

# YOUTH EXCHANGE

## Sustainable Innovations: Eco-Visionaries of Tomorrow

NORTH MACEDONIA - SERBIA - KOSOVO\*  
MONTENEGRO - BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA - CYPRUS



02 - 09 September  
2023

Sutomore,  
Montenegro



Co-funded by  
the European Union





# WHAT IS ERAMSUS+?

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Erasmus+ is a European Union program designed to support education, training, youth, and sport activities. It provides opportunities for individuals and organizations to participate in international exchanges, cooperation projects, and mobility programs. Erasmus+ aims to promote learning, foster cultural exchange, and enhance cooperation among institutions and partners across Europe and beyond. It encompasses various initiatives, including student exchanges, staff training, and collaborative projects, with the goal of creating a more interconnected and skilled European community.





# Project Description

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The youth exchange project aims to:

1. Explore eco-entrepreneurship and circular economy concepts.
2. Learn about practices in participating countries.
3. Develop an entrepreneurial mindset.
4. Test the 1st prototype of a Board Game and provide feedback.
5. Brainstorm and work on ideas for local projects addressing ecological issues.
6. Involve young people in creating the Board Game.
7. Encourage peer-to-peer product development.
8. Foster active youth participation in content and design.
9. Generate ideas for projects targeting local communities to promote eco-entrepreneurship and circular economy concepts.

The project aligns with **Erasmus+** priorities and aims to enhance the capacities of youth organizations in **North Macedonia, Serbia, Cyprus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\***, and **Montenegro**. It focuses on developing competencies in eco-entrepreneurship and circular economy among young people, including those with fewer opportunities, to make youth organizations more sustainable and eco-conscious in the 21st century.

# Environmental & Social impacts



**To minimize waste and reduce plastic usage, the participants used mugs, reusable metal water bottles, tote bags and various digital tools. In order to enhance our understanding of circular economy, we engaged in bargaining that seeks to transform economic models by minimizing waste and maximizing the reuse, recycling, and repurposing of resources, ultimately creating a more environmentally sustainable and economically viable system.**



**Participants engaged in a litter cleanup activity, providing them with opportunities to socialize and become acquainted with one another. The collected litter was used to create art, inspiring both young people and adults to become involved in waste reduction and material repurposing. This dual purpose not only cleaned the facility but also resulted in the creation of imaginative art pieces.**



# Activities during the project

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# Green Companies

Are businesses that prioritize environmentally sustainable practices and aim to minimize their negative impact on the environment.

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**PLATIO**

The idea of PLATIO solar pavement was coming from three childhood friends, Imre Sziszák, a mechanical engineer, József Cseh, a chemical engineer, and Miklós Ilyés, a landscape architect, co-founders of the company. Miklós was involved in designing several urban squares and pavements and was shocked by the amount of building materials cities use to build dull, grey pavements, while humanity still has no idea what to do with the ever-increasing, slowly decomposing plastic waste. So the question has risen: "Why not make paving stones from recycled waste? And if so many surfaces are paved in the city, why don't we make use of it and generate energy too?" In 2015, PLATIO was just an idea, but development quickly got moving. The co-founders submitted their idea to the Design Terminal's Smart City Lab competition, and they successfully won with PLATIO. The startup competition caught the attention of many people and gained private investors to the company.

**OUR RESULTS**

35	2600	445000	37
tons of recycled plastic	sqm installed area	kWh energy generated	country representation

Platio solar pavers are made of recycled plastic and high-performance solar cells that collect the solar energy radiated onto the surface. They can be used wherever conventional solar technologies cannot be deployed and are doubly sustainable because they not only provide green energy but are made of recycled plastic



### Overall positive IDEA

**CONS**

Reduced percentage of discount after the company became famous

ResQ Club offers food online for a discount, instead of throwing it in bin.

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### Too Good To Go

**pros:**

- dealing with climate change by connecting stores with leftovers to consumers who are looking for a discounted meal
- planting trees because they fight the climate crisis by removing CO2 at scale (restart water cycles, stop desertification and restore ecosystems)
- saved over 70 million meals and prevented over 193 000 tons of CO2 from entering the atmosphere

**cons:**

- the availability of surplus food on the platform can be inconsistent, which may frustrate users looking for specific items or reliable options
- since the food is surplus, there may be concerns about the quality or freshness of the items offered
- some users have reported that after including service fees and taxes, the cost savings may not be as significant as initially expected



# Testimonials

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## Petar Ćirić

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“ I’m 18 years old and this is my first Erasmus exchange where I get to improve my language skills and connect with youth from the Balkan region and Europe. On this exchange I have learned more about eco-entrepreneurship. Also learned more about my own country and others cultural background and heritage. I was so excited to take my first trip alone and meet all these enthusiastic young people for the first time. Exploring the unknown and getting out of the comfort zone truly expanded my view of life ”.



