

INFOPACK

European citizenship academy



Youth exchange "EU&ME: Rethinking Europe Through Youth Power and Innovation"

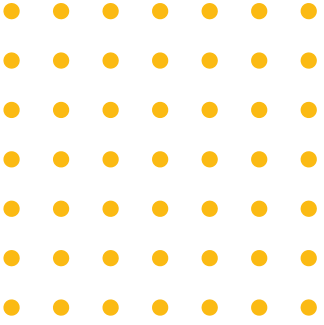
23 June - 01 July 2025

Struga

Macedonia



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Dear participants

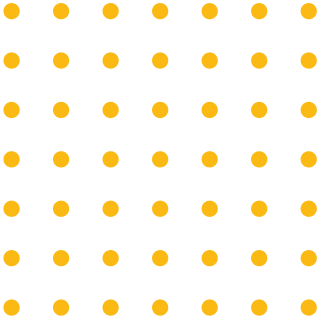
We are excited to welcome you to the beautiful city of Struga, Macedonia, for the youth exchange "**EU&ME: Rethinking Europe Through Youth Power and Innovation**" within the ECA (European citizenship academy) project.

This Info Pack has been carefully prepared to provide you with all the essential logistics and practical information to help you organize your travel.

Whether this is your first visit to Macedonia or you're returning, we hope you enjoy your stay in Struga - also known as the city of poetry, located on the shores of the Ohrid Lake — a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

If you have any questions, need support, or face any difficulties before or during your trip, please don't hesitate to contact us. We're here to ensure your experience is smooth and enjoyable!

We look forward to meet you and create unforgettable adventure together.



About ECA project

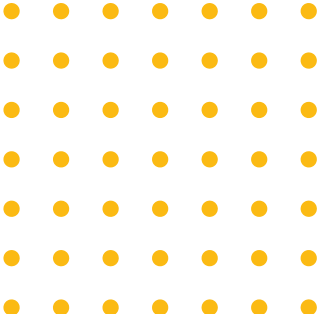
The European Citizenship Academy is a European youth education project which aims to engage young people and youth organisations in the democratic process and society by offering training, developing exchanges and encouraging meetings, discussion and debate, to help them identify their link with the EU, its values and its democratic foundations, in a word to accompany them in becoming actively aware of their European citizenship.

Youth Exchange Title

**EU&ME:
Rethinking Europe Through Youth Power and
Innovation**

Main theme of the exchange

Empowering young people to explore, challenge, and reimagine the future of Europe through democratic engagement, social innovation, resilience, and leadership —by combining experiential learning, intercultural dialogue, outdoor adventure, and digital tools.



What will you learn?

Objectives of the YE

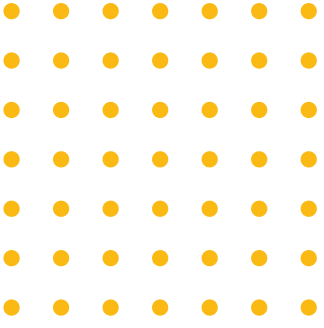
By the end of the youth exchange, participants will:

- Understand and critically reflect on EU values, the European Charter of Fundamental Rights, and the role of youth in safeguarding democracy. Explore the role of youth leadership in creating social change through innovative, inclusive, and participatory approaches.
- Strengthen resilience and responsibility, especially in the face of contemporary European challenges like climate crisis, conflict, social exclusion, and misinformation.
- Develop concrete actions and solutions for a just and inclusive Europe through social innovation labs and prototyping sessions.
- Build intercultural competencies, teamwork, and communication skills by living and learning with peers from diverse countries and backgrounds.
- Gain practical knowledge of EU opportunities (e.g. volunteering, funding, mobility) to further their engagement and leadership journey beyond the exchange.

