

COLORS OF INCLUSION

Youth Exchange
Thessaloniki, Greece

17-25 JUNE 2026





HOSTING ORGANISATION

Thessaloniki
Pride

COUNTRIES

Serbia, Spain,
Finland, Greece
and Slovenia



VENUE

Thessaloniki,
Greece

AGE LIMIT

Aged 18- 30 (participants),
Leaders up to 35 years

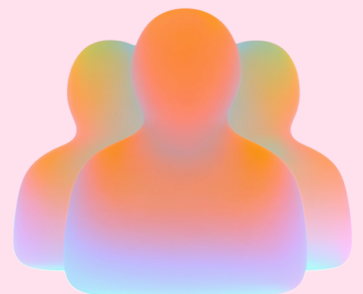


DATES

June 17, 2026 (arrival)
June 18-24, 2026 (program)
June 25, 2026 (departure)

PARTICIPANTS

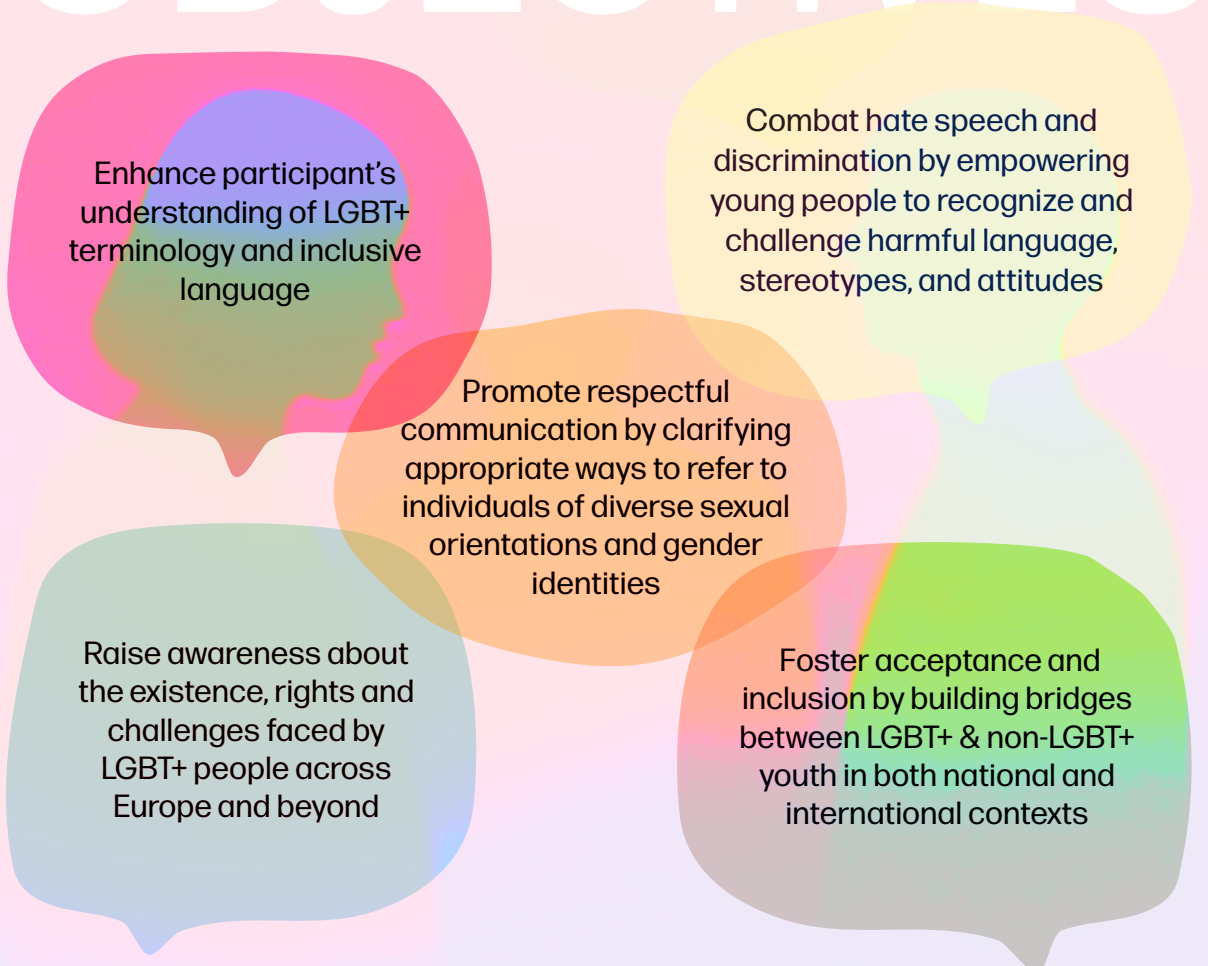
4 +1 (leader) per country,
28 in total (with staff)



