

22-29 April 2024

Youth Exchange for Attractive Small Towns

Cristuru Secuiesc,
Romania



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Created in 2011 by youth wishing to develop their rural region, ATA aims to help develop, promote and represent the general interests of the communities in Transylvania by having social, cultural, sporting, educational, recreational and professional training activities, and thus promoting the active involvement of youth in the perpetuation of ethnic, national and European values. **Our motto:**
To show Europe to Transylvania and Transylvania to Europe!

The objectives of the association are to:

- a.** represent the interests of personal, social, civil, professional, economic, sporting and recreational youth in Transylvania
- b.** ensure youth involvement in the conservation of traditional, folk, cultural and ethnic values in Transylvania, and to promote these values on a national and international level
- c.** improve youth access to opportunities offered for young people on a national, European and international level and offering information on this in our region, and
- d.** collaborating and forming partnerships with other groups, associations and foundations in Transylvania, Romania, in the European Union and worldwide.

We constantly work with young people and young adults, through non formal learning methods and vocational trainings in order to help them acquire skills, competencies and attitudes which help them become more successful in daily life and employment.

We are an independent organisation, without any connection to ethnic, political or religious bodies.



Our strategy and YE objectives 1/2

INCLUSION, SOFT SKILLS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

We want to create safe spaces that help develop around 100-150 youth with their inferiority problems that stem from coming from poor, disadvantaged families or the Hungarian and Roma minority. We also wish to give them those type of soft skills that they cannot acquire in school to be a young entrepreneur or to find a better job in a good, stable workplace.

We wish to achieve this by organizing around 6 youth exchanges for the youth and around 3 training courses that train youth workers.

HELP AND ENHANCE TEACHERS' AND PUPILS' CAPACITIES

We wish to offer 5 training courses that support around 20 teachers in organizing non-formal and interactive programs during or after school, to focus on the career choices of pupils, to practice foreign languages and to have sexual education.

We also wish to include around 150 pupils aged 13-19 into 4 youth exchanges so that they can become better communicators and to practice foreign languages, including Romanian.

FIGHT ADDICTIONS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

We wish to continue organizing 5 training courses followed by 8-9 youth exchanges, which first train youth workers in understanding dealing with various addictions, including, drugs, cigarettes, alcohol, social media, relationships and parents and also with domestic violence mainly using tools like emotional management and digital storytelling and then move on to actually putting into practice the things learned in the youth exchanges.

We say continue, because we have started this process in 2018 and did 2 such Training + Youth exchange combinations.

Our strategy and YE objectives 2/2

FIGHTING THE SMALL-TOWN SYNDROMES

Organizing 7 youth exchanges where 50 young people from the region can learn about various topics that are valuable in the community, like: the institution of the EU, its core values, democracy, the environment, green lifestyle, gap between generations and family values.

Outside of this objective, but closely linked to it we will also send around 300 youth to youth exchanges related to all these topics.

CREATE NEW SYNERGIES ACROSS ENTITIES

We wish to organize at least 3 international training courses to train around 15 managers and staff members of schools, CSOs and municipalities in the region for communication, collaboration, project writing and management, with the goal of increasing synergies between these types of entities and thus to be able to work all together not all separately, for the development of our community.

We plan to send around 60 representatives of these entities to Training Courses done about these topics across Europe.

HAVE A YOUTH CENTER

We wish to slowly but surely re-purpose the huge, abandoned Boiler House in city center, into a Youth center first and then into a community and incubator house, with the aim of organizing quality leisure and cultural activities there and providing advice and counseling to young entrepreneurs.

INCLUSION OF MINORITIES AND THE DISABLED

Collaborating with state and NGO type entities who work with minorities and the disabled, to help their and our target groups for avoiding further exclusion, giving much needed life skills and solidarity.

We will achieve this through the organizing of 3 youth exchanges for 21 youth with fewer opportunities and disabilities, focusing on inclusion and awareness raising.

