

INFOGUIDE TO YOUR PROJECT

Volunteers Centre Skopje

a home, that over 9000 people passed by.



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About Us

Volunteers Centre Skopje has existed over **18 years**. We are one of the leading NGOs in Macedonia when it comes to **youth exchange, voluntarism, activism**, a recognizable brand and a trusted partner through which over 8500 Macedonian and foreign volunteers and youth activists have passed.

Our main goal as an organization is to give **non-formal educational opportunities** to young people, in different fields, both locally and internationally.

Voluntarism is a big and important idea also promoted by us while connecting youngsters no matter their nationality, religion, gender, political, economic or social status. We aspire to contribute to a multicultural civil society, to reinforce existing democratic structures, to support young people in developing their individual abilities and skills and to foster closer cooperation among youngsters.



CONTACT



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"Volunteers are not paid
- not because they are
worthless, but because
they are priceless..."

...is the motto that we live by every day. And we say we are (as) a **family**, because, even though we are people of different nationalities, with different views on life, different ideologies and, of course, different characters, we are all driven by the same thought: how to change and make things **better** around us.

Our Team



Nikola Stankoski
Director

The brave one who started all of this 19 years ago. Always offering solutions, great partnerships and new ideas.



Andrej Naumovski
Project Manager

Writing, implementing and evaluating projects among coordinating volunteers. This guy is everywhere, busy as ever.



Goran Adamovski
Operational Manager

...and VOICES editor as he is a journalist, making sure our content is valid. Ready-to-go type of guy, no need to wait!



Goran Galabov
VET & ESC Coordinator

Among many activities, coordinating new and current volunteers and VET students. Just ask anything, he'll help!



Ewelina Chańska
Social Media Coordinator

Creating content and publications, our Polish power source keeps our profiles fresh and volunteers occupied!



Jolanta Ciopcińska
Program Coordinator

Multitasking several topics at once, Jola can help you with almost anything.

Enough about us... What is ESC?

European Solidarity Corps is programme funded by the European commission and aims to **improve the skills of young people**. You will have a supporting organization in your country, and receiving organization who will host you during the project.

ESC creates opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in projects in their own country or abroad which benefits communities and people around Europe. Project covers **accommodation, insurance, food money and pocket money**. Additionally for long term volunteers the project covers **language course and Visa costs**.

You can work in a wide range of fields such as culture, youth, sports, children, cultural heritage, arts, environment, and development cooperation. In the end of your project you will receive a certificate confirming your participation, **YouthPass**. Projects are for people between **18 - 30 years** old. Projects can last from few weeks **up to 12 months**. They are usually be located within the Erasmus+ partner countries, and you can make it only **twice in a lifetime**. (short term & long term)



...and what will you do in Macedonia?

You will be part of... European Youth Olympic Festival!

Your project is focused on **EYOF Skopje 2025**.

The European Youth Olympic Festival is the largest sporting event for young people across Europe and the largest sporting event ever organized in Macedonia. There will be around **4000** young athletes and representatives of **50** delegations (countries) competing in **14 sports**. Athletics, badminton, basketball 3x3, handball, kayaking, judo, swimming, volleyball, archery, taekwondo, cycling...



OK! When?

Reserve your July 2025 and come to volunteer in Skopje!

EYOF will run from July 18 to 27.

But your project duration goes beyond those dates...

The project duration is from **July 7 to 31**, as the volunteers need to have a **preparation training**, learn the routes, tasks and responsibilities, and get to know the sports venues... before the games begin and the delegations arrive! Volunteers will then stay for a few days after the games are over to close the event and management.



What are you getting?

- uniform: backpack, shorts, t-shirts, water bottle, hat
- free transportation to the sporting venues
- meals
- certificate
- memories and friendships for life!

Tasks of volunteers...

So, what will you do? There will be **16 departments**, like marketing, sales, transport, administration... and each will have different tasks: from stamping accreditations, escorting delegations, assisting at sports venues....



Overwhelming?

Don't worry, you don't need to have previous experience. Your project is about learning and developing new skills, we will be with you all the way!

Curious?

Visit official website of EYOF 2025 in Skopje or website of The Macedonian Olympic Committee.

skopje2025.sporteurope.org



EYOF SKOPJE 2025

mok.org.mk/



Where will you live?

