



Bridges of Colour

Crafting Peace and Unity through Art

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THE HOST

VINCO

VINCO GREECE is a vibrant and fast-growing youth group based in Skydra, Pella (Greece), created by motivated young people who share a strong commitment to active citizenship, human rights, sustainability, inclusion, sport, democracy, and cultural diversity. VINCO's mission is to empower young people to become active, responsible members of their communities and to create opportunities for learning, personal development, and international cooperation.

Who We Are

VINCO is composed of passionate young volunteers and youth workers who design and implement activities for the benefit of the wider youth community. The group was established to give young people opportunities to develop their skills, explore their potential, and participate in meaningful initiatives at local, national, and European levels.

What We Do

VINCO implements a wide range of educational and youth-focused activities, including:

- Human rights & democratic participation workshops
- Youth exchanges and seminars in Greece and abroad
- Sports-based education activities promoting teamwork and inclusion
- Awareness-raising actions on global issues, equality, sustainability, and cultural diversity
- Non-formal education programs for personal and professional skill development
- Support for young people with fewer opportunities, including migrants, economically disadvantaged youth, and those facing social exclusion



ABOUT THE PROJECT

Bridges of Colour – Crafting Peace and Unity through Art

Bridges of Colour-Crafting Peace and Unity through Art is an initiative born from the belief that creativity can heal, empower, and connect young people across borders. Rooted in the aftermath of current social and emotional challenges, especially those intensified by conflict, the project brings together 42 young participants from diverse countries to explore how art can become a bridge between cultures, experiences and perspectives. Through painting, drama, music, collaborative murals and other artistic forms, the project creates a safe space where youth can express emotions, confront trauma, and discover new forms of dialogue.

Beyond artistic expression, the project places strong emphasis on civic engagement and youth participation. By learning about European youth policies and exploring their roles within local and international decision-making processes, participants grow not only as artists, but as active citizens capable of influencing positive social change. Through discussions, reflection sessions, and shared creative work, they develop essential skills such as teamwork, empathy, leadership, and conflict resolution.

At its core, Bridges of Colour aims to foster unity and understanding in a world marked by division. The collective artwork produced during the exchange stands as a symbol of hope, peace, and multicultural cooperation. By empowering young people to become peacebuilders and changemakers within their own communities, the project ensures that the impact of these creative encounters resonates long after the programme concludes. Through art, dialogue, and shared experience, Bridges of Colour inspires a generation ready to rewrite the narrative of conflict into one of resilience, solidarity, and harmony.



OBJECTIVES

1. Enhancing Awareness of Youth Policies

The project aims to deepen young participants' understanding of European youth policy frameworks. By clarifying the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders, it helps youth navigate and influence the systems that shape their lives, promoting the political involvement of the general public.

2. Fostering Active Political Participation

It seeks to remove barriers that prevent young people from participating in political processes. The project encourages youth to advocate for their rights, combat political apathy, and become active contributors to their communities.

3. Encouraging Cultural Exchange and Understanding

Through artistic workshops and collaborative activities, participants explore and celebrate their diverse cultural identities. This cultural exchange builds empathy, breaks stereotypes, and strengthens intercultural cooperation.

4. Promoting Emotional Resilience through Art

Art is used as a therapeutic medium to help youth process emotional and psychological impacts caused by conflict, particularly the war in Ukraine. Activities in painting, drama, music, and sculpture encourage healing, empathy, and hope.

5. Facilitating Intercultural Dialogue

By working together on creative projects, participants engage in meaningful dialogue, learn from one another's experiences, and build stronger social cohesion.

6. Empowering Youth as Change Agents

The project aims to equip young people with leadership skills and the confidence to engage in conflict prevention and peacebuilding activities in their home communities.

7. Creating Lasting Resources and Outputs

The initiative includes permanent outputs, such as community art exhibitions and publications, ensuring that the knowledge and experiences gained remain accessible beyond the project's duration.