Youth Exchange for Attractive Small Towns

Our objective with this youth exchange is to enable 38 youth aged 18 to 25 coming from small towns to learn about various topics that are valuable to make their communities more attractive for themselves, their peers and potential tourists, visitors. We will mainly focus on how to bring forward the communities' and the EU's core values, such as democracy on seeing how to give more importance to the environment and green lifestyle but also on bridging the gap between generations and any other issues from the communities of the partner countries.

WHAT ELSE?



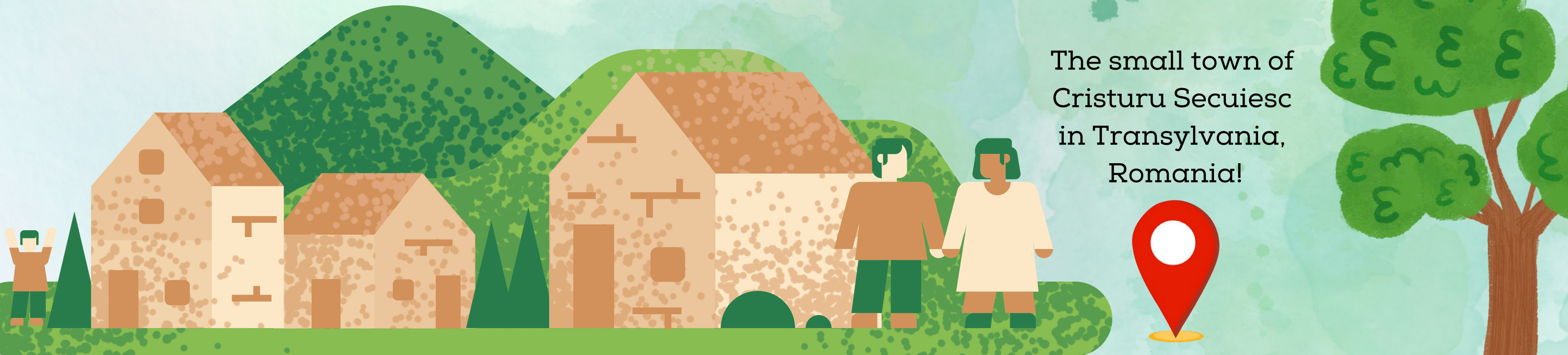
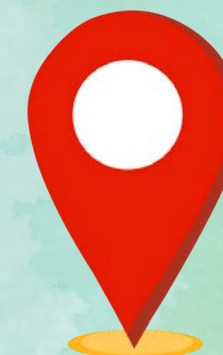
Understanding what elements of our towns deter others from visiting it.

Opportunity to learn from one another.

Learning of and from at least 6 different cultures.

Interacting with decision makers.

The small town of
Cristuru Secuiesc
in Transylvania,
Romania!



Partners

7 NGOs from Estonia, Greece, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Romania, Spain and Turkey, who are working in small towns or who select youth from small towns.



Small Towns

The concept of '**small towns**' is very different across Europe. What we mean by it is any rural or urban community which is either isolated, has a weak infrastructure or tourism or faces issues compared to larger cities in their region.



Participants

- **38 youth** interested in the project topic, in national groups of 4 or 5 youth + 1 leader.
- Youth who are:
 - between 18 and 25,
 - free between April 22-29, 2024, + travel days
 - motivated and curious,
- Group leaders who are:
 - older than 20,
 - have experience working with young people.