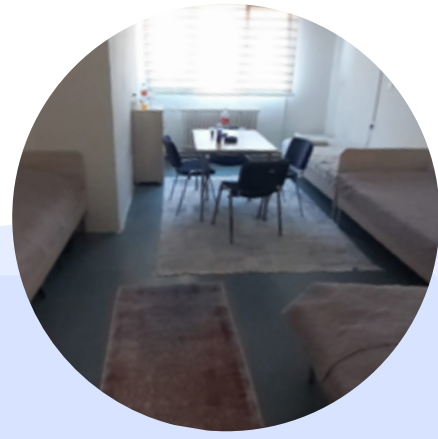
near our office, with other volunteers

The students dormitory "Pelagonija" is located in **Kisela Voda**, one of the neighborhoods in Skopje, right under beautiful mountain Vodno. VCS office is only 5 minute walk away.

Accommodation will be in **4-people rooms**. The dormitory has WiFi, washing and drying machines, blankets and bed sheets. We ask you to bring your **personal towel**.

The volunteers will have **meals provided** at the accomodation or at their workplaces. If you have any special **DIET**ary requirements or **ALLERGIES** make sure you inform us before coming here. Macedonian food is very rich in meat and dairy so it's important to be very specific when describing any dietary restrictions.

City Center and bus station are located only **20 minute walk** away from the dormitory. The markets Vero, Stokomak, Kam, Tinex and Reptil are close by, as well as other shops, bakeries, restaurants, banks...



🕒 Working hours and free time!

As a volunteer, your working time is going to be from **Monday to Friday**, and during the dates of Olympic festival, the work might happen during the **weekend**, so be prepared to be **flexible**! The format of the work is **two shifts** - a daytime and afternoon/evening. The working hours are **up to 8 hours** a day (sometimes it will be a full shift and sometimes you might finish your shift earlier). During working hours there will be included a meal break.

You will gain **2 free days** on each month, which you can put together for a longer holiday during your project.



Outdoor

It's hot hot hot....

Summers in Macedonia are **really warm**, starting from May, lasting till September. In June and July you can expect temperatures over **40 °C**. We have **3 natural lakes**, Ohrid, Prespa and Dojran. The whole country is full of **beautiful hidden spots**, hiking trails, waterfalls, smaller lakes and cute towns to explore local traditions!

Winters in Skopje are mostly without snow, and temperature is staying mostly around **0 °C**. If you however love winter; **Macedonia is full of mountains!** Maybe you'll come back in a winter to take a skiing trip to Mavrovo or Popova Shapka?

Money

must be funny...

In Macedonia we use Macedonian denars (**1€ = 61.5 MKD.**) You can exchange euros and denars without any problems here. Most of the biggest shops and restaurants accept also **credit cards**.

You will receive pocket money from your sending organisation and we will get you covered with 3 meals per day.

Macedonia is quite **cheap country**, and your pocket money will cover your daily life. If you are planning to eat out in restaurants every day and travel a lot during your free days, we recommend you to take some **savings** with you.

Keep in mind that you cannot exchange MKD outside Macedonia.



Transport

take me somewhere...

Taxi in Skopje is relatively **cheap**, for one ride in the city you should pay from 100 MKD to 200 MKD. It is good to order in advance and you can do that through the app:

Wizi - [CLICK](#)

Vikni Taxi - [CLICK](#)

Bus for places more far, one trip is **35 MKD**. There's also regular transport to cities and countries near by. Transport will be provided to volunteer in **necessary situations** like getting to a workplace/events venue.



Insurance

don't worry, be healthy

During your ESC you are insured by **Henner**, which covers all the expenses for visits to doctors, operations, medicines with doctor's prescription, etc. Henner will insure you in your **home country** and **Macedonia**, therefore keep in mind to take care of other personal insurance if you will travel during your project. Most case you pay your doctor's visit and apply for reimbursement after.

If you have any health problems, **inform us** and take your medicine with you. Let us know if you have a specific condition that might need specific treatment or behavior. Be sure to leave correct emergency contact information to us and to your sending organization.



Important

- 1 Check that your passport is valid at least **three months after** your project will be finished
- 2 Pack important **medications** that you are using
- 3 You will receive Macedonian **sim card** from us, so you can discharge the deal with your operator from your own country
- 4 Get ready for **project activities!** It will be a very active project and you will be a lot in the movement and outdoor. Be prepared to be **flexible** as well!
- 5 Keep in mind that you can stay in Macedonia in total of **90 days straight without Visa**, in case you are planning to travel here after your short term project

A 文 Language

Зборуваме Македонски!

