

# InfoPACK

European Network of Regional and Local Youth Platform 7-13 septembrie, 2018











# ABOUT Timisoara



Timişoara is a special city. Everybody feels it, those who were born and live here and those who come here and then decide to stay. Timişoara is a city of parks and of heritage buildings, a city both cultural and sportive, a university city, and especially an offering city to those visiting it. Timişoara is the city of freedom, which in December 1989 becomes the first communism-free city in Romania. Whether you choose to walk along the streets full of a fascinating history, or you choose from the rich cultural offer or an

agitated night in the clubs or a refined one in some chic restaurant, Timişoara has got many things to offer.

Timişoara is a permanent space of cultural and ethnical interferences that offers the city multiple advantages. Timişoara is a rich cultural city with a particular architectural heritage, which

gathers in a relatively small space an impressive heritage from different epochs and cultures, traces of different ethnic communities who have left their identity marks here.



#### Timisoara, the largest city in western Romania

The Romans used it as an important crossroads fortress until the Tatars destroyed it in the 13th century. Conquered by Turkish armies in 1552, Timisoara remained under their protection until 1718 when the region of Banat came under Austrian rule for two centuries.

- ◆ Timisoara was the first European city to introduce horse-drawn trams (in 1869) and electrical street lighting (in 1889);
  - ◆ Timisoara was built on a swamp;
  - ◆ The Metropolitan Cathedral has 5000 oaks supports underneath it;
  - ◆ Johnny Weissmuller, Hollywood's original Tarzan, was born here;
  - ◆ The first beer factory in Romania was opened here in 1718.

As a true youth city, Timisoara received the title of the National Youth Capital a programme resulted from the EYC Youth@Cluj-Napoca2015

The implementation of this 1st edition has been under FITT's coordination since 1st of May 2016 until 1st of May 2017.

Timisoara also candidated along 3 other cities in Romania for the title of European Capital of Culture in 2021 and it was the one who received the grand title.

Timisoara also applied in february 2017 for the title of European Youth Capital 2020. Thanks to all the opportunities the city has to offer for young people and moreover, considering the youth participation field in Timisoara, we can affirm that is a city of initiative and innovation on national level.











## About us

Timis County Youth Foundation (Fundatia Judeteana pentru Tineret Timis – FITT) was founded under the Decree-Law no. 150/1990. It is a public utility umbrella organization for youth NGOs and student unions (from 14 different specialties). With 33 member organizations (2000 active young members) and 26 years of activity in the West Region, FITT is the most important, old and unique in respect of activity, legal provisions and its leaders profile, in this part of the country. Our foundation is a model of democratic behaviour, as well, being administrated by a General Assembly consisting of the youth NGOs in Timis County and a board consisting of 13 young people (aged between 18 and 35). We focus on youth participation, local and national youth policies and on promoting the European values at local, regional and national level that are so important to youth nowadays.



## About us

Another performance that is considered an asset is the administration of INCUBOXX, the biggest business incubator in Romania and the only one specialized in IT (6.300 m²). The Municipality owns the building and FITT's ltd. company is the administrator of the activity. The incubator is run by young people being under the Municipality of the city.

Also, FITT was involved in making the Local Youth Strategy for 2015-2020 and it is now in the process of putting in place the Timis County Youth Strategy for 2017 - 2021, this being some examples on youth participation and youth policy development on local and regional level. In addition, at local level we implement each year the Youth Project Gala with the main aim to promote and reward youth NGOs and encourage the youth projects. The Gala itself it is an example of youth participation. The event is youth lead. The jury is composed more than 50% by youth experts.

On national level, last year, FITT, on behalf of Timisoara was the host for the first Youth Summit of Romania. The project gathered over 150 young participants from all over the country, they were involved in different trainings and activities, having as a result the Youth Resolution which was adopted by parties and included in the government plan of 2017-2020.



## ENRYP-European Network of Regional and local Youth Platforms

This project started from the need to increase effectiveness of direct communication in order to exchange best practices among youth platforms (be they forums, councils, parliaments or other similar youth structures) that operate at regional or local level in various EU countries. It is true that youth organizations operating at EU level or at national level are struggling to create better politics, better opportunities for young people to allow their voice to be heard. But very often the challenge is at the grassroots level, where the contact with young people is more personal.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- to share and exchange best practices related to the youth field, namely youth participation, active citizenship, EU awareness and social innovation in various EU countries;
- to establish a European network of Regional and/or Local Youth Platforms (i.e., youth forums, councils, parliaments or other similar youth structures) in legal terms with an appropriate governance structure:
- to strengthen the international cooperation among youth platforms operating at regional and local levels in various EU countries;
- to formulate a set of minimum standards for the establishment and the functioning of youth platforms at regional and local level and how to meet principles
- to develop a shared medium and long term strategy related to the common topics, namely youth participation, active citizenship, EU awareness and social inclusion and equity
- to increase youth participation and to foster empowerment of young people at local level.

The partnership of the project is wide in terms of geographical area and very diverse as type of organizations.