Draft Time table

	-2	-1	Day 1 - Monday	Day 2 - Tuesday	Day 3 - Wednesday	Day 4 - Thursday	Day 5 - Friday	Day 6 - Saturday	Day 7 - Sunday	Day 8 - Monday	+1	+2	
	20	21	22.04.2024	23.04.2024	24.04.2024	25.04.2024	26.04.2024	27.04.2024	28.04.2024	29.04.2024	30	1	
8.00	GREEN TRAVELLERS	T R A V E L	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Bf.	GREEN TRAVELLERS	
9.20			Icebreaker	Energizer	Energizer	Energizer	Energizer	Energizer	Energizer	Energizer			Energizer
9.30			Welcome words, getting to know each other, the program and Erasmus+	My Sexy Small Town – Making touristic promos of our small towns	Visit to town hall – Talking with decision makers on how they manage a small town	Green?	Chatting with a Councillor – How to advocate for our goals through petitions	Preparing - Petitions for our small towns	Preparing - Outdoor event for Cristuru Secuiesc	Doing - Outdoor event for Cristuru Secuiesc	T R A V E L		
10.00													
11.00			Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break				
11.20			Hopes, Fears, Expectations, Learning agreements and the rules of the exchange	Strengths of my small town – Presenting pre-prepared lists and drawing conclusions	Weaknesses of my small town - Presenting pre-prepared lists and drawing conclusions	Intergenerational Gap?	Tutorial - how to organise events in nature	Working on - Petitions for our small towns	Working on - Outdoor event for Cristuru Secuiesc				Writing Learning achievement for Youthpass
13.00			Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch			A V E L
15.00			Energizer	Energizer	Energizer	Energizer	Guided tour and free time in the medieval town of Sighișoara	Energizer	Energizer	Energizer			
15.15			Team Building and city discovery	Opportunities of my small town - Presenting pre-prepared lists and drawing conclusions	Threats of my small town - Presenting pre-prepared lists and drawing conclusions	?		Finishing - Petitions for our small towns	Finishing - Outdoor event for Cristuru Secuiesc	Evaluation of the Youth Exchange and Youthpass Ceremony			
17.00			Break	Break	Break	Break		Break	Break				
17.30			Daily Evaluation & Reflection about Learning Achievements					Daily Evaluation & Reflection					
18.00			Free time	Free time	Free time	Free time		Free time	Free time	Free time			
20.00		Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner			
21.00			Intercultural Snack night	Estonian and Greek Night	Free Night	Greek & Macedonian Night	Free Night	Spanish and Turkish Night	Free Night	Farewell Night			

Green travel	Food, breaks and travel	Erasmus+ type activities	Cultural activities	Learning from each other	Learning by doing
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Dates and travel information

The youth exchange will have 8 **activity days** between **April 22-29, 2024**, not including travel days.

Travel days will be on the 21st of April and 30th of April, for those travelling normally. For the ones using green means of travel (not with plane) and 1-1 day is not enough to do this trip, the days are 20 with 21 and 30 with May 1.

We recommend **Green means of travel** for everyone as this is covered financially by the program and it is part of our core priorities.

If this is not possible then groups can **fly** to Bucharest, Cluj, Sibiu or Targu Mures.

Please contact us **before planning or purchasing** any means of travel to the Youth Exchange



Accommodation, working places & food

The **activities** will be held in the same building in the conference room and the green areas around it.



You will be hosted at the **Soskút Diákszálló** which is a recently renovated building for students and guests, situated just outside of the town. Rooms are fully furnished, with bathrooms and 3 beds in each room.

Dining will also be done in the dining hall of the **Soskút Diákszálló**. You will be served typical Hungarian and Romanian Food and regular European dishes.



Cristuru Secuiesc (RO), Székelykeresztúr (HU)

is a town in Harghita County, **Romania**, situated in **Seckler Land**, an ethno-cultural region in eastern Transylvania where the majority of the population is Seckler, who are a **Hungarian ethnic group** which speak a distinct dialect of Hungarian. The population of the town is **10.000**, from which 96% are of Hungarian ethnicity, 3% of Romanian while 1% belongs to other groups. The neighboring towns are Sighișoara in the west (with a **medieval fortress**) and Odorheiu Secuiesc in the east.

Contact



Youth Association from Transylvania



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**Funded by the
European Union**

