

# YOUTH EXCHANGE

**Arrival day**

**November 28th  
2025**

**Working days**

**November 29th - December 3rd  
2025**

**Departure day**

**December 4th  
2025**

**Pop arts  
&  
rights  
2025**



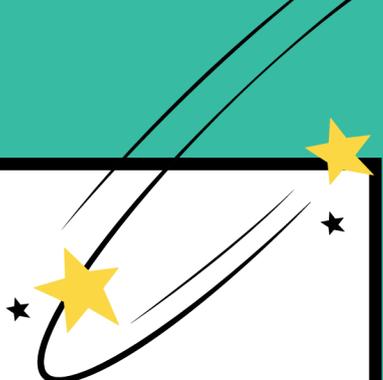
**Erasmus+**

Enriching lives, opening minds.



udruga za društveni razvoj i neformalno obrazovanje

# THE BASICS



Pop Arts & Rights is organised within the framework of DrONE's Erasmus+ Youth Accreditation. It will be held from 28th of November until December 4th 2025 in Karlovac, Croatia.

## ARRIVAL DAY

28th of November 2025

## DEPARTURE DAY

4th of December 2025

## WORKING DAYS

29th of November - 3rd of December

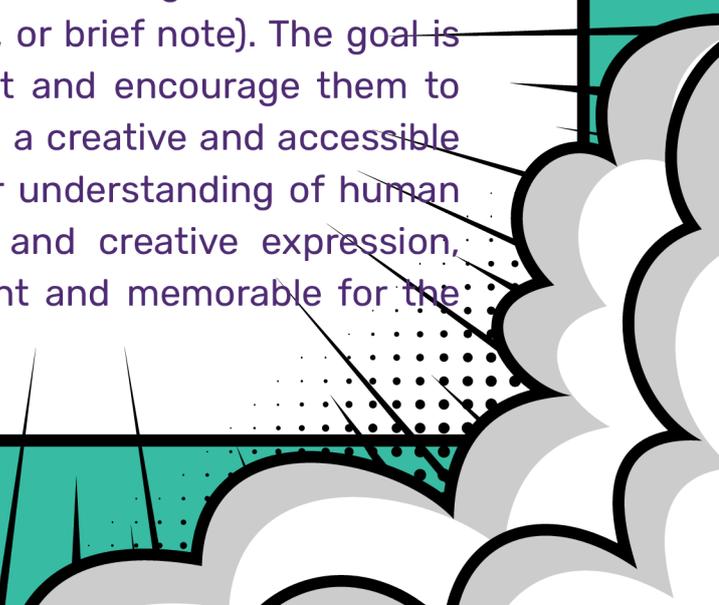
## Objectives

This youth exchange combines learning through human rights with a creative approach. Participants will explore human rights basics and practice in a fun and interactive way through various forms of art (literature, music, visual arts, performances).

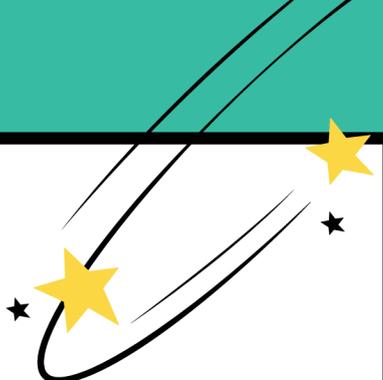
### What to Expect – Programme Flow:

- workshops on the state of human rights through the eyes of pop culture
- practice of communication skills, presentations and pitching techniques
- intercultural moments with cooking and games - creative and playful learning methods

Participants will have to research the current state of human rights in their country and present their findings in a format of their choice (presentation, key points, or brief note). The goal is to connect young people through art and encourage them to think about important social issues in a creative and accessible way. This approach calls for a deeper understanding of human rights through personal experience and creative expression, which makes the topics more relevant and memorable for the young participants.



