields of social inclusion, culture, information and training, communication, social animation, job and carrier guidance, entrepreneurship. Through the “Informa” project, Mediterranea created and implemented a network of Youth Info-points in over 30 cities in the Apulia Region. This experience

led to start up the “Informa” cooperative, leader in the region for job and training guidance. In the past years, Mediterranea has been also the main contractor for many national (PON) and regional/European grants (ERDF) such as the “OrientaLavoro” Front Office for job guidance and entrepreneurship, as well as the “InformaDonnna” infopoint addressing women.

In 2001 Mediterranea managed a Master in Cultural Heritage at the Lecce University together with Federculture, the Italian federation of Institutions working in the culture field.

Since 2002 Mediterranea has been in charge of VET and higher education projects, funded by the European Social Fund.

From 2002 to 2006 “Mediation Centre” has been created in the city of Bari for addressing the needs of many families, with a focus on children and teenagers. And from 2006 to 2008 a Family Centre supported disadvantaged families in Bari.

Since 2015 Mediterranea is managing a public open space in Alezio (Lecce), an “Urban Lab” with the aim of creating social and cultural initiatives for promoting social inclusion and active citizenship.

Mediterranea approach is based on active participation and involvement, non-formal and informal education and cross-sectoral multidisciplinary approach. Mediterranea cooperates with: public institutions especially at local and regional level; schools, universities, vocational and other educational institutions; public and private social inclusion organizations; other NGOs.

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## Travel directions

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We have two main airports (in the cities of Bari and Brindisi) in the Apulia Region, both are suitable for reaching the city of Lecce, where the meeting point will be planned. However, we recommend Brindisi airport better.

Don't forget to **validate your (bus/train) tickets** as it's compulsory in Italy.

- From the “Karol Wojtyła” Airport in Bari to Lecce

*Train: Bari Airport – Bari Central Station:* The Airport is about 11 Km far from Bari central station/city center. A train line connects the airport to the main train station in the city centre, Bari Centrale. This line is called the FM2 line (or FR2 line) and it is operated by the Bari metropolitan railway service - Ferrotramviaria S.P.A. The platform (there's only one platform at the airport) is not that close to the airport, so you must add at least 10 minutes to your journey time to walk to the platform; however, it is well signposted from the terminal. Departure are scheduled between 05:26 and 23:38 at intervals between 20 and 30 minutes. A journey from the airport to “Bari Centrale” will take 17 minutes and stop at 5 stations along the way (airport and central station are both end of the line). If you wish to download the full timetable it can be found on the official website at [www.ferrovienordbarese.it/times](http://www.ferrovienordbarese.it/times) A journey from the airport to the central station or vice versa will cost **€5 per person** for a one-way ticket. Tickets can be purchased at the train station

or online. There is no difference in the price and you will always find a seat available, so an online booking is not necessary. Any ticket you purchase is not time specific, so it doesn't matter if your plane is late and you miss the time you originally planned to travel, but tickets must be used on the date printed on the ticket.

*Train: Bari central station – Lecce central station:* From Bari central station, a direct train connects Bari to Lecce. Timetable is available here: <http://www.trenitalia.com/tcom-en> A journey costs 10,50 euro and takes 1,5 hours to get Lecce. Tickets can be purchased at the train station or online. There is no difference in the price and you will always find a seat available, so an online booking is not necessary.

- From the “Casale/salento” Airport in **Brindisi** to Lecce

*Bus: Brindisi Airport – Lecce City Center:* A train line connects Brindisi airport to the city center in Lecce and it is operated by Sita SPA: <http://www.sita-on-line.it/> A journey costs 6,50 euro and takes 45 minutes to get Lecce. Tickets can be purchased at the train station or online. There is no difference in the price and you will always find a seat available, so an online booking is not necessary.

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## “Area” Urban Lab

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Area Lab is a space with internal and external areas where the non-formal education activities foreseen by the project are carried out. The Laboratory includes several rooms suitable for teaching (equipped with tables, chairs, projectors, PC), a music room, a meeting room, etc.

Link: <http://www.arealabalezio.it/>

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## Transport

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The movements are mostly made on foot or for small stretches in cars driven by staff or with rented vehicles. If public transport is not suitable to manage the arrivals and departures of the group, the rental of a private bus is considered.

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## Insurance

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Participants are insured against all risks related to their participation in these activities (accidents and serious illness, death, medical care, etc..).

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## Location

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**Alezio:** Alezio is a small town in the province of Lecce (Puglia Region) very close to Gallipoli. This

proximity has made tourism an important element in the city's economy, which preserves a primary role for the traditional activity of agriculture. It was certainly a city of Messapia. In the city it is possible to visit the "Museo Civico Messapico" (Messapian Civic Museum) which houses the numerous finds found in the necropolis. The Sanctuary of Santa Maria della Lizza, built by the Normans in the 12th century and bearing traces of a pre-existing Byzantine building, is also worth a visit.



