



Applicant Organisation - Elios

ELIOS is a youth organization based in Acireale (ITALY) and was founded in 2007 by some friends that decide to officialize their passions in an organization active in the field of sport, volunteering, social promotion, youth participation, active citizenship and university life.

Since 2007 ELIOS organizes one of the most important sport events in the province of Catania, it's called SUN&SPORT and it involves every summer about 400 youngsters that participate in sport tournaments; each year the SUN&SPORT promotes a main topic that fits with the youth interests: in the last years the main topic related to the event was "AGAINST NEW ADDICTIONS". The board has decided to adopt this main topic in order to promote at different levels the sensitisation to the problem of new addictions especially for youngsters through the SUN&SPORT and other campaigns promoted through social media, conferences, youth meetings, local projects. In 2011 ELIOS was responsible of the implementation for the project "Inverti il flusso – da nomadi del lavoro ad imprenditori del proprio futuro" funded by the Italian Ministry of Youth: the project involved more than 300 young people from all over the region who have been protagonists of research and identifying new strategies to support youth employment through the active participation, through the creation of new business ideas to fight the unemployment issue. Since 2011 ELIOS is working with European programs (Youth in Action, Erasmus+, Europe for Citizens, etc.) and through them it got different financed projects ideas about youth participation, active citizenship, youth unemployment, use of new technologies and safer internet for youngsters, protection of women, human rights education, etc.

In the frame of Erasmus+ Programme, ELIOS has developed a Training Course in November 2015 in the town of Acitrezza: the project had 33 participants from 11 different European countries discuss the issues of online safety for young people, the new addictions and risks related to the use of new technologies and new forms of communication. Also in the frame of Erasmus+, Elios's members have runned different youth exchanges in the field of social promotion, human rights education, journalism and online news, environment and recycle, use of new technologies, etc.

ELIOS, since 2015, is also accredited for the Italian Civil Service financed by Italian Government and each year it can count on 2 or 3 youth volunteers that operate in part time work in the offices and follow the activities of the organization focused on the topics mentioned before.

ELIOS is also running a network together with some local municipalities and with them is setting-up different kind of cooperations to grow-up the non formal education and the informal learning for the local communities, local NGOs, young people, schools, etc.

In order to do that these cooperations with local communities are finalized to develop different kind of projects (financed by European programs, or financed by local municipalities) to help the process of active participation of the young people and in order to develop a very big "sense of citizenship" through them to discover the very and right sense of Europe for all of them.

ELIOS is even working together with a European network, called DYPALL, which includes, at the same time, civil society organisations and municipalities from different European countries; this network is mostly focused on Youth Participation at local and European level. Together with the network and the municipalities we are going to develop different kind of actions about Youth Participation and Active Citizenship.

ELIOS is even part of the local youth council in the city of Acireale, it was established in the 2000 and involves almost 50 youth organizations that operate in the city.

Elios - Head Office: Via J.F. Kennedy, 37 - 95024 - Acireale (CT) - ITALY - www.eliosacireale.com



Project Description

The youth exchange "**Discriminations around us: fight them together**" was created to give voice to our fight against discrimination, whether racial, gender, age, religious, political beliefs, work, opportunities and mobility in order to understand our active role in the fight against them and in raising awareness of our peers. The fight against discrimination, actually, plays an important role in our lives: more and more often we realize that discrimination is "automatically" part of our daily lives and often we do not even realize it. You just have to walk around our cities to see how immediate and present discrimination is. Sometimes it is enough to watch TV or leaf through the most famous newspapers or websites to come across examples of discrimination that our brains, if not carefully educated, can hardly distinguish.

It is from this reasoning that we have decided to promote this youth exchange: to understand discrimination, to investigate it, to know how to recognize it in order to fight it while sensitizing ourselves and our peers.

But where does discrimination come from? Why do they exist? We asked ourselves how to fight them, but we must carefully examine their origin: what is the correlation between discrimination, prejudice and stereotypes? Why are discriminations the result of prejudice and stereotyping? These are the very first questions we asked ourselves and that is why we want to deepen them through the exchange of ideas and good practices; we are convinced that a youth exchange can offer us the opportunity to investigate about them, to know about discrimination, to know how to distinguish and understand how they are closely related to the stereotypes and prejudices that are often inherent in our sub-culture that is handed down to us or directly instilled through the media and mass culture.