# Project phases



## PREPARATORY PHASE

### Pre-Arrival Tasks:

- **One online meeting** – mandatory online session for all trainers and group leaders
- **Human Rights Snapshot** – research what's happening in your country and share it however works for you (presentation, key points, or short write-up) with at least one real story that shows the situation
- **Team collaboration** – group leaders work with participants to research and create, plus select one traditional dish from their country
- **Plan your cultural dish** – decide how you'll prepare your dish, give us the ingredient list, and we'll handle the shopping (each team cooks lunch for everyone on their assigned day)

## YOUTH EXCHANGE

The main phase, will be held from the 28th of November to the 4th of December 2025 in Karlovac, Croatia. Participants will be encouraged to take part in team-building, trust-building, and intercultural activities. A huge part of the youth exchange will be about peer-to-peer learning, where participants will run sessions they've put together ahead of time on the exchange's main themes. We're also planning national team presentations, where each group gets the chance to share their country and culture with everyone else.

## FOLLOW-UP PHASE

The follow-up phase comes at the end of the youth exchange and upon the participants' return to their home countries. The participants will have several possibilities for disseminating this youth exchange to choose from, as they will be offered a "dissemination bingo" on the final day of the exchange.



## ABOUT THE TRAINERS



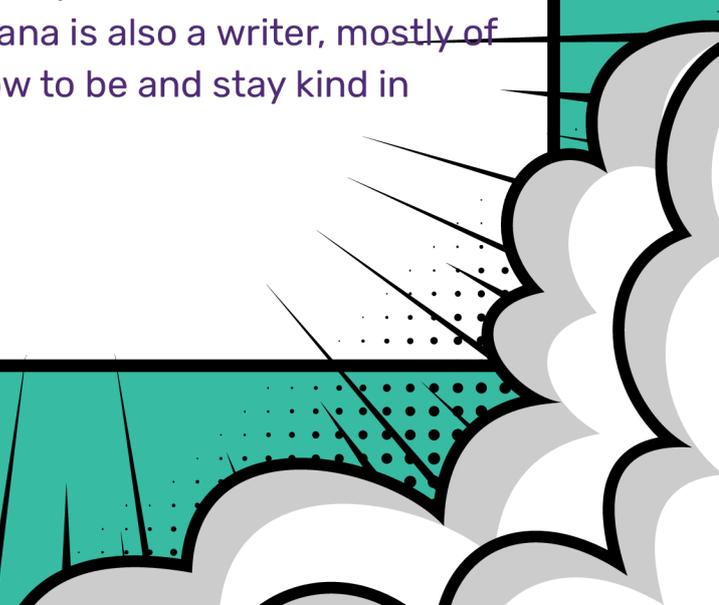
The training will be led by experienced facilitators with diverse backgrounds in youth work, human rights advocacy, and non-formal education. Our trainers bring a wealth of practical experience and are committed to creating an engaging and transformative learning environment.

### **Valentina Gambiroža Staković**

Valentina is a dedicated human rights educator with a Master's in Pedagogy and French. She empowers young people through rights-based education and co-authored the "HERO - Human Rights Education Opportunity Manual." As co-founder of DrONE, she promotes innovative non-formal learning. Valentina has led international trainings and worked with NGOs on youth empowerment and children's rights, blending academic knowledge with hands-on educational methods.

### **Ivana Francišković Olrom**

Born in Karlovac, raised in the civil sector, Ivana joined DrONE in mid-September of 2024 as a proud youth worker and program coordinator. Before that, Ivana was (and still is) a member of an environmental organization where she spends a lot of time outdoors as a forest school leader. Ivana is also a writer, mostly of children's books about nature and how to be and stay kind in today's lovely world.



