
INFOSHEET

Partnership Building Activity

Youth for nature, volunteering and inclusion

26th November – 5th of December 2016, Banja e Pejes/Pečka Banja, Kosovo

Dear participants,

In this info-sheet you will find information about the PBA content, practicalities, location, as well as about what to expect, what to bring, what to prepare and how to arrive.

However, if you may need any additional questions, do not hesitate to contact us to gaia.kosovo@gmail.com

THE IDEA BEHIND

This whole project is, actually, follow up idea from [Mountains connecting people](#) project which was initially consisted of 3 youth exchanges in mountains in Croatia, Bulgaria and Kosovo, but continued to generate more youth projects afterwards. While organizing those youth exchanges, we realized that they bring great potential, ideas and energy to local communities and that we should include long-term strategic approach which will integrate other youth and voluntary activities into local programs for nature conservation. The concept is mainly focused on SCI approach and methods (workcamps, long-term volunteering, non-formal education and campaigning), but we are not limited with that, and we want to explore other methods and ways of thinking and planning.

In general, the PBA will focus on 3 main topics:

- nature conservation in theory and practice
- strategic planning in youth and voluntary programs in nature conservation
- project cycle management in nature conservation

The aims of the PBA are:

- To create space for developing new and strengthening existing strategic partnerships for nature protection projects through youth and voluntary work
- To give opportunity to the participants to share good and bad practices in their work on the topics
- To give an overview and details on the possibilities of the Erasmus+ programme
- To serve as a place for setting up future projects and initiatives between the participants.



Erasmus+

Besides this PBA two other activities already took place in Kosovo in summer:

1. Training course (TC), which took place in Peja, close to the National Park Courshed Mountains, where 4 follow up ideas were developed, which will be used also for the PBA
2. Youth Exchange (YE), which will take place in Brezovica, National Park Sharr, situated on the south of Kosovo; partner organizations (VCV Serbia, SCI Hellas, CID Macedonia, CVS Bulgaria, VUK Croatia, GAIA Kosovo)

GAIA KOSOVO

On our web-page gaiakosovo.wordpress.com you can find more information about GAIA, but not all :) Basically, since GAIA was founded in 2010, we have been organizing workcamps, trainings, campaigns, youth exchanges and festival on diverse topics, but always with and for people who are on the margins of society. We worked in Plemetina (village next to coal power plants), in Fushe Kosova, Bear Sanctuary Prishtina, Shtimlje, Mitrovica, Brezovica, Gracanica, Prishtina... Besides urban environmental actions, we started organizing activities in rural places, since we realized that wilderness in Kosovo can provide so much for learning, but is also under threat from exploitation and big investment projects which usually require destruction of nature. Thus, this project is one of our attempts to get involved strategically and for long-term in nature conservation efforts in Kosovo.

WWF ADRIA

WWF is one of the world's largest and most respected independent conservation organizations, with over 5 million supporters and a global network active in over 100 countries. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption. The WWF Adria offices are active in 8 countries in the Balkan region including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia. More information about our activities in the region you can find on the country web pages http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/

ERASMUS + PROGRAMME

The Erasmus+ Programme **provides various possibilities** for young people, youth workers and youth policy makers to cooperate, gain competences and be proactive in building a sustainable and democratic European society. Activities targeting the youth field are referred as "Erasmus+: Youth in Action". In addition to the aims common to the Programme as a whole, Erasmus+: Youth in Action functions as an important instrument to put into practise the [European Union Youth Strategy 2010 – 2018](#).

LOCATION

Peja/Pejë/Peć

Located at the foot of the impressive mountain *Bjeshket e Nemuna/Prokletije* the city has been ruled by different dominating powers throughout history, giving it a diverse cultural character. The Orthodox influence has resulted in the construction of impressive religious sites and monasteries. UNESCO world heritage site is Peć Patriarchate, built during medieval Serbian empire. Under Ottoman rule Peja/Peć took on a more oriental character with the construction of narrow streets, old-style Turkish houses and mosques.

Rugova is a mountainous region entered through the North-West part of the city of Peja/Peć. It is the third region of *Bjeshket e Nemuna/Prokletije* (The Cursed Mountains), also known as The Albanian Alps. In 2013 it became a National Park of the Republic of Kosovo.

