



INFORMATION ACCESS FOR YOUTH

Dates: 20th of January 2018 until 30th of November 2018



About Macedonia:

The Republic of Macedonia, independent since 1991, is located in the Balkan Peninsula. It borders with Kosovo and Serbia on the North, with Bulgaria on the East, with Greece on the South, and with Albania on the West. Republic of Macedonia is a country at the crossroads of eastern and western civilizations. Orthodox, Muslims and in smaller numbers Catholics, Protestant and Jews live here together.

The territory is mountainous, with rivers and three natural lakes.

The population is estimated around 2 million.

For more information visit: <http://www.exploringmacedonia.com/>

About Skopje:

Skopje is the capital city of the Republic of Macedonia. It has approximately 500,000 inhabitants. Situated in northern Macedonia, the city is crossed by the river Vardar, the largest river in the country. Skopje is located at 240 amsl and has an area of 1,854 km². The area of Skopje has been inhabited since 4000 BC: ruins of Neolithic settlements are present in the Kale Fortress. Most of the ancient buildings of Skopje were built during the Ottoman rule (15th – 19th Century), but nowadays the city has mostly a modern aspect: in 1963, in fact, a massive earthquake destroyed 75% of Skopje. The city center is also characterized by the recent settlement of monument and restoration of buildings in the context of the *Skopje 2014* project.

The main attractions in Skopje are the Stone Bridge, the Old Bazar, Mustapha Pasha Mosque, the Kale Fortress and Sveti Spas Church.



About Prilep:

Municipality of Prilep is located in the central part of the southern region of Macedonia. It covers the Prilep field which constitutes the northern part of the largest valley in Macedonia, Pelagonia. Prilep is located at an altitude of 620-650 meters, and on the hilly slopes up to 680 meters. In Municipality of Prilep, live 76,768 residents of which 73,351 in the city. Most of the residents of the Municipality of Prilep or 70,878 are Macedonians, but also there are 4,433 Roma people, 172 Serbs, 917 Turks, 22 Albanians, 17 Vlachs, 86 Bosniacs as well as 243 inhabitants belonging to other nationalities.

In historical sources Prilep was first mentioned in year 1014. The territory of the city and its surroundings constituted one of the most important strategic, political and military areas of this part of the Balkan. In the Pelagonian parts were situated very important crossroads in the direction of the Aegean and the Adriatic Sea. The important ancient roads Via Egnatia and the Via Militaris had its most natural connection through Prilep. Through Prilep had also passed the shortest caravan-trade route, along which from the direction of the Adriatic Sea merchants and couriers from Venice and Dubrovnik seth forth to Thessaloniki. Throughout the centuries, on this area Hellenic, Roman, Byzantine and Slavic culture met and collided.

Based upon the cultural and historical monuments, no less important is the period of the Middle Age. This includes St. Nikola Church, which dates from the 13th century, St. Uspenie na Bogorodica in the Monastery of Treskavec with representative paintings from 15, 16 and 19th century, as well as the Monastery with the St. Preobrazenie Church located above the village Zrze. The most important complex of cultural and historical monuments is located in the city itself, which was the center of wider political-territorial organization and significant political and military residence of the Macedonian king Samuil. The complex of monuments of medieval Prilep covers the area of the rocky hill Markovi Kuli and surrounding areas with the sites Potkuli, Varos and Zagrad. On the hill Markovi Kuli is located one of the five biggest Balkan forts, and it consists of three defensive zones and many towers and gates.



The biggest growth in its medieval history Prilep saw in the last quarter of the 13th and early 14th century. Result of such growth are the important monuments from that period, such as the only site of remains of a Slavic settlement from the 10th century, the Church of St. Archangel Michael with frescoes from the 11th century, as well as the churches St. Dimitrija and St. Nicola in which fresco paintings from the 13th century can be found. In the nineteenth century a trade center with the famous Old Bazaar was formed in the city. During the Macedonian cultural and national revival, Prilep was an important centre of the Slavic or Macedonian literacy, literature and culture. From that period, of particular importance is the educational activity in Prilep carried out by the Macedonian reformers Jordan Konstantinov-Dzinot, Dimitar Miladinov, Rajko Zinzifov, Kuzman Shapkarev and activity of the famous collector of Macedonian folklore Marko Cepenkov.

