

RURAL QUEERS

YOUTH EXCHANGE
15 - 23 MAY 2023
Belorado (Burgos), SPAIN



THE PROJECT

Rural Queers is a Youth Exchange that aims to empower active citizenship among LGBTQIA+ youth and allies, with a special focus on youth from rural areas, villages, small-towns and suburban neighbourhoods.

Throughout history, rural spaces have held multiple meanings and served various functions for LGBTQIA+ individuals and communities, ranging from sites for political organizing or sanctuary to sites of repression and violence for LGBTQIA+ individuals. Many popular representations of rurality as well as anti-LGBTQIA+ discourse citing "protecting rural values" suggest these communities intrinsically place a heightened value on "traditional moral standards". Thus, communities in rural areas are associated with a lower tolerance for difference compared to urban environments. Some queer-identified individuals living in rural areas do experience antagonism, oppression, and violence matching the stereotypical representation of what it means to be queer in a rural community.



OBJECTIVES

The "Rural Queers" project wants:

- ensure participation of LGBTQIA+ youth and allies from rural context, villages, suburban and peripheral areas;
- offer a safe space where participants can share personal experiences and learn from others;
- to investigate the binomial of queer identity and rural areas in depth;
- wants to provide a safe space for the subversion of socially rooted stereotypes;
- sharing information about LGBTQIA+ rights in different European countries, kinds of activism and the use of social media tools to raise awareness;
- generate an impact around Belorado and, in general, around rural areas of the province of Burgos, through activities related to exchange, freedom of expression, respect of diversity and visibility of the queer community;
- to promote critical thinking around the representation of LGBTQIA+ in social media;
- to reflect on how the media influences the perception of ourselves and other groups;
- to analyse and create digital contents to implement different forms of activism through social media and in specific rural realities;
- wants to promote local, national and international activism and empower young people to defend their rights.



LOCATION & ACCOMMODATION

The Youth Exchange will be held in **Belorado**, a village belonging to the Province of Burgos. The venue of the exchange will be **Albergue Belorado El Corro** and it is essential and adequate to host the entire group.

There will be 3 different rooms (She/her-He/him- They/them/Others) and different bathrooms. There is no bathroom towel service available. We also ask you to bring personal things such as your shampoo, gel, etc. **The beds are equipped with a bottom sheet and we have blankets; however, a SHEET OR SLEEPING BAG IS NEEDED.**

There is the possibility of using a fully loaded washing machine for one euro.

The selected venue has a separate activity room with all the necessary facilities which we can use, offered by the Municipality.



MEALS

The three daily meals and coffee breaks will be prepared and served within the accommodation.

The project menu will be **VEGETARIAN** and will take into account any food allergies and/or intolerances.

For a long time now, we have been organising projects only with a vegetarian menu prepared on-site and with local and seasonal products to allow participants to reflect on their own food consumption and the sustainability of the experience.



PARTICIPANTS

The project will have 35 participants from 5 different countries.

Each group involved will take part in the project with **6 young people aged 18-30 (preferably between 18 and 25) plus 1 group leader 18+.**

Participants must be young people:

- coming from rural areas, villages, small-towns and suburban neighbourhoods;
- with a strong interest in the project topics;
- with motivation to learn and acquire new skills;
- interest and motivation in participating in an intercultural learning experience;
- with at least basic knowledge of English to allow them to express their self and communicate freely;
- able to take part in (face-to-face and/or virtual) preparation meetings for the project and in evaluation meetings of the experience.

Group leaders must be people with:

- previous experiences in group management and the Erasmus plus programme;
- good knowledge of English and ability to support participants during the experience;
- willingness to participate in pre-project preparations and meetings;
- willingness to participate in evaluation meetings of the experience.