Accommodation & food

We will be accommodated in the hotel Kosova Park in Banja e Pejës
<http://www.kosovoguide.com/?cid=2,196,62&view=all>

You will be sharing rooms with other participants. **Food** will be vegan with vegetarian option, while as much as possible products will be local and seasonal.

If you have any specific needs regarding food or something else, please let us on time.

WHAT TO PREPARE

You are expected to fully take part in the PBA, to be active, to think critically, to be present and to also prepare few things before coming to Kosovo. Here they are...

Country reality - make a short survey on volunteering activities and/or programs in your country, with a focus on protected and rural areas. At the same time think about what would be the ideal volunteering program in your country related to nature conservation and involvement of local communities in rural areas.

Nature exchange - bring some natural, home-made or nature-made products from your place, so you can share it with others. We will prepare a market place, so think of your stand and the way you would like to present it. You can use some local brands or create new once :) For instance, food, drinks, wooden items, seeds, woolen products, recycleart creations etc.

Open space - is a space for participants to share skills, ideas, dilemmas, knowledge with the others. You can propose any topic for discussion or invite others to learn from you about any skill you have. It will be done in smaller groups and in parallel sessions, which usually last for 30 minute. So, think about what you would like to share and if you need something for it, please bring it along.

Ideas for long term programs - it would be great to find out future plans in this field from your sending organization, so that planning of future projects and programs can be realistic and possible to implement in future.

WHAT TO BRING

- ID and passport
- Good shoes for hiking
- Flashlight
- Personal medicines if you need and health insurance
- Photo camera
- Your own notebook or diary to take notes.
- Music instruments and music
- Games
- Ideas and creativity
- Good mood and inspiration
- Materials for presentations and nature market

In order to pack your stuff, please check the weather forecast at <http://www.accuweather.com/> (check for Peja, Kosovo)

Currency in Kosovo is EURO and you **should get some** before coming to Banja e Pejes.

TRAVEL & REIMBURSEMENT

You are expected to arrive on 26th of November, ☺
Departure is on 5th of December, after breakfast.

Please, let us know about your travelling plan, so we know when we can expect you. Peja is well connected with the larger cities in Kosovo. Buses run about every twenty minutes between Pristina and Peja (€4 one way) and every half hour from Mitrovica, Gjakova and Prizren (€5 one way). The last bus leaves relatively early at 8pm.

There are regular buses to Prishtina from **Skopje (Macedonia)** which takes about 2 hours (5€) and **Belgrade (Serbia)** about 6 hours (cca 15€).

From Skopje you can catch bus almost every hour till 6pm.



Erasmus+

From Belgrade to Prishtina you can catch buses at:

21:30 and 22:00 – night buses which arrive around 4:00

5.45 arrives to Prishtina 13:00 KIMCO COMPANY

10:40 arrives to Prishtian around 18:00 ERHAN TOURS (this bus goes to Prizren, but stops in Prishtina, so you might need to buy tickets inside the bus directly, not at the station. If they do not sell you ticket to Prishtina at the station, you should buy ticket to get inside the bus station and get into the bus where you can get the ticket from conductor)

Later buses from Belgrade are too late to arrive to Peja, but if you end up being late, you can also take bus at: 16:00, 16:30.

There are also direct bus connections from bigger European cities to Prishtina or Peja, like Vienna, Berlin, Zagreb...

Once you have reached Peja/Pec, you can reach **Banja e Pejes/Pecka Banja** by taking bus from Peja/Pec bus station. The bus is leaving from Peja/Pec every half an hour. Hotel Kosova Park is around 500 meters away from the Banja e Pejes/Pecka Banja bus station and you can easily reach it by foot.

You will be reimbursed 100% if travelling by land and 60% if you use planes, unless it is reasonably justified (if you are really coming from far ☺) only after GAIA received your original tickets.

In general, travel costs will be reimbursed up to:

40 € – Kosovo, Macedonia

180 € - Serbia, Bulgaria, Albania

275 € - Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Turkey, Germany

360 € - Portugal, Spain

CONTACTS:

For any issues or questions, you can contact us:

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