The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) conducted the third edition of its LGBTQ+ survey in 2023, providing up-to-date information on the lives of LGBTQ+ people in Europe. [EU LGBTQ+ Survey III | European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights](#)

The survey revealed that many LGBTQ+ people are open about their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics, but also highlighted the challenges they face, including discrimination, hate motivated violence, and discrimination. This statistic highlights an alarming reality: despite progressive legal frameworks, social exclusion and verbal abuse remain widespread. Notably, many individuals emphasized that derogatory terminology and hostile language often inflict deeper emotional harm than physical violence. In response to these findings, this project seeks to equip young people with the knowledge, sensitivity, and skills necessary to foster more inclusive and respectful environments - both within LGBTQ+ communities and in the broader social context.

OBJECTIVES



Enhance participant's understanding of LGBTQ+ terminology and inclusive language

Combat hate speech and discrimination by empowering young people to recognize and challenge harmful language, stereotypes, and attitudes

Promote respectful communication by clarifying appropriate ways to refer to individuals of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities

Raise awareness about the existence, rights and challenges faced by LGBTQ+ people across Europe and beyond

Foster acceptance and inclusion by building bridges between LGBTQ+ & non-LGBT+ youth in both national and international contexts

ACTIVITY STRUCTURE

Different competences will be developed during the project, including non-discrimination, empathy, communication, intercultural understanding, conflict resolution, and cooperation. Through workshops, debates, group work, and reflections, participants will learn about the experiences of young people across Europe and deepen their understanding of the project topics.

The Youth Exchange is designed as a mutual learning space using non-formal education methods such as discussions, simulations, and multimedia tools. Participants will explore language as a tool for empowerment while engaging with issues of identity, diversity, and inclusion, aiming to create long-term social impact on individual, community, and international levels.

Two participant groups will be involved: young people with experience in LGBT+ activism and newcomers who want to learn more about these topics. By bringing together participants with lived experience and those eager to understand, the exchange will encourage empathy, mutual understanding, and greater awareness of LGBT+ terminology and challenges through collaborative work in mixed international groups.

PRIDE

The 14th Pride Festival of Thessaloniki, organized by Thessaloniki Pride, will take place from June 15-20. We intentionally scheduled the project during this period so participants can voluntarily be engaged in the festival. The participation in Pride and other festivities and events during the Pride week is not obligatory for the leaders and participants of the “Colors of Inclusion” Youth Exchange. The full program of events will be available at www.thessalonikipride.com



BRIEF SHARING OF THE RESULTS & PROMO

As part of our dissemination and visibility strategy, participants will be encouraged and supported to create video blogs (vlogs) and short films throughout the project. These videos will serve multiple purposes: documenting their learning journey, capturing key moments of intercultural interaction, and demonstrating specific techniques and methods developed during the Youth Exchange. In collaboration with participants, we will also produce a series of both promo and topic(s) focused specifically on dialogue techniques and tools covered during the project.