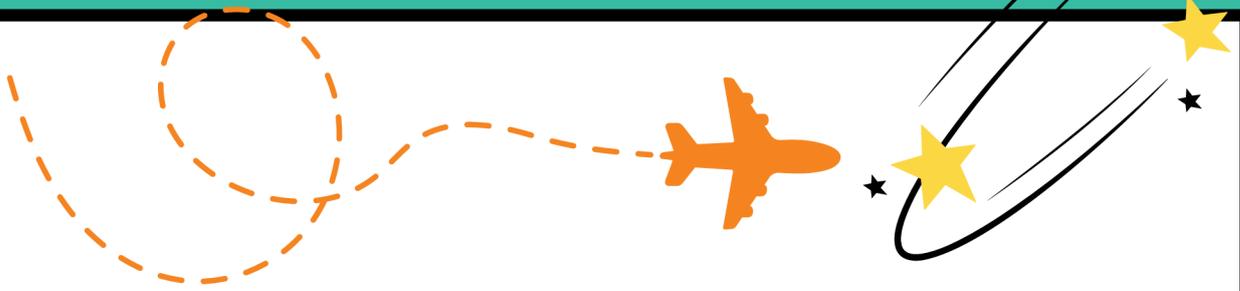
## THE PARTICIPANTS

Every partner organisation has to send one (1) highly motivated group leader (no age limit) and four (4) participants aged 18 to 30. Participants must be ready to learn about human rights while exploring them through various forms of art in fun, creative, and playful ways.

We aim to include youth with fewer possibilities as much as possible and to achieve gender balance in the project. Therefore we urge all of the partner organisations to include at least two (2) participants with fewer opportunities (economic, geographical, social or physical challenges) as well as to be respectful of the gender balance in their teams. Please keep this in mind when searching and choosing the participants.

**NATIONAL TEAM** = **1 GROUP LEADER** + **4 PARTICIPANTS**  
(5 people) (no age limit) (aged 18-30)





## THE TRAVEL

Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, is most likely to be your primary point of arrival in Croatia. From there, you should go directly to Karlovac, where the youth exchange will be held, which is approximately 50km away.

If we are correct and Zagreb is your primary point of arrival, you will be arriving at one of the following locations:

- (A) Franjo Tudman Zagreb Airport
- (B) Zagreb Main Bus Station
- (C) Zagreb Main Train Station

Specific guidelines for available transport from all points (A, B and C) are following. Before you continue reading this document, though, here's an information of utmost importance:

Be careful to **keep all the ORIGINAL travel invoices and tickets!**

### Travel budget

The total travel budget per country is (re)calculated using the [Erasmus distance calculator](#), taking into consideration the residence of the sending organization as the starting point of the trip and Karlovac as the destination.

## (A) Franjo Tuđman Zagreb Airport (ZAG)

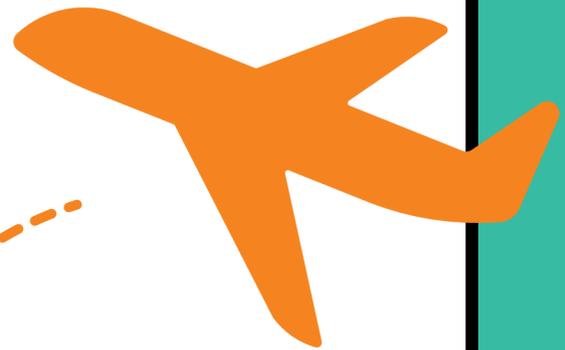
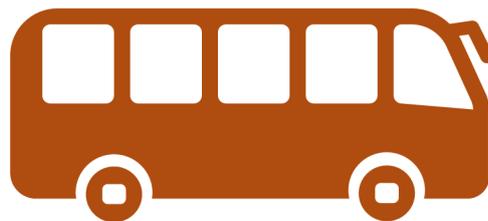
Franjo Tuđman Airport Zagreb (ZAG) is located on the outskirts of Zagreb and is 60 km away from Karlovac.

We suggest taking the shuttle bus from the Airport to the Zagreb Main Bus Station (Autobusni Kolodvor Zagreb). The company "Pleso prijevoz d.d." is the official carrier on the line from the Franjo Tuđman Zagreb Airport to the Main Bus Station in Zagreb.

