

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Kick-Off Seminar “traditionally yours” of the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) in Kruševo, North Macedonia 13th - 19th of February 2023

The Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) is looking for participants for the Kick-Off “*traditionally yours*”. The event will take place at **Kruševo in North Macedonia** from **13th until the 19th of February** and will be hosted by the youth organisation “Vlach Youth Council of Macedonia” (VYCM).

About the Seminar	1
Workshop	2
Participants profile	3
Arrival & Departure	3
About YEN	3
What is VYCM?.....	3
Finances	4
Corona Safety Measures	5
Application procedure	6
Contact	6

About the Seminar

Our year 2023 starts with a Kick off Seminar where we will visit the Vlach Community in North Macedonia. About 30 young people from national, ethnic and linguistic minorities from around Europe will spend a week together, participate in a workshop based on methods of non-formal education, learn about the Vlach Community in North Macedonia, get to know each other and enjoy leisure activities such as an excursion day, a diverse evening program and the Cultural Exchange Market, where every participant is invited to present their own community.

The seminar is supported by the Council of Europe through the European Youth Foundation.

Workshop

For many national, ethnic and linguistic minorities traditions play a key role in community life. They are tools for creating a sense of belonging, fighting assimilation or representation. Naturally, they have a great impact on the members of these communities. Therefore, we believe it is valuable that young people from minorities better understand the power and opportunities that lie in traditions and specifically reflect on how their own communities' traditions are impacting their identity as young minority members who might not agree or have great influence on certain (elements) of tradition.

Addressing the impact of traditions on the individual is a crucial starting point for our Workplan as it connects the topic of the year to each participant but also to each member of the YEN network.

More specifically, you will:

- Learn about and discuss different definitions of "tradition", how traditions are shaped, which forms they can take and what impact they can have;
- Start a process of self-reflection on the traditions and cultural expressions of your own community and personal relation to it. You and the other participants will be encouraged to rethink your own identity as a young minority member and which elements make you feel like belonging to your community.
- Have opportunities to exchange with other youth from minorities in Europe about different traditions, expression of culture and your own perception of them.

-

→ *The workshops are based on non-formal education methods and you will spend most of the week in your workshops. Non-formal education is very different from education as you know it from schools or university. It is based on exchange between the participants, on shared experiences and reflection of your own situation.*

If you are interested to explore these topics and meet with 30 other young minority members from all over Europe this seminar is right for you! The Orga-Team is made up members of the youth organisation of the Vlach minority North Macedonia "Vlach Youth Council of Macedonia" (VYCM) and representatives of YEN .

Accommodation will be provided for all during the Seminar.

As the pandemic is still ongoing, we ask all our participants to test themselves before starting their travels.

Participants profile

You are a young member of a minority between 16 and 30 years and involved in your minority youth organization? Then sign up for the YEN Kick-Off Seminar!

Please notice that we can accept two to three participants from each YEN member organisation. However, there will be a waiting list to fill up open seats out of it after the registration deadline. So if you are interested in sending more participants, get in contact with the YEN-office (under events@yeni.org).

If you are not part of a YEN member organisation but still want to experience a YEN event please also contact events@yeni.org, we are always happy to welcome guests.

Arrival & Departure

Arrival Day: 13th of February

Departure Day: 19th of February

More information on Venue and how to reach Kruševo will be provided after the application process.

About YEN

As YEN we believe in human rights and fundamental freedoms for all humans. We cooperate with and support institutions that share those values. Our work is built on the ideas of respect, openness and tolerance for all minorities. We openly position ourselves against racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, antigypsyism, antisemitism and discrimination or forced assimilation of any kind of minority and, as a matter of principle, are against violence in whatsoever form. When we choose facilitators and topics for workshops we do so with those values in mind.

