



Info pack

Study visit - ACT FOR THE FUTURE



7-12.4.2025

Kosovo



Erasmus+



Concept note

Civic activism in Kosova - an inspiring story

Objective of the study visit

Youth workers play an essential role in empowering young people, addressing their needs, and supporting their active participation in society. Every day, youth workers dedicate themselves to facilitating personal growth, promoting social inclusion, and encouraging civic engagement among youth. These professionals are crucial in helping young people navigate the challenges they face, such as unemployment, social exclusion, and political disengagement.

While their work is incredibly impactful, youth workers across Europe encounter numerous challenges, such as limited resources, increasing workloads, and insufficient professional development opportunities. Despite these obstacles, they remain committed to their mission of empowering youth and fostering active citizenship.

One of the core responsibilities of youth workers is to support young people's skill development. Through training, mentorship, and providing safe spaces for expression, youth workers help young individuals develop the necessary competencies for personal growth, employability, and engagement in their communities. Moreover, youth workers foster civic engagement by motivating young people to take an active role in their communities. They encourage youth to participate in decision-making processes, raise awareness of social and political issues, and advocate for positive change. In this way, youth workers are instrumental in developing a new generation of responsible, informed citizens who are equipped to contribute meaningfully to society. Additionally, youth workers often work within varying national and local policy frameworks, which can create barriers to cross-border collaboration and sharing of best practices.

These challenges underscore the importance of empowering youth workers themselves, ensuring they have the support and resources needed to effectively serve young people. Empowering youth workers is essential for sustaining the impact of their work. By building their capacity, offering professional development, and encouraging the exchange of success stories and innovative approaches, we can help them navigate these challenges more effectively. Strengthening the skills of youth workers will not only enhance their ability to empower young people but will also enable them to implement more impactful and sustainable programs. Empowered youth workers are better equipped to create lasting networks of support for youth, to build resilience, and to develop solutions to the diverse challenges youth face today.

The exchange of best practices, tools, and approaches for working with youth in the framework of civic activism will help strengthen networks, foster collaboration, and enhance the capacity of youth workers throughout Europe. Ultimately, this visit aims to empower youth workers, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to continue their vital work in promoting youth empowerment and active citizenship.

Why did we choose Kosova

In Kosova over the years, civil society organizations have become increasingly active in monitoring government actions, political promises, and the implementation of policies, ensuring that they align with the public interest. This vibrant civil society landscape contributes to the strengthening of democracy and good governance in Kosova, empowering youth and citizens alike to participate in civic life.

Despite the challenges the country has faced, particularly in the aftermath of war, youth workers in Kosova have risen to the occasion by fostering civic activism among young people. Through innovative programs, youth workers in Kosova have supported youth in taking leadership roles in their communities, shaping local policies, and engaging in volunteer and community initiatives. Success stories from Kosova highlight the effectiveness of youth-led movements, youth-driven volunteer programs, and initiatives that promote youth participation in decision-making. These examples are powerful reminders of the potential of civic activism in empowering youth workers and enabling them to make a meaningful impact on young people's lives. The purpose of the visit is to share these success stories from Kosova, demonstrating how civic activism can be a powerful tool in the empowerment of youth workers. By learning from these experiences, youth workers from across Europe will gain new insights and practical strategies that can be applied to their own contexts.

The V-Dem Institute (Varieties of Democracy) offers a comprehensive analysis of democracy in Kosova through its annual Democracy Reports. In the 2024 Democracy Report, Kosova is ranked 62nd out of 179 countries on the Liberal Democracy Index, with a score of 0.49. This positions Kosova as the highest-ranked country in the Western Balkans, ahead of Montenegro and North Macedonia. The Liberal Democracy Index assesses the quality of democracy by evaluating factors such as electoral democracy, political pluralism, civil liberties, and functioning of government. Kosova's relatively high ranking indicates a strong commitment to democratic principles, though there is room for improvement in areas like political pluralism and civil liberties.

This Study visit is organised with Erasmus+ funding (Youth workers mobilities). Project is organised with 2024 funding scheme and travel support will be paid according to the Erasmus+ distance band.