Key Skills Acquired

Participants will develop and improve the following competencies:

- Intercultural communication & collaboration
 - Critical thinking & civic responsibility
 - Youth leadership & advocacy skills
 - Creative problem-solving & design thinking
 - Resilience & emotional intelligence
 - Digital literacy for civic action
 - Public speaking & storytelling
 - Understanding of EU institutions, values, and youth rights
- 



About the host Poraka Nova

The association New Generations Social Innovators for Inclusion PORAKA NOVA from Bitola is a voluntary, non-profit, non-governmental, independent association formed with social-humanitarian goals to provide comprehensive care and treatment for individuals from marginalized communities, as well as to realize their rights established by the Constitution and the Law, and other international documents.

Mission

The mission of PORAKA NOVA is to dedicate itself to bridging social gaps by promoting inclusion, fostering innovation, and empowering youth. We advocate for diversity, equality, and inclusion, ensuring that marginalized communities are not only visible but also actively and energetically contributing to our society

Vision

The vision of PORAKA NOVA is a world where marginalized communities live and actively participate in a society that respects and supports them, where diversity, equality, and inclusion are standard, and where empowered future leaders create innovations that meet the needs of all.

Venue

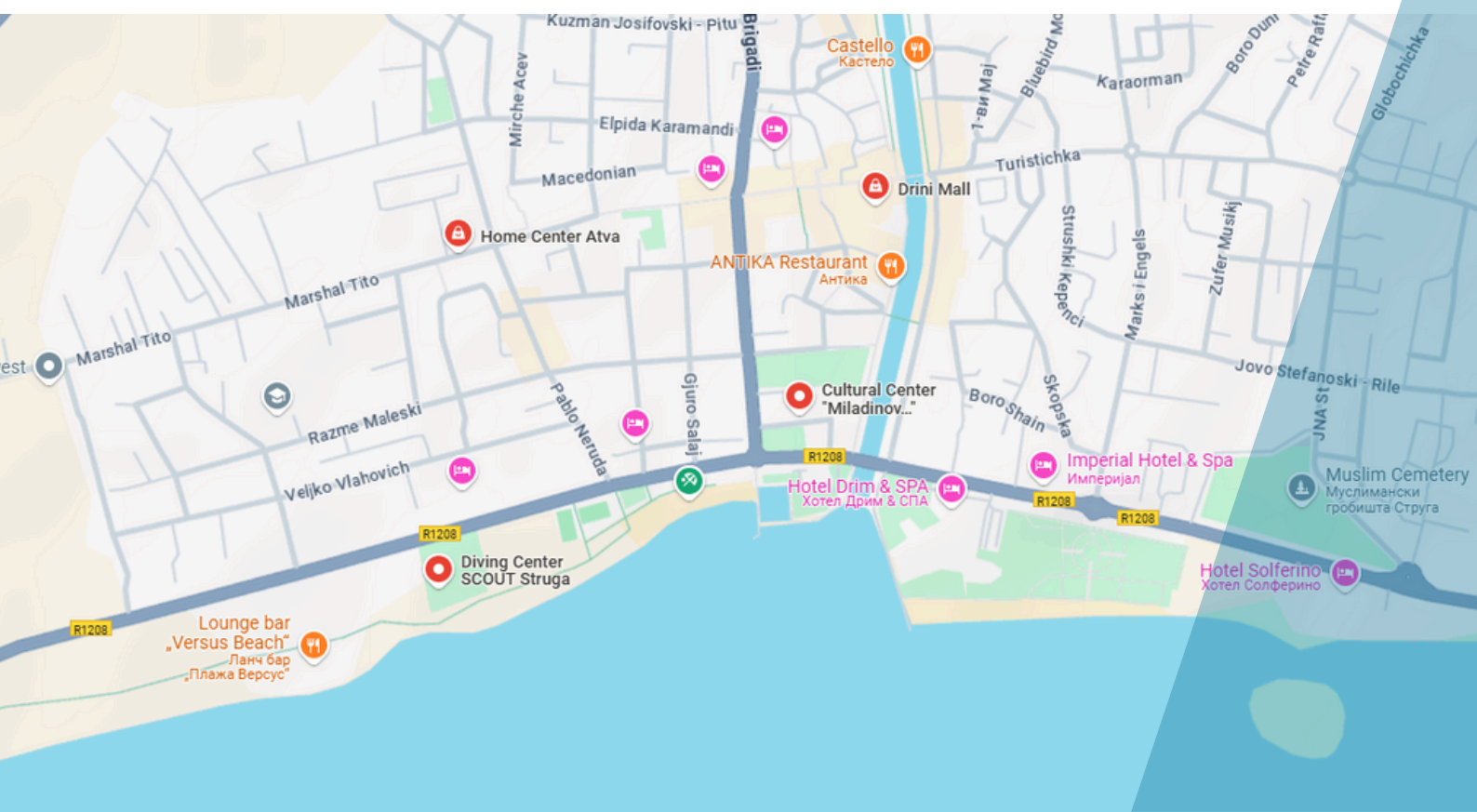
The Youth exchange will take place at Camping Scout Struga, under the shadows of a 50 year old trees.