We are happy that at YEN events our participants and team have various opinions and views on the topics we address. We value discussions and open exchange of ideas. Therefore, we expect that participants and team-members show respect to everyone and do not spread hate. Furthermore, we expect all attendees to acknowledge that every human being is equally valuable, and that each individual's freedom ends where another individual's freedom begins.

What is VYCM?

The Vlach Youth Council of Macedonia (VYCM) is a non-political, non-profitable youth organization founded to promote, maintain and develop the Vlach language, tradition and cultural heritage.

It stands up for the needs and the rights of the Vlach minority as well as for the rights and needs of all the other minorities in Europe. It strives to promote, explain, practice and defend the intercultural values, the values of diversity and the values of a democratic civic society.

The VYCM engages itself in initiating and realizing civic activities at local and national level which lead towards better informing the citizens of their legal rights and obligations. It works to eliminate communication and information barriers. The members of the VYCM, who are volunteers, create projects, organize educational and cultural activities, study trips and also participate in seminars organized by other youth organizations abroad. The VYCM works to become active member of the European network of similar youth organisations.

Finances

Travel expenses

Travel expenses can be reimbursed up to a maximum amount. This involves a signed "expense claim". Only if original tickets will be presented and sent to the YEN office and participants provide all needed justificatory documents of travel and expenses (invoices, boarding passes, train or bus tickets...) the reimbursement will be considered.

Please notice, taxi costs cannot be reimbursed! We will reimburse your travel costs only if you stay no longer than two days before or after the seminar.

Selected participants will be provided further details.

Participation fees

The participation fee is 100 € for Western European participants and 70 € for Eastern European participants. It covers food and accommodation for the entire seminar, as well as excursions and required materials during the event. If you have to cancel your participation 2 weeks prior to the event and there will be no replacement, we will have to ask you for the participation fee. **Accommodation** is only covered during the duration of the seminar. If you arrive before or stay longer, you will have to cover and book it yourself.

Social fund

If you need support to pay either your travel costs or participation fee, contact the office to ask for more information and/or apply for financial support get in contact with the YEN-Office (office@yeni.org).

Corona Safety Measures

While we are happy that it is possible to meet again, we have to acknowledge, that the pandemic is not over yet. We will do everything to ensure a safe environment to meet. Please read through them carefully so everyone can feel safe and that we can continue to make meetings like this.

- Please make a corona test before departing and only start your travels with a negative test result. We trust you so we do not need any proof.
- If you need a PCR or rapid-test for your travel or if it is not possible to get a rapid test for free wherever you live, we are happy to reimburse you for it. Please save your receipts and bring them with you.
- Check all the **travel requirements. Some airlines and countries still have travel restrictions. North Macedonia currently does not have any restrictions but countries you are travelling through might.** If you need a negative test for your return journey message us and we will organise a Covid-Test for you before departure.
- During the event we suggest to wear masks when in small rooms or close to a lot of people. If you feel safer that way you can of course wear masks all the time and we will have some masks with us if you want to use a fresh one. Please do open the windows regularly to minimise the risk of infections.
- Finally, we ask you to inform us if you feel any symptoms during the event. We have self-tests with us and will arrange further steps in case of an infection. **We kindly ask you to cooperate with us, as we only have everybody's wellbeing in mind.**

Application procedure

Please note that you have to contact your organisation before you apply. Applications that were send without the knowledge of an organisations will not be considered.

Participants will be informed after the registration deadline whether they have been selected or placed on the waiting list.

All participants are required to take part in at least four full days of the seminar.

The closing date for registration is 22nd of January 2023.

Registration!

Try to travel as cheaply and eco-friendly as possible. Please book your trip directly **after** you receive an official confirmation from the YEN-office!

Additional information's will be sent to you after your participation has been officially confirmed by the office.

Contact

The YEN-office is available for any questions.

YEN Office:

events@yeni.org

Tel.: +49 176 31779414

www.yeni.org

Facebook: @yeni.org

We are looking forward to your participation!

The Orga-Team from VYCM and YEN