

Dear participant

Welcome to the **Green Steps Youth Exchange**,

which will be arranged in Youth Center Vasatokka, Inari, Finland, during 1.-9.7.2022. Address: Angelintie 696, 99870 Inari.

Please read the information carefully!

Where is this meeting taking you?

The meeting takes place in **Youth Centre Vasatokka**, in Finnish Lapland. The youth center is situated near a small village called Inari. The closest town is Rovaniemi 350 km. From Helsinki the distance is roughly 1150 km.

The youth center is really **in the middle of nowhere** and there is no public transportation. Because of that, please pay attention on the arrival and departure times carefully. Youth center has hostel-rated accommodation and all the needed services in it.



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Target group

The target group is young people aged 13- 17 years representing partner organizations from 4 countries. Group size is altogether 48 – 10 youngsters (13-17 years) and 2 group leaders (no age limit) from each country.

Partners

Finland: Nuoris- ja luontomatkailukeskus Inari Oy / Youth Center Vasatokka

Contact person: Johanna Kilponen, johanna.kilponen@inari.fi , tel. +358 401875541

Poland: Szkola Podstawowa nr 34

Contact person: Danuta Kasprzak, danutakasprzak@op.pl

Czech: Mladiinfo ČR, z.s

Contact person: Eliška Motyčková, eliska@mladiinfo.cz

North Macedonia: Center for Educational and Cultural Development "RACIO" Makedonia

Contact person: Dina Elezi, dinaelezi88@gmail.com

Project aim and goals

Our aim is to learn about climate change and compare things between countries how people in different sides of Europe act for preventing climate change. Aim is also to give youngsters the opportunity to meet and get to know same age youngsters from totally different cultures. Youngsters learn and teach each other's about their countries and cultures. Before arriving to the venue, each group prepares and carries out survey about climate change in their own region.

Our goals are

- Cross-cultural interaction, interaction between the generations, exchange of knowledge and examples of good practices in an international group
- To learn about climate change and recycling, sustainable development
- Improve knowledge about other cultures and countries
- Organize climate march in Inari village – preparation during project – meeting locals
- Strengthening relationship with nature – sustainable hobbies like paddling and hiking
- Develop and improve communication skills in English
- Getting to know Youthpass and key competences
- Gaining group work skills and leadership skills
- Reflection through project and evaluation of project outcomes
- Dissemination of the project in social media and locally



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Travelling to Finland

If possible, please use the most economical way of travelling. The participants should arrive in Finland and Inari on the **1st of July and depart from Inari on the 9th of July 2022**. If you need invitation letter for traveling related to Covid19, please let us know. You can check the current travel situation to Finland from here: <https://raja.fi/en/guidelines-for-border-traffic-during-pandemic> There is no additional funding to cover covid tests or quarantine in case they are needed.

The travel compensation per participant varies according to distance:

Polish participants – 275€

North Macedonian participants – 530€

Czech participants – 360€

Finnish participants – 20€

Travel reimbursements will be paid after YE after participants provide us all the needed travel documents: tickets, receipts and boarding passes.

There are couple of options how to arrive in Inari and Youth Center Vasatokka:

-The fastest way is **flying first to Helsinki**. From Helsinki you can **fly straight to Ivalo**.

-**Flight to Helsinki**. From Helsinki **flying to Rovaniemi**, and taking the **bus from Rovaniemi to Inari**. Distance from Rovaniemi to Inari is 350 kilometres.

-**Flight to Helsinki**. From Helsinki **by train to Rovaniemi**, and taking the **bus from Rovaniemi to Inari**. Or taking the **bus from Helsinki to Inari**.

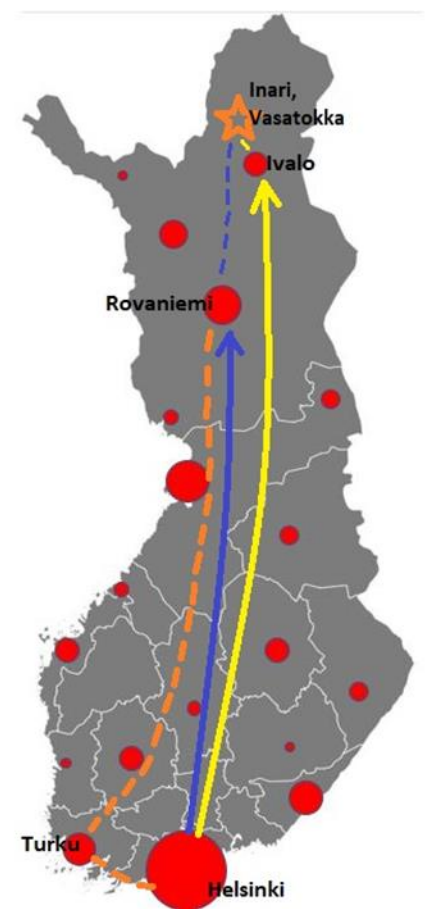
-**Flight to Turku**. From **Turku by train to Helsinki** -> **flying to Ivalo or Rovaniemi**. From Rovaniemi continuing by **bus to Inari**.

