



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Transnational Training Workshop for Youth

# OPENING RURAL HERITAGE TO OPEN MINDS

From 23/10 to 28/10/2016  
BULGARIA – Dragalevci village



Mediterranean Centre of Environment-Greece  
Polynikous 2, GR-174 55 Alimos  
Tel + 30 213 0243159 - Fax + 30 210 98 87 565  
Email: [info@medcenv.org](mailto:info@medcenv.org)  
[www.medcenv.org](http://www.medcenv.org)

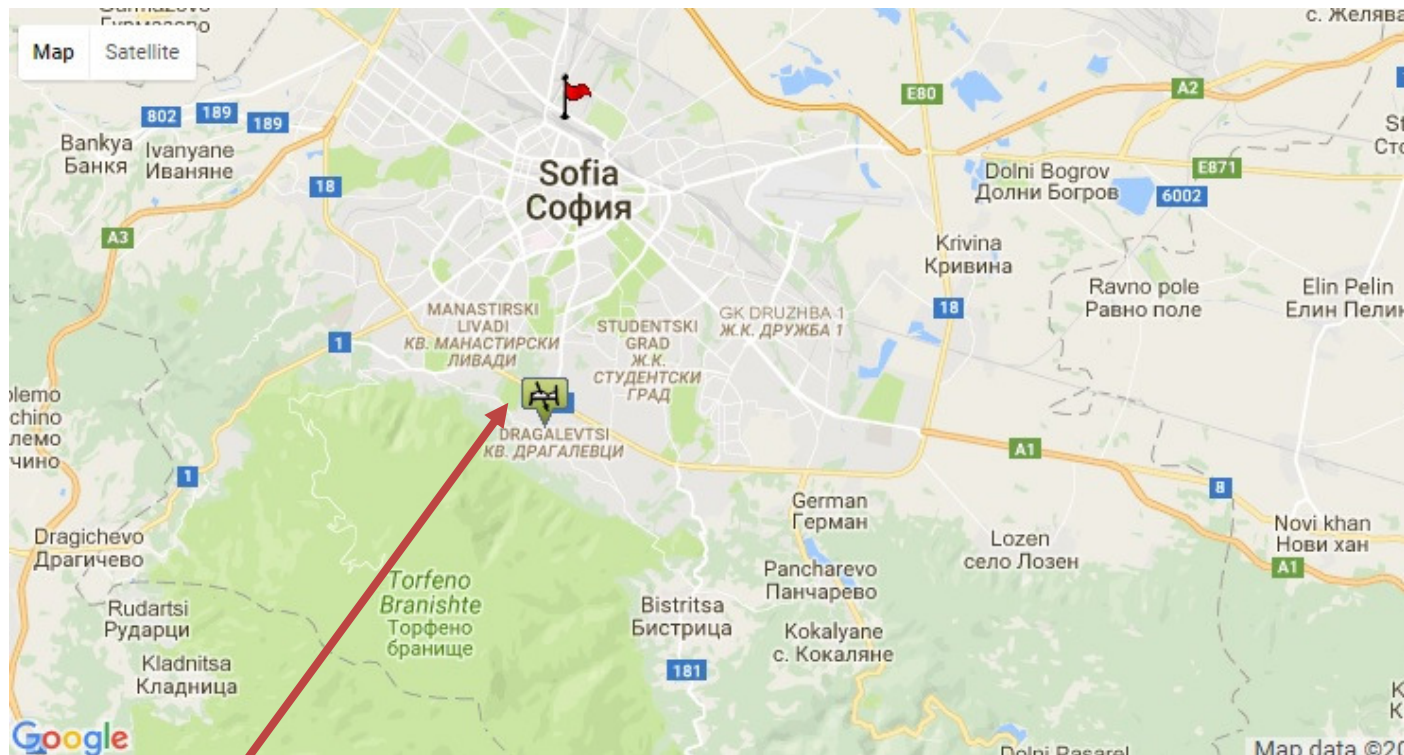


The workshop is organized by the Center of Heritage Interpretation - Bulgaria in partnership with Union APARE-CME leader of the project YCARHe, a project supported by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

# Your way to the workshop

## → Meeting Point

Meeting on the 22<sup>d</sup> of October, evening



### **Bansko Hotel**

Dragalevci village, 6, Bela Donna str.  
tel. +359 2 967 28 41

<http://hotelbansko.net/en/>

## → To go there:

Bus, train or flight to Sofia

From there, the best way is to take a taxi

Cost between 10-15 EUR in the evening and between 7-10 EUR during the day.