Through youth exchange we want, therefore, to understand our active role in the fight against discrimination, the fight against prejudices and stereotypes to defeat differences starting from our small and our environment of belonging.

Starting from this context analysis, carried out by each of us at the local level, we have identified the objectives that the exchange project aims to achieve.

The general objective of the project will be to understand what discrimination, stereotypes and prejudices are in order to be able to distinguish them in the most varied forms and how they surround us in everyday life.

Specific objectives of the project will be, instead:

- analyze how discrimination is conveyed through the media (newspapers, TV, internet, social networks, advertising, etc..), know how to recognize and identify a language "new" that can help prevent them;
- imagine real solutions that can help us to prevent violence, hate speech and discrimination through the organization of local events such as the Human Library - recognized as a good anti-discrimination practice by the Council of Europe.
- involve the local community through the Local Event in order to raise awareness of the fight against discrimination: the Local Event will see the organization of the Human Library in a public place made available by the city;
- to stimulate and improve communication and intercultural skills in order to understand how differences are opportunities for enrichment and are not an opportunity to discriminate and/or engage in violent behavior or speech.



Dates of activities

Arrival of participants: 28 May 2019

Departure of participants: 05 June 2019

Extra days in Catania or in Italy will be admitted only up two days before and/or up two days after the project; if you will decide to stay more time in Italy (before or/and after the project's activities) we will not be able to reimburse the travel costs.

Project's Venue

PIEDIMONTE ETNEO (CT)

Hosting Place: Former Monastery (*Convento dei Cappuccini*) in Piedimonte Etneo located in
Via Castagneto Vecchio, 2 – Piedimonte Etneo (CT) – ITALY

The Former Monastery (Convento dei Cappuccini) was built in the 18th century (between 1731 and 1749) and was used for church purposes until 2013. In recent years, however, it has been used as a youth center by the church of Piedimonte Etneo. Actually the monastery belongs to and is fully managed by the church, but is also used for external youth and lay activities.

Piedimonte Etneo is a village of 4078 inhabitants with all of the comforts we need; there we will have two supermarkets, banks, ATM, post office, pharmacy, tabac shop and everything we need during the exchange.

Participating Countries and Target Group

Italy, Macedonia, Poland, Slovenia, Spain

The Group size: 6 participants (age between 18 and 24) + 1 leader (with no age limit). PLEASE RESPECT THE GENDER BALANCE (3 male + 3 female).

From each country we will involve **6 young people (3 boys and 3 girls)** aged between **18 and 24 years** plus **1 leader without age limit**; all participants should have average language skills and understanding of English in order to be able to communicate and interact each other. Each partner organization will be responsible to select the young people who will take part into the activities.

Travel and Finances

This Youth Exchange is co-funded by Erasmus+ Program. Accommodation and food will be provided by the hosting organisation. Travel costs will be reimbursed by hosting organization following the rules below.

Amounts of reimbursement of travel costs for each participant

Unfortunately our Sicily is famous because our public transports are not efficient like in the rest of Europe and according with the timetables of trains and busses from the airport to reach Piedimonte Etneo we are forced to rent a bus to manage the transfers from and to the airport.

During the exchange we will also have a full day in Catania city center in order to explore the city, have some activities with locals and of course also to allow to the participants to buy souvenirs and stuff.

For these reasons we have decided to use 40 euros per person from the travel costs in order to pay the bus for all of transfers mentioned before.

Reimbursement limit for travel costs (flights, bus, train, etc.) for each participant will be till 235,00 €

The reimbursement will be eligible ONLY with this travel documents:

- electronic ticket (with passenger name, price, dates, flight company);
- electronic ticket AND travel agency invoice;
- all the boarding passes of all the flights used;

The reimbursement for travel will not be eligible with just a travel agency invoice because, in order to ensure all original documents to National Agency, we need the invoice accompanied by electronic tickets.

Extra days in Catania or in Italy will be admitted only up two days before and/or up two days after the project; if you will decide to stay more time in Italy (before or/and after the project's activities) we will not be able to reimburse the travel costs.