Travel support:



Standard travel:

10 – 99 km	28 €
100 – 499 km	211 €
500 –1999 km	309€
2000 – 2999 km	395€
3000 – 3999 km	580€
4000 – 7999 km	1188€
8000 -> km	1735€

Green travel:

100 – 499 km	285€
500 –1999 km	417€
2000 – 2999 km	535€
3000 – 3999 km	785€
4000 – 7999 km	1188€
8000 -> km	1735€



Please notice that accommodation is booked between 7.-12.4.

Travel grants are paid according to the funding rules of Erasmus+: Travel grants depend on the length of the journey, and for measurement of the journey we use Erasmus+ distance band calculator: https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/distance-calculator_en.

We also recommend to consider travelling sustainably if you have the possibility. Green travel means that you will travel over 50% of the journey by using sustainable options (train, bus, carpooling).

Travel grant is paid only after the seminar and after the participant has filled in the EU-survey and given all the needed travelling documents (travel tickets, boarding passes, invoices).

Study visit

Mirëardhshitet në Kosovë - Welcome to Kosova

Kosovo and its inhabitants

Republic of Kosova is a country in the South-east region of Europe with its capital city Prishtina. Kosova's history dates back to the 4th century BCE when it was known as Kingdom of Dardania. Its journey culminated on 17th of February 2008 when it declared independence from Yugoslavia and today is known as the youngest country in Europe and its people as Young Europeans due to having the youngest population in Europe with 50% being youth. A vibrant country and a people known for hospitality, positive vibes and humbleness.

Kosovo is a multiethnic society with a rich cultural mosaic. The primary ethnic groups living in Kosovo include: Albanians (the majority 90% of the population, followed by Serbs, Bosniaks, Turks, Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians (RAE communities), Gorani, Croats and Montenegrins.

OJQ Qendra e Rinise Drenas

Nr. regjistrimit: 5102120-7

www.facebook.com/youthcenter.drenas

www.instagram.com/youthcenter.drenas

youthcenter.drenas@gmail.com

+38349678418

Important Info

If you enter Kosovo first and want to travel to Serbia, they will not allow you. The only option is to either enter Serbia via N.Macedonia OR enter Serbia first and then you will be allowed to enter Kosova.

Important info: As Kosova is not a member of the Schengen Area nor a member of the European Union you may not be able to enter without a Passport. So, please bring it with you.

Recommendations

We are excited for your visit to our country and can't miss on providing suggestions in terms of what to visit and make yours as smooth and memorable as possible.

Our country is known for mountain, cultural and medical tourism. This is for tourists of course, because we prefer to party, dance, cheer and chill - which is why we got known for the best nightlife in Southeast Europe with clubs and bars offering a variety of moods from techno to folk, you find it all in Kosova.

So, if you plan to use the two extra days for visiting Kosova we recommend you go outside Prishtina, because we will be visiting it during our training days. Kosova is small, Prishtina even smaller, so in one week you can visit it through and through.

If you are into hiking and beautiful mountains, we recommend you visit Peja. This is the birthplace of world-famous stars such as Majlinda Kelmendi - world champion in Judo, Rita Ora, Dua Lipa and many others. If there is something in the air or water which makes these people successful, this is your chance. You also have the chance to visit cultural parts, take a trip to the Rugova Mountains, or simply enjoy the amazing city of Peja, its food, coffee and great air.

If you are into historic-cultural tourism we recommend you Prizren - the cultural capital of Kosova. This is a city where Turks and Bosniaks are second ethnic majority groups after Albanians being first, so it means great kebab, traditional food and alcohol. You can visit Prizren's castle, which is more than 2000 years old. A coffee by the Lumbardhi river is truly a memory.

Either in Peja or Prizren, you can take a 1h ride bus to Gjakova which offers a unique cultural experience as well. So let's say you visit Gjakova in the morning, you can have lunch there, take a bus and go back to Prizren/Peja.

If you are into wine, from Prizren you can take a bus to Suhareka or Rahovec and enjoy wine tours from vineries in these cities and sip among the vineyards.

If you, however, decide to spend your extra days in Prishtina, scroll down to the next page of this infopack and you'll find detailed information.



Visit Pristina

1. Newborn Monument

An iconic symbol of Kosovo's independence, the Newborn Monument is a must-see in the heart of the city. Visitors often take pictures with this evolving piece of art that changes its design every year on Independence Day.

