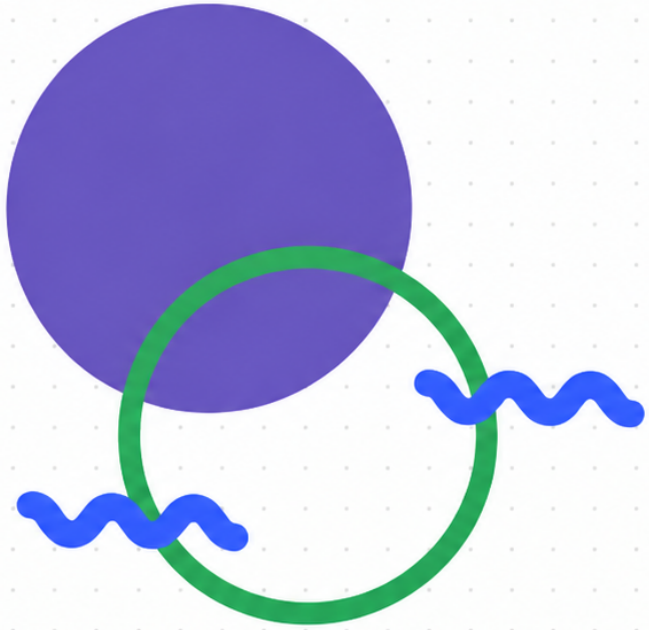
Erasmus+

bratislava policy institute

EverGreen

Youth Exchange
7.11. - 16.11.2026
Banská Štiavnica





Climate Change & Green Practices

www.bpi.sk

Funded by the European Union

‘EverGreen’

Empowering Youth for a Greener Future

07.11. - 16.11.2026, Banská Štiavnica, Slovakia

Themes of the Youth Exchange

The **EVERGREEN youth exchange** is designed to empower young people with the knowledge, practical skills, and motivation needed to promote **environmental sustainability**, adopt **eco-friendly habits**, and become active contributors to a **greener future**.

The project explores how everyday choices, consumption patterns, and human activities affect the environment and our communities. Participants will explore topics such as climate change, biodiversity, waste reduction, circular economy, sustainable lifestyles, and responsible consumption. Through non-formal education, interactive workshops, outdoor activities, and intercultural cooperation, young people will discover practical ways to reduce their environmental impact and encourage more sustainable behaviors.

Aligned with the priorities of the **Erasmus+ Program** and the **European Green Deal**, **EVERGREEN** encourages young people to become environmentally conscious citizens who understand the importance of protecting natural resources and preserving biodiversity.

Through teamwork, creative activities, and the exchange of experiences and ideas, participants will develop the competences needed to initiate local environmental actions, raise awareness in their communities, and inspire others to embrace sustainable lifestyles. By connecting young people from different cultural backgrounds, EVERGREEN aims to build a stronger sense of environmental responsibility, solidarity, and active citizenship while encouraging long-term commitment to a healthier and more sustainable planet.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the **EVERGREEN youth exchange**, participants will:

- Develop a deeper understanding of environmental sustainability, climate change, biodiversity, and the importance of protecting natural resources.
- Learn about practical ways to reduce their environmental impact through waste reduction, recycling, energy conservation, and responsible consumption.
- Explore the principles of circular economy and sustainable lifestyles, discovering how everyday choices can contribute to a greener future.
- Improve their critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving, communication, teamwork, and intercultural cooperation skills.
- Develop practical skills to plan and implement environmental initiatives and sustainability-focused activities in their local communities.
- Increase their confidence and motivation to become active environmental ambassadors who inspire others to adopt eco-friendly habits and take responsibility for protecting the environment.
- Build international partnerships and networks for future Erasmus+ cooperation, promoting environmental education, sustainable development, and youth-led green initiatives.