8. Reframing the Narrative Around Conflict

The project seeks to shift conversations about conflict toward themes of unity, healing, and optimism. By enabling youth to confront trauma creatively, it nurtures long-term relationships across cultural divides.

ABOUT THE MOBILITY

The mobility activity of the Bridges of Colour project is a 5-day youth exchange activity. It will take place in Thessaloniki, Greece, from 15-21 February 2026 (including travel days) bringing together 42 young participants from Greece, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Romania, Lithuania, Poland and Serbia.

Designed as an immersive experience, the mobility includes hands-on workshops, where participants explore various artistic techniques, using creativity as a means of dialogue and healing. Alongside artistic practice, the mobility integrates discussions on European youth policies, enabling participants to better understand their role in civic engagement and policymaking.

Purpose of the Youth Exchange

The activity aims to:

- Use artistic expression as a tool for healing, dialogue, and peacebuilding.
- Foster intercultural understanding and cooperation.
- Develop key personal and social skills, such as teamwork, communication, and conflict resolution.
- Empower youth to engage in civic participation, introducing them to European youth policies.

Each organisation involved in the project will contribute **6 young participants** who will take part in the full training programme.



ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

| Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 | Day 5 | Day 6 | Day 7 |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| | Breakfast | Breakfast | Breakfast | Breakfast | Breakfast | Breakfast |
| Arrival of the participants and Check-in at the Venue | <p>10:30-12:30: Introduction & Icebreakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introductions, expectations, team-building activities. Presentation of project goals, themes, and safety guidelines. “Colours of Our Story” activity: participants create small symbolic artworks. | <p>10:30-12:30: Visual Arts Workshop I: Technique & Expression</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to painting and large-scale mural techniques Small-group experimentation with colours, textures, and symbolism | <p>10:30-12:30: European Youth Policy Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to EU youth frameworks and civic engagement Interactive simulation: “Young People as Policy Shapers” | <p>10:30-12:30: Collective Artwork Creation: Part II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of mural painting Cross-group collaboration to ensure cohesion between segments | <p>10:30-12:30: Finalizing and Assembling the Collective Artwork</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Touch-ups, assembly of mural pieces Preparing the exhibition space and digital photos for the online gallery | |
| | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Check-out of the participants and Departure |
| | <p>13:30-16:00: Understanding Peace, Conflict & Cultural Identity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop: “Art as a Tool for Peacebuilding” Group discussions on personal narratives and cultural identity Reflection circle | <p>13:30-16:00: Visual Arts Workshop II: Designing the Collective Artwork</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teams begin designing their section of the shared mural Facilitated creative planning session with local artists | <p>13:30-16:00: Collective Artwork Creation: Part I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teams start painting their segments of the final artwork Focus on themes of peace, unity, diversity, and hope | <p>13:30-16:00: Intercultural Dialogue Through Creative Expression</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Art & Storytelling” session: sharing cultural stories through art Group reflection on intercultural understanding and empathy | <p>13:30-16:00: Exhibition, Certificates & Closing Ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public or internal exhibition of the collective artwork Participant presentations on what they learned Youthpass reflections & certificate ceremony Group celebration and closing circle | |
| | Dinner | Dinner | Dinner | Dinner | Dinner | |



PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES & ORGANISATIONS

| Country | | Travel Grant | Organisation Name |
|-----------|---|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Greece |  | €0 | VINCO GREECE |
| Serbia |  | €309 | Danube 1245 |
| Bulgaria |  | €211 | Foundation Korenyak |
| Ukraine |  | €309 | United in diversity UA |
| Romania |  | €211 | Asociatia de Studii Socio-Economice |
| Lithuania |  | €309 | ASOCIACIJA AKTYVISTAI |
| Poland |  | €309 | New Europe Foundation |

Each organisation involved in the project will contribute **6 young participants** who will take part in the full training programme.