In the Ilinden period, the city was the centre of the Macedonian national and liberation movement. At that time, Prilep and Prilep region gave tens of revolutionists and fighters, including Pere Toshev, Gorce Petrov, Petre Acev and many others.

On October 11, 1941 in Prilep, with the attack on the Police station, started the armed uprising of the Macedonian people against the fascist occupiers for their national liberation and independence. "Hillock of the Undefeated", as one of the most monumental memorials in which the remains of more than 650 fighters from this region have been buried, is a significant testimony to the massive and devoted participation of the people of this region in the liberation war.

Prilep experienced its most important progress and growth during the post-war free development when it has grown into a significant political and administrative, cultural, educational, scientific and commercial centre in the Republic of Macedonia. Prilep gave the Macedonian literature more than 25 writers, the fine art twenty painters and sculptors and the Macedonian scientific idea more acknowledged scientists.

A result of the evident development is also the activity of the Faculty of Economics and the other two scientific institutions: Tobacco Institute and the Institute for Research of Old Slavonic Culture.

Prilep is a famous world centre for production of quality tobacco, of the type "Prilep", which is especially demanded on the World Market. Prilep is a city where there are mines located of one of the finest marble in the world.



EVS ACTIVITIES IN THE PROJECT INFORMATION ACCESS FOR YOUTH

1. Promotion of the Youth information and Counseling Center INFO SEGA Prilep. This will include activities like info days in the high schools in Prilep, in the university in Prilep and Info days with stands in the center of the town. These activities will be implemented in order for larger number of young people to be introduced with the work of the YIC INFO SEGA Prilep and to be able to use its services at local level.



2. Providing of accurate, up to date and reliable information for young people (from the field of culture, volunteering, education, employment, scholarships, trainings, seminars, etc). Searching for this kind of information (with given previous directions by the staff of INFO SEGA) and uploading the information on the web site of INFO SEGA (www.infosega.org.mk), also writing and translation of different articles and uploading them on the web site.

3. Promotion of EVS programme. Through this activity the volunteer will promote his/her project and his experience. He will talk about what it means to be a volunteer and how can affect your life. He will also prepare different ways to promote Erasmus+ and talk about it. For example, he could go to the local high-schools and faculties together with other volunteers and present the EVS program and his own project through pictures and videos. Also they will share

promoting materials, like flyers and brochure about Erasmus+ Program and the open-calls for projects at the moment.

This activity will be very useful for the young generation, especially because most of them don't know the actual meaning of EVS (what the program includes, what are the conditions to become an EVS volunteer and how can they find projects and organizations that are accredited for sending and hosting EVS volunteers). It can be a perspective for the young people regarding their future.



4. Implementation of Creative workshop with children and young people. The volunteer will organize different workshops based on creativity. It can be origami workshops - a fun and challenging activity (origami helps developing eye-hand co-ordination, memory skills and math's



concepts), craft workshops (for some special occasions – Christmas, Women's Day, Eastern etc), jewelry workshop, drawing workshops etc. He/she can also organize movie nights and after they can discuss about the movie. The volunteer will use his imagination for these workshops. He/she can have 2 different workshops: one for teenagers and the other one for kids from primary school. These workshops are important because they encourage creativity and personal abilities. Group age: 9 – 13 years old.

5. **Celebration of important dates** (holidays and other important events at local level). Preparation, organization and implementation of ideas and activities in occasion of some important dates in Macedonia, for example holidays like Easter – organization or participation on a bazar for Easter cards and decorations in some of the primary schools in Prilep.



6. **Planning, organizing and implementing intercultural events.** The volunteer will organize one event/week, during one month. He will promote his culture through different activities. Also, the volunteer can contact other volunteers from different countries and organize together the workshops. Also he can include the locals to promote their own culture.



7. **Language café.**

The purpose of this activity is to meet up with other people, to exchange language skills and cultural insights in a fun and relaxing environment. Having regular meetings with a language exchange partner is a great way to practice and improve a foreign language.

