

Let's Make the House Alive



**European Solidarity Corps
group volunteer project
from 5th April 2019 to 22nd April 2019
Idrija, Slovenia**

THE BEGINNING

Hello guys!

I'm so happy writing this foreword, because this means that we managed to finalize the organization of the project and that you will be able to come to SLOVEnia – this little, beautiful country. We tried our best to make a great program with many activities that will be interesting for all of us.

We also thought – since Slovenia is such a small country – that we will try to show you as much of it as we can. We will stay in Idrija, a small town that is known for its mercury mine and the traditional Idrian lace.

We are really happy that we will be able to welcome you in our green and picturesque country and we look forward to getting to know you.

The Slovenian organizational committee and mentors (and our phone numbers + e-mails)



Tina and Helena

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Matic Brdnik, architect, mentor for the creative projects

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

The aim of the project is to **renovate the hostel** and **provide attractive offer from young people for (young) visitors** that come to Idrija, more precisely warm and welcoming spaces full of energy, innovative guided tours or something else the teams will think of in the process of planning. Their job will also be to **help organize activities at the main square in the town**, called pop-up children's playground, that take place once a week.

At the same time, we would like to offer the participants to spend **fun time in a group of international participants, to work in a team and to get learning experience** which will include project planning and strengthening of different competences, useful in their future life.

The project will include 18 young people, aged between 20 and 30. In addition to the participants from abroad and from Slovenia, there will be a coordinator from the Idrija Youth Center, three mentors and coordinators from each country.

Topics

The participants will be divided into three groups, according to their interests and skills:

- the group that will be in charge of **technical innovations** (such as making new furniture elements)
- the group that will be in charge of **design innovations** (such as embellishing hallways, painting on walls)
- the group that will be in charge of **creating activities** to do within the hostel for future guests (such as the game Unlock the Idrija Hostel)

Each group will have a mentor and all participants will be more than welcome to give their own suggestions and to share their specific skills with us.

Program

The main group activity for volunteers will be divided into five parts, each followed by an evaluation of learning processes:

1. **BEGINNING (5th April):** starting with getting general information about your stay, getting to know each other and getting acquainted with their mentors
2. **STUDY VISIT (8th April):** a trip, probably to a well-known youth hostel in Maribor which is known for its inventive activities and to a workshop where old pieces of furniture are renovated
3. **PLANNING (8th to 12th April):** gathering ideas, planning of the activities and purchasing materials, dividing tasks, setting the deadlines and preparing the action plan
4. **IMPLEMENTATION (15th to 19th April):** various activities for revitalizing the building, e.g. setting up book corners around the hostel, planting flowers

("Succulent to each hostel room"), making pallet furniture, painting the walls, setting up fun activities around the hostel (e.g. »Unlock Hostel Idrija«)

5. **CLOSING (18th to 22nd April):** conclusion and evaluation in which we will present the project to the general public, organize an open day, write articles in different languages, review the competences we gained and evaluate the whole experience.

APPLICATIONS

Who are we looking for?

We are looking for volunteers who are: active, open-minded, creative, innovative, responsible, pro-active and sociable persons. They enjoy working, have motivation to renovate, some basic knowledge of project management and a basic level of English (being able to make herself/himself understood by the others – able to communicate).

There can be 3 participants from each country: Cyprus, Spain, Finland, Portugal, Slovenia, the Netherlands.

Where to apply and when?

Apply by sending an email to info@mcidrija.si which includes a **motivational letter with answers to the following questions:**

- Why would you like to join this project?
- Have you ever done something similar and if yes, what?
- How would you like to contribute to the project? Do you have a particular idea or skill in mind?
- How well can you communicate in English?

The **deadline is the 1st March 2019**. We will let you know about the chosen candidates by e-mail until the 5th March 2019.

Preparations for the event

When you will be notified about your candidacy, we **will also send you a link to a google form** in which you will be able to provide your personal information, ideas for the program and your interests.

Intercultural evening: each country will have a chance of presenting their traditional food and drinks, music and culture. Please be prepared to tell us something about your country; a projector and loud speakers are available.