Learning Approach

The **EVERGREEN youth exchange** is based on the principles of non-formal education, experiential learning, active participation, and intercultural dialogue. The program will combine practical activities, creative workshops, teamwork, and outdoor experiences to help participants understand environmental challenges and discover ways to promote more sustainable lifestyles. The program will include:

- Interactive workshops on environmental sustainability, climate change, biodiversity, waste management, and responsible consumption.
- Team-building activities and intercultural learning sessions that encourage cooperation, mutual understanding, and the exchange of environmental practices among young people from different countries.
- Simulations, role-playing, debates, and exercises exploring real-life environmental challenges and possible solutions.
- Hands-on activities focused on recycling, upcycling, waste reduction, and the principles of the circular economy.
- Group work and collaborative challenges encouraging participants to explore sustainable lifestyles and identify practical ways to reduce their environmental footprint.
- Creative workshops where participants design environmental awareness campaigns, develop eco-friendly initiatives, and create materials to inspire positive change in their local communities.

- Outdoor and nature-based activities that promote environmental awareness, appreciation of biodiversity, and a stronger connection with the natural environment.

- Reflection sessions and Youthpass activities supporting participants in recognizing their learning outcomes and developing key competences, including personal and social skills, teamwork, and active citizenship.

The youth exchange will be facilitated by an experienced international team, creating an inclusive and supportive environment where participants can learn from one another, develop practical skills, and become ambassadors for sustainability and environmental responsibility in their communities.

Who can participate in the youth exchange:

- Young people aged **18+ to 30 years old (+ 1 one group leader aged 18+)**
- Interested **in climate change and green practices**
- Ready to participate **throughout the entire mobility**
- Able to communicate **in English**

Eligible countries: Slovakia, Czechia, Hungary, Spain, and Croatia

Applicant organization: Bratislava Policy Institute (BPI) is an independent not-for-profit think tank dedicated to fostering liberal democracy, human rights, Central European region, and European integration through analysis and debate, supporting and challenging relevant stakeholders at national and international levels to make informed decisions based on evidence and analysis.

The food and accommodation will be provided and paid by the organizers. Travel costs will be counted based on the distance calculator of the European Commission and reimbursed by bank transfer after the mobility (in EUR) through the sending organizations.

Maximum travel costs according to Erasmus+ distance calculator:

Slovakia - depending on travel (6+1 participants)

Czechia - 211 EUR (6+1 participants) - green travel 285 EUR

Hungary - 211 EUR (6+1 participants) - green travel 285 EUR

Croatia - 309 EUR (6+1 participants) - green travel 417 EUR

Spain - 309 EUR (6+1 participants) - green travel 417 EUR

What to bring with you?

- **Valid passport or ID card**
- **Travel insurance - mandatory!**
- **All travel tickets and boarding passes** (for reimbursement - it is very important to keep all your original tickets, receipts, and boarding passes, because we can give you back the travel costs only if you have them)
- **National snacks, drinks, music, and small specialties for our Intercultural Networking Evening**

- **Personal medication** if needed
- **Laptop or camera** (optional, but useful)
- **Bottle for water, comfortable and warm clothes and shoes**

Weather

November in Banská Štiavnica can be cold. Temperatures typically range from -2°C to 9°C. Mornings are usually colder. Swimsuit for hot springs is recommended.

Check the weather forecast before traveling: https://www.meteo.sk/

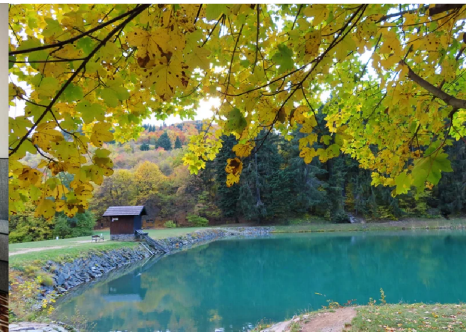
Accommodation

The accommodation will be provided in **Hostel Cosmopolitan**, in Banská Štiavnica. The daily activities will take place at the same place. Food will be arranged by the organizers. There will be three meals every day: breakfast, lunch and dinner; and coffee breaks.