## Veronika Petrova

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“This project has been great! I've met a lot of cool people and everyone has been so welcoming and open. We talked about ecology and had a lot of fun while doing so. The workshops were really fun and informative, meaning I've learned a lot of new things and widened my perspectives ”.

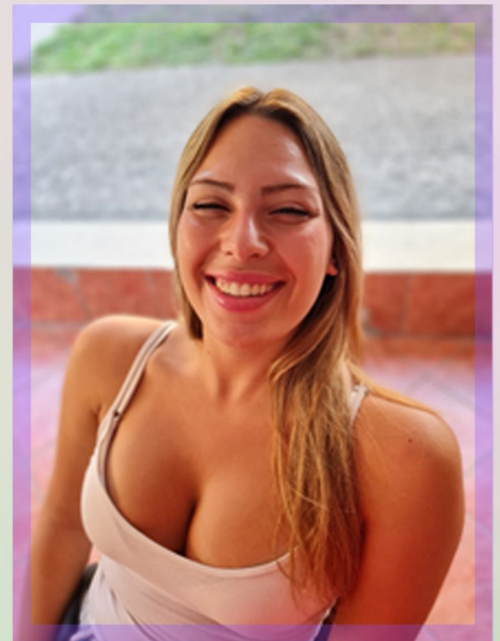




## **Loukia Constantinidou**

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“ This project had an amazing impact in my life. Gave me different perspectives about how companies and each individual should be more conscious in our daily lives to protect our environment. I also met beautiful people that enriched the project ”.



## **Seid Subašić**

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“ During my experience on the ecology project in Sutomore, I found the overall project to be fine. What I will remember the most fondly from the project is the incredible group of participants I had the opportunity to work with. Their dedication and enthusiasm for the cause made a lasting impression on me and highlighted the true spirit of the project ”.





## **Veron Tara**

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“ Even though I have been in many Erasmus Plus Projects, but I think this topic of this project is something that everybody should be aware of. I am a very eco-friendly person, and in this youth exchange I learned more about how can I earn money and not destroy the nature ”.



## **Adila Odoabašić**

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“ On this Erasmus Program I learned so much and I made lifetime friends in such a short time. I'm so glad that I came and I am planning to continue applying, traveling and learning new things. I can't explain this awesome journey you simply have to live it to understand. The agenda activities team work everything is in neatly in it is rightly place. I am so thankful for this amazing experience and for the impact it left on me ”.

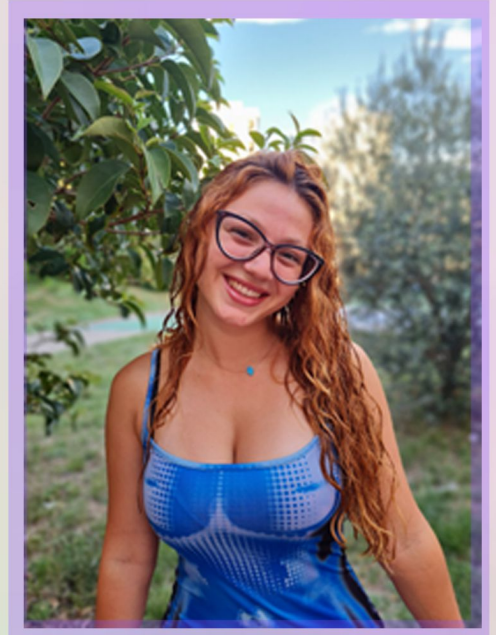




# Maja Golubović

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“ The project I worked on was absolutely amazing! I had such a fantastic time collaborating with the team and seeing our ideas come to life. It was a truly rewarding experience, and I feel proud of what we accomplished together ”.



# Matija Maraš

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This workshop opened my eyes to the importance of preserving nature and the environment. I realized that successful entrepreneurship does not have to be opposed to environmental responsibility. On the contrary, successful business models often include sustainable approaches and care for our environment. Through various sessions on environmental entrepreneurship, I learned how to integrate sustainable practices into my business plan. I learned that environmentally conscious products and services are not only responsible for the planet, but often attract more satisfied customers. Also, the workshop inspired me to think about new ideas for entrepreneurship that would directly contribute to nature protection. By talking with colleagues, I have created a network of support and collaboration that will help me achieve my green business goals.



# Project Partners



## NEXT GENERATION SKOPJE

 ngo\_nextgeneration



## CET PRIZREN

 cetprizren




## DOREA

 dorea\_edu




## NVO GLAS

 nvo\_glas




## SPIN

 spin.okret

SPIN / OKRET



## YOUTH WORKERS ALLIANCE

 youth\_workers\_alliance





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