The final multimedia outputs will include:

- Participant video blogs (vlogs) documenting personal reflections and experiences.
- Short film(s) showcasing project activities and storytelling around key themes.
- Booklet
- Article(s)
- Posters
- LGBT+ Glossary

WE ARE LOOKING PARTICIPANTS AGED BETWEEN 18 AND 30 Y/O WHO:

- Want to learn about LGBTQ+ identity, stereotypes and realities and want to share gained knowledge and skills
- Have digital and/or skills and experience in youth work area
- Enable to take part in the whole project
- Both LGBT+ and non-LGBT+ participants are welcomed
- Have motivation to run workshop or youth exchange in local community, based on knowledge gained on this project
- Be able to work and live in intercultural and international environment
- Want to improve their English speaking and writing skills

HOSTING ORGANIZATION



Thessaloniki Pride is a civil society organization founded by a group of motivated young gay people in Thessaloniki in 2012, an era when the broader civil society in the city experienced a striking awakening. Its mission has been to promote equality, support human rights and enhance visibility of the sexual and gender minorities in Thessaloniki and beyond.

The initial vision that brought the founding members together was to establish the city's annual LGBTI pride festival. Soon after the unexpectedly big success of the 1st Thessaloniki Pride, the organization expanded its activities in projects for advocacy, campaigning and awareness throughout the year; capacity building and networking with other LGBTI organizations at regional (supra-national) level, as well as community services. Thessaloniki Pride was the host of EuroPride 2024.

PARTNER COUNTRIES



The Applicant and the Sending Organization have worked and are actively working with young people, with some sensitive questions related to intercultural dialogue, empowering the Roma population and others, and promoting European values and participating in the civil society of their countries. Our mutual understanding to support young people against all types of discrimination and intolerance providing them an opportunity to develop themselves regardless of their socio-economic status or personal abilities, and the competences and experience of each partner, are the key factors to establish this partnership consortium. All the partners will work together on project tasks and all will be actively involved in every stage of the project, including preparation, implementation, reporting as well as follow up activities.



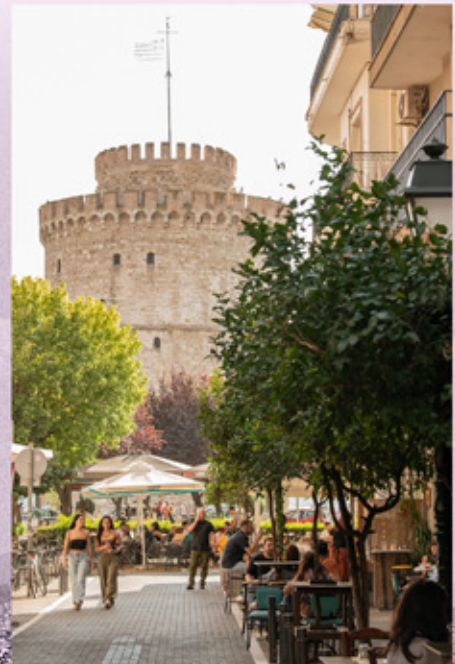
ACCOMMODATION

Stay Hotel is the accommodation and working venue. We will use an additional working venue situated in the vicinity within a very short distance from it, in a building that serves as a hub for many civil society organizations of Thessaloniki. Stay hostel is a relatively new, modern, inclusive, clean, well refurbished, centrally located hostel in Thessaloniki, one of the biggest in the city. Participants will be accommodated in 4 or 6-bed rooms. The toilets and the shower cabins are also on the same floor available to use by our group. A whole floor will be at our exclusive disposal. The food will be provided by a catering company and will be served at a nearby restaurant. One set of towels will be provided. For any extra towel for your stay, you need to pay 2.50€. You can bring your own towels, as well.