In N. Macedonia official language is **Macedonian**, alphabet Cyrillic. Let's take a look and see how much you can catch before coming to your project!

Most of the younger generation in N. Macedonia knows English, but sometimes especially elderly might struggle with understanding you. Here's some basics:

Hello - Здраво (Zdravo)

Thank you - Фала (Fala)

Bye - Чао (Tchao)

Okay/Good - Добро (Dobro)

Wait - Чекај (Tsekaj)

See you later - Се гледаме (Se gledame)

How are you? - Како си? (Kako si?)

What is your name? - Како се викаш? (Kako se vikash?)

My name is... - Јас се викам ... (Jas se vikam...)

Where are you from? - Од каде си? (Od kade si?)

I'm from... - Јас сум од... (Jas sum od...)

Please - Те молам (Te molam)

Cheers / Bon appetit! - На здравје! (Na zdravje!)

Let's go! - Ајде! (Ajde!)

I know - Знам (Znam)

I don't know - Не знам (Ne znam)

I don't understand - Не разбирам (Ne razbiram)

No problem - Нема проблем (Nema problem)

Super! - Одлично! (Odlichno!)

А	Б	В	Г	Д
A	B	V	G	D
Ѓ	Е	Ж	З	С
GJ	E	ZH	Z	DZ
И	Ј	К	Л	Љ
I	J	K	L	LJ
М	Н	Њ	О	П
M	N	NJ	O	P
Р	С	Т	Ќ	У
R	S	T	KJ	U
Ф	Х	Ц	Ч	
F	H	C	CH	
		Џ	Ш	
		DJ	SH	



Eat, drink & dance!

Some cool places in Skopje



Restaurants & Bakeries

Vanila, Kaiser and Kalinka - Bakeries close by with good Macedonian pastries

Kalabalak - Kafana with good food and rakija, not too expensive!

Fontana - Restaurant close by with good meat and fresh shopska salad

Jakomo - Pizza place close by, smells to the streets!

Pizza Spot - New and already our favorite neighborhood pizza place!

Burgerslut - The best burgers few min from the flats

Bratski Merak - Traditional Macedonian restaurant near by dormitory with good prices

Engin çiğköfte - Turkish food in old bazaar, so worth to try!

Paradise Food - Paradise for vegetarians and vegans



Coffee & Sweets

Joy Cafe - Special coffees and cool staff, in the center

Cafeteria Vlez - Offers vegan-friendly coffee options

Bykva/Bookva - Café and bookstore with live gigs and poetry readings

Caffe Mola - Small café in the Old bazaar, serving freshly squeezed juices and coffee in coconut

Dobar Bar - A bus ride away but with coffee worth the travel (every month different coffee of the month)



Bars & Clubs

Beertija Pub - Located in GTC, pub with good music and awesome staff!

Rakija Bar Kaldrma - In the old bazaar, different rakijas, live music, international mood

Wine Bar Kaldrma - Younger sibling of Rakija Bar with live music and delicious wine

Marakana - Nightclub with live rock/pop music everyday in Gradski park

Stanica 26 - Nightclub with techno, near by the flats

Shortbus - LGBT friendly bar with the best hot tea with rum

Gluvo Kuche - Chill, good live music, different beers & food

Saloon - Nice place with different types of music every night

Bajka 2D bar - Unique interior and karaoke nights

Laboratorium - Space that is a mixture of coffee-bar with culture hub

Explore Skopje!



Outdoor

Gradski park - City park, nice place for a walk and hang out on a sunny day.

Gazi Baba park - Bigger natural park, perfect for picnic and walks!

Čaršija (Old Bazaar) - Part of old Skopje in the center. Beautiful streets, cheap restaurants, shops and souvenirs, Bit Bazar where they have everything!

Mountain Vodno - You'll be living right under Vodno, where you can go for a hike. There's also a regular bus and cable car all the way up to the Millennium Cross.

Matka Canyon - Beautiful place in nature with canyon and hiking trails. You can hike from Vodno to Matka, but you need one day and good preparation!

Kozjak - A beautiful mountain top with a view to Kozjak lake, perfect for picnic.



Culture

MKC - (Mladinski Kulturni Centar) - Youth Cultural Center. They have events, movies, concerts, exhibitions, performances, restaurant, bar... And awesome vibe!