[Newborn Monument](#)



2. House of Independence

This historic house represents the birth of Kosovo's independence movement. It offers visitors insight into the early efforts and struggles of Kosovo's journey to sovereignty.

[Museum "House of Independence of Kosovo "Dr. Ibrahim Rugova"](#)



3. Museum of Children Victims of the War

A somber but important visit, this museum is dedicated to the memory of children who were victims of the Kosovo War. It provides a moving narrative of their stories and highlights the importance of peace.

[Documentation Center Kosova](#)



4. National Library of Kosovo

Known for its striking and unconventional architecture, the National Library is an excellent spot to explore Kosovo's history and culture. The library's unique design and rich collection make it a favorite among visitors.

[The National University Library of Kosovo "Pjetër Bogdani"](#)



5. Mother Teresa Square

The central square is a lively spot in Pristina, hosting cafes, events, and the statue of Mother Teresa. It's a great place to enjoy a coffee and observe the city's vibrant life.

[Mother Theresa Square](#)



6. Ethnological Museum (Muzeu Etnologjik)

Located in an Ottoman-era house, this museum offers a fascinating glimpse into Kosovo's cultural heritage through exhibits of traditional clothing, tools, and crafts.

[Ethnographic Museum - Muzeu Etnologjik](#)



7. Cathedral of Saint Mother Teresa

This modern cathedral is a beautiful addition to Pristina's skyline. Visitors can admire its stunning interior and climb the bell tower for panoramic views of the city.

[Cathedral of Saint Mother Teresa](#)



8. Bear Sanctuary Prishtina

A short drive from the city, this sanctuary is home to rescued bears. It's a peaceful place to learn about animal welfare while enjoying the outdoors.

[BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina](#)



9. Germia Park

Ideal for nature lovers, Germia Park offers hiking trails, picnic spots, and a large swimming pool in the summer. It's a favorite getaway for locals and visitors alike.

[Gërmia Park](#)



10. Imperial Mosque (Xhamia e Mbretit)

Dating back to the 15th century, this mosque showcases beautiful Ottoman architecture and remains a significant cultural and religious landmark in the city.

[The Great Mosque](#)



11. Statue of Skanderbeg

Located in a prominent square, this statue commemorates Albania's national hero and reflects the shared cultural heritage of Albanians and Kosovars.

[Sheshi "Skënderbeu", Prishtinë](#)



12. Kosovo Museum

The museum hosts artifacts from Kosovo's ancient and medieval history, offering insights into the region's rich past.

[Kosovo Museum](#)



Travel information

BY FLIGHT

Prishtina's International Airport is well connected with many European Airports, offering even direct lines from certain airports. If you need cheaper flights, you may consider Tirana International Airport or Skopje International Airport. Skopje is 2h away from Prishtina and a bus ticket from Airport will cost you around 10€ total one way. Tirana is 4h away and one way bus ticket costs 15€. From Skopje Airport you should take the airport bus to Skopje Central Station bus, and from there to Prishtina.

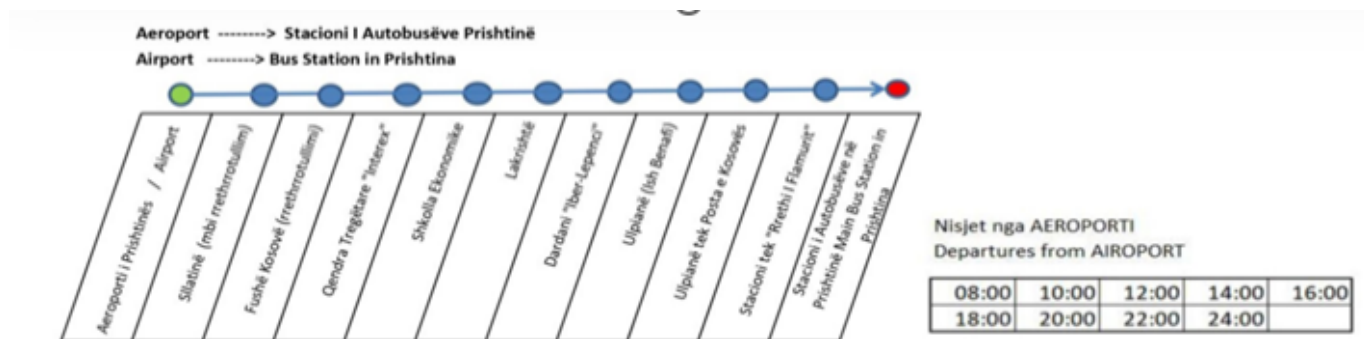
The buses travel from Tirana to Prishtina and it doesn't have a bus station at the airport, but at a nearby location. Link of the pickup location is here:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/82z8Mjnsb9P5qt5m9>