The participants will match with the people who speak the language they wish to practice, for exp: English, Romanian, French, Turkish, Italian etc.

The volunteers will organize the Language Café every 2 weeks. Aspects of languages that he should focus on: speaking: pronunciation, accents; listening: definitions, vocabulary, synonyms;



slangs, common ways to express.

The volunteer can be creative using some games and activities, especially for the language that people don't know. For example: hangman, mime, quizzes games etc.

8. Participation on important events within the organization (for example fair of non-governmental organizations, events in organization of SEGA and INFO SEGA, tribunals, debates, info days, campaigns etc.)



9. Conversation hours (giving free language classes for local youth)

10. Initiating and implementing ideas for individual projects. This activity will include working on an individual project idea, preparing and writing project application (with support and help from the staff of INFO SEGA and SEGA). With this kind of activities the volunteers will have a chance to strengthen their capacities and skills for developing of their own project ideas and filling of project applications.

11. **Coordinative meetings between the staff of INFO SEGA and Coalition SEGA** (once in a two weeks or once in a month)

12. **Participating and working in the everyday activities of INFO SEGA and SEGA**

- printing, scanning, translation of documentation etc.
- assisting in organization of different events within the organization (preparing materials and basic documentation)
- helping with the web site
- writing articles
- other administrative work
- assisting in the work of the **Social worker of INFO SEGA** and the work of the **Administrative assistant** and **Programme assistant** of Coalition SEGA.

*Additional information about the **INFO SEGA Center in Prilep** you can find on the following web site: www.infosega.org.mk, <http://prilep.infosega.org.mk/evs-news>*

and on the following facebook profile: <https://www.facebook.com/infosega/>.

*Additional information about **Coalition of youth organizations SEGA** you can find on the following web site: www.sega.org.mk.*

And on the following facebook fun page: <https://www.facebook.com/coalitionSEGA/>.

Useful information:

LOCAL TIME:

Macedonian local time is GMT +1.

CURRENCY, ATMs and CREDIT CARDS:

The official currency of Macedonia is the Denar (MKD). Approximately: 1 €=61.50MKD, 1 \$ = 46.00MKD. You can find ATMs outside the major banks everywhere in Skopje. All major credit and debit cards are widely accepted.

Some examples of local prices:

A coffee: 1-1.5 € A beer: 1.5 € A slice of cake in a patisserie: 1.5 € A piece of bread in a bakery: 0.5 €

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY:

The electricity supply in Macedonia is 220 volts, a.c. 50 Hz. Sockets are generally CEE 7/7. Hotels generally provide with adaptors upon request.

SMOKING:

Smoking is not allowed in all indoor public places.

OPENING HOURS:

Shops normally open around 09:00 and close around 20:00.



Volunteer profile:

The project will include 3 volunteers from France, Bulgaria and Croatia. Three volunteers whose motivation and personal interest suits the most the objectives of the project. The volunteers should be attracted by cultural field and activities. They should be comfortable to work with children and teenagers. The volunteers should have good communication capabilities, able to work in a team, willing to work with young people from different nationalities and religions. The volunteers need to be responsible, diligent, creative, open minded, ambitious, and interested in innovative ways of communication and European citizenship. They should have computer skills in Microsoft Office and using Internet. In EVS programme, young people with cultural differences will have a chance to improve their current situation regarding the unemployment problem. Being a volunteer in foreign country and be a part of an organization that works for youth and youth issues will be remarkable experience for every young person who has fewer opportunities.

People with geographical obstacles will have chances to work out ideas for improving their situation of their place of living. And people with social obstacles will have chances to get involved with other young people and solve the problem with the social exclusion. Socially-excluded young people, who face economic and social obstacles and unemployment, by doing EVS programme they will gain ideas, experiences and ways for self-employment, they will meet other culture, will learn new language and that will dramatically improve their social situation.

For socially excluded young volunteers SEGA will develop a special adapted program to operate with in accordance with their individual capacities and opportunities. We already have an experience working with that target group through a special approach to work. SEGA believes that giving the opportunity to socially excluded young people is of great importance for the active involvement of young people in every sphere of their life.