The camping scout is located on the edge of the city of Struga on the shore of the Ohrid Lake. The camp is perfectly positioned with only 500 meters from the city center, 400 meters from the main green market, surrounded with 5 different beaches.

Address: Vlado Maleski 77, 6330 Struga, Macedonia

Website: [Camp Scout Struga](#)

MAPS location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/tuMVyRtEttqsn7R68>



Food and accommodation



- The participants will be staying in the main building of the **Camping Scout Struga**.
- The main building provides 10 rooms with a shared sanitary facility (6 showers, 6 toilets).
- The rooms have up to 4 single and/or bunk beds including **bed sheets, blankets and towels**.
- **3 meals** will be provided at the **restaurant** of the camp.
- The **training** sessions will be held in the main **building** along
- There will be update on spot for some of the dinner reservations, as they might be in different restaurants around the lake.
- The transportation will be organized for different tours.
- The camping site is located 500 meters from the city center, surrounded by 5 different beach sites. Also walking distance to the museum, coffee bars and restaurants.



Travelling to Struga

Whether you are flying directly to Macedonia or arriving from a neighboring country, we've included all available options to help you make the best travel decision.

If You're Flying Directly to Macedonia !

Macedonia has two international airports: one in **Skopje** (the capital) and one in **Ohrid** (close to the venue).

1. Ohrid Airport (OHD) — Closest Option

- Website: ohd.airports.com.mk
- Ohrid Airport is connected with several European towns by WizzAir for cheaper options.
- Located approximately 10 km from Struga city center and the venue.
- Flights to Ohrid are seasonal and mostly available from certain European cities, so please check the availability based on your location.

Transport from Ohrid Airport to the venue:

- Taxi is the only available option to reach the venue.
- It takes about 15 minutes.
- Approximate price: 900 denars ~15 EUR.
- No need to book in advance — taxis are available outside the terminal.
- If you arrive at Ohrid airport, please let us know so we can pick you up.



Travelling to Struga

Whether you are flying directly to Macedonia or arriving from a neighboring country, we've included all available options to help you make the best travel decision.



If You're Flying Directly to Macedonia !



2. Skopje International Airport (SKP) — Main Airport

- Website: skp.airports.com.mk
- Skopje Airport is connected with several European towns by WizzAir for cheaper options.
- Located approximately 200 km from Struga.
- Travel time to Struga: approx. 3 hours by road.

Transport from Skopje Airport to Ohrid:



Step 1: Airport to Skopje Main Bus Station.

- Please check wtransporter.com site for schedules. There is an info booth at the airport that sells the tickets as well.
- Ticket price: 200 denars ~ 3.25 EUR.
- Travel time to Skopje bus station: around 25–30 minutes.