Collecting ideas: in the time leading up to the project, your main task is to collect ideas for the activities – maybe getting some DIY ideas, checking hostels you know have an interesting program or have renovated their space in an interesting way. You can check out photos of the hostel here: <https://booki.ng/2lKL12G>

PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Travelling

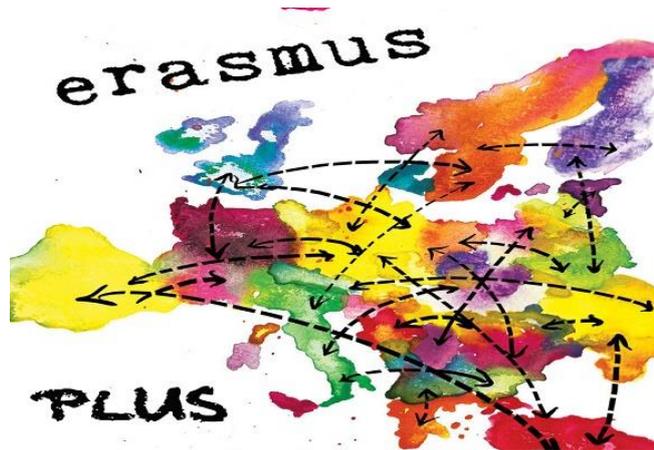
Arrival: 5th April 2019 (before dinner at 18:00)

Departure: 22nd April 2019 (after lunch 13:00)

We are well aware that the last weekend (from 19th to 22nd April) is the time of Easter holidays, so let us know in advance if you have any other plans or obligations.

Transportation from your home to Idrija (airplane and shuttle/bus)

As far as the means of transport is concerned, there is plenty of possibilities to come to Slovenia. The most used are the plane connection to Ljubljana (Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport), Graz (airport in Austria), Zagreb (airport in Croatia) or Trieste/Venice (Italy). From all airports you can find bus/train connection to Ljubljana (the Slovenian capital) and from there a one-hour bus ride to Idrija.



You can reach the location of accommodation in 10 minutes from the bus station in Idrija (the hostel's address is Ulica IX. korpusa 17).

There are shuttle buses available from all the surrounding airports by a company called GoOpti. It works like public transport, but is much faster and adaptable. So as soon as you will know your arrival time to sLOVEnia (let's say you are coming to Ljubljana Jože Pučnik airport) you can also book the GoOpti van directly to Idrija.

You are entitled only to get a reimbursement of travel costs if you use public means of transport. The costs of a car ride or car rental cannot be reimbursed.

!!! Make sure you **keep all travel documents!** Online boarding passes and tickets can be forwarded by e-mail as well.

The travel costs can be reimbursed up to the amount mentioned below:

- the Netherlands: 275 € per person
- Finland: 275 € per person
- Spain: 275 € per person
- Portugal: 275 € per person
- Cyprus: 275 € per person
- Slovenia: 20 € per person

Food and pocket money

Money for food: 100 €

Pocket money: 72 €

This is the money you can use during your stay to buy food and anything else you might need. The whole amount will be transferred to your bank account during the first days of your stay in Slovenia.

During the stay in Idrija, you can eat in ...

Restaurant pr' Škafarju (Ulica sv. Barbare 9)

Named after the legendary bucket maker who first discovered Idrija's mercury over 500 years ago, this place has a great atmosphere. You can find us in the small street between the squares of Mestni trg and of Trg sv. Ahacija. Our offer includes daily menus, à la carte offers, pizzas from stove as well as local specialties. The best known of them are the *idrijski žlikrofi* dish, always fresh and of course handmade, following our own traditional recipe.

Restaurant Kos (Tomšičeva 4)

The inn is situated beside the main crossroads in Idrija, next to the confluence of the rivers. Their offer includes daily lunch menus and à la carte offers. They specialise in preparing the *idrijski žlikrofi* dish following the traditional and protected recipe.

Restaurant Barbara (Kosovelova ulica 3)

The guesthouse is located on a quiet location, almost in the heart of the town and in a more than 500 years old miner's house known as Antonijev Rov, the mine entrance and the birth-house of a Slovenian engineer Stanko Bloudek. When visiting the restaurant, you can see why he was called the Slovenian Leonardo da Vinci. In the ground floor of the Barbara Guesthouse, you can enter the Antonijev rov mine shaft, the oldest part of the Idrija Mine.

Cooking in the hostel is another option. There is a small kitchen available to you at all times, so you can cook simple meals and eat there.

