



ACADEMY
FOR ACTIVE YOUTH



ACADEMY FOR ACTIVE YOUTH ASSOCIATION

Full legal name: Academy for Active Youth Association

Acronym: AAYA

VAT National ID (if applicable):

Address (Street and number): Kraishte 19 Street

Country: Bulgaria

Region: Sofia city

Post Code: 1000

City: Sofia (SF)

Email: academyforactiveyouth@yahoo.com

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B. PROFILE


Type of Organisation Non-Governmental organization


- Is the partner organization a public body? NO
- Is the partner organization a non-profit? YES


C. ACCREDITATION


- Has the organization received any accreditation before submitting this application? - NO
- Has the organization received/applied for any EU grants? - YES

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D. BACKGROUND & EXPERIENCE

The fundamental idea of Academy for Active Youth is based on the principle 'By Young People For Young People'. What we promote can be summed up in one sentence, which is: The responsibility for the future is in the hands of us- the youth, and we do is to train the youth to become the ambassadors of a more sustainable society. We support the integration of vulnerable youth groups from our society- unemployed youth, youth with health problems, youth with fewer opportunities, students and pupils, youth with fewer opportunities, youth from minorities, unemployed youth, and youth with fewer educational opportunities. The interesting thing for us is that we are all youth ourselves; some of us are just 18 (the oldest one of us is 26). Our association is mainly run by volunteers who are in many various spheres of development.

The organization works on developing youth politics and actively involving youth activities in daily social life. Academy for active youth aims to mediate between the youth and the power of representation. Our long-term goal is to create an active young society of youngsters that know what it takes to make a change for youth voices to be heard and for more opportunities for the most vulnerable youth because only the young are the ones that are allowed to be idealistic by striving for a better world, and most importantly, that know that it is never too early to start. You are never too young to make a change happen.

The causes that we keep close to our hearts are more youth in agriculture, more developed rural areas, thanks to the youth, youth in entrepreneurship, youth in politics, and youth in education. We consider that it is the youth who brings the new; therefore, we feel the need to give our best to prepare the foundations of active youth society in Bulgaria and Europe.



The organization was founded on **17.12.2019**. Some of us have always worked in the youth sector for different NGO's, others in the arts and culture, third in the development of youth politics, fourth of us are dealing professionally with digital media and technology, others with entrepreneurship, agricultural and rural development. We are all united by the idea of the fact that peers have the biggest power to influence other peers. That is why we work on setting an example of active and proactive youth, that doesn't blame the world for their problems, but seeks ways to improve it. Informal education and its promotion is a huge part of what we believe in. We know that informal education can develop the personal qualities of the youngsters for them one day to be young leaders and developers. Our main interests are working on involving young people in politics, social entrepreneurship, agriculture, self-development, and intercultural experiences and with these qualifications and inspirations to set an example from young people to other young people.



We are focused on providing international experiences (such as YE, training courses, EVS) for youngsters with fewer opportunities that are going to develop their competences and new skills, as well as boosting their confidence and self-discovery. We develop various trainings, seminars, and workshops in order to develop a dialogue with youngsters from all kinds of backgrounds and who are not only our target group but are the main protagonists in the process.

We, as European youth ambassadors, must contribute to the efforts to avoid having a generation lost in confusion and misunderstanding. And we see Erasmus+ as a vast opportunity of helping young age to develop and improve. Our regular youth activities are informing as many peers as possible about the opportunities that the program gives and developing strategies on how to reach our peers and how to create an impact with the things that we are doing. We are currently working on successfully implementing a few KA2 projects in which we partner on ecology, challenged youngsters, rural youth getting closer to Europe, and support for Ukrainians. We are working on two projects in which we are actively informing the youngsters about the opportunities that agriculture and rural development contain. We are also working on empowering the Roma youth and helping our participants be more employable through youth participation. We are very devoted to the cause of creating unity between the different nations in the town of Sliven through youth participation, which is something that we work on as well.