Kino Millennium - In GTC, a cheap cinema, around 120-180 MKD for one ticket.

Cineplexx - Cinema at Skopje City Mall. Tickets 180-280 MKD.

Opera and Ballet of Skopje - Good program and the concert room has a really good acoustic. Between 300-800 MKD/ticket.



Sightseeing

Fortress Kale - 6th century fortress on top of Skopje. Great view to the city!

Skopje Zoo - Next to Gradski park.

Museum of Contemporary Art - Next to Kale fortress.

Museum of Macedonia - In Old Bazaar.

Museum of the city of Skopje - In the old railway station.

Macedonian museum of Uprising - After the Stone Bridge.

Museum of Illusions - In the center.



Shopping

GTC - (Gradski Trgovski Centar) - A mall in the center that's a bit of a landmark of Skopje!

Skopje City Mall - Big mall with many international brands. Bus 4 goes there straight from the flats.

East Gate Mall - One of the biggest shopping centers in the region. Located in Gazi Baba, with international brands.





Travel in North Macedonia

Tetovo

1 hour away from Skopje. Many historical attractions to see, like Paint Mosque, Monastery of Dervishes, The Baltepes Fortress and a ski resort Popova Šapka.

Mavrovo

The biggest national park in Macedonia, 2 hours from Skopje. Great place for hiking trips in the forest or around the lake. Also, in winter you can go skiing!

Bitola

One of the oldest cities, located in south of Macedonia, surrounded by the Baba, Nidže and Kajmakčalan mountain ranges. Several attractions to visit!

Kruševo

The highest town in Macedonia with a beautiful architecture and monuments.

Ohrid & Ohrid Lake

3 hours from Skopje, Ohrid is known for once having 365 churches, one for each day of the year. Ohrid Lake is part of UNESCO's World Heritage, and offers beautiful spots in the summer to explore and swim from regular beaches to wild ones...

Dojran

Nice small town near Greek border with a Dojran lake. On the summer there's 3 day D-festival, make sure to check that out!

Prespa lake

A beautiful lake surrounded by mountains, sandy beaches and clear water! Surrounded by multiple small villages worth to visit.

Galičica

Natural park between Lake Ohrid and Prespa.

Pelister

Natural park with two mountain lakes just a hike away!



In general Macedonia has a **beautiful nature** and multiple **hiking trails** all over the country. Pack a **tent**, take **friends** and go for an **adventure**!

Welcome to Balkans!

You're gonna love it...

Macedonia is in a perfect center of other Balkan countries: **Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, Albania and Kosovo**. Travel connections are good to the neighboring countries and beyond!

Balkan **culture is interesting** and the whole area is **worth to visit**, especially if it's your first time in the Balkans!



Advices to survive in North Macedonia!



Take it easy!

Take your time to adapt to a new environment. There will be a lot of new information and people to meet, but no need to hurry.

Curiosity is essential

Be curious and prepared for surprises! The culture might surprise you in many different ways.

Don't judge

Forget about stereotypes and stay open-minded. You will meet a lot of people from different backgrounds on your work and free-time.

Watch out on the streets

Be careful when crossing the streets, the traffic is a bit crazy. Wait for the green light to turn on and always check the road.

Learn Macedonian

Helps you communicate with locals and explore more. Lot of people speak English, but will love when you speak Macedonian!

Keep cash with you

Even tho most places accept credit cards, cash is essential and eases your daily life, when you are paying taxi, sharing restaurant bill or having drinks with friends.

Why are you here?

...you will hear this question a lot. You are coming to a small country and the locals will be interested to hear why and what are you doing here.

Illegal taxis exists

Don't get into just any taxi and be careful about the prices they charge you with. Legal taxis have a number sticker outside on the car, which makes it official.

Try local food, drinks and music!

Enjoy Macedonian foods like burek, ajvar and Tavce Gravce (beans). They'll taste even better with homemade rakija or wine, while you jam along Macedonian songs!

Hot summer, cold winters

Swimming and beaches in the summer, skiing in the winter? Welcome to Macedonia! Be prepared for amazingly hot summer but also cold cold winters.

Shop in local markets

You can buy fresh vegetables, fruits and local specialties in local stores and bazaars. They're incredibly tasty and cheap.

The most important: ENJOY!

Enjoy every moment you have in Macedonia. Some things will surprise you, some will make you wonder, some will make you pleased or sad. Respect the new culture you're in and cherish those moments. We bet that you'll love it.