



INFO PACK

*Snowmen goes
intercultural!*

24.2.2019 – 2.3.2019

Kokkola,

Finland

Welcome to youth exchange

Dear partners and group leaders,

Through the following pages, we have summarized the information you need to know about the youth exchange and about your journey to Finland.

Enjoy the youth exchange and have a great time in Villa Elba with us! Through the following pages, we have summarized the information you need to know about the group-EVS project and about your stay in Kokkola. Welcome to Kokkola and have a great time with us in Villa Elba!

Background information about the exchange

Snowmen goes Intercultural youth exchange gathers 56 young people and their supervisors meet in Kokkola 24.2-2.3.2019. Participants are schoolchildren and students from Finland, Ireland, Spain, Romania, Italy, Slovakia and Slovenia. Snowmen goes Intercultural! youth exchanges involve young people from all over Europe having different backgrounds and life situations. During youth exchange, young people exchange ideas about their lives, challenges, and good things they face in their lives. The aim is to compare the everyday life of young people and different cultures through various outdoor activities, nature challenges and workshops organized by young people. We learn each other's everyday life and culture, food, music, dance, games and play. The aim of youth exchange is to encourage people to become acquainted with different cultures, to learn how to work in a multicultural environment. By doing together, young people improve their language skills, learn new things from different cultures through practical workshops and develop their social skills. Young people gain new experiences to develop their own skills in social skills and leadership and entrepreneurship: They learn how to agree, negotiate, listen, and bring their own opinions. Photos and videos taken during a youth exchange will be placed on the public Facebook site of the project, which can be shared between the participants and the involved parties on their own networks. The aim is that young people who have not previously participated in international projects will also be interested in this topic.

Background information about Villa Elba

Villa Elba is a National Youth Centre supported and observed by the Ministry of Education. We are specialised in youth work and our function is to develop the methods used in the field of youth work, to act as a centre for furthering the skills of the youth, and enable young people's travelling domestically and abroad. The centres are run under the Finnish law covering youth work and by the Ministry of Education. In international work, our goal is to offer youngsters the possibilities of learning in multicultural environment and finding their own strengths and abilities through international activity. Our work consists of international camps and programs, education, practical training and voluntary work for young people, information and guidance about international programmes, projects and EVS co-ordination for hosting organisations.

“Snowmen goes intercultural!”

Activity dates: Sunday 24.2 (arrival) to Saturday 2.3. (departure)

Activity place: Youth Centre Villa Elba, Kokkola

Contact information: International Youth Centre Villa Elba

Sannanrannantie 60, 67100 Kokkola, Finland

Tel: +358 6 8313 400

www.villaelba.fi

Contact person: Timo Viitala, timo.viitala@kokkola.fi tel: +358 40 162 1018

Registration:

Every leader and participant must fill in the registration form at:

<https://link.webpolsurveys.com/S/OFA68653544E68F3>

It is important that everyone fill in the form, because the participant information is needed to fulfil our reporting obligations towards our NA.

Finances

Travel compensation

country	number of pax	travel compensation
Slovakia	8	275 €
Ireland	8	360 €
Finland	8	20 €
Slovenia	8	360 €
Italy	8	360 €
Spain	8	to be confirmed
Romania	8	275 €

Participation fee

The participation fee is 50 € / person and it is deducted from the travel compensation.

Payments

Villa Elba make payments only through bank transfers after receiving all original travel documents (invoices, boarding passes, train tickets etc.).

Practical issues

Travelling to Finland:

When booking flights, you can check options to Helsinki or Kokkola. If you decide to fly to Helsinki, you have to take a train to Kokkola. You can check timetables and prices at <https://www.vr.fi/cs/vr/en/frontpage>. There is also cheap bus connection Onnibus <http://www.onnibus.com/en/index.htm> from Helsinki to Kokkola but it runs only once a day, so it is not likely it fits with your flight schedule.

Please try to organise your flight so that you will be in Helsinki before 15:00 p.m. as this way you will have the possibility to come with train to Kokkola in reasonable time.

Accommodation, linen & washing:

Accommodation is organised in Youth Centre Villa Elba in our warm and cosy cottages to 6-8 persons. Please visit www.villaelba.fi to find more information about the place. We provide towel and bed linen. Each person is responsible of making their own bed, and not using the bed linen means that we must send the mattress, pillow and blanket to laundry. In such case, we charge the participant 20 €.