Accommodation (Hostel Idrija)



Run by the local young people for the (young) people from around the world. The Idrija Youth Hostel is located within a 5-minute walk from the UNESCO protected

historic town center of Idrija. It is housed in an old nunnery, today the home of a youth center and numerous youth programs.

Having travelled the world, our team understands the needs and wishes of travellers: **fresh linen and towels, hot shower, good food, free internet, friendly staff and relaxing atmosphere.** We offer no less!

You will be staying in rooms with other people and share bathrooms and kitchen with them.

More photos and **information:** <https://booki.ng/2ikL12G>

Venue (Idrija Youth Center)

The project will take place in the building in which you will be accommodated. The Youth Center Idrija is located in another part of the same building as the hostel we will be working on. We believe this is a great opportunity for you to experience the hostel as visitors and get even better ideas about what would be needed or pleasant to make the stay of future visitors more enjoyable.



General information and safety

Police: 113

Ambulance: 112

International code for Slovenia: 00 386

Youth center phone number: 00 386 51 231 049

Hostel phone number: 00 386 40 808 022

General rules in the hostel and the venue

For the safety and a pleasant stay of all our guests, there are some basic rules we should all have in mind when living together in the house:

- Please pay attention to your roommates and stay silent after 10 PM and before 7 AM.
- It is not allowed to smoke, drink alcohol or eat in the rooms.
- When using the kitchen, clean the dishes and the working space before leaving.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Location – Idrija

Idrija is a town in the Western part of Slovenia. It is well known for its mercury mine as well as for the miners' living quarters and the miners' theatre. Mercury was discovered in Idrija in the late 15th century. Together with the Spanish mine at Almadén, it has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2012. A year later the town's park was registered in the UNESCO International Network of Geoparks. In 2011, Idrija was given the Alpine Town of the Year award.



Idrija is located in a valley surrounded by steep hills covered by woods. Staying here makes you feel cozy, warm and sheltered. Idrija is a basin and if you would like to come to Idrija, you cannot skip going uphill and driving on winding roads. You will see 😊

More about Idrija: <http://www.idrija-tourism.com/>

Technical heritage: Museum Idrija, Kamšt, Klavže, Mine

Cultural heritage: religious (Holy Trinity Church), lace

Heritage of the 1st and 2nd World War: Slovenian Partisan Printing Workshop, Partisan Hospital Bolnica Pavla

Natural heritage: the lake of Divje jezero, Upper Idrijica Natural park

When visiting the **Slovenia's capital Ljubljana**, we suggest you download **the USE-IT app** and the city's map to help you navigate through the streets of the old town and even discover some local secrets.

Slovenian language

Besides being hard to learn due to its 6 cases that are used for nouns (with different endings for masculine, feminine and neutral genders), 3 different conjugations for verbs by the person and number, 4 tenses (present, past, pluperfect and future) and a bunch of other grammar stuff, it also has the dual grammatical number, which is a rare thing for a language to have, but it sure can sound romantic.

Some useful phrases in Slovenian:

Dober dan!	Hello! (formal, meaning <i>good day</i>)
Zdravo! Živjo! Čau! Bok!	Hi! (informal)
Nasvidenje! Adijo! Čau! Bok! Ajde!	Goodbye! (the first form is formal, the following ones are informal)
Se vidimo!	See you!
Dober tek!	Bon appetit!
Na zdravje!	Cheers!
Lahko noč! Lepo spi!	Good night! Sleep well!
Lačen/lačna sem!	I'm hungry! (the second form is female)
Žejen/žejna sem!	I'm thirsty! (the first form is male)
Koliko stane to?	How much does this cost?
Koliko je ura?	What time is it?
A lahko dobim sok/eno pivo/vino?	Can I order juice/a beer/wine?
Ukradli so mi bicikel/kolo!	They stole my bike
Upam, da me ne napade medved!	I hope I don't get attacked by a bear
Gremo ven!	Let's go out!
Gremo žurat!	Let's go party!
Mi daš cifro/številko?	Can I get your number?

NUMBERS; Ena (1), dva (2), tri (3), štiri (4), pet (5), šest (6), sedem (7), osem (8), devet (9), deset (10)

If you have any dilemmas, questions, ideas, proposals or problems, do not hesitate to ask as – the sooner the better. 😊