The shuttle bus leaves every half an hour (approx.). A one-way ticket is 8€, and the ride takes approximately 35 minutes. The earliest bus from the Airport starts at 6:00h in the morning. You can buy a ticket either from the ticket desk at the airport or online. In case you didn't manage to do it before, you can buy the ticket from the bus driver directly, with cash, though we highly recommend doing it beforehand.

More information is available on the *Pleso prijevoz* website:

- [TIMETABLE](#)
- [GENERAL INFO](#)
- [EXPLANATORY VIDEO](#)



## (B) Zagreb Main Bus Station

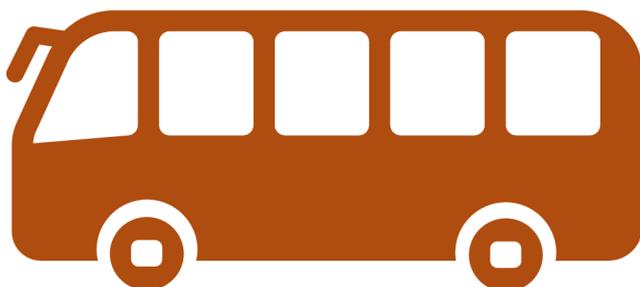
Zagreb Main Bus Station is located in midtown and will provide you frequent bus lines to Karlovac (every 1 hour). The average bus ride Zagreb – Karlovac is around 45 - 60 minutes, depending on the traffic in Zagreb. The average price of a one-way ticket is between 6 and 8€, although the prices vary depending on the provider.

We advise you not to buy two-way (return) tickets right away because, in that case, you can travel back to Zagreb only with that bus line provider.

Some of the providers have discounts for people under 26 and students. The luggage fee for buses to Karlovac is between 1 and 1,50€ per bag.

You can check the bus lines using the following websites:

- [the official Zagreb Bus Station website](#)
- [GetByBus - very reliable online platform](#)
- [Flixbus - well known European bus lines provider](#)
- [Arriva - well known Croatian bus lines provider](#)



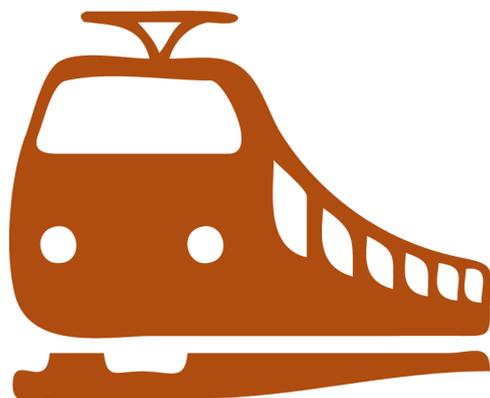
## (B) Zagreb Main Train Station

Zagreb Main Train Station (Glavni Kolodvor Zagreb) is located in the very centre of the city and around 15 minutes of walking distance (or a short tram ride) from the Zagreb Main Bus Station. If you decide to go by tram, you can purchase a 0.50€ tram ticket at almost any of the kiosks/news stands.

There are fewer train connections to Karlovac (one train approximately every 90 minutes) than bus connections, and the train ride from Zagreb to Karlovac lasts about 1 hour because most of the train lines make many stops in between. On the other hand, the prices are somewhat lower – between 4 and 6€ if you buy it at the ticket office (tickets bought on the train are 15% more expensive). You can buy a ticket either from the ticket desks at the train station or online. Timetable from Zagreb to Karlovac: <https://prodaja.hzpp.hr/en>

If buying train tickets, keep in mind that Karlovac has 2 train stations; all trains make stops at the Karlovac Main Train Station (marked: Karlovac), while some make a stop at the Karlovac Central Train Station (marked: Karlovac Centar). If you are going by train, you will need to take the train to Karlovac Center because it's much closer to the accommodation than the other station. It's a 10 min walk to your accommodation.

If you have the commodity to choose your transport. We would warmly recommend taking the bus.



