

We the Young People of Europe
Mirroring the work of the European Parliament
Dialogue between young people and policy makers
Lecce, Italy 26 June - 02 July 2016



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GENERAL INFORMATION

The project “**We the Young People of Europe**” is a *Dialogue between young people and policy makers* organised within the framework of Erasmus Plus Program (Nr. 2015-3-IT03-KA347-006715), with the financial support of the European Commission.

It is going to be held in Lecce (South Apulia, Italy) from the 26th of June to the 02nd of July 2016.

Organising Committee

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Project Summary

Promoting democracy and the democratic process are central to the purpose of the European Union (EU). The project “We the Young People of Europe” uses simulation and role play to mirror the workings of the European Union Parliament allowing the project's participants the opportunity to gain an insight into the challenges of representative democracy within today's EU, whilst developing valuable skills for their future education and career paths. Participants will play the roles of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) representing all member states of the EU and covering a spectrum of political positions. They will come from organisations based in Greece, Italy, Poland, Spain and United Kingdom. 12 young people will be recruited from each organisation, making a total of 60 participants. In the project will take part also different policymakers & experts in youth policies.

The event will take place from the 26th of June to the 2nd of July 2016 and it will be held in Lecce, in the South of Apulia, Italy. However, the project will require almost five months of preparation. During this period a project management team made by Demostene members and its partners (a group of young people with backgrounds in project management, financial management, Information Technology, media production and journalism) will put in place the basis for the better hosting and organisation of the event they can. The project will broadly simulate the practise of democracy within the EU. The YOUNG MEPs will be divided into four standing committees dedicated to key policy areas:

PROXY: Committee concerning EU's external relations and foreign affairs, especially proximity relations with neighboring states (Immigration, Development and Cooperation, Mediterranean security etc);

SOLID: Committee concerning Justice, citizenship, the instruments of solidarity and welfare among EU Member States;

NEXT: Committee concerning the next future of education, science, technology and innovation;

DEMO: Committee concerning necessary reforms to allow the EU institutions to be more democratic and to better address the needs of Citizens.

In the preparation stage, preliminary discussion and debate will take place amongst the YoungMEPs through “Facebook” groups. YoungMEPs will be encouraged to seek out like-minded colleagues and to form alliances with YoungMEPs from other member states.

During the simulation, a further contribution to the discussion will come from the auditions of policymakers and experts in the four topics, made in four different plenary sessions. YoungMEPs will have the chance to intervene and ask for further clarification in order to have all the information they need to write the first draft of their resolutions. Afterward, in a parallel work, the committees will prepare their resolutions that will be presented in a plenary session. There, the YoungMEPs will be able to debate the drafts and, after a short break, the parliamentary groups will have the possibility to present an amendment each one. Again in plenary session, the amendments will be voted and then the final vote on the (possibly) amended resolutions.

The core aim of the project is to demonstrate in concrete terms how planning translates into practice, allowing participants the experience of formulating and then defending policies in open debate. By simulating democratic processes within the EU, participants develop transferable skills in areas vital to the functioning of representative democracy: political analysis; research; public speaking; negotiation; conflict resolution; and policy framing. For the participant, the experience not only engenders a deeper understanding of specific key policy issues and the challenges involved in negotiating consensus, but also fosters an awareness of their own and fellow participants' core cultural values. Beyond vocational and educational benefits, the project will also build the participants' confidence to interact with others in a professional and poised manner, to build contacts and, importantly, to make friends.

Project Partners & Sending Organisations

Country	Partner
Italy	DEMOSTENE CENTRO STUDI PER LA PROMOZIONE DELLO SVILUPPO UMANO (leader organisation)
Italy	UNIVERSITÀ DEL SALENTO, DIPARTIMENTO DI STORIA SOCIETÀ E STUDI SULL'UOMO
Italy	SARA Lab - ESPERO s.r.l.
Greece	ACTIVE YOUrope
Poland	UCZELNIA LAZARSKIEGO (Lazaarsky University)
Spain	UNION POR LA MEJORA DE LA EDUCACION EN LIBERTAD
UK	COVENTRY UNIVERSITY



**The eligible date for making costs is 02 February 2016,
Starting from this date you can buy your tickets
and do all the preparation costs!**

RULES

For the project, each partner of different Country will send 12 participants (18 – 30 years) + 2 Accompanying Person (no age limits)

- The national groups should have: 6 males + 6 females;
- The project will be held in **English language**. The participants should have at least basic understanding of this language;
- Each Organisation should involve in the project 4 participants with Fewer Opportunities (Educational Difficulties, Social Obstacles, Economic Obstacles)



**Please select the participants in due time and send us
all the requested data by e-mail until 29 February 2016.**

PROJECT OUTLINE

<i>Preparation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Transnational coordination meeting; ● Creation of the visibility materials; ● Selection of youth workers and volunteers to participate in the project.
<i>Training</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preparation; ● Country Assignment; ● Debates on Facebook Groups.
<i>Implementation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Simulation of UE Parliament.
<i>Follow up and Evaluation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dissemination activities in their Country.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

For participants arriving from outside Italy: food and accommodation will be supported by the project. Please bring your own towels and items of personal care!
 For Italian participants: for people resident surrounding Lecce, the project will provide the lunches during the days of the meeting.