Practical arrangements:

Travel costs to Macedonia: 275€ both way Pocket money: 60€/month Food money: 90€/month

The volunteers will receive full insurance coverage through EVS Insurance provided by the European Commission. All the insurance documents will be sent to the volunteers by the sending organization. The volunteer's enrollment in the insurance program will be completed before the departure of the volunteers to Macedonia.

Republic of Macedonia has free non-visa entrance for EU volunteers. In the three month gray period after his/her arrival; the hosting organization will be responsible for the application process for issuing/extending a permit for temporary residence in the Republic of Macedonia. The process requires gathering and completing many documents and proofs, and all of them should be legally translated by authorities on Macedonian language. Some of the needed documents will be required from the volunteer before his/her arrival. The visa process for Macedonia in EU countries requires volunteers to go back in their countries and receive the visa in person.

Each of the volunteers will have a different mentor who will be in contact with the volunteers and the time when there will be need. The mentors will adapt the volunteers to the new environment and life in Macedonia in general. These persons were chosen to be mentors because of their long experience as volunteers, knowledge of the previous "Youth in action programme", the new programme Erasmus+, and their experience in intercultural encounters. Mentors and volunteers will have weekly meetings to help the volunteers integrate in local community and to establish contacts with local people and different local organizations.

Twice a week the volunteer will visit Macedonian language courses, the lessons will be provided in English-Macedonian. We will also encourage the volunteers to start to learn Macedonian before their departure thanks to online website and support. The main working language at the office will be English, in this context the selected volunteers are eligible to receive linguistic support in English prior to departure or during the activity through the Online Linguistic Support.

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Tickets and bills:

When travelling through Macedonia you should always ask for a special bill called “**fiskalna smetka**” (on Macedonian) or invoice. We would also like to remind you to keep your boarding pass and all other travel tickets otherwise we cannot approve your travel cost if you travel by plain. Once again,

Please keep all your invoices/receipts related to your travel!

Weather in Macedonia:

The weather in Macedonia in July is from 28 – 35 Celsius degrees. It also might be rainy. You can check more info before coming to Prilep here: <http://www.ilmeteo.it/meteo-europa/Prilep>.

Accommodation:

The accommodation of the volunteers will be ensured by the hosting organization. The volunteers will share flat with separate bed rooms with all basic needs covered according the standards of living in Macedonia. The volunteer's accommodation will be near the mentors who are responsible for their learning processes, accommodation and cohesion. The volunteers will have 24 hours full support. In case of dealing with conflicts, the mentors will act as mediators and seriously will find the solution for the problem and conflicts.

Each of the three volunteers will have a different mentor who will be in contact with them and the time when will be in need. The mentors will orientate the volunteers to the new environment and the life in Macedonia in general and will speak with the volunteers about his/her learning objectives. The mentors will help the volunteers to integrate in the local community and to establish contacts with local people and different local organizations.

About SEGA and INFO SEGA:

Coalition of youth organization SEGA

Mission:

The Coalition of youth organizations SEGA works on developing and implementing youth policies in Macedonia as well as connecting and strengthening young people to improve their overall state.

Vision:

SEGA is a sustainable and developed youth organization active at the local, regional and national level, a long-term and serious partner in the implementation of youth programmes along with young people, NGOs, state institutions and the business sector.

Our work has led to an improved overall state of youth, their inclusion in decision-making processes and their use of applicable laws.

Our success is recognized in the promotion of the young people as a resource in the society, ready to answer new challenges. **Coalition of youth organizations SEGA in 2010 opened the first Youth INFO Center in Prilep, and in 2015 opened the Youth INFO Center in Kavadarci: [INFORMATION AND COUNSELING INFO CENTER INFO SEGA](#)**



Opening of the first INFO Center in Prilep
Opening of the INFO Center in Kavadarci



Youth information and counseling center INFO SEGA Prilep:



Activities of EVS volunteers at Information and Counseling Center
INFO SEGA:



French Theater Contest in Prilep: Two EVS French volunteers took participation as actors



EVS volunteers working in the PULSE Radio

EVS volunteers working with children in schools in Prilep