# THE REIMBURSEMENT

## Basics

Each participant will be required to discuss their travelling plan with the sending organization as well as the host organization (DrONE) and will purchase the tickets only after approval. Participants needing visas will be provided with necessary assistance with visa requests.

For the reimbursement to be made, you have to save all of the following and submit it (original or a scanned copy) to the host organization (DrONE):

- **TICKETS, INVOICES & RECEIPTS**, that is, ALL EVIDENCE of your travel, whether it's by plane, bus, train or ferry.
- **BOARDING PASSES & VISAS** - Boarding passes (arrival and departure) for your flights. Also, participants who need visas for their trip will have to preserve them and present them to the host organization for reimbursement. The evidence of purchase for a visa is mandatory (invoice and some documents showing that the visa was issued).

**Make sure you keep all the ORIGINALS!**

**IMPORTANT:** taxi expenses are acceptable only if several participants are travelling together AND no other means of public transport are available at the given time!



# THE REIMBURSEMENT



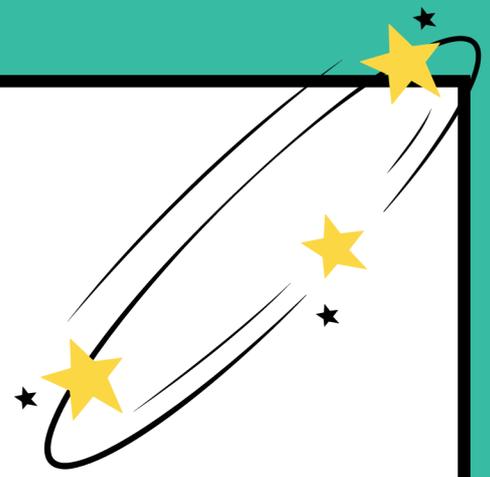
## Process

- Please keep all evidence of travel from the previous slide.
- After you return home, the host organization will provide a link to a Google Drive map with the reimbursement form and maps containing the partner's countries.
- You will upload all the evidence listed in the previous slide in the folder of your national team and create a subfolder with your name. All of your evidence (scanned copies) needs to be in the subfolder carrying your name. All participants are obligated to do this for themselves within the folder of the country they are coming from. *For example, if your name is Mark Gustavson and you're from Denmark, all your evidence will need to be uploaded in a subfolder named Mark Gustavson, located in the folder DENMARK.*
- REIMBURSEMENT FORM is one Excel document that all the participants from one country must fill together with their own cost (the reimbursement form for Denmark must contain all the costs from all the participants).
- The reimbursement is made to ONE PERSON/ACCOUNT/ORGANIZATION. That means that the reimbursement form with the bank account details is filled out with the information of one participant or organization's account details that will receive the money and distribute the covered expenses among other participants.
- If you need help filling out the form, please contact **ured@udruga-drone.hr**. Anamarija is the host organization's head financial officer and will be in charge of the reimbursement process.

**PLEASE NOTE: the reimbursement process will begin only after the dissemination process is complete and proof of dissemination is uploaded.**



# THE REIMBURSEMENT



## Additional info

### **PROLONGED STAY BEFORE OR AFTER THE ACTIVITIES**

If you wish to extend your stay in Croatia, please contact us in advance to coordinate the details accordingly. While extending your stay is possible, please note that any additional costs will need to be covered by yourself.

### **FEWER OPPORTUNITIES SUPPORT**

Participants with fewer opportunities means participants who, for economic, social, cultural, geographical or health reasons, a migrant background, or for reasons such as disability and educational difficulties or for any other reasons, including those that can give rise to discrimination, face obstacles that prevent them from having effective access to opportunities under the programme. If you find yourself in any of these categories please let us know!



# THE ACCOMMODATION



## Hotel Carlstadt

- Hotel Carlstadt is in the center of Karlovac city, so everything is within walking distance.
- Participants will be accommodated in double and triple-bed rooms with participants of the same gender from different countries.
- Participants will have breakfast in the Carlstadt hotel, and other meals covered by host organization;
- Dinner is diverse (according food preferences which participants will state while filling out the application form).