Lead partner – Forum Regionale dei Giovani dell'Umbria (IT)

Partner 2 – Associazione FORMA. Azione srl (IT)

Partner 3 – Manchester Youth Council (UK)

Partner4 - Camara Municipal de Cascais (PT)

Partner5 – Europa Jovove Egyesulet (HU)

Partner6 – Fundatia Judeteana pentru Tineret Timis – FITT (RO)

Partner7 – Finnish Youth Reaserch Society (FI)

Starting from the activities that were conducted until now in the project we already started building the European Network of Regional Youth Platforms (ENRYP) and to design an action plan in order for it to be sustainable and to respond to real needs of the communities and of the young people that it represents.



In support of this objective the training course that will be conducted between 7th-13th of September in Timişoara, România, will be focused on fostering the context for defining the concept of the network and on building skills and competences to youth workers part of the network in order to make the network relevant and active

#### The training course focuses on these main topics:

- ♦ Youth Participation and Active Citizenship
- Social Inclusion and the way it becomes a value of the network
- ◆ Steps in building Youth Networks, coalitions, structures setting aim and objectives, principles, values, working style, identifying stakeholders involved and proper way to involve them
  - Best practices of youth participation in each country
- ◆ Steps in developing action plan of activities and projects based on the needs of young people and the aim of the network

In the content of the training course participants will be part of a series of nonformal activities, ranging from social animation activities, to debates, to role play, improvisation, simmulations and more. Participants will also work, in the final days of the training course, on designing future

plans to apply back in their organizations, putting into practice the learning outcomes they gained during the training.

Attached to this info pack you can find the Agenda of the TC.

### Learning outcomes for participants

Participants will develop communication skills in English, as in the main activity this will be the language used during the sessions,

Working together with other participants in teambuilding activities, understanding developing networks and coalitions processes, indetifying the



aim and objectives of the network and focusing on how to create activities that have an impact in the community they will develop their teamwork skills,

Through reflection on learning, they will develop their competence of learn to learn,

By participating in project activities, in close connection with finding solutions regarding conflict management, network development steps, interracting with stakeholders and by testing learning and social intervention methods participants will develop social and civic skills, becoming more proactive,

By their case studies and good practices on the local and national context and the debates on the involvement of young people in building communities, by exploring the local Romanian community and conducting a needs analisys there, they will improve their critical thinking skills, analysis and synthesis.

By working on concrete tasks with young people and youth workers from different countries, participants will be more inclined to cooperate, develop attitudes of understanding and tolerance, will have greater openness to cooperating and communing together for a better understanding of European values.

## Facilitators of your learning journey

### **Ana-Maria Grădinariu**

Ana-Maria Grădinariu is part of the nongovernmental field since 14 years ago. She has experience in coordinating volunteers, developing, coordinating and implementing national and international projects, trainings, long term non-formal education programs in schools and disadvantaged areas, nationally and internationally. Her main fields of expertise are volunteer management (training, impact assessment, evaluation of learning outcomes gained through volunteering), youth field, human rights and social intervention field (through methods used to develop skills, values, attitudes and communication competences while building bridges for community involvement and social inclusion). Ana-Maria is passionate about facilitating learning contexts for young people and young adults, is a strong believer in the power of people as



change makers, is a dreamer in the power of people comming together in diversity and solidarity and, nonetheless, she is an advocate of the power of people being inspiration to one another by example and personal stories.

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### **Andrei Dobre**

With and experience of 12 years of involvement as a volunteer and employed in nongovernmental sector in Romania, right now Andrei is currently a PhD student in the Doctoral School of Sociology, University of Bucharest, trying to study "the third sector" and its role in society.

Andrei has many "hats" among which we mention – Sociologyst, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at Romanian Angel Appeal Foundation, he is a teaching assistant at Faculty of Sociology and Social Assistance at the University of Bucharest and nonetheless he is a trainer, Chief Leader, Volunteer and formed Board Member at National Organization of Romanian Scouts.



Among his hobbies you can find non-formal education, socio-

educational animation, hiking and going out with friends. Being a graduate of the Master of Human Resource Management, Andrei is a good trainer and facilitator, being pasionate about working with and for people, this being also the reason why he has degrees as: Trainer, Project Manager, Youth Worker and Assessor for European projects.

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## How do you get to us:

FITT - Timisoara Youth House (Casa Tineretului) Adress: Str. Aries, nr. 19, Timisoara

Each Partner received particular details regarding transport to Timişoara so please check with your leader which are these. Looking forward to meeting you in Romania.

## **Practical arrangements:**

#### **Accomodation:**

Will be at the Youth House in Timisoara, in the same building where the sessions will take place. <a href="https://www.booking.com/hotel/ro/casa-tineretului.ro.html">https://www.booking.com/hotel/ro/casa-tineretului.ro.html</a>

The location is situated close to the Student Campus (10 minutes walk) and also, close to the city center (25-30 minutes).

#### **Romanian currency:**

Romanian currency is LEU (fun fact - it also has a translation in English since it is the name of an animal – Lion).

1 euro = 4,66 lei We advise you to change money are certified Exchange offices and National Banks. You can find them near the hotel and in the city center as well.



## Contact persons



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