**Gallipoli:** Gallipoli is a small town on the Apulian coast famous for its beaches and crystal clear water. The old town is located on an offshore island connected by a bridge to the mainland. Many tourist and cultural attractions of the city: Angevin castle, churches, museums and historical buildings.



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## Food

We will arrange kitchen teams, so everybody gets the chance to cook and prepare the meals with other young people and leaders. There will be a fully equipped kitchen to cook for a large group. All the food will be provided by the staff. For any problem about the food we'll have the possibility to buy extra in the markets in the surroundings. Please it is strongly recommended that if you have any particular needing about food (allergies, vegetarian,..) to inform us before coming in order to manage it before.

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## Travel reimbursement procedure

Accommodation, food and activities are fully covered by the project (and paid by Mediterranea directly), while the travel costs will be reimbursed up to **275 euro and 360 euro for Estonian group**. Each participant will buy her/his own tickets (please send us the travel itinerary and wait for our authorization before to buy the tickets). We'll refund the costs after receiving by ordinary mail in Italy all the **original tickets, boarding passes and invoices** from your home to the accommodation



(including busses, trains, shuttles to the airport, etc).

We're allowed from Erasmus+ Agency to refund only the original tickets (altogether including the return tickets) once we'll receive physically by ordinary mail after the youth exchange. Please mind that E-boarding passes are not refundable and phone screenshots are not valid as travel tickets. No first class tickets or taxi expenses are allowed to be reimbursed.

We'll process only one bank transfer to your sending organization or the group leader, for the whole national group after the youth exchange. No other amount of money will be asked or given to the partners/participants. We can refund your travel tickets in case you wish arrive or leave 2 days before/after the youth exchange, in case you want to have a private tour (but you have to cover food and accommodation by yourself for the extra days, as well for the internal travel tickets).

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## Language

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The language of the exchange will be English. Find below a table with basic Italian:

yes/no	si/no	Hi	ciao	left /right	destra/sini stro
thank you	grazie	good-bye	ciao	straight on	dritto
your welcome	prego	How much is it?	quanto costa	Street	via/strada
excuse me	mi scusi	where?	dove	Ticket	biglietto
please	per favore	when?	quando	I don't understand	non capisco
good morning	buon giorno	Yesterday	ieri	I don't speak italian	non parlo italiano
good afternoon	buon pomeriggio	Today	oggi	hot/cold	caldo/fred do
good night	buona notte	Tomorro w	domani	no problem	nessun problema

In Italian every written letter is pronounced. You should remember this useful rule and without thinking in a while you'll be speaking Italian ;)

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## What to prepare

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- Intercultural evening where you will have the opportunity to share something about your identity/culture with others. We suggest that all participants can go beyond the traditional "national culture" and think of their individual cultural identity. Think of the elements that compose your identity, the building-blocks of what makes you 'you', and try to show them

to other participants during this evening. Maybe some of you are into traditional music and others more into rock culture; someone might really like those folk dances from your country and someone else knows everything about... Hip-hop; maybe you feel you are really a typical person from “your country” or maybe you don’t fit so well into that box. Whatever you identify with, that’s what you should share. To make sure this will be a fun- crazy night we have added a small theme to our dress code: “RETRO”. So, bring with you some Retro clothes. Whatever that means to you... time to talk to your grannies? ;).

- Workshop - Art sharing: National groups share the artistic traditions of their countries of origin. After the exhibition, the participants are given some operational ideas on post-its and, through a draw, they are called to experiment with the traditions of others to discover a new way of expressing themselves.

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## What to bring

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- Anything you may need (USB, PC, video, etc) for the intercultural evenings and workshops you’re supposed to prepare.

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## Youthpass

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Every participant is individually entitled to receive a Youthpass Certificate.

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## Erasmus +

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The European Union's Erasmus+ programme is a funding scheme to support activities in the fields of Education, Training, Youth and Sport. The Programme is made up of three "Key Actions" and two additional actions. They are managed partly at the national level by National Agencies and partly at the European level by the EACEA. The European Commission is responsible for Erasmus+ policies and oversees the overall programme implementation.

The Erasmus+ Programme contributes to the achievement of:

- The objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy, including the headline education target;
- The objectives of the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (ET 2020), including the corresponding benchmarks;
- The sustainable development of Partner Countries in the field of higher education;
- The overall objectives of the renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018);
- The objective of developing the European dimension in sport, in particular grassroots sport, in line with the EU work plan for sport;

- The promotion of European values in accordance with Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union.

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## Key Action 1 – Youth exchange

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Youth Exchanges are intended to contribute to the personal development of the young participants. The exchanges are open to all European young people, regardless of their background, education, or socio-economic situation.

A Youth Exchange brings together groups of young people from two or more countries, providing them with an opportunity to meet, discuss, and confront various themes, while learning about each other's countries and cultures. The main aim is to encourage and promote the personal and social education of young people, reinforcing their feeling of being European citizens. The young people involved in the Youth Exchange, are an essential 'active' part from the very beginning till the very end of such a project.

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## Contacts

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*Project's FB group:*

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1540069699461961/>

*Project's blog:*

<http://www.medinforma.it/projects/interculturalcomics/>