

# LONG TERM ESC PROJECT



## DIGITAL COMPETENCIES 4 ALL

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1 AUGUST 2021 - 30TH MARCH 2022

BITOLA, NORTH MACEDONIA

# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The aim of this project is to provide young people belonging to marginalized groups, living in rural areas, facing economic difficulties and are at risk of poverty, from the Bitola region in North Macedonia, with basic digital skills and competencies through tailor-made educational workshops, based on The European Digital Competence Framework for Citizens 2.0, implemented by 2 international volunteers.

Another aim of this project is to promote solidarity as a value, mainly through volunteering, to enhance the engagement of young people and organizations in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities as a means to contribute to strengthening cohesion, solidarity, democracy and citizenship in Europe, while also responding to societal challenges and strengthening communities, with particular effort to promote social inclusion. It shall also contribute to European cooperation that is relevant to young people.

## PARTNERS

Stichting UcDean - Netherlands

MTU EESTI AVATUD NOORTEKESKUSTE

UHENDUS - Estonia

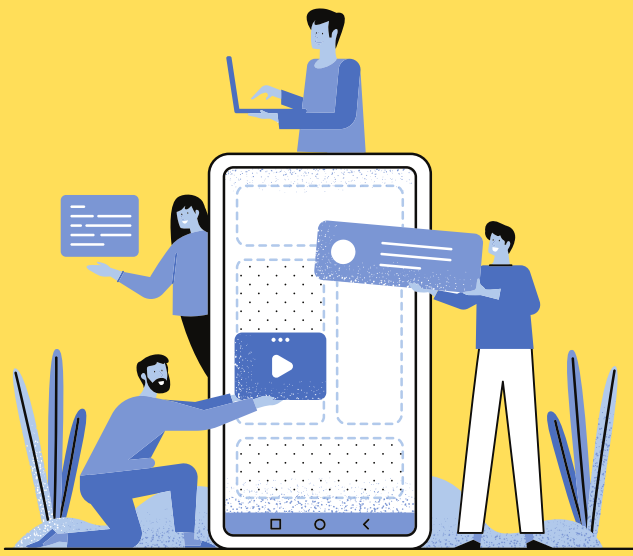




## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Promoting solidarity and active participation of youth in society through voluntary activities helping other youth who are facing difficulties
- Enhanced intercultural awareness and improve the language skills of volunteers by bringing a group of young people to work together on a project.
- Providing the chance to marginalized youth from the Bitola region to self-develop, gain digital skills and learn more about volunteering and active citizenship
- Increasing the awareness of the importance of digital skills and competencies in the 21st century
- Using digital tools to foster digital social inclusion
- Promoting the usage of a variety of tools of digital social inclusion among NGOs in Bitola, and the importance to invest in digital resources and tools to foster social inclusion or using digital platforms to foster participation





## VOLUNTARY ACTIVITY

The voluntary activities will take place in Bitola, N.Macedonia for 9 months, starting July 2021, until the end of February 2022.

Two volunteers from Estonia and The Netherlands will join SFERA and will organize tailor-made educational workshops to provide young people still in high school belonging to marginalized groups, coming from rural areas, facing economic difficulties and are at risk of poverty, with basic digital skills and competencies, based on The European Digital Competence Framework for Citizens 2.0.

Each volunteer will give lessons 2 days in the week, tailored for the needs of the students who will join the workshops. The other 3 days in the week they will be in our offices, one day working on the website of Sfera and their personal blogs, and the other 2 days preparing their workshops and attending Macedonian language lessons.





## VOLUNTARY ACTIVITY

One of the volunteers will focus the educational workshops on the basics of digital literacy and Microsoft Office basics (Word, PowerPoint and Excel).

The second volunteer will focus the workshops on creative digital skills, creating content and the basics of design and working with Canva in creating digital art, and basics of Adobe Illustrator for the more advanced students.

The 2 volunteers will also organize an informational campaign for the local NGOs about the importance of digital literacy and using digital tools for social integration of marginalized youth.



# What will you gain by volunteering on this project?

The volunteers are expected to gain a number of competencies, skills and new behaviors directly from performing the project activities, from working in an international team, the experience of living abroad, learning a language, meeting people from different cultures and backgrounds. These are all activities and experiences which will without a doubt have a large positive impact on their lives, on a personal and a professional level.