VENUE

Thessaloniki (Greek: Θεσσαλονίκη) also familiarly known as Thessalonica, or Salonica is the second largest city in Greece, with nearly 1 million inhabitants in its metropolitan area, the capital of the Region of Central Macedonia and the cultural, economic and administrative centre of North Greece. Its significance is reflected in its historic nickname as 'co-capital' of Greece, despite hosting only one insignificant ministry. Thessaloniki is also home to significant UNESCO-protected medieval monuments and to a large young population, mainly owing to the 3 universities located in the city. Located on the Thermaic Gulf, at the northwest corner of the Aegean Sea, Thessaloniki makes a popular tourist destination for city breaks. Greece is regulated by East European Time zone (GMT +2).



HOW TO GET TO VENUE?

Thessaloniki International Airport "Makedonia"- SKG

17.5km/10.9 miles away from Thessaloniki's Hostel STAY - 30 minutes' drive



Bus line X1 - arrival on bus stop "*Aristotelous*" or "*Kolomvou*"
- costs 2€ (you need a card to buy a ticket inside the bus)

Bus line N1 (nightline) - arrival on bus stop "*Kolomvou Antigonidon*" - costs 2€

Bus line X2 to the eastern most metro station and then change to metro - arrival at metro station "*Venizelou*" - costs 2 x 0.60€ (as the metro line is new and the ticket system is not integrated yet) - more info : [Bus Fare Products](#) | [TheTA](#) | [Transport Authority of Thessaloniki S.A.](#)



Bus Station

International connections with Albania, N. Macedonia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Turkey, as well as a few other further European destinations; keep in mind that some international connections use the railway station as terminal, besides and/or instead of the bus station; domestic connection with all major Greek cities

Bus lines 2K, 12, 31 arrival on bus stop "*Antigonidon*"
costs 0.60€ - around 20 minutes ride

Railway Station

Currently there are no international trains operating; please use the railway, only in case your flight is landing in Athens. The connection is fast, cheap and greener and saves you from a second flight. However, many of the international bus lines, as well as lines from Athens have an additional arrival/ departure point at the railway station

Bus lines 2K, 10, 11, 14, 17, 37 - arrival on bus stop "*Antigonidon*" - 0.60€ - about 5 minutes ride

Metro - arrival at metro station "*Venizelou*" (2-station ride) - 0.60€ - about 2 minutes ride

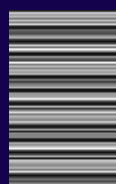


REIMBURSEMENT & FINANCES



The project is financed by the Erasmus+ programme. The costs related to accommodation and food along with the coffee breaks will be covered by the hosting organization and the travel costs will be reimbursed according to the Erasmus+ country standards. Personal and medical insurance are the responsibility of the individual participant. We will not be responsible for any loss of luggage, currency or personal effects, or any medical costs.

IMPORTANT



MAKE SURE THAT YOU KEEP ALL YOUR ORIGINAL TRAVEL TICKETS (NO SCREENSHOTS), BECAUSE THEY ARE NEEDED FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT. USE ONLY PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND SELECT THE CHEAPEST AND/OR AFFORDABLE TICKETS. BEFORE BOOKING ANY TICKETS, PLEASE CONTACT THE PROJECT COORDINATORS.

Only cheapest means of transport / fares are subject to reimbursement. All amounts are expressed in Euros.

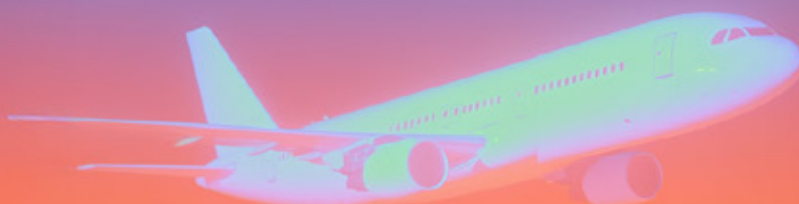
In case you are unable to find flights within the budget limits please contact us ASAP

Taxi is not eligible for the reimbursement.