PARTICIPANTS PROFILE

Participants of the **Bridges of Colour** project have the following profile:

- 42 participants.
- Aged 18-30
- Youth interested in civic engagement and policymaking, young leaders and activists, youth workers and professionals in the field, public officials and policymakers for multi-level dialogue
- Equal gender representation for balanced perspectives, inclusive of all races, ethnicities, religions, and political affiliations fostering cross-cultural communication and collaboration
- willing to share their knowledge, skills and experience with the other participants and act as multipliers in their communities.

The selection criteria of participants are:

- Participants from different cultural and social backgrounds, individuals with fewer opportunities (economic, social, or geographical challenges) and commitment to inclusivity and respect for diverse perspectives.
- In equally good evaluated applications, then the previous experience in such kind of projects will be considered – the participants who have **never participated to an Erasmus+ project** will have **priority** to the ones that have already been to be introduced to the European values and develop a sense of European citizenship and identity and also have the opportunity to raise their awareness of other countries and cultures.



PREPARATION OF PARTICIPANTS

- The mobility will be in **English** and therefore participants should be able to communicate in English.
- All participants are expected to participate **fully in all activities**, except in the case of illness. Unauthorised absence from activities is not permitted. The activities will be designed and conducted in such a way that all participants have the opportunity to contribute their points of view. We expect you to participate and contribute.
- Before your travel, participants should check the documents they need to cross the border into Greece and whether they have them. **Pay attention to the expiry date!**
- Participants are encouraged to **promote the project**, share the results achieved and carry out **dissemination activities**.
- **Intercultural Night:** Participants are requested to present their home country and its culture to the group (no use of presentations, etc.) by telling a short story about it, bringing some traditional food, perform a dance, or some other tradition.
- **Youthpass Certificates:** All participants will receive a Youth pass certificate at the end of the mobility.



TRAINING FACILITIES

The activity will take place in Thessaloniki which is the second largest city of Greece, a unique city of different cultures and civilizations; it will offer you a wonderful experience. The training will take place in the Conference Room of the Organisation facilities, in the city center. There is a large, fully equipped room along with all necessary facilities to host this Activity.



**Proxenou Koromila str. 51, 1st Floor,
GR-546 22, Thessaloniki**

ACCOMMODATION & MEALS

Enjoying a central location in Thessaloniki, close to Aristotle's Square, Aegeon Hotel offers fully equipped accommodation, close to the city's main attractions. The property features room service and a 24-hour front desk, along with free WiFi throughout. The rooms will be **Double** or **Triple** Rooms, respecting gender balance.



Aegeon provides a variety of tastefully decorated rooms to accommodate solo travellers as well as couples and groups. Each one is equipped with modern bathroom facilities and a refrigerator for chilling drinks.

Meals & Catering for Our Project

For participants of our mobility, we will provide all main meals, breakfast, lunch, and dinner throughout the stay (on project days). This ensures that all participants are properly nourished and can focus on the activities without worrying about meal logistics.

CHECK IT OUT



TRAVEL



In line with the Erasmus+ Programme, travel costs will be refunded according to the distances calculated using the European Commission distance calculator. The participants themselves should cover any extra costs overcoming the budget limits. **To ensure the best connection and management of participants, flight tickets should be bought by the participants/sending organization.**

Travel tickets should be economy class and before buying tickets inform VINCO (send an email to vinco.youth@gmail.com for approval) of your travel itinerary, when you will arrive and when you will depart from training. **1st class or other upper class flight tickets, taxi costs (in country of origin) and travel agencies fees are not eligible and will not be refunded.**

Airport: THESSALONIKI MAKEDONIA AIRPORT



You fly to and from Thessaloniki Makedonia Airport
(<https://www.skg-airport.gr/en>)

To reach the city center you have to take the bus No 01X just outside Arrivals. The ticket costs 2 EUR and you can either buy it from the kiosk near the bus stop or from the ticket machine inside the bus (please have with you a 2 EUR coin as the machine does not take notes or gives change). This bus (No 01X) goes straight to the city center with few stops during its route.