OUR MISSION IS TO:

Organizing and facilitating all types of events, camps, symposiums, Erasmus+ youth exchanges, and training courses and all types of informal educational training.

Expanding the intercultural experience of the youngsters.

Providing youngsters with economical difficulties and unemployed youth opportunities to get to know other cultures.

Youth involvement in agriculture.

Decreasing youth unemployment by stimulating youth involvement in agriculture.

Promotion of the importance of being intercultural and languages.

Stimulating social entrepreneurship.

They are spreading informal educational practices to help young people, their activism, ideas, willingness for change, and development by participating in Erasmus+ events.

Promotion of diversity and inclusion. As well as leaving No One Behind



Promoting the integration of youth, and more specifically, youth with fewer opportunities, coming from minorities, having economic and all kinds of obstacles for their potential to be realized.

We are participating in the development of youth policies. We support the youngsters to create suggestions to the government and the local municipality in Sliven

Active involving the youth and their activities in their daily social life.

Initiator and mediator in a dialogue between the youth and the representatives of power.

We are promoting diplomatic and active relations between the youngsters from Bulgaria and those from the EU and the world.

To present and protect the interest of young people.

To promote integration and social development through youth mobilities and culture

MISSION
COMPLETE



Since our founding in 2019, we are proud to have realized numerous successful initiatives. We have created the first youth space in the town of Sliven, we have organized hackathons, we have presented new youth initiatives to the local municipality, we have organized numerous European Parliament Stimulations on different topics, we have planted trees, we have restored an abandoned area and turned it into a place where young people currently gathered, we are organizing regular trash collecting activities, we have painted the graffiti of Unity in a central place in Sliven, we have involved a growing number of youngsters with fewer opportunities in our activities, we are building a community of active youngsters that are intensely interested in social change and the betterment of their neighborhood, town, Bulgaria and the EU. And so much more, and this is just the beginning of our aim to turn Sliven into a better place.



THE TEAM

Lachezar Atanasov just turned 21; he studies classical arts and music at the national conservatory of Bulgaria. He is passionate about promoting classical music and arts among youngsters to fight inequality and injustice.

Simona Stoycheva is in her last year of law studies. She helps develop an active youth society with the practicalities of the matter and with project management.

Martin Grigorov is one of the newest members of the organization. He works towards the successful implementation of initiatives in Sliven, Bulgaria. For a very long time, he has been working as a Project Manager for the South Stream and North Stream Pipeline Projects, but this did not bring him inner satisfaction, and he left the big corporative world.

Anita Ilieva is the girl with entrepreneurial knowledge and education in our team. She inspires all of our events on that topic.

Petya Dobрева is our social media manager, video editor, photographer. She does all of our logos, designs, and social media posts. Petya is responsible for the visual identity of the organization and all of our projects.

Ivana Ivanova is one of the facilitators of our projects. She supports event management and successful facilitation and ensures the best possible experience for our participants during the different project events.

Hristo Georgiev is only 19 but already writes for a few blogs. He has been part of many youth exchanges, international conferences, and debates. He is a huge inspiration for many of our ideas.

Stella Nikolaeva studies psychology and develops informal practices for fighting depression and developing meaning in life. She helps with the methods behind the activities and stimulation of the youth towards an active life in every sense of the world.

OUR PROJECTS AND EXPERTISE



Erasmus+ KA152 YE such as: "The Grass Is Greener, where you water it", "Agriculture is Our Culture", "Choose Europe"

Erasmus+ KA154 Youth Participation projects such as: "Look at my skills, not at my skin," "Unity of diversity is a cultural heritage," "Leave No One Behind," "Romani Women Can Do It," "Look at my skills, not at my skin" 2.0

Small-scale partnerships in projects like: "STEP- First step to Europe", "Youth Against Antisemitism," and "Welcome to Europe Ukrainians"

KA Cooperation projects such as: "Challenged", "Forest Youth," and "Socially Agile"





LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE

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*“Let us remember:
One youth exchange, one informal
activity, one youth, and one facilitator
can change the world.”*