Original tickets MUST be sent, but participants need to ensure a copy or a photo of them as proof, in case of loss. Reimbursement will be done by the team leaders or the responsible people of each organization. This will happen after everyone finishes the dissemination and follow-up local activities, send original tickets and submit evaluation, survey and visibility posts. Keep in mind that the refund process might take months to be done, so patience is advisable.

The maximum reimbursement of the travel costs is the following:

Finland, Spain	———	395 €
Slovenia, Serbia	———	309 €

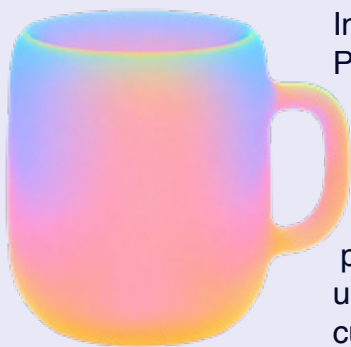


WHAT TO BRING?

In order for everybody to have a good time, we would like you to bring some things which we believe are important for the participation of all participants and for the success of the Youth Exchange.

- Necessary documents such as passports, travel documents, etc.;
- Some promotional materials of your organization or country – if you wish;
- Extra towels, if you wish to use more than the set provided; every extra set of towels you ask from the venue (after the first one) has a charge of 2.50€
- A reusable cup (to help us reduce our plastic waste);
- Personal care products;
- Each team has to have at least one laptop and a camera (good mobile phones suit as well);
- A typical taste (typical drink, food, sweets, snacks...) of your country for the “Intercultural Evening”;
- Endless amounts of good mood and motivation for work and leisure!

Since this is a Youth Exchange, each national team will be also responsible to deliver one workshop and to prepare one energizer (short game). This will be explained later, once leaders and participants are being selected. For the intercultural evening, we kindly ask you to prepare an interactive presentation of your country (you can present your country’s food and drinks, music, traditional dances, games etc.)



In this project we do not want to use single-use plastic cups. Please, bring with you your coffee mug or tea cup. We will organize a lottery and your mug will be delivered to another participant and you will receive a new cup. That cup will be the one you will use during the project. After the project, you will bring it with you at home. It will be your gift from another participant to remind you of this project. The reason we want to use this method is that we want to avoid single-use plastic cups. Do not forget to bring with you your mug.

If you are a resident of the participating countries of this mobility and have desire to take part in this project, please fill the official application form below.

APPLY HERE

GET READY

Before deciding to participate in the project, the participants have to be aware of the following responsibilities:

Participants are ought to participate in every stage of the project - preparation, main activity and dissemination. The participants will know that this is not a free vacation and that they will have a lot of responsibilities in preparing for the youth exchange, in implementing workshops during the Youth Exchange and in the dissemination phase. This way only the most motivated participants will be selected.