Step 2: Skopje Bus Station to Ohrid.

- Multiple bus departures daily from Skopje to Struga/Ohrid.
- Check schedules here: sas.com.mk.
- Ticket price:
 - One-way: 600 denars ~10 EUR.
 - Round trip: 1000 denars ~16.25 EUR.
- Travel time to Struga: around 3 hours.
- The earliest bus leaves at 5:30 AM, and the latest bus is around 7 PM.
- Buses are generally reliable, and you can buy tickets directly at the bus station.



Travelling to Struga

Whether you are flying directly to Macedonia or arriving from a neighboring country, we've included all available options to help you make the best travel decision.

Getting to Struga from Nearby Countries

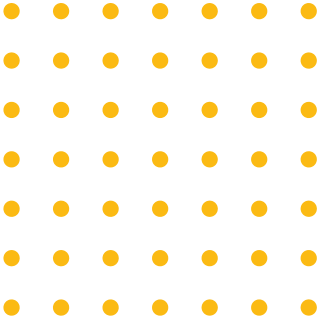
For those who will fly into airports in neighboring countries, below are your best alternatives:

Tirana Airport (Albania)

- Website: tirana-airport.com.
- Tirana Airport is connected with several European towns by WizzAir for cheaper options.
- Distance to Struga: approx. 120 km.
- Travel time to Struga: 2–3 hours, depending on border traffic.
- Only 2 buses per day from Tirana to Struga.
- Bus tickets and schedules are available at BusTicket4Me.
- If you would like, we can arrange a taxi to pick you up from the airport for 150 euros per ride.

Thessaloniki Airport (Greece)

- Website: www.skg-airport.gr/en.
- Distance to Struga: approx. 280 km.
- Public transportation from Thessaloniki to Struga are not available.
- Another option is that you can take bus from Thessaloniki to Florina (another Greek city but very close to macedonian border from where we could arrange transportation).
- On this link, you can find the schedules of buses from Thessaloniki to Florina: <https://ktelflorinas.e-ticketing.gr/Pages/Destinations.aspx>
- Recommended: Use pre-arranged taxi transport (see below).



Travelling to Struga

Whether you are flying directly to Macedonia or arriving from a neighboring country, we've included all available options to help you make the best travel decision.

Getting to Struga from Nearby Countries

Pre-arranged Taxi Transfers (Optional, Reliable & Direct)

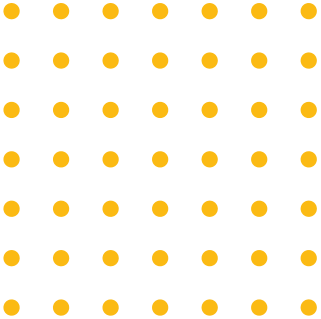
To simplify your travel to Struga, we've arranged an offer with a local company. These are flat-rate prices per vehicle, not per person, so it's ideal for groups.

Departure point	Destination	Price
Tirana airport	Struga	150 eur
Thessaloniki airport	Struga	200 eur
Florina bus station	Struga	80 euros

 We encourage you to coordinate with each other to share the ride and split the cost.

Travel Details

To help us better coordinate your arrival and assist you in any help you might need (especially with transportation or unexpected changes), we kindly ask you to **fill in** your travel details once you've purchased your tickets in this [excel document](#).



About Struga

THE CITY OF POETRY

- The city of Struga lies in the plain of the Struga Field on both banks of the river Crn Drim and on the northern shore of Ohrid Lake. It has 16,559 inhabitants (2002) and is located 171 km southwest of the capital Skopje.
- Every year, by the end of August, the Struga Poetry evenings are happening. A festival consisting of few separate events, featuring poetry readings by various international poets. Most interesting things is that the closing ceremony is always held at the Bridge of Poetry on the river Crn Drim including poetry readings and the awarding ceremony.
- Struga is a place where natural beauty meets centuries old tradition, and where you can experience a very diverse cultural offer, combined with relaxing beaches and traditional Macedonian cuisine
- The Lake shore offers a lot of beach space, close to the city center. The Lake is crystal clear, and the water temperature pleasant .
- What gives Struga its recognizable face though is the river Crn Drim that flows from the lake and through the city. Along the river bed, is the center of the town. The bridges along the river only add towards the poetic scenery.