-**Flight to Turku**. From Turku by **train to Rovaniemi**, and taking the **bus from Rovaniemi to Inari**. Or taking the **bus from Turku to Inari**.

In case you arrive and departure from Ivalo airport, Vasatokka contact person will organize bus rides between Ivalo airport and Vasatokka. **Bus journey from Ivalo airport to Vasatokka takes 1 hour and costs about 200€ / one way / whole group**. Most economical is that groups arrive at the same time and can share bus ride costs.

Before booking your flights, you should provide details of your travel plans to Vasatokka contact person for verification and approval: johanna.kilponen@inari.fi

Take your own health and travel insurance that will cover if anything happens to you or your luggage during the youth exchange. Project funding doesn't cover the insurance.



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Accommodation and meals

You can check more info from our Youth Center website: <http://www.vasatokka.fi>

The participants will share **dorm apartments** with five bedrooms. In each bedroom, there are bed places for 3-6 person. The apartments include their own **shared kitchen, common area, toilet, shower and free wifi**. In certain evenings our lake shore sauna will be booked for us. Participants themselves take care of cleanliness of the dorms, there won't be any room or cleaning service during youth exchange. Participants also clean up the dorm apartments before departure. We will provide bedlinen and towels.

The **meals** (breakfast, lunch, dinner) are organized in the main house of the youth center. We cannot organize halal meals, but vegetarian and/or vegan options are available, also other allergies and diets are taken care of. **If you have any allergies or special diets, send info for Vasatokka contact person at least two weeks before arrival.**

There will be visit to Inari village at climate march day, and also possibility for shopping and souvenirs at the same day.

Please be aware of the following: The Youth Centre works under the Finnish Youth Act and therefore it is an alcohol-free place. The age limit of consuming alcohol in Finland is 18. The participants of youth exchange are under 18 years old, and therefore it is forbidden to bring any alcohol products to Vasatokka.



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Additional information

Weather and what to bring with you	<p>Before packing your bags, please check the weather forecast in Inari here: https://en.ilmatiiteenlaitos.fi/weather/Inari</p> <p>In July temperature is usually from +10 to +30 but it varies a lot. It's possible that it is nice and sunny but it can be also rainy and windy. It's reasonable to take comfortable, warm and waterproof outdoor clothes, hat, comfortable indoor clothes, drinking bottle, sunglasses, sun lotion, swimming suit, and good shoes for walking.</p> <p>July is midnight sun season so sun doesn't set at all and it will be bright all night. Eye mask might help you sleeping. There might be also mosquitos, so recommendation is to bring a mosquito spray and long-sleeve clothing.</p> <p>For cultural evenings, you can bring some typical things from your country. 😊</p>
Money	<p>Official currency in Finland is Euro (€). 1 and 2 cent coins, while valid in other euro zone countries, are not used in Finland. ATMs (OTTO) work with the most common credit cards and this is easy way to get Euros for your use. There are two separate slots. The blue one is for chip cards, and the yellow one is for non-chip cards that only have a magnetic stripe. Usually, you can pay with your bank card pretty much everywhere and you don't necessarily need cash.</p>
Staying longer	<p>If you are interested in arriving to Finland 2-3 days earlier or leaving later, it is fine with us, as long as you will take part in the planned programme. Note that we will only cover accommodation and meals in youth center between 1.-.9.7.22.</p>
Youth work in Finland	<p>Youth work in Finland is highly professionalised. Youth work can be studied on vocational education level, up to higher education level. Our youth act is advanced. The municipal youth work is obliged to take care of youth services in each municipality by law. More information on the structure of youth work can be found on the webpage of the Ministry of Education and culture</p> <p>https://minedu.fi/en/youth</p>
Finland in general and Lapland	<p>If you're interested to get more information on the country, have a look at these sites:</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finland</p> <p>https://www.visitfinland.com/</p> <p>http://virtual.finland.fi</p> <p>https://www.inarisaariselka.fi/about-the-area/</p>

Contact information

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Do not hesitate to contact if you have any questions 😊



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