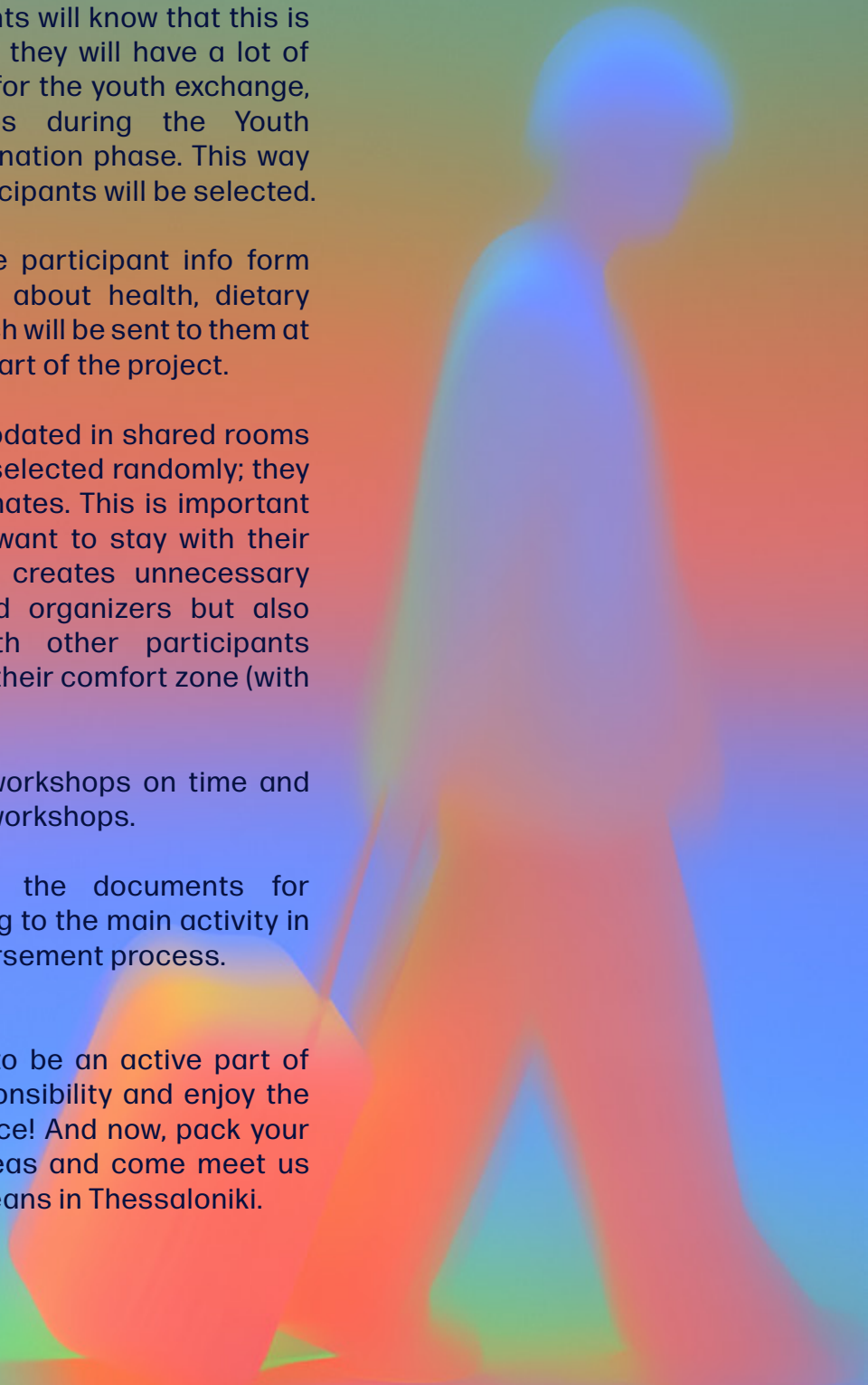
Participants must fill out the participant info form (which contains information about health, dietary preferences and similar), which will be sent to them at least one month before the start of the project.

Participants will be accommodated in shared rooms and their roommates will be selected randomly; they cannot pick their own roommates. This is important because often participants want to stay with their friends in the room, which creates unnecessary tensions between them and organizers but also limits their interaction with other participants because they want to stay in their comfort zone (with people they already know).

Participants must come to workshops on time and actively participate in these workshops.

Participants must prepare the documents for reimbursement before coming to the main activity in order to speed up the reimbursement process.

We encourage participants to be an active part of this project, embracing responsibility and enjoy the cultural side of this experience! And now, pack your bags, fill your heads with ideas and come meet us and many other young Europeans in Thessaloniki.





WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD MEETING YOU IN JUNE

CONTACT

Apostolis Karabairis

Hosting organization/ Logistics

a.karabairis@thessalonikipride.com

+306979518448

Nemanja Kuzmanović

Program Coordinator/ Facilitator

nemanjakuzmanovic1247@gmail.com

+381642150824