

BBA, TIRANA
and B-Link, MATERA
present:

ESC VOLUNTEERING TEAM UP IN ALBANIA

Infopack

JANUARY 2027

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BEYOND BARRIERS
We believe in what we do

BASILICATA LINK APS (B-Link)

Associazione Basilicata Link APS is a cultural organization created in 2012 by experienced youth leaders, professionals and young people in Matera, South Italy.
We have the objective to support young people in their personal development through mobility projects and volunteering on the local territory , especially young people who are living in rural areas.

Since 2016 B-Link is active sending, hosting and coordinating organization for EU-youth, focusing on social inclusion projects. In 2019 we hosted the largest volunteering project of Italy connected to our hosting city being "Matera, European Capital of Culture".

The connection between Matera and Tirana, and so the idea of this project, was born with both cities becomgin: Mediterranean Capitals of Culture and Dialogue.
Tirana has won this title for 2025 and Matera for 2026.

The young people who will join the project will have the chance to live an amazing opportunity in both cities.

info e application: basilicata.link@gmail.com

BEYOND BARRIERS ASSOCIATION (BBA)

Beyond Barriers Association was created in June 2004 in Tirana, Albania with the initiative of a group of youngsters with and without disability. BBA is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that defends the rights and the interests of the young people. The mission of BBA is to empower young people in Albania by promoting active participation, inclusion, equal chances and better quality of life. Our moto is: "We believe in what we do!"

BBA staff is organizing a variety of activities in local, national, regional and European level. The focus of the association's work remains on young people with fewer opportunities, with the aim to offer them a chance for empowerment and to be active citizens of the community where they live.

Target groups: youngster with social disadvantages, youngsters with disabilities, youngsters from Roma communities, LGBT+ community and other young people in Albania. Special focus is on special target group which are young people with disabilities (all type of disabilities).

Applications: rafaela.mborja@beyonbarriers.org

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BBA History with ESC







Volunteering and solidarity with youngsters in need is one of the main pillars of BBA work since its creation and volunteers themselves either local or international have been a great asset for development of the organization. BBA was involved in the previous EVS program, since 2006 and since then we have hosted in Albania around 200 volunteers from European countries in short and long-term projects.

Also, we have sent more than 150 young people from Albania in diverse projects in European organizations being one of the first pioneer of European volunteering in Albania.

Throughout participation in the ESC program, BBA offered to hundreds of youngsters an opportunity for development in personal, social and professional level.







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At the office of Beyond Barriers you will usually find around Ana Mullanji (Executive Director), Rafaela Mborja (Programme Manager and Supervisor of ESC), Ina Topi (Financial Manager), Joana Rista (Project Coordinator), Alesia Dodaj (part-time Project Coordinator), and Roel Rrapi (Coordinator of Volunteers). For everything formal regarding your ESC project you need to direct to Roel or Rafaela.

For technical issues upon arrival or anything connected with accommodation, Roel will be available to help you. Reimbursement of cost and allowances (food money and pocket money) will be given by Ina upon receiving your signature on proper documents. For info regarding your daily tasks and activities, Roel will be there for you :)

BBA has also many local volunteers, and some of the most active ones you will meet during these months, such as: Olta (F), Natalia (F), Livia (F), Andi(M), Luka (M), Matias (M), Enisi (M), etc. They will also be your mentors around Tirana during the day or for night gatherings, whenever you will need their assistance.

You will get to know Beyond Barriers staff and local volunteers