



YOUTH EXCHANGE: THE COLORS OF RELIGIONS – MEETING IN THE CAUCASUS

Project details:

Project name: The colors of religions – Meeting in the Caucasus

Code: 2017-1-IT03-KA105-010536

Place: Kobuleti, Georgia

Applicant organization: Associazione Culturale di Promozione Sociale Gentle Giant

Organizations involved: Student Youth Council (Georgia), Stepanavan Youth Center (Armenia), VoVo (Croatia)

Number of participants: seven for each nation (6 participants + 1 group leader)

Dates: from 18 to 25 October 2017 (incl. travel days)

The Project:

The recent dramatic events in the Middle East and Africa (such as, for example, the birth of the Islamic Caliphate, the ethnic cleansing in Iraq, the abduction and murder of hundreds of women in Africa and the religious chaos in Libya) made us feel the need to try to figure out if religions actually are the cause of everything. Moreover, in Italy (and in much of Europe) is spreading a worrying "Islamophobia" (in fact, in Budapest was held a major international conference about it, to September 2015) which in some respects is similar to the ideals of "anti-westernization" professed in some countries of the Middle East. In this case, religion is often used, rightly or wrongly, as the last bastion of "nationalism" or "social membership", contrasting it to the company that made you want to tackle.

But religions are not born and were not born for these reasons. Leaving out the purely theological content, we believe that the best thing of all religions is that very often they contain the history and identity of an entire people, traditions, customs and art. Some religions are very old then but unfortunately at risk of extinction, mainly because of human, all too often degenerated into persecution, genocide and forced proselytism.

We have therefore decided to carry out this project just to try to enjoy and appreciate the true meaning of religious cults. From Islam to Orthodox, through the Yazidi, Neo Paganism and Waldensian,, all religions speak of peace and brotherhood among peoples.

The objectives that the association aims to achieve are: the development of a mutual understanding, tolerance, brotherhood and friendship and knowledge of religions historically, geographically and

culturally very different from each other. As a result, the course will attempt to address the most common problems especially when it comes to religion and dialogue between peoples: misunderstanding, prejudice, intolerance and fanaticism. All problems, which unfortunately are on the rise in many regions of our continent and many countries are ruining us (Europeans but also Italian) neighbours.

The course is open to all age within in the age group 18-30, boys and girls, strongly interested in the project presented here, willing to learn the information that will be dispensed during the course as well as to carry out the activities in a multicultural environment rich diversity and shades.

All activities will be conducted according to the criteria of non formal education, using participatory methods based on the interests of the young participants in order to develop processes and attitudes such as self-awareness, leadership, l'empathic listening and constructive criticism; in particular, this course will use the following methods from both the staff and the participants presentations, debates, games (including those roles, indoor and outdoor), quizzes, reflections, workshops, exercises, analysis, and various modes creative expression (in particular video, posters, photos and sketches). The main activities will be two per day, accompanied by secondary ones shorter. These will be individual and group.

The Venue - Accomodation:

Participants will stay in a double and triple rooms in “Hotel Mirage” located in the city Kobuleti, Street N: Agmashenebeli 335.

The youth exchange activities will take place in this structure.

There will be a breakfast, lunch and dinner every day. The host organization will provide with regard to the procurement of food. If you have allergies or special needs, inform the organizers before the project. Towels are not provided so you have to bring yours.

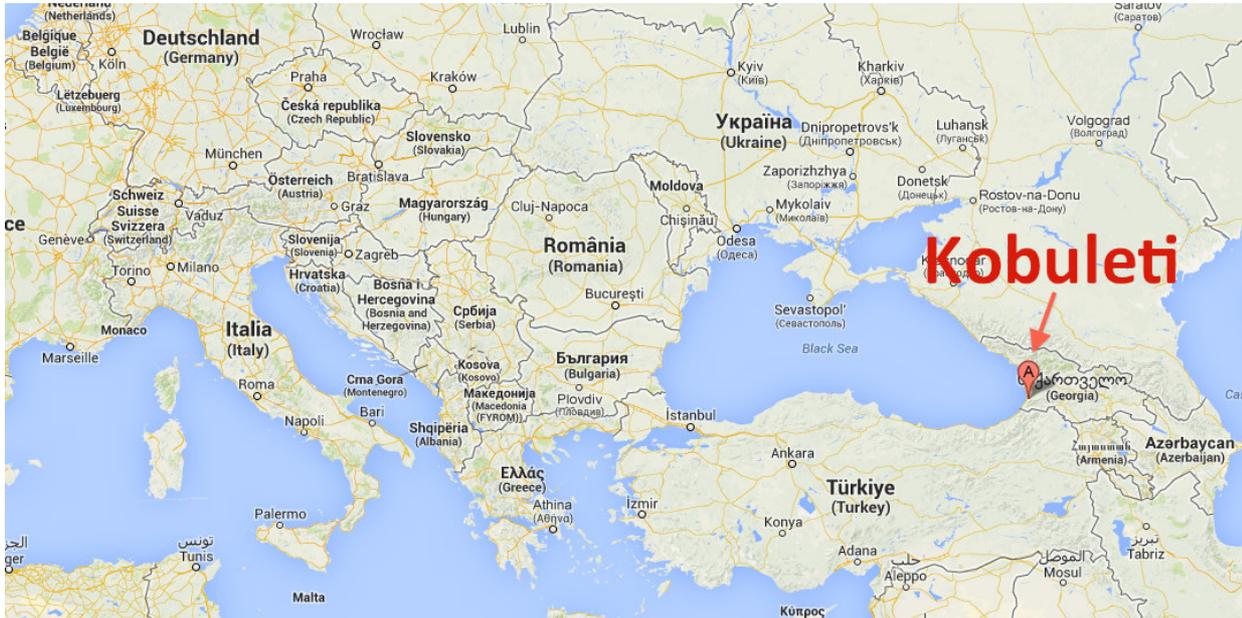
Wi-Fi internet connection will be supplied in working room.



Needs:

- Seven participants for each nation, range age 18/30 years old. They have to be interested in the main topic of the exchange.
- One group leader for each nation, with experience in travels and in the international mobility. No age limit.
- Every group of nations must prepare a presentation about their organization to be showed during the project;
- Participants should bring warm clothes and comfortable shoes;
- If possible, participants should bring traditional foods, drinks, flags, clothes or other typical materials for intercultural nights;

Transportation:



Kobuleti is a town in Adjara, western Georgia, situated on the eastern coast of the Black Sea. The town is situated in the south-western part of Georgia, i.e. the northern part of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara. It borders with Ozurgeti Region to the north. The Regional centre is Kobuleti City, which stretches along the Black Sea shore.

Kobuleti Region consists of one municipal, two district and seventeen village councils. There are 48 villages in the Region. Representatives of 24 different nationalities live together with Georgians in the Region. Kobuleti is known with its traditions, hospitality, climatic areas, mild subtropical climate, ionized maritime air, bright shining sun and warm sea. The unique sandy beach widely inclined to the sea is noted with its marvelous views beautified by sky-scraped endemic pine trees, eucalypts, bamboo, cypress grove, date and cocoa palms.

From Italy there are direct flight from Milano Malpensa to Kutaisi (Wizzair) or to Tbilisi with one stop in Istanbul (Pegasus Airlines or Turkish Airlines) or Athen (Aegean Airlines).

From Croatia we suggest to flight from Budapest to Kutaisi (Wizzair).

From Tbilisi:

You will land in Tbilisi International Airport (TBS).

Taxi cost approximately 50 GEL (From Airport to Train Station)

Or best solution is, to use public bus 37 Number (Blue bus) which cost 0.50 Tetri (Half of GEL)

When you will arrive to the station square, you can use three type of transportation. Train, Minibus (Marshutka) and Bus.

TRAIN  საქართველოს რკინიგზა
1872-წლიდან

– We recommend this way to reach Kobuleti. You can book tickets from: www.railway.ge (the page is also in english) Before booking please check schedule and make sure that you are not late. Usually these trains are new, with clima and free wifi.

BUS and MINUBUS - When you will be at the station, just ask city KOBULETI or if you will need help in language support please make a call to our project participant Khatia. Tickets cost 20 GEL (You can find exchange in airport and same time at the train station)

If you need another company instead of private companies find it here

<http://www.georgianbus.com/>



From Kutaisi:

One solution is to use public transport to the city and after minibus from the station
Best variety for the groups - if you are coming together write us and we will provide minibus from Airport to Kobuleti

IMPORTANT:

If the participants will send information arrival/departure time before 10 days, we will arrange a local transportation – It is cheaper and comfortable.

Costs:

Food and accommodation will be provided and paid by the organizers.
Travel costs of the participants will be reimbursed by bank transfer (money will send to the organization bank account) after the course, based on the travel distance per participant in accordance to the new rules of the Erasmus+ Programme as follows:

Participants from Italy and Croatia, the max reimbursement is € 360,00
Participants from Armenia, max reimbursement is € 80,00
No reimbursement for Georgians.

If the participant exceeds this amount will have to pay the difference on his own.
You are not allowed to leave the 8 days long program earlier or come later, we expect you to participate in the whole program!
You can arrive one days earlier or/and leave one later only if you have logistic problems (these problems must be explained to the applicant organization before buy the tickets) and you must arrange your own accommodation for the extra time at your own cost.

IMPORTANT: The participants will have to bring with them all of their original tickets, receipts and boarding passes and copies of their travel documents (passports, identity cards) as we will collect all of them at the end of the training course. In addition, participants are required to send us all of their original return tickets, receipts and boarding passes within 14 days of their departure from the youth exchange otherwise, we will not be able to refund them.

For the bank transfers we will need these data from each country/participants:

- ❖ bank name,
- ❖ IBAN number,
- ❖ account owner's name,
- ❖ bank address,
- ❖ SWIFT/BIC code.

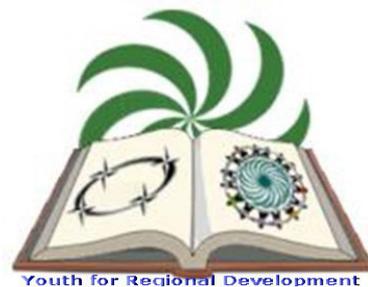
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