**Meals:**

Breakfast, lunch, dinner and evening snack is served. In Villa Elba you can buy snacks and coffee from our cafeteria. Inform about your special diets and allergies in the registration form. The kitchen in Elba makes special food only for those who orders it, and that is why it is not possible to choose between vegetarian and other dishes (because then there might not be enough food for those with special diets)

Internet and tel.:

We have wireless Internet connection in the main building. We do not have a public phone, but in the centre of Kokkola it is possible to buy pre-paid SIM card for mobile phone.

Alcohol & smoking:

The youth exchange is a non-alcohol event. Smoking is allowed only for people over 18 years old at marked places. During activities, smoking is not allowed.

Preparations:

Each country should prepare some program for the cultural evening to tell about their country and culture. We would prefer not to have any PowerPoint presentations, but you could bring something small to eat, music, dances etc. And please bring only materials in English!

What should you bring with you

1. Very important!!! Bring with you your passport or European identity card. And make sure that you have the European Health Insurance Card or travel insurance card covering hospital costs!

2. Travel tickets

Please remember to keep all original tickets, boarding passes and invoices as without them we cannot reimburse the travel costs.

3. Medication

For preventive reasons we recommend for those who have health problems to bring their own medicine.

4. Some traditional snacks, drinks or food

In order to learn as much as possible from each other's culture, we will organize an intercultural evening, where you are supposed to share some of your local specialties with the other participants.

5. Some music, a movie.

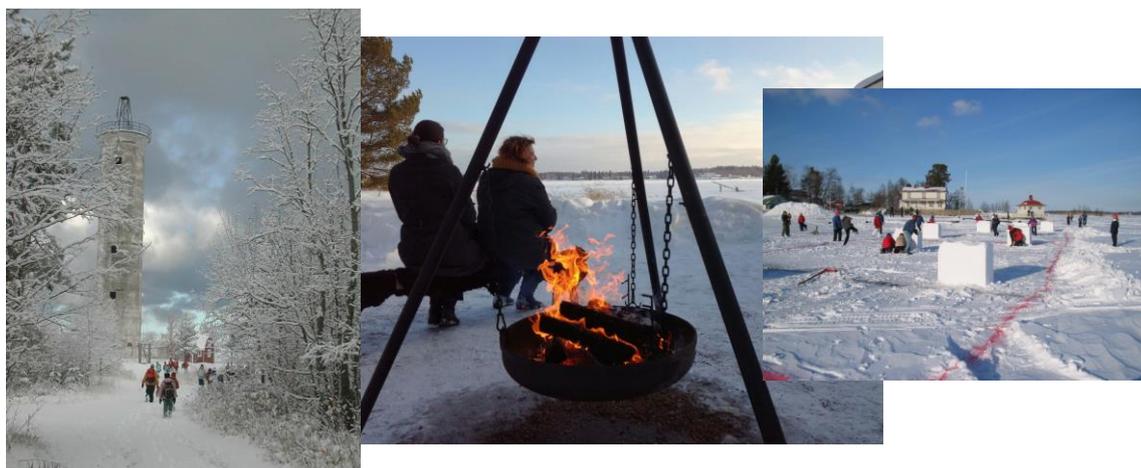
For our evening activities, you can bring your favourite music or a nice movie.

6. Warm clothes for cold weather

The weather in February-March is often very cold from -10-30 C, so we advise you to bring enough warm clothes with you. Inside of Villa Elba where our meetings are temperature is warm +20- +22 C.

Please bring also along clothes and shoes what make you easy and comfortable to work inside and outdoors. Sauna is part of the Finnish Culture and you can bring swimming costume for Sauna.

Information video, warm clothing: <https://www.facebook.com/yleoulu/videos/10153772691539757/>



City of Kokkola



Kokkola, with a population of around 46,000, is located in Central Ostrobothnia in Western Finland, on the coast of the Gulf of Bothnia. The city is the region's financial, administrative, educational and cultural epicenter, and was founded in 1620 by the Swedish king Gustav Adolf II. The municipality of Kaarlela was incorporated in 1977, and the municipalities of Kälviä, Lohtaja and Ullava in 2009.

For more information on Kokkola, visit:

<https://www.kokkola.fi>