TO THE HOTEL

From Prishtina International Airport:

Once you leave the arrival doors of the airport, the bus station will be on your left - marked 1A. Bus leaves every 2 hours with it's first departure being 08:00 and the ticket costs 3€ Find the schedule here:



If you arrive after 00:00 the only option to reach Prishtina is by taxi. Price range is public and visible upon exit of the airport. Prishtina's taxi companies offer prices as low as 15€ to city center.

You will be provided with the exact bus stop before arrival.

IF YOU CAN'T WALK

We will provide you with information on how to get to the hotel as soon as the booking is finalized.

FROM TIRANA OR SKOPJE

If you arrive from Skopje or Tirana, you will stop at Prishtina Central Bus Station. From there we recommend you to walk directly to the hotel. If you for whatever reason can't walk follow these steps:

We will provide you with the steps as soon as the booking is finalized.

- **[travel.gjirafa.com](https://maps.app.goo.gl/bKXJuzgeLCT2kioe8) - here you can find all necessary info about bus schedule in Kosova, North Macedonia, Serbia and Albania and between these countries.**
- **<https://maps.app.goo.gl/bKXJuzgeLCT2kioe8> - Location of Prishtina Bus Station**
- **<https://maps.app.goo.gl/KPA3JVNMQuWr66nC7> - Location of Prizren Bus Station**
- **<https://maps.app.goo.gl/to7xHrUbzywENNrm7> - Location of Peja Bus Station.**

Draft program

The study visit will include various sessions and visits from organizations recognized for their civic activism, aimed at gaining insights into civil society and democratic engagement in Kosovo. (MORE DETAILED PROGRAM WILL FOLLOW)

7.12 will be arrival day and 12.4 departure day.

Session by Kosova Democratic Institute (KDI)

This session will discuss the role of democratic institutions in Kosovo and their contributions to civic activism, focusing on Kosovo's democratic progress and transparency.

Visit to LEVIZJA FOL

LEVIZJA FOL will discuss the importance of monitoring and evaluation in civil society projects, and their efforts to promote transparency and accountability in Kosovo.

Visit to Kosova Women's Network

The visit will showcase the Kosova Women's Network's work advocating for gender equality and empowering women, focusing on women's rights and social inclusion.

Visit to the Parliament of Kosovo

This visit will explore the Youth and Women's Caucus, discussing legislative efforts to empower youth and women and increase their political participation.

Visit to Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN)

BIRN will discuss investigative journalism's role in strengthening democracy in Kosovo, covering the importance of media freedom and government accountability.

Panel Discussion: Living in a Diverse Kosovo - Does Multiethnicity Work?

A panel featuring speakers from NGOs working with minority communities in Kosovo, discussing multiethnic coexistence and the role of civil society in promoting inclusivity.

Field Visit: Prizren - Cultural Capital City of Kosovo

Participants will visit Prizren to learn how civic activism helps protect cultural heritage and promote inclusivity, focusing on the city's history and cultural significance.

General information

ACCOMMODATION

You will get the information on your accommodation as soon as the booking is finalized.

CURRENCY

EURO is the official currency in Kosova. If you need to exchange money, we recommend you do it at the airport or at a bank. You won't find many exchange offices in Prishtina.

ELECTRICITY

In Kosovo, power plugs and sockets (outlets) of type F are used. The standard voltage is 230 V at a frequency of 50 Hz.

Words to get around

Përshëndetje - Hello

Tung - Hi

Qysh je? - How are you?

Sa kushton? - How much does this cost?

Faleminderit - Thank you!

Ju lutem - Please!