

EVENT:

RITCHY - Religion. Identity. Technology. CHanges. Youth.

EVENT PLACE:

VšĮ Politikos tyrimų ir analizės institutas
V. Žalakevičiaus 4A - 34,
LT-10111 Vilnius
Lithuania

EVENT DATES:

July 30th to August 7th, 2016

DURATION:

10 Days, including travelling days

FINANCIAL COVERAGE DETAILS:

Travel expenses: flight, bus, train, taxi, or whatever else used to reach the event destination and come back to Cyprus is covered by the program up to 360.00 €. Funding is granted upon flight tickets submission to the organizers.
Daily allowance: Food and accommodation during the event as well as participation fees are fully covered by the organizers.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

The idea of this project, as you can understand from its name „RITCHY - Religion. Identity. Technology. CHanges. Youth“ was born from the actualities of these days – religion, different changes, influence of technologies in everyday life, as well, about opinion on different aspects, such as emigration, immigration, refugees, terrorism, which are formed by media. Unfortunately, people, especially younger ones, believes everything whats on the hot-line and as result of that, they are commenting or just forming wrong opinion while linking religions to different countries and their cultures. When the world becomes more and more mixed, nationalities have been no longer equal to religions, and various religions becomes only one of the index of national identity, which sometimes is a positive indicator, but sometimes it may frighten. Now-days youth often is less religious, than previous generations, but paradoxically, between suicide victims inspired by religion, they are dominating. While implementing this project, we want to introduce religion from a various angle, to analyze reasons and results of globalization world and other different issues, which are really in the center of the attention.

During the project it will be very important to cooperate, find links with other participants, to deepen knowledge about different religions, discuss hot topics, conflicts and wars, which happen from the variety of religious beliefs, to talk about processes of emigration, immigration, globalization, terrorism, crisis of refugees. All methods will be based on non-formal education, learning to learn principles and working in intercultural groups. Only by working and learning together, participants will break stereotypes, overcome prejudices. Young people will be encouraged to speak and freely express their opinion, as well to listen the others speakers and respect them. All methodology of the Youth Exchange (YE) project will be based on these principles.

The YE project will be implemented on July 30 - August 7, 2016 in training center „Daugirdiskės“, Lithuania. The project will last for 10 days and includes groups of 6 young people (5 participants + 1 group leader) aged 17-26 per team from each participating country.

Priorities of the YE project:

- **To create community of young people, who will be tolerant and without any advanced prejudices, who will be able to evaluate changing context of the world and realizes differences between religion and culture;**
- **To foster sense of toleration and respect for diversity;**
- **To deepen knowledge about different religions and traditions;**
- **To get to know other cultures, understand similarities and differences between them;**
- **To think about possible solutions for problems, which are caused because of misunderstanding between different religions;**
- **To objectively evaluate refugees crisis;**
- **To gain more knowledge what causes globalism and what are the results which we see in everyday life;**
- **To learn how not to judge religious people and their religion because of the fault of some terrorism attacks;**
- **To break stereotypes about religious people;**
- **To share good experience with community members from Lithuania and other, participating and not participating countries;**
- **To evaluate media influence on young people.**

Participants will improve following competences and skills: to work in a group or team; develops their social skills in mother tongue and foreign language, improve their decision making, time management, argumentation of their opinion skills. All these competences and skills will help them to faster adapt to different situations and teams in the future. Furthermore, while working in international teams, they will make strong friendships. The youth exchange project will provide intercultural environment, in which young people can learn, as well their learning process will be acknowledged by „Youthpass“ certificate and learning badges system. Therefore, participants will get acquainted with the ERASMUS+ program and its opportunities.

We plan, that after this project more people will be able to feel the differences between

Catholicism, Protestantism, Orthodoxy and Islam believers and becomes more tolerant to other religions. Moreover, more people will understand impact of emigration, immigration, globalism, will not be afraid of refugees and will not form discriminative opinion about them, but vice versa, will explain difficult situation of refugees. We do believe, that after this project participants will share gained knowledge with their friends and decreases sense of panic and xenophobia.

In this project we will include people who have never before participated in ERASMUS+ program, as well those, who have social, economic or geographical difficulties or have never been abroad.

We hope, that there will be new friendships between young people from participating countries, the net of cooperating organizations will be expanded and new ideas implemented.