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INFOPACK

Study Visit to Croatia, 22-26 April, 2026

Main location: Samobor | Study visits: Daruvar, Zagreb, Bjelovar

“Empowering Youth Work through Innovation, Technology and Cooperation”

Organized by

Udruga Impress in partnership with System & Generation (Türkiye)

Overview

This study visit brings together 25 experienced youth workers and professionals from across Europe to explore Croatia's vibrant youth ecosystem. The program is designed to foster strategic cooperation between System & Generation and Udruga Impress, alongside Croatian partners working at the intersection of youth work, digital innovation, and green transformation.

The initiative supports the European Youth Strategy 2027, focusing on digital and green transitions, civic participation, and sustainability, and contributes to the European Youth Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The study visit is intended for experienced youth workers, project coordinators, trainers, educators, and professionals working in youth NGOs, public institutions, or innovation-oriented organizations. Participants should have prior experience in youth work, non-formal education, digital innovation, civic engagement, sustainability, or European cooperation projects.

The study visit will be based in Samobor, with organized study visits to Daruvar, Zagreb, and Bjelovar, allowing participants to explore both urban and rural youth work and innovation ecosystems.

European Youth Goals addressed

- **Youth Organisations and European Programmes:** By strengthening Erasmus+ and ESC partnerships and involving youth NGOs from multiple countries, the visit promotes access to European opportunities and cross-border cooperation.
- **Quality Learning:** Through experiential learning, workshops, and institutional visits, participants gain practical knowledge in digital innovation, ethics, and civic engagement.
- **Sustainable Green Europe:** The program emphasizes green transformation and sustainability, showcasing models of rural development and eco-conscious innovation.
- **Information and Constructive Dialogue:** Participants engage in reflection circles and interactive sessions that promote informed dialogue and ethical technology use.
- **Connecting EU with Youth:** The visit builds bridges between youth workers and European institutions, reinforcing civic participation and European values.



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Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) supported

- **Goal 4 – Quality Education:** Promotes non-formal education, digital literacy, and lifelong learning through hands-on experiences and expert-led sessions.
- **Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth:** Encourages youth entrepreneurship and future skills development, especially in STEM and digital sectors.
- **Goal 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure:** Highlights local innovation hubs and technology centers that support inclusive and sustainable industrial development.
- **Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities:** Explores models of rural and urban development that integrate youth participation and community resilience.
- **Goal 17 – Partnerships for the Goals:** Facilitates strategic cooperation between Croatian and Turkish networks, fostering long-term partnerships for youth-led impact.

Welcoming Organization

Udruga Impress Ivana Zajca 3, 43500 Daruvar, Croatia www.udruga-impress.hr | info@udruga-impress.hr | +385 91 9152 621

Udruga Impress is a nationally recognized youth organization based in Daruvar. It operates the Youth Centre “Kuća Mogućnosti,” a hub for education, creativity, and social innovation. Impress leads numerous Erasmus+ and ESC projects, supports over 150 young people annually, and runs Croatia’s national youth information portal ICM-MOGUCNOSTI.INFO.

The Town of Samobor - Main Location : Samobor is a historic town near Zagreb, known for its cultural heritage, walkable old town, and proximity to the capital. It provides an ideal base for mobility, networking, and reflection, while offering easy access to key study visit locations.

The Town of Daruvar : We will visit Youth Center in Daruvar, a charming town in central Croatia, located in the Bjelovar-Bilogora County, with a population of around 8,000 residents. Nestled between gentle hills and surrounded by forests and vineyards, Daruvar offers a peaceful yet vibrant setting that blends natural beauty with cultural richness and innovation.

The town is known for its thermal springs, historic architecture, and multicultural heritage, including strong Czech and Hungarian influences. Visitors can explore landmarks like the Daruvar Castle, Roman spa ruins, and the central park, all within walking distance. The town’s compact layout makes it easy to navigate and ideal for immersive experiences.

Daruvar is also home to a growing ecosystem of youth initiatives, digital innovation, and civic engagement. Udruga Impress, the host of this study visit, is based here and operates the Youth Centre “Kuća Mogućnosti,” a dynamic space for education, creativity, and community



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development. The nearby Digital Innovation Hub further highlights Daruvar's commitment to rural inclusion and technological advancement. Despite its small size, Daruvar offers a warm and welcoming atmosphere, with local cafes, cultural events, and a strong sense of community. It's a place where tradition meets innovation, making it an inspiring destination for youth workers and professionals seeking meaningful exchange and collaboration.



Partners and Supporting Organizations

- System & Generation (Türkiye)
- Youth NGOs from six countries
- Center for Social Innovation (CDI)
- House of Blockchain (HOB)
- Volunteer Fire Department Jakuševac (DVD Jakuševac)
- Digital Innovation Hub Daruvar
- Robotics Center Bjelovar

During the study visit, participants will engage with a diverse group of Croatian organizations that represent innovation, civic engagement, and youth empowerment across urban and rural settings. These partners offer unique perspectives and practical models that connect technology, education, and community development.

The Center for Social Innovation (CDI) in Zagreb is a strategic hub focused on youth participation, social responsibility, and digital transformation. CDI brings together civil society, academia, business, and policy stakeholders to co-create inclusive innovation ecosystems. Through its work, CDI promotes ethical technology use, participatory governance, and evidence-based policymaking, contributing to European cooperation projects and civic impact initiatives.