WHAT TO BRING

- Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, etc.);
- Sheet or sleeping bag;
- Warm clothes (weather in spring can be unpredictable);
- Personal and refillable drinking bottle;
- Adapter for for Spanish mains socket - Voltage: 230 V // Frequency: 50 Hz // Plugs: Type F;
- Whatever you feel you would need for any time spent away from home; if you forget something, you don't have to worry because in the village there are many shops;
- If possible, bring one computer per national group;
- Take your **ID documents and keep your travel documents** like tickets, boarding pass etc. Take really care about travel documents, without them, it will NOT be possible to get the reimbursement of travel costs;
- Please note that to participate in the project you must have a **European Health Card or equivalent insurance**.



WHAT TO PREPARE

- Each national group must prepare at least two warm-ups;
- Intercultural evening: presenting your country through typical food, games, dances, etc;
- Each national team should collect information about LGBTQIA+ rights in the country, kinds of activism and the use of social media tools to raise awareness.



TRAVEL

GROUND RULE: Each partner organisation needs to send the most suitable travel option for the group to the Brújula Intercultural Association and wait for confirmation before purchasing tickets.

Brújula Intercultural is not responsible for tickets purchased without prior approval.

IF YOU TRAVEL BY PLANE

Arrival / Departure airport must be Madrid (the closest to the venue of the project).

Arrivals to Madrid on the 15th May before 5.00 pm.

Departures from Madrid on the 23th May after 12:00 pm.

We will provide the participants with a bus from Madrid airport to the accommodation on 15th. The bus will leave from the airport at Terminal Bus T4 around 5:00 pm (to confirm depending on your arrival). We will also provide the participants with a bus from the accommodation to Madrid airport on 23th.

Participants have the possibility to travel up to 2 days extra from the official dates of the project and still get the travel reimbursement; arriving either 2 days before the project, staying 2 days after, or arriving one day before and staying one day after. In any case, participants must be ready to catch the bus on the due date and time.

For the extra days, Brújula Intercultural does not provide food and accommodation.

GREEN TRAVEL

Brújula Intercultural, in agreement with the European Commission, encourages participants to travel avoiding flights, when possible, for environmental reasons. Meaning using means of transportation such as trains, busses, ferries, or car sharing.

If you plan to use green travel you can travel to Madrid and then catch the rented bus or travel directly to Burgos and we will pick you up in the city.

Using green travel, you are allowed to:

- have a higher travel budget: for example, 320€ instead of 275€. Check the table below for more detailed information;
- have two travelling days for the outbound and two travelling days for the return.

The travel costs will be covered up to the amount based on distance calculator.

Please note we will deduct 50 € from the travel amount of each participant taking the bus, in order to cover the travel from Madrid airport till the venue of the project and back.

It is fundamental that you keep **all your original travel documents**: bus and train tickets, invoices, and boarding passes, etc.

The reimbursement cannot be done without these documents. Participants will be reimbursed up to the amount based on the distance calculator by the European Commission.

Consider that taxis and first-class tickets cannot be reimbursed.

When you buy your tickets make sure you don't exceed the following amount, or you will pay the difference yourself. Buying tickets in advance will help you avoid that scenario.

Distance	Standard Travel	Green Travel
0 - 10 km	0 €	0 €
10 - 99 km	23 €	23 €
100 - 499 km	180 €	210 €
500 - 1999 km	275 €	320 €
2000 - 2999 km	360 €	410 €
3000 - 3999 km	530 €	610 €

Participants will be reimbursed after the end of the project (through a single transfer to the sending organisation or group leader), once they provided all the original travel documents, including plane, train, bus and shuttle tickets for the return trip, which have to be sent by post if they are not digital.

Further and detailed instructions will be given during the project.



DEADLINES

Given the increased cost of transport, we kindly ask you to **send travel options as soon as possible and no later than 17 April 2023, and to proceed with the purchase** immediately after receiving confirmation from the organisation.

Please send your travel options to exchanges@asociacionbrujula.es, adding in copy: beatriz@asociacionbrujula.es

After purchasing the tickets, please send the confirmation of your purchase to the same emails.

DEADLINE TRAVEL OPTIONS: 17 APRIL 2023



COMMUNICATION

After receiving all travel confirmations, we will send a PARTICIPATION FORM to be completed by all participants and we will create a project WHATSAPP GROUP for group leaders to keep communication faster and smoother.



CONTACTS

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