This experience will get them to grow and leave the project a richer person, richer in knowledge, life skills, new attitudes and lifelong friends created on the project. They will increase their social and soft skills and gain experience in working with marginalized youth and organizing workshops.



At the end of the service the volunteers will gain a Youthpass Certificate to validate the competences acquired by the participants during their experiences.





## PARTICIPANTS' PROFILE

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers who are conscious about social issues, eager to help youth in need and learn on the way, enjoy working with youth and people and are full of creative ideas. Moreover, the volunteers should be comfortable living on their own, be able to show that they are able to adapt to new situations and demonstrate good problem-solving skills. Special attention will be given to the candidates with fewer opportunities coming from the difficult social and economical background or living in remote areas.

The participants who will be involved in this project will be selected according to the following qualities and interests:

- motivation to work on with youth and increase their digital skills, be patient with them and adapt to their learning pace
- an interest in working with youth coming from different cultures and backgrounds;
- ability to initiate, develop and implement their own activity ideas.

After the preliminary selection based on the application, the candidates will be asked to provide their CV and motivation letter.

**Link for application:**

**<https://forms.gle/fq4rwjhQ9ikkgVcH9>**



# PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS



## VENUE

Bitola (Macedonian: Битола) is a grand old town that still bears the marks of its turn-of-the-century importance as a center for diplomacy – while also exemplifying the country’s time-honored cafe culture. Bitola is nicknamed “City of Consuls” and is the second largest city in North Macedonia, with a population of over 70,000 in the city proper and nearly 100,000 in the larger Bitola Municipality. Near the border with Greece, it straddles the Dragor River at the foot of Baba Mountain in Pelister National Park.

Bitola is quite nice, and it is favourite city for the Macedonians, since it has the most European atmosphere. It was a seat of consuls in the 19th century and with them they brought the European culture and influenced the local aristocracy, who started living in European fashion and building their houses in mixed neo-classical styles. Bitola is a nice place to visit since Pelister National Park is close, the ancient city of Heraklea is there, it has nice Ottoman architecture and 19th-century romantic architecture, so some good examples of everything. It can all be done in a day including enjoying coffee on Shirok Sokak, but you have to put aside a separate day for Pelister National Park.

## TRAVEL



Since the travel regulations are constantly changing and upgrading, we will keep track of these changes and arrange the best travel option for the volunteers to get to Bitola. The selected participants will receive a special travel infopack before departure.



# PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

## ACCOMMODATION



The volunteers will be lodged in an apartment not far from the city center and the office and the school where the activities will take place. The apartment is located in the area with good infrastructure, transport connection. The volunteers will be accommodated in a rented apartment living in single rooms or sharing rooms with participants of the same gender. They will be provided with common areas such as the kitchen, bathroom, and they will have internet access.

**Safety and Protection:** Health and Safety are covered in pre-departure inductions for participants, and the hosts will demonstrate that adequate actions and training are taken to ensure a safe environment for participants. We will take into consideration all the COVID-19 safety measures during the stay of the participants. We will be constantly in contact with the embassies regarding any travel restrictions because of the pandemic. The volunteer will get an info pack specifically about all the new laws and regulations coming from the safety measures for the COVID-19.



**Visa Requirements:** Because the project is longer than 3 months for the volunteers is required to have a visa for their stay. The candidates will be informed about the requirements before their application.



**WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU!**



*Be part of the SFERA community of volunteers!*

**JOIN US AS WE DO WHAT WE CAN FOR A GOOD CAUSE!**

**APPLY NOW:**

**<https://forms.gle/fq4rwjhQ9ikkgVcH9>**

**SENDING ORGANIZATIONS CONTACT:**

**STICHTING UCDEAN - NETHERLANDS:**

**EVS@EASTPACKERS.NL**

**MTU EESTI AVATUD NOORTEKESKUSTE UHENDUS - ESTONIA:**

**ESK@ANK.EE**

**HOSTING ORGANIZATION CONTACT**

**SFERA INTERNATIONAL:**

**KATERINA POPOVSKA**

**INFO@SFERAINTERNATIONAL.ORG**



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INTERNATIONAL