The House of Blockchain, also based in Zagreb, is a creative digital hub dedicated to education and innovation in blockchain, artificial intelligence, and Web3 technologies. It serves as a space where technology meets purpose, supporting youth empowerment and ethical innovation. The hub hosts startups and social projects that apply emerging technologies to real-world challenges, fostering a new generation of socially responsible tech leaders.



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The Volunteer Fire Department Jakuševac, founded in 1946, exemplifies long-term civic engagement and intergenerational solidarity. As it approaches its 80th anniversary in 2026, the department continues to promote youth leadership, volunteerism, and teamwork in emergency and community contexts, offering a powerful example of sustained grassroots involvement.

In Daruvar, **the Digital Innovation Hub** provides free access to modern equipment, coworking spaces, and digital workshops for young people and entrepreneurs. Though not formally founded by Udruga Impress, the organization plays a key mentoring role in its development. Many of the Hub's users began their journey through Impress programs, making it a vibrant example of rural digital inclusion and community-driven innovation.

The Robotics Center Bjelovar, located within IV. Elementary School Bjelovar, is a regional leader in STEM education and robotics. Established through an ESF-funded project, the Center connects schools, organizations, and local companies to develop future skills among youth. It actively collaborates with Udruga Impress on Erasmus+ projects and contributes to a growing ecosystem of applied learning and technological literacy in semi-urban Croatia.

Together, these organizations form a rich landscape of learning and collaboration, offering participants hands-on experiences and strategic insights into how youth work, innovation, and civic engagement intersect in Croatia.

Main Objectives of the Study Visit

- Present Croatia's integrated youth ecosystem
- Exchange practices in AI, ethics, green transformation, and non-formal education
- Strengthen strategic cooperation between Turkish and Croatian networks
- Inspire new joint projects connecting youth, technology, and community impact

Methodology

The visit emphasizes experiential learning and mutual inspiration through:

- On-site presentations and live demonstrations
- Interactive discussions and reflection circles
- Cultural and team-building activities
- Visits to institutions and university experts
- Project ideation workshops



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Expected Outcomes

- Strengthened partnerships
- Practical insights into youth innovation and rural digital inclusion
- Roadmap for Erasmus+ and ESC project development
- Enhanced intercultural understanding and cooperation

Program (5 Days)

Day 1 – Arrival and Introduction (Samobor/Zagreb)

- Arrival and check-in at Samobor Hostel
- Welcome session: “Youth, Innovation & Collaboration – Croatia in Focus” • Cultural dinner and networking evening

Day 2 – Zagreb: Technology Meets Society

- Visit to House of Blockchain
- Visit to Center for Social Innovation (CDI)
- Visit to Volunteer Fire Department Jakuševac
- Evening free for cultural exploration

Day 3 – Daruvar: Youth Empowerment in Action

- Travel via Kutina to Daruvar
- Visit to Udruga Impress and Youth Centre “Kuća Mogućnosti” • Visit to Digital Innovation Hub Daruvar
- Cultural dinner with Croatian music and food

Day 4 – Zagreb/Bjelovar: Robotics and Future Skills

- Visit to a Croatian university or ministry (to be confirmed) • Visit to Robotics Center Bjelovar
- Return to Samobor
- Closing reflection and farewell dinner

Day 5 – Departure and Wrap-up

- Farewell brunch
- Joint evaluation and discussion of next steps
- Departure of participants



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Pre-Arrival Notes

- Please confirm your travel arrangements and arrival time in advance •
Accommodation and meals will be provided
- Bring comfortable clothing for travel and cultural activities
- Prepare to share your organization's work and ideas for future collaboration •
English will be the working language throughout the visit

Accommodation



Accommodation will be in Samobor - a lovely, small town located 20km (40min drive) from capital Zagreb city centre.

Our venue will be hostel "Samobor" which is located in the city center and has all needed facilities. It is a typical youth hostel which provides all needed contents for simple and cosy stay.

Participants will be accommodated in shared rooms, gender divided, with other participants from the group. Seminar room is within the hostel. Meals and coffee breaks will be provided at the hostel, in line with provided dietary needs. Bathrooms are shared on the floor. Towels will be provided but we advise you to take your towel and personal hygienic things you might need as well.

Hairdryer will be provided. For more details, please, consult hostels web page:

<http://www.hostel-samobor.hr/en/>



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How to reach Samobor:

Study visit will take place in Samobor which is some 20km from Zagreb. Nearest airport is Franjo Tuđman Airport Zagreb (<https://www.zagreb-airport.hr/en>). Other nearby airports to consider can be Budapest or Vienna and from there you can reach Zagreb easily by bus or train. Bus that will take you from the airport to main bus terminal in Zagreb city centre (last stop in the city centre) is in front of the exit. There is written CROATIA AIRLINES-ZRAČNA LUKA ZAGREB on the bus so you can hardly miss it. Bus goes every 30min during the whole day. The ticket can be bought online or inside the bus from the driver. Price is 8 EURO. <https://plesoprijevoz.hr/en/zagreb-croatia/> Once you reach main bus terminal in Zagreb, busses to Samobor go from the same place. Busses go frequently during the day, since early morning until late evening. Bus schedule can be found here: <https://voznired.akz.hr/VozniRed.aspx?lang=en> Once you reach Samobor, hostel is in the city centre. Address is Obrtnička 34, 10430 Samobor .

You are kindly invited to fill the [FORM](#) to apply:

We look forward to welcoming you to Croatia and building the future of youth work together.

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