



## Youth exchange for Roma inclusion

### Introduction

Youth Exchange for Roma inclusion is an international youth mobility project supported by the Erasmus+ programme, organized by the Youth Association from Transylvania (ATA). It is a follow-up to the previous “Seminar for Roma Inclusion” which was implemented at the beginning of April.

The exchange focuses on strengthening Roma youth identity and fostering meaningful interaction between participants and local Roma communities—especially high school students. Through creative workshops, intercultural dialogue, and storytelling, young people will gain hands-on experience in social engagement.

The project will take place between June 16–23, 2025, in Cristuru Secuiesc, Romania, bringing together young people from across Europe to explore Roma identity, build connections, and develop practical tools for inclusion and empowerment.

### Practical Information

- Dates: June 16–23, 2025 (without travel days)
- Location: Cristuru Secuiesc, Romania
- Venue: Participants will be hosted in **Petőfi Motel** and **Fogadó Vendégház**, which are next to one another and have 12 apartments, 4 beds in each room and separate bathrooms. 1-2 persons will be staying in each room. The activities will be held in our office and in the city. Both the accommodations and our office are in the city center, 7 minutes away from one another on foot, with the restaurant between them.
- Participants: 6 young people aged 17–25, especially those interested in minority rights, inclusion, storytelling, and intercultural learning + 1 group leader aged 18+
- Working Language: English (with space for Roma and local languages where relevant)
- Costs: Travel, accommodation, and meals are fully covered by the Erasmus+ programme
- Special Focus: Strengthening Roma youth identity through real-life collaboration and storytelling

### Objectives of the Youth Exchange

#### Roma Identity and Empowerment

- Creating a safe space for Roma participants to explore, express, and take pride in their cultural identity
- Supporting non-Roma participants in learning about Roma history, culture, and social realities
- Highlighting positive role models and success stories from Roma communities

#### Practical Inclusion Work

- Collaborating with local Roma high school students through workshops and shared activities
- Promoting empathy, solidarity, and mutual learning between participants and local youth

#### Storytelling for Change

- Equipping participants with tools to share meaningful Roma stories through digital media and creative formats
- Promoting counter-narratives that challenge stereotypes and amplify Roma voices





## Personal Growth and Intercultural Learning

- Encouraging reflection on identity, community, and each individual's role in creating inclusive societies
- Developing teamwork, leadership, and creative expression in a diverse, supportive environment

## Activities and Methodology

The exchange will follow non-formal education principles: experiential learning, participatory methods, and community-based engagement. Daily reflection sessions will help participants process experiences and track their learning.

Day-by-Day Overview:

### Day 1 – June 16: Arrival & Team Building

- Ice-breakers and name games
- Group agreement: Hopes, fears, contributions
- City treasure hunt in Cristuru Secuiesc
- Evening activities & group reflections

### Day 2 – June 17: Context & Culture

- Introduction to the Roma Inclusion programme
- Roma language workshop with a Roma trainer
- Group reflection session

### Day 3 – June 18: School Workshop I – “Bridge to GAP”

- Interactive workshop with Roma high school students
- Dialogue on inclusion and shared experiences
- Reflection and emotional processing

### Day 4 – June 19: School Workshop II – “Bridge to GAP”

- Continued collaboration with local students
- Focus on communication, empathy, and group dynamics
- Reflection on insights and growth

### Day 5 – June 20: Roma Heroes & Storytelling Tools

- Roma role model presentations
- Storytelling methods: Instagram videos, digital storytelling, forum theatre
- Cultural visit to Sighișoara – historical and intercultural experience

### Day 6 – June 21: Creative Production

- Developing stories about Roma heroes using chosen creative formats
- Teamwork, filming, editing, and preparation
- Group and individual reflection

### Day 7 – June 22: Community Presentation

- Finalizing project outcomes
- *CseCso Szuno – True Dream*: Outdoor screening for the local community
- Open dialogue to challenge prejudice and build understanding

### Day 8 – June 23: Closure & YouthPass

- Final evaluation and learning reflection
- YouthPass certificate ceremony
- Departure

## Expected Outcomes

### Knowledge and Awareness





- Deeper understanding of Roma identity, culture, and daily life

- Greater awareness of the value of inclusion and active citizenship

### **Skills Development**

- Creative storytelling and media production
- Real experience working with marginalized youth
- Improved communication, cooperation, and reflection skills

### **Tangible Results**

- Digital or artistic outputs showcasing Roma heroes
- Stronger local and international networks for future collaboration
- YouthPass certificates recognizing participants' learning

### **Empowerment and Attitude Shift**

- Increased confidence among Roma participants in sharing their stories
- More inclusive attitudes and reduced stereotypes among all participants
- Motivation to initiate similar inclusion-focused actions at home

### **Conclusion**

Youth Exchange for Roma Inclusion is more than a project—it is a living experience of inclusion, empowerment, and community collaboration. By working directly with Roma youth and creatively telling real stories, participants will not only grow personally but contribute to a broader movement toward social change. The experience will leave lasting impressions both in Cristuru Secuiesc and in the hearts and minds of those involved.