IMPORTANT: For those who arrive after 22:00 in the night, the bus number is 01N, again just outside Arrivals (the same bus, just with fewer stops)

PRACTICAL INFORMATION



Buses: Organisation of Public Transport of Thessaloniki – OASTH (<http://oasth.gr/>). Buses are coloured red, blue and white (with colour strips on their sides). Ticket costs 1 euro/route.



METRO: The Thessaloniki Metro operates daily with the following schedule:

The Thessaloniki Metro offers a Single Ride Ticket for €0.60, valid for 70 minutes per trip, a 10+1 Ticket Bundle for €5.80, and a Daily Ticket that allows unlimited metro use for 24 hours from the first validation.

- Sunday to Thursday: 5:30 AM – 12:30 AM
- Friday and Saturday: 5:30 AM – 2:30 AM



Police Number: Call the number 100 or 112 which is the European emergency number. But please be sure you will not call the Police. Thessaloniki is a very safe city, and you will always see people walking around any time of the day and night. However, protect yourself and do not put yourself into risk.



Medical Emergency: Number: 166 or 112 which is the European emergency number. In case of a health emergency call also one of our team members to help you. Keep your European Health Insurance Card always with you, along with your ID/Passport.

THE EUROPEAN HEALTH INSURANCE CARD The European Health Insurance Card is a free card that gives you access to state- provided healthcare during a temporary stay in any of the 27 EU countries, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland, under the same conditions and at the same cost (free in some countries) as people insured in that country.

The European Health Insurance Card is issued by your national health insurance provider. You can find more information here: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=563&langId=en#nationalinfo>

REIMBURSEMENT

Reimbursement will be made upon full attendance of the activity, submission of Participants' Report (this is MANDATORY) via the Beneficiary Module and upon providing original evidence of participants' travel:

1. Travel Itinerary
2. All original payment receipts of ticket purchasing and Visa where required
3. All original Bus/Train tickets to/from the airport (use of TAXI or private car for use in the country of origin will NOT be covered).
4. Boarding passes (in case of electronic boarding passes, you should keep a screen shot and email them to VINCO before flying)
5. Copy of ID/Passport
6. Submission of Participants' Report

Reimbursement will be based on the real cost and ONLY providing the necessary evidence aforementioned.

People who are coming late or leaving early at the Activity will not have their travel costs refunded.

Note that if you buy your tickets in a currency different to EURO, calculation of travel reimbursement will be calculated according to the exchange rates given on the official European Commission website for the month of the ticket purchase. All travel reimbursements will be done to the Sending Partner Organizations' Bank Accounts and not to each participant individually

THESSALONIKI

MANY STORIES, ONE HEART!

Thessaloniki is Greece's second-largest city, located in the northern part of the country along the Thermaic Gulf. With a rich history spanning over 2,300 years, it has been an important cultural, commercial, and strategic hub since ancient times. Known for its Byzantine and Ottoman heritage, the city boasts landmarks like the White Tower and the Rotunda. Today, Thessaloniki is a vibrant, youthful city with a thriving arts scene, lively nightlife, and delicious cuisine. It is also a key economic and educational center in northern Greece.

Thessaloniki is a vibrant city that seamlessly blends rich history with modern energy. Known for its dynamic cultural scene, diverse heritage, and lively food culture, it offers a unique mix of Byzantine churches, Ottoman mosques, and a thriving arts community. The city's youthful atmosphere, fueled by universities like Aristotle University, is complemented by bustling nightlife, scenic views of the Thermaic Gulf, and a culinary scene that delights with local specialties.

Thessaloniki's charm lies in its ability to fuse ancient traditions with contemporary creativity, making it a special destination for both residents and visitors and such a suitable home for our project.



READ MORE



CONTACT EMAILS

For all mobility-related questions, including travel arrangements, ticketing, and flight bookings, please contact:

General information :

vinco.youth@gmail.com

Travel Confirmation & Reimbursements:

vinco.youth@gmail.com



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