Banská Štiavnica is a true gem of Slovakia, located in the heart of the Štiavnica Hills. This UNESCO World Heritage town is steeped in history, charm, and natural beauty. Once a thriving mining center, it now enchants visitors with its picturesque streets, beautifully preserved medieval and Baroque architecture, and a unique fusion of culture and nature.

You can find the hostel website here: https://www.penzioncosmopolitan.sk/hostel-cosmopolitan/






COSMOPOLITAN
PENZION

How do you reach Banská Štiavnica from the capital city Bratislava?

By train:

From The Main Train Station in Bratislava, you can take a train to Banská Štiavnica (via Nová Baňa and Hronská Dúbrava). You can buy the tickets for the train through this website: https://www.zssk.sk/en/online-sales/ or at the train station (however, it is more expensive). If you choose this option, get off the train in Banská Štiavnica and walk approximately 20 mins to the hostel.

By bus:

From the Main Bus Station in Bratislava, you can take a bus to Zvolen Bus Station/ Žarnovica Motel Sitno/ Žiar nad Hronom Bus Station (please choose 1 from these 3 options). From there, you can take a direct bus to Banská Štiavnica križovatka. Get off the bus in Banská Štiavnica križovatka and walk approximately 10 mins to the hostel.

If you do not travel through Bratislava, you can check the routes here (*please contact us for more information): https://m.cp.sk/en/vlakbusmhd/spojenie/

How do you reach The Main Train Station in Bratislava?

BRATISLAVA AIRPORT (BTS)

There are direct flights from several destinations in Europe and many airlines that operate their direct routes to Bratislava – RYANAIR, Pobeda, Flydubai, Smart Wings, Air Cairo, Wizz Air. To get to Banská Štiavnica from Bratislava Airport you can take a bus no. 61 to Hlavná stanica (The Main Train Station) or a bus no. 61 – get off at Bajkalská and change to a bus no. 60 – to Autobusová stanica (The Main Bus Station). Bus tickets are available in ticket machines at bus stops, in kiosks or in the mobile app: https://apps.apple.com/sk/app/ids-bk-cestujeme-jednoduch%C5%A1ie/id1360894243?l=sk. The tickets which cost around 1,20 EUR must be validated in the bus (online tickets are validated directly in the app).

VIENNA-SCHWECHAT (VIE) AIRPORT

The airport at Vienna-Schwechat is only 40 kilometers west of Bratislava and Slovaks mainly use it for long-haul flights. It is one of the main gateways to Slovakia. Buses to Bratislava depart at 30 to 60-minute intervals. Tickets can be bought in the bus or on the designated websites of specific bus companies; check the following companies eurolines.sk, regiojet.com, flixbus.com to Bratislava, Hlavná stanica (The Main Train Station) or Bratislava, Autobusová stanica (The Main Bus Station).

BY BOAT

Due to its position on the river Danube, Bratislava has regular connections by boat with Vienna. The center of Vienna (Schwedenplatz) is connected to Bratislava by a fast catamaran Twin City Liner and another fast hydrofoil, which is berthed at Vienna Handelskai.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at **wagingerova@bpi.sk**