**BEWARE!** Your travel will be reimbursed up to 275 €, at the end of the workshop, when you will have sent back to the Mediterranean Centre of Environment all proofs of payment. Please keep all your tickets, invoices, boarding pass, etc., they are necessary for our accountancy.

## → Dates

The Workshop starts on the 23rd of October (arrival of participants on 22/10) and ends on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October (departure from Sofia on 29/10).

## Your contact persons

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- Before your departure:  
Mediterranean Centre of Environment  
Polynikous 2 - GR 17455 Alimos  
Tel/Fax +30 213 0243159 Greece

Elissavet Tzovani - GSM +30 6977638936  
Isabelle Trinquelle – GSM +30 6974981323

**Elissavet Tzovani**, from the Mediterranean Centre of Environment, will be your referent during the whole duration of the Workshop.

- In Bulgaria  
Margarita KAISHEVA - +359 888880281  
Daniela GEORGIEVA - +359 886861881

## General context: the project YCARHe

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### Project rationale

In most European rural areas, more and more young people find themselves today in a socially and civic marginalized situation for various reasons: geographical isolation, ever-increasing rural poverty, difficult access to employment, low level of participation in decision-making processes, low capacity for initiatives by lack of support, low interest in the resources or assets of their region and low awareness of the assets these resources could offer for their professional and personal development, bigger difficulty than urban young people to join international mobility programmes.

In order to support them, many rural youth organizations are trying to reinforce young people's involvement in their region. Yet, they are having more and more difficulties to elicit their commitment due to a lack of tools and means adapted to their expectations and needs, as well as a lack of sufficient knowledge of the resources which local heritage can represent to support civil participation. At the same time, organizations involved in rural heritage preservation are having increasing difficulties to mobilize young people.

Heritage, whether cultural or natural, tangible or intangible, represents a fundamental basis of the identity of rural areas, while it can offer a concrete support for the development of an active European citizenship as well as a source of employment for little or not qualified young people. Yet, it is often in danger of disappearing in the absence of efforts to recapture and transmit it, adapted to younger generations.

YCARHe (Young Citizens in Action for Rural Heritage) brings together 6 partners (youth and cultural organizations) from 5 countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Greece and Italy) to address these findings in a global and interdisciplinary manner.

## Objectives

The project aims mainly at **reinforcing rural young people's citizenship, personal development and entrepreneurial spirit based on rural heritage.**

For this purpose, YCARHe wishes to:

- Reinforce the quality and the innovation of non-formal educational methods for young people in the field of rural heritage, and to integrate them better in educational pathways which are carried out by youth organizations;
- Reinforce the cooperation between youth organizations and rural heritage preservation organizations;
- Develop a transnational and intercultural non-formal education programme for European rural young people, especially for those who are in marginalized social situation or dropping out of school, in order to lead them to engage for their local communities through collective and individual actions for their local heritage;
- Disclose the methods, tools and results of the project at European level.

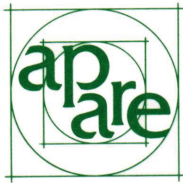
## Activities of the project

To meet these objectives, YCARHe is based on 5 complementary activities,

- The **formulation of a European frame of reference for the training of youth leaders and rural heritage animators** on the theme of non-formal education on heritage and citizenship, which integrates innovative educational methods such as the use of Heritage Interpretation,
- The **Transnational Training & Creative Workshop for Youth workers and Heritage animators** in Greece,
- **3 Workshops for rural young people** of 6 days in Bulgaria, France and Croatia,
- The creation of an **E-Learning platform** in 6 languages aimed at European youth animators, rural heritage animators and European rural young people.

## YCARHe partnership

YCARHe project is implemented by a consortium composed of 6 organizations in 5 countries:



### Union APARE-CME - France (project leader)

[www.apare-gec.org](http://www.apare-gec.org)

Union APARE-CME has more than 20 years' experience in managing European projects. As a youth and international volunteering association, it organizes heritage and environmental youth work camps in Europe and the Mediterranean basin. Union APARE-CME is a hub of expertise linked to the participation of local people and young volunteers in support of heritage.



### Mediterranean Centre of Environment - Greece

[www.medcenv.org](http://www.medcenv.org)

The Mediterranean Centre of Environment is a non-profit civil society set up in 1992 by a Franco-Hellenic team aiming to promote the development of human activity taking into account the environment and the culture of the Mediterranean and the Balkans.