### NOTE ABOUT ACCESSIBILITY

Although the accommodation is not in accordance with the needs of people with disabilities, it is possible to make a different accommodation in the vicinity of Carlstadt Hotel.

# THE WORKING SPACE(S)

## Community center Prostorija

- **Ul. Mije Krešića 4, 47000, Karlovac**  
(<https://www.prostorija.info/> |  
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/g9WgiiniDtoCykTr9>)

## Outdoor spaces

Entire Karlovac is home to lots of green surfaces and natural working spaces and we will wuite much use them throught all of the youth exchange. Find more info on that in the next chapter.



## THE CITY OF KARLOVAC

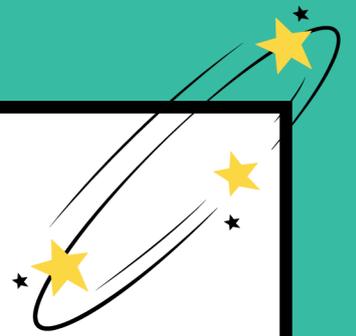
Located in central Croatia at the meeting point between the Croatian lowlands, Croatian highlands, Pokupje and Kordun. Karlovac is framed by four rivers - Kupa, Korana, Dobra and Mrežnica. Since it is located in the narrowest part of Croatia, it is only 50 kilometres from Slovenia, Bosnia, and Herzegovina. As a city, Karlovac has an important traffic and economic significance.

The city of Karlovac is one of the rare cities that know the exact date of their creation. For Karlovac, it is July 13, 1579, when it was founded and named by its founder, Archduke Karl von Habsburg. It was marked by the beginning of the construction of the Karlovac border military fort, which was built to defend against the Turks. Every year on July 13, the city of Karlovac celebrates its birthday, which is celebrated by the birthday ball on Trg bana Josipa Jelačića square with the City Council's celebration session and public recognition awards. The patron saint protector of the city is St. Joseph, whose holiday is celebrated on March 19th, and the central festivities are held at the church of St. Joseph in Dubovec - the national shrine.

Overall, Karlovac and its surroundings offer a tranquil retreat amidst stunning natural landscapes, making it a hidden gem for travelers seeking an off-the-beaten-path experience in Croatia. For more info [Visit Karlovac!](#)



## THE PRACTICALITIES



### **Currency:**

Croatia's national currency is the euro (EUR). Remember to exchange money immediately at the airport or before arriving in Croatia, as most exchange offices have closed when we change the currency. You can pay by card in most restaurants and shops, but we would like to highlight that if you intend to pay by card in a cafe, be sure to first check with the staff whether this is possible.

### **Weather:**

The weather in Karlovac during early December is typically chilly but still manageable for outdoor plans. Morning temperatures often hover around 0–2°C, while daytime highs usually reach up to 6–8°C. You'll likely see plenty of cloudy skies, and there's a fair chance of rain or even the first flakes of snow. Winds are generally light, so with the right layers, it's easy to stay warm while exploring. Just don't forget a cosy jacket, scarf, and maybe a small umbrella – December likes to surprise you!

### **Supermarkets:**

With the new law in Croatia, markets can work only 16 Sundays yearly. Since most markets choose to work around holidays, the beginning of a new school year, etc., there may be a chance that nothing (except bars) won't work on a Sunday. The organisers will make sure to deliver the information about working markets to participants on time (if there will be any).



## THE MUST HAVES

- passport or ID card
- health insurance card or travel insurance
- medicines you might need (anti-allergy pills, painkillers, aspirin, etc.)
- some pocket money for souvenirs and free time
- some snacks and drinks to contribute to Intercultural Night
- Warm and layered clothing: a warm jacket, sweater, scarf, gloves, and hat
- Waterproof shoes , plus an umbrella for rainy days

## TRAINERS

**Ivana Francišković Olrom**

**Valentina Gambiroža Staković**

## CONTACTS

**Tanja Narančić /logistics /099 685 9639/**