Preliminary Program EverGreen	**Day 1 Arrival Day: Saturday (7.11.)**	**Day 2 Introductory Day: Sunday (8.11.)**	**Day 3 Climate Change Day: Monday (9.11.)**	**Day 4 Slow Fashion Day: Tuesday (10.11.)**	**Day 5 Biodiversity Day: Wednesday (11.11.)**	**Day 6 Sustainable Business Day: Thursday (12.11.)**	**Day 7 Policy Day: Friday (13.11.)**	**Day 8 Green Lab Day Saturday (14.11.)**	**Day 9 Reflect Day: Sunday (15.11.)**	**Day 10 Departure Day: Monday (16.11.)**
9:00 - 10:00	*Arrival of Participants - Registration (from 15:00)*	*Breakfast - Hostel Cosmopolitan*	*Breakfast - Hostel Cosmopolitan*	*Breakfast - Hostel Cosmopolitan*	*Breakfast - Hostel Cosmopolitan*	*Breakfast + Lunch to Go - Hostel Cosmopolitan*	*Breakfast - Hostel Cosmopolitan*	*Breakfast - Hostel Cosmopolitan*	*Breakfast - Hostel Cosmopolitan*	*Breakfast - Hostel Cosmopolitan*
10:00 - 11:30		Growing Connections	Youthpass: My Learning Journey	The Hidden Cost of Our Clothes (Interactive Presentation)	Biodiversity Quest: Learn, Quiz & Act	**Trip Day to Reneso in Žiar nad Hronom: Innovative Solutions for Cigarette Waste Recycling**	The Economy of Tomorrow: Your World, Your Rules (Workshop)	Sustainability Bingo (Competition)	Green Ideas: Final Reveal	*Departure of Participants (until 10:00)*
11:30 - 12:00		*Coffee Break*	*Coffee Break*	*Coffee Break*	*Coffee Break*		*Coffee Break*	*Coffee Break*	*Coffee Break*	
12:00 - 13:00		Seeds of Change: Expectations & Goals	Game Time: Think, Draw & Guess	**Visit to Svetro - Slow Fashion Company**	Biodiversity Detectives: Discovering Fall Nature (Outdoor Activity)		Rethinking Our Economy: Agree/ Disagree Debate	Eco-Doodle: Picture the Planet (Game)	Green Ideas: Final Reveal	
13:00 - 15:00		*Lunch - 6/4 Restaurant*	*Lunch - 6/4 Restaurant*	*Lunch - 6/4 Restaurant*	*Lunch - 6/4 Restaurant*		*Lunch - 6/4 Restaurant*	*Lunch - 6/4 Restaurant*	*Lunch - 6/4 Restaurant*	
15:00 - 16:00		Welcome to Banská Štiavnica: Practical Information & City Orientation	Climate Change Unpacked (Interactive Presentation)	Re-Make It: Upcycling Workshop	*Free Afternoon*		Climate on Screen: Understanding Climate Change through Film	Green Ideas Lab: From Inspiration to Action	Evaluation & Reflection of the Erasmus+ Experience: Dialogue Space	

16:00 - 16:30			*Coffee Break*	*Coffee Break*			*Coffee Break*	*Coffee Break*	*Coffee Break*	
16:30 - 17:30			Different Countries, Shared Challenges: Climate Café	Re-Make It: Upcycling Workshop			Concluding Remarks: Climate Speed Dating	Green Ideas Lab: From Inspiration to Action	EverGreen Awards & Secret Friend Reveal	
17:30 - 18:00		Reflection of the Day	Reflection of the Day (Outdoor Activity)	Reflection of the Day			Reflection of the Day (Outdoor Activity)	Reflection of the Day (Outdoor Activity)		
18:00 - 19:00	*Welcome Dinner* - *6/4 Restaurant*	*Dinner* - *6/4 Restaurant*	*Dinner* - *6/4 Restaurant*	*Dinner* - *6/4 Restaurant*	*Dinner* - *6/4 Restaurant*	*Dinner (Pizza)*	*Dinner* - *6/4 Restaurant*	*Dinner* - *6/4 Restaurant*	*Farewell Dinner* - *6/4 Restaurant*	
19:00 - 21:00	Informal Welcome Evening	Intercultural Networking Evening - Part 1	Intercultural Networking Evening - Part 2	Chill Evening/ Calvary Walk (Optional)	Intercultural Networking Evening - Part 3	Karaoke Night (Optional)	Town Lights Social Evening (Optional)	Party Evening (Optional)	Goodbye Evening	