

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Easter Seminar “It’s all around you” of the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) in Oberwart/ Borta, Austria

31st March - 6th/7th of April 2023
6th of April General Assembly of YEN

The Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) is looking for participants for the **Easter Seminar “It’s all around you”**. The event will take place in **Oberwart/Borta, Austria** from 31st March - 6th of April 2023 and will be hosted by the youth organisation “Hrvatski akademski klub” (HAK).

Directly after the seminar, on the **6th April, the YEN General Assembly** will take place (for the interested representatives of YEN member organisations). The official invitation will follow beginning of March.

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About the Seminar

The Easter Seminar is the biggest annual event of the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN). It is the second YEN seminar in 2023 and we will continue our exploration of traditions in minority communities. This Easter Seminar, the participants will meet in **Oberwart/Borta*, Austria** and our host is the “Hrvatski Akademski Klub” (HAK). The Orga-Team is made up of representatives of HAK and YEN .

About 60 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 burgenlandcroatian community in Austria, 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 town in which the Easter Seminar will take place is home to three minorities, the burgenlandcroatian, the hungarian and the roma community. The town has therefore four names: German: **Oberwart**, Croatian: **Borta**, Hungarian: **Felsőőr**, Romanes: **Erba**.*

Accommodation will be provided for all during the Seminar.

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 positive and negative impact that traditions can have on minority communities. With this seminar, participants are encouraged to reflect on what role traditions are playing in their own minorities and the challenges and advantages they bring.

As a participant you will:

- learn and discuss about the role and impact of traditions on minority communities. Together you will address traditions as a tool for representation, community building or as a tool against forced assimilation. You will also discuss questions related to power and ownership, such as who can/can't participate in traditions and who is monitoring how they are implemented.
- be led in a process of critical reflection about your own minorities' traditions. Looking back on the outcomes of the Kick Off Seminar, you will try to figure out why and which elements of traditions have a value for your minority and specifically for young minority members and which can cause harm.
- reflect on the (possible) need and advantages that lie in preserving, adapting, adopting, changing or inventing new traditions to address the needs and wishes of young people but also to keep minority communities alive and relevant.

- *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.*

Participants profile

You are a young member of a minority between 16 and 30 years and involved in your minority youth organisation? Then sign up for the YEN Easter 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.

YEN General Assembly

The general assembly takes place on 6th of April. The participants that are neither member nor partner of YEN are welcomed to depart at the 6th. Everyone else is invited to participate in the GA and depart at the 7th April. During the General Assembly, the representatives of the YEN member organisations decide on the future YEN seminars and other events. They also decide on YENs finances and resolutions. Additionally new board members as well as members of the three YEN working groups will be elected. We are looking forward to all who are interested in getting involved with YEN and want to join the board or the working groups.

For more Information, please contact the YEN-President Andor Barabás (andor.barabas@yeni.org)

Arrival & Departure

Arrival Day: 31st of March 2023 (if possible until dinner 7pm)
Departure Day: 6th of April 2023 if you are not joining the General Assembly
7th of April 2023 for everyone joining the General Assembly

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

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

- 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 feel any symptoms during the event, please inform us. We have self-tests with us and will arrange further steps in case of an infection.

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 HAK?

„HAK je društvo ko artikulira i organizira mišljenje mladih ljudi, ki gledaju najpr i išću nove pute u budućnost – i za Gradišćanske Hrvate.“

“HAK is an organisation that articulates and organises the opinions of young people, who look ahead and seek new ways into the future - also for the Burgenland Croats.”

The Croatian academic association (Hrvatski akademski klub - HAK) is the largest youth organisation of the Burgenland-Croatian minority and an association of Burgenland-Croatian students with its headquarters in Vienna. The organisation was founded in 1948 and functions as a network that connects young members of the Croatian minority (but also beyond) - especially in Austria but also in Hungary and Slovakia. The aims of the Croatian academic association are the promotion, preservation and further development of the Burgenland-Croatian language, culture and identity. HAK sees itself as a representation of interests - especially of young Burgenland Croats - and is committed to improving the legal and political situation of the minority. To achieve these goals, HAK organises numerous events (e.g., for information and further education on legal, political and cultural aspects of minorities, music festival "Dan mladine/ Days of Croatian Youth"). Novi Glas, the magazine of the HAK, is published four times a year and has also been publishing in an online format, called noviglas.online since 2020. As a founding member and member organisation of YEN/JEV, HAK is active in European minority work. In 2016, HAK organised the YEN/JEV autumn seminar "Rušiti zid(ov)lin)e" together with the Carinthian-Slovene student club KSŠŠD. Since 2021, HAK has organised the Erasmus+-supported seminar "Jezik prez granic/ Language without borders" once a year together with the Burgenland-Croats in Hungary (DGMU) and Slovakia (HKSS) and the student organisation UHSI from Croatia.

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 12th of March 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 HAK and YEN