Weather in Struga

- The maximum air temperatures during the summer time may vary from 28°C to 33°C.
- In the summer the water temperature of Ohrid Lake can reach as high as 26.4°C.
- The average number of days with summer air temperature higher than 25°C and the surface area of the lake's water at 20°C is 73-78 days, with the highest intensity in July and August.
- **Bring swimsuit and sun protection**





Other practicalities

Currency

- The official currency of Macedonia is the Macedonian denar (денар). Most shops and restaurants in Struga accept credit cards, so you won't have to worry about carrying too much cash.
- The current exchange rate is approximately 61.6 denars for 1 EURO.

Internet

- Macedonia has excellent Internet coverage and connectivity throughout the country.
- Free Wi-Fi is widely available in many public spaces, cafes, hotels, and restaurants. You can also explore open connections via the WiFiMap platform:

[WiFi Map for all of Macedonia](#)

[WiFi Map specifically for Struga](#)

- When you are in Macedonia, you are on roaming, and the calls, 4G and 5G data usage may be charged on more expensive rate, based on your own telecom company.
- We recommend using **AirAlo, an eSIM app** that allows you to purchase mobile data affordably.
- Download the app before your trip:

[AirAlo eSIM App](#)

[Macedonia-specific eSIM options](#)

 Tip: Install the app before arriving and choose a plan that suits your stay.

Language

- The official language in Macedonia is Macedonian.
- The official alphabet in Macedonia is Cyrillic.
- English is widely spoken, and you should have no trouble communicating with the locals in most places.

Do not forget to bring your health medicaments
Feel free to bring extra snacks of your home



General conditions

Countries involved: Macedonia, Poland, Sweden, Portugal, Greece.

Dates: 23.06.2025 – 01.07.2025
(**23.06 and 01.07 are travel dates**)

Duration: 8 days (7 nights)

Size of national group: 5 participants of which 1 youth leader

Language: English

Travel reimbursement:

Your travel costs will be reimbursed by your sending organization.

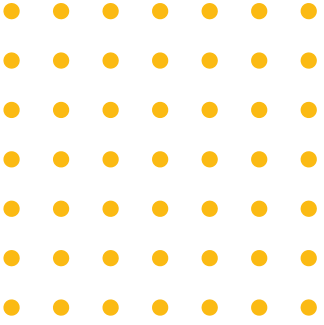
The travel costs will be reimbursed up to budget limit calculated according to Erasmus+ distance band calculator:

- 20 Euro for travels between 10 and 99 Km;
- 180 Euro for travels between 100 and 499 Km;
- 275 Euro for travel between 500 and 1999 Km;
- 360 Euro for travel between 2000 and 2999 Km)

In order to get the reimbursement of your travel expenses please provide the following supporting documents:

- In case of bus, car sharing and train: original tickets and/or invoice
- In case of plane: e-booking and/or invoice and boarding passes.

Before buying the tickets, FIRST contact your sending organization



Contact

For any additional information feel free to contact us:

Anita Gagovska

anita@porakanova.org

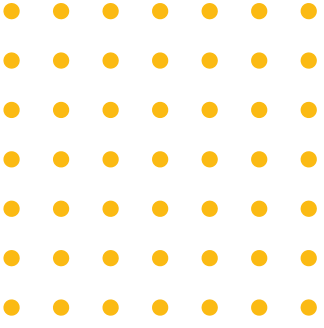
+38970509509

Martina Durljanova

martina@porakanova.org

+38978658856





Project partners



pistes solidaires