The hosting organization – Elios – does not ask for any participation fee

Logistic information

Closest airport: Airport of Catania (IATA code CTA)

N.B. Before to book the flight tickets, please, inform us about your planned travel dates and times because, as mentioned before, we will manage a private transfer from the airport to the venue and vice-versa. **Wait for our authorization before to buy the tickets.**

In order to be able to organize the transfers **you should reach Catania not later than the 20.30 of 28th May 2019** and **depart from the airport after the 10.00 of 5 June 2019.**

Please search your flights according with our suggestions



Security Rules and Advices

!The organizers will not provide you with Insurance!

It is mandatory for each participant to obtain travel health insurance – at own expense - for whole duration of Youth Exchange 28 May - 05 June 2019.

Please, do not forget to bring with you the European Health Insurance Card, it will allow you to access to any kind of emergency health services, hospitals, etc.

***PS: We as Italian team, strongly recommend you to have health insurance for any health issues according to our experiences. It is only few Euros and sometimes saves Thousands.**

Accommodation and Food

Our Youth Exchange will be hosted in a former-monastery in multiple rooms (3/4/5/6 beds each) with shared bathrooms (with showers) in the corridors. The former-monastery, actually, is a structure between a hostel and a youth center. It is in a totally self-management.

Into the place there will be also a conference room and the kitchen with our cooking-staff who will be responsible of all the meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) which will be done into the canteen.

We strongly recommend each participant to inform the ORGANIZERS about any special needs such as dietary, vegetarian or any other kind of special need!!!

We will also have a cleaning staff who will be responsible to clean-up ONLY the bathrooms every morning.

We will also be responsible to have different turns in order to help the staff, we will clean-up the kitchen tools and the common spaces (conference room, canteen, etc.) in order to be responsible of our own behaviour respecting the place which host us.

Each bedroom will be cleaned by each member of the room itself. We must be responsible of ourselves.

Our organisation will provide ONLY for the bed sheets and NOT for the towels: **BRING YOUR OWN TOWELS, PLEASE.**

What to bring with you

- **Your own towels for shower and bathroom**
- **Your own documents (id card, passport, health insurance)**
- **Tickets, invoices, travel proofs**
- **Your personal European Health Insurance Card**
- Any information material (leaflets, photos, stickers, posters, etc.) about your organization or group to share with other participants. If you will bring digital presentations you will be able to share them on-line
- Any example of the youth project or activity with on-line element (if you have), which you will want to present to other participants
- Foods and drinks and anything else, which would enable you presenting your country, culture, region during the "International Event".
- Any equipment (if you have), which allows you connecting on-line (laptop, tablet, smartphone, etc.)
- Games, music for the informal moments of this activity.



Common Rules

You are expected to participate fully in all activities, unless you are ill. Unauthorized absence from activities and workshops won't be permitted. We would appreciate energetic and active participation.

Smoking and drinking alcohol is STRICTLY prohibited inside of the buildings including rooms, bathrooms and balconies, so all smokers should leave the building in case you want to smoke a cigarette.

Contacts

Elios

Head Office: Via J.F. Kennedy, 37 - 95024 - Acireale (CT) - ITALY

www.eliosacireale.com - info@eliosacireale.com - +39 351 8973555

[Contact Person] Orazio Fiorini: +393475647521 - orazio@eliosacireale.com

[Support Staff] Marco Russo: +393662482061 - m.russo@eliosacireale.com

[Support Staff] Davide Caltabiano: +393208621417 - d.caltabiano@eliosacireale.com

[Volunteer Staff] Sarah Barbagallo: +393492999963 - s.barbagallo@eliosacireale.com

[Volunteer Staff] Giusy Parlato: +393409612267 - g.parlato@eliosacireale.com

The hosting organization – Elios – does not ask for any participation fee

Project's Partners

Macedonia: Zdruzenie MLADNISKI SOVET BOSILOVO Bosilovo

Poland: FUNDACJA INSTYTUT ROWNOWAGI SPOLECZNO EKONOMICZNEJ - IRSE

Slovenia: Fundacija Studentski tolar, ustanova Studentske organizacije Univerze v Ljubljani

Spain: COLEGAS-Spanish LGBT Confederation

Some photos of the place