Our objective: Responding to needs within the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The Mediterranean Centre of Environment sets up local, national and European projects in order to:

- contribute to the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue, encouraging joint action and mutual respect of the various cultures
- raise awareness of the population, particularly young people, on the need to protect their heritage and their environment
- carry out local programmes aimed at preserving and enhancing natural and cultural heritage



### Udruga za otocni razvoj "Brac" / Association for the development of the island of Brac – Croatia

The Association for the Development of the Island of Brac was established on October 13, 2008. Its aim is to preserve and promote all that is precious about Brac. The main area of this association's activities is educating and training of the island's residents in sustainable development, as well as preserving their identity within the European Union.



### Association Community integration initiatives – Bulgaria

The association was established in 2014 as a youth focused NGO by a group of young people, to promote a range of services for youth and to organize activities corresponding to the needs of youth for their better integration in the community life. Main directions are: transfer of basic and average knowledge in economy, finance and accountancy to young people

without special education in the mentioned fields; organization of events for improved social environment, communication and exchange, for training in self-organizing for voluntary community actions; knowledge transfer in areas of interest of young people; organizing open door activities, cultural and sport events for children and young audiences;



### **Center for Heritage Interpretation – Bulgaria**

CHI is a non-profit organization with wide range of heritage related and networking activities, guiding the experience and enjoyment of people.

Its aim is to make people, young or old, inspired by heritage and listening to the past and the sounds of Nature.



### **AMESCI – Italy [www.amesci.org](http://www.amesci.org)**

AMESCI is a national non-profit organization, established in 1996 and based in Naples (Italy) with the aim to foster and support the empowerment of youth generations as keystone of processes of change in the society.

To respond to such a challenge it organizes training, projects and networking activities to help young people to develop their knowledge, their abilities and competencies, promoting a generation of citizens who are able to combine professionalism and social responsibility.

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The project YCARHe is co-funded by programme Erasmus+ - European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport \_ under the scope of “Strategic partnership in the field of Youth”.

Learn about this programme:

[http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/opportunities-for-organisations/innovation-good-practices/strategic-partnerships\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/opportunities-for-organisations/innovation-good-practices/strategic-partnerships_en)

## **The workshop**

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### **Objectives**

The objectives of this workshops are the following:

- Attracting young people to their heritage / Make them discovering local rural heritage / Getting them acquainted with their local heritage;
- Empowering young citizen through Heritage / Promoting and supporting heritage-based projects fronted young people.

The Transnational Training Workshop will gather around 15 Young persons from 5 European countries.

Among others, participants will develop and/or strengthen their knowledge and skills in:

- Universal value of heritage
- Heritage interpretation
- Heritage-based projects

### Workshop Method

The YCARHe workshop proposes an active and participatory method - exercises based on field work – which also includes a continuous assessment process.

One key feature of the Workshop is the interdisciplinary character of the group of participants. The complementarities of different cultures and knowledge between young participants will offer great opportunity for mutual enrichment.

## Practical information

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### Location of the workshop

The location of the workshop, Dragalevci village, is part of the Vitosha Nature Park – the first Nature Park on the Balkan peninsula.



Authentic documents from middle ages mention Dragalevci village. In the year 1345, on the occasion of the visit of the Bulgarian tsar Ivan Alexander, he called local

soldiers “Dragi Levove” in a speech before them. This was how the name was derived. Another historic document about Dragalevci is the Vitosha charter of Tsar Ivan Shishman (1371-1393), written with gold inscription, which was produced for local people.

One of the landmarks of Dragalevci is the Dragalevci monastery, which exists from the same period. It was an important spiritual and cultural center for Dragalevci people since then. During XIV century, the monastery was the center of the Sofia literary works and of writers.

Despite enormous difficulties for Christians and their churches during Ottoman times, the middle ages’ church in the Dragalevci monastery had survived. The frescos were painted in 1476 and are done following the traditions of the Turnovo painting school. On the north and west side of the narthex of the church are the images of the donor Radoslav, his wife Vida and their sons Nicholas Grammarian and Strahil. Their figures are presented with typical folk costumes from that time. The images were made in the realistic manner of the Bulgarian Renaissance style. A school was established on the site of the monastery in XVII century.

Opposite the place, where we stay, is the “Vassil Levski” school, with more than 170 years of history.

### **Checklist!**

For your comfort:

- warm clothes – check the meteo before leaving for Sofia!
- comfortable shoes for walking and hiking in the National Park

When available, bring with you:

- your laptop
- your camera

**Don’t forget your big smile and enthusiasm!**