**Please let us know in advance
 if you have special needs indicating them in the application form.**

(es.: vegetarian, vegan, no pork meat, allergies, special diets due to medical treatment, any other kind of health problem or particular difficulties we need to take into account, etc.)

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Arrival is on 26 June 2016

FLIGHT: From your town to Brindisi Airport.

To arrive in Lecce from Brindisi Airport you can use the public bus service:

<http://pugliairbus.aeroportidipuglia.it/Shuttle-Bus-Puglia-Air-Bus.pdf>

Ticket is around 6 € if you buy it in the newsstand inside the airport.

You can also buy it on board, but it will be a little more expensive (around 10 €).

The participants will be picked-up by the organisers at the City Bus Terminal in Lecce and taken to the hotel.

Please, take note of the Shuttle Bus Timetable for your trip back, from Lecce to Brindisi Airport. Take into account that you must stay at the airport at least 40 mins before your flight departure and that bus needs 45 mins to arrive in Brindisi Airport from Lecce.

Departure is on 02 July 2016

Note that the organisers will not provide any additional accommodation outside the dates of the exchange! If you wish to travel on other dates than the dates of the exchange, please take contact with the organisers before purchasing your tickets!



Plan your trip carefully!

In case your travel dates are different than the ones above mentioned, the organisers might not be able to reimburse you!!

TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENTS

The reimbursements will be proceeded by bank transfer after the project upon sending all travel documents and international bank details. Reimbursement of travel costs will only be done upon full attendance of the project and presentation of the original travel tickets with boarding passes, receipts, invoices. Also, according to Italian National Agency regulations and Italian accounts rules and tax code, we need the proof of payment if you pay in cash, than you have to send us the receipt for that payment and if you pay by credit card/bank transfer we need the account extract/credit card slip/bank statement.



**Any wishes to stay shorter or longer
should be consulted with organisers prior any booking!**

Reimbursement will be done in EUROS, regardless of the currency indicated on the ticket and receipt/invoice. Any tickets purchased in a local currency other than EURO, will then be converted and calculated according to the exchange rate of the month when the ticket/s were purchased, as stated in the official European Commission web-site at <http://ec.europa.eu/budget/inforeuro/>.



KEEP ALL YOUR BOARDING PASSES AND TICKETS
- and possibly make a copy of them -
otherwise we will not be able to make any reimbursements.

Please check the table below with the information on the travel budget limits for roundtrip! If travel costs exceed the amount budgeted in the project, the organisers will only be able to reimburse participants maximum travel costs indicated in the travel budget. Participants are therefore strongly advised to book their tickets well in advance.

MAXIMAL TRAVEL COST REIMBURSEMENT		
COUNTRY	DISTANCE	TRAVEL COST FOR ONE PARTICIPANT
Greece	500-1999	170 €
Poland	500-1999	170 €
Spain	500-1999	170 €
United Kingdom	500-1999	170 €

WHAT YOU MUST PREPARE

Cultural Evenings

Among the social events you will attend during the project, the “Festival of Peoples” will be realised thanks the fundamental contribution of all participants and their sending organisations.

For this purpose, you need to prepare, together with your country leader and other participants, a short show (10/15 mins):

- presenting (in an original, funny way) your country/region/city;
- performing traditional music/song or dance, or some traditional tale, piece of theatre or whatever your fantasy and initiative will suggest to you!

The Italian participants will prepare a touristic/cultural/social tour around the city of Lecce, helping you to discover the beautiful city that will host the meeting.



**Remember to prepare the material and the stuff you need at home.
And not forget to bring them with you!!!!**

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Personal insurance

Insurance cover for personal effects is the responsibility of the individual participant. You are recommended to ensure that you have adequate medical and travel insurance to cover the period of your stay in Italy. The participants are requested to acquire the European Health Insurance Card.

Neither our organisation nor any venue used during the event can entertain claims against loss of or damage to personal property.

Weather

The average temperature in June is 27°C during the day and 24°C at night. The temperature drops even more at the night so do bring some warm clothes for the nights .

Internet

Internet connection will be not guaranteed. However, we recommend limiting the use of internet, computers, and other electronic devices during the days of the project.

Electrical plugs

Remember that Italian electrical plugs could be different from those in use in your country. Check them and bring with you an adapter if needed.

CONTACT DETAILS

If you need help with your travel booking or have any questions regarding the project, please do not hesitate to contact:

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Don't lose time and apply for this great opportunity to improve your skills, contact with participants from other European countries, contribute to the creation of this innovative tool and to contribute for the skills and competences development of all young people of Europe

To do it, you just need to fill in the application form attached and send it back to your sending organisation.

Looking forward to welcome you in Italy!!!

Infopack booklet edited by



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