



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGE 19 - 28 JULY 2019 JUROVSKI DOL, SLOVENIA

The international youth exchange “BEE THE FUTURE” is jointly designed and prepared by four partner organisations from Slovenia, Ireland, Romania and Italy. It will bring together 24 young people (6 per each participating country), who will meet at ecological farm in Slovenia to spend together 8 unforgettable days, while learning about beekeeping, natural architecture, cultural heritage, organic farming, biodiversity, and sustainable development of European rural areas. The project is financed by European program Erasmus+. All activities, including the travels, are completely FREE OF CHARGE FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS!



THIS SOUNDS GREAT! CAN I JOIN THE PROJECT?

Yes you can! If only you are not younger than 18 and older than 30 years!

IS THE AGE THE ONLY LIMITATION?

Officially, yes. But the number of participants is limited, so you will have to charm us with your personal motivation letter. Just write us a short email and try to explain, why this youth exchange caught your attention. Tell us, why we should choose you!

WELL, WHY SHOULD YOU CHOOSE ME?

We should definitely choose you if:

- * You live in the rural areas of Ireland, Romania, Slovenia, and Italy and want to meet other young people like you from Ireland, Romania, Slovenia, and Italy.
- * You want to learn more about bees (how they live, communicate, and build their houses), ecological beekeeping and different beekeeping traditions of Europe. **You don't need any prior knowledge, but be sure, you will learn a lot!**

Did you know?



Carniolan bee (*Apis mellifera carnica*). Photo: Darinka Mladenović

Slovenia has less than 2 millions of inhabitants, but more than 200 Associations of Beekeepers. According to the statistics, Slovenians are a genuine beekeeping nation: four of every thousand of its residents are professionally engaged in this activity. In the past, when sugar was in short supply, almost every farm kept honeybees in addition to other domestic animals. Beekeeping occupies a special place in Slovenia's economy as one of its oldest traditional crafts. The Carniolan honeybee (*Apis mellifera carnica*) or the Carniolan grey bee, is an autochthonous species in Slovenia. Honey, its product, is more than just a sweetener: it has healing properties and is used as the basis for many beauty and medicinal products.

- * You want to learn more about natural constructions and simple natural architecture. You're ready to actively participate in building a very simple architectural construction called "Build like a Bee" together with your companions, and learn how to work with natural materials like wood, straw and clay. **Remember: no prior knowledge needed!**
- * You're interested in ecological farming, biodiversity and sustainable development. You like to travel, also if you never travelled before. You like to meet other people and hear their stories in respect of their individual backgrounds or special needs. You're curious and like to share your experiences with others.
- * You like to eat good (ecological!) food and want to spend some quality free time at the ecological farm in Slovenia.

I UNDERSTAND. ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KEEP IN MIND?

Yes. Do remember that all of the project activities are completely free of charge, including the travels, the accommodation and the food through all the time of the youth exchange. **Joining the project costs you NO MONEY!** Even more! If you have no job or have a precarious job, if you have difficult time with your family or friends or if you struggle with your school, maybe this project is the right occasion for you to **make a change** and **invest in yourself!** Spending some time abroad, meeting new people and learning interesting new things can give you a different insight in your actual situation and can maybe even help you to find a solution to your problems. Come and join us, **BEE THE FUTURE!**



8 DAYS, YOU SAY?

Exactly. 8 days of the youth exchange in Slovenia, plus 2 days of travel (one day to get there and one to get back home). You will travel in the group, together with other participants from your country and together with a youth worker from your home organisation. In Slovenia, you will sleep in the local school and spend the days on the ecological farm. The daily program will last from 9 am to around 6 pm, there will be one day free (with a great summer trip to the lake). Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be provided. Generally, you'll be able to actively participate in all project decision-making, including the daily timetable. There will be plenty of free time to meet up and have fun with other participants, but keep in mind that the exchange is created to learn things together with other people, so once the timetable is set and agreed, everybody should respect it.

You will get an exact list of all activities at the moment your application to the project will be approved. All of your further suggestions, questions or doubts will be taken in serious consideration. No worries, we're in this together!

BE MORE CONCRETE! WHAT ACTIVITIES CAN I EXPECT?

Great activities are expecting you! Get ready for:

1) LEARNING ABOUT THE BEES



Biodynamical beekeeper **Karl Vogrinčič**, also the master of apitherapy and one of the leading Slovenian beekeepers, will give you lessons about bees, their life and their habits. You will visit his beekeeping home and meet his 60 colonies of bees. Honey tasting? Guaranteed!

2) LEARNING ABOUT THE NATURAL CONSTRUCTIONS AND BEE ARCHITECTURE



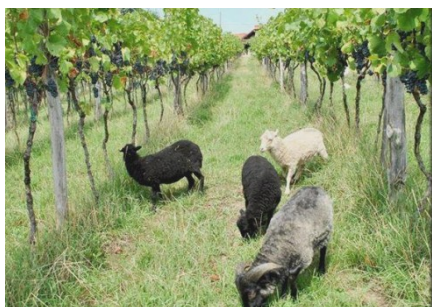
While the beekeeper Karl will teach you, how the bees build their homes, the architect **Lea Korošec** and the art historian **Simon Žlahtič** will explain you, how the knowledge of the bees can be used in the human architecture. You will learn about the magic-bee-shape: the hexagon!

3) BUILDING LIKE A BEE



You will become a part of a great construction team and build a gorgeous (although simple) hexagon-shaped vine trellis “Build like a Bee”, made of natural materials. **Matija Rižner**, master of woodcraft, will lead the way and help you to express your creativity.

4) LEARNING ABOUT BIODIVERSITY, ECOLOGICAL FARMING AND VINES




Hey! There’s no vine trellis without vines! Biodynamical farmer and winemaker **Radovan Šuman** will introduce you to ecological farming and to the importance of biodiversity. You will visit his farm and his vineyards. Together, we will plant the young vine-plants into our “Build like a Bee” trellis and conclude our exchange with a great wine tasting in the traditional wine cellar!

OK, YOU'VE GOT ME. HOW DO I APPLY?

You apply by sending an email to daniele@zelenacentrala.eu. In this email, you should send us a short CV and a short motivation letter with the explanation, why you want to join us. Be honest and easy. We don't need big words, just your real story. If you still have any questions, call us. Our number is 0039.3356232120 or 00386.41997070. Remember: **you should apply as soon as possible!** The final application deadline is **June 25th**!

Did you know?



At Slovenia's initiative, The United Nations General Assembly declared 20 May as World Bee Day. On 20 May, Slovenian beekeeper Anton Janša (1734-1773), known as the pioneer of modern apiculture, was born.

Every year on this day, the attention of the global public will be drawn to the importance of preserving bees and other pollinators. People will be reminded of the importance of bees for the entire humanity and invited to take concrete action to preserve and protect them.

We celebrated the first World Bee Day in 2018.

WHAT ARE MY RESPONSABILITIES IN ALL THIS?

Well, you see, "BEE THE FUTURE" is the project of international youth exchange. It brings people together; actually, it brings together 24 young people from 4 countries. It can only work, if all participants join the project with the spirit of friendship, solidarity and active participation. After your application, you should carefully follow our instructions and do your best to get the best out of it. We all need to make sure that we all have a **GREAT SUMMERTIME TOGETHER.**

SEE YOU SOON IN SLOVENIA!

Društvo Zelena centrala (Slovenia) * Asociatia Grupul de Actiune Locala din Zona Vailor Ampoiului si Muresului (Romania) * IRD Duhallow (Ireland) * Gruppo informale di giovani (Italy)



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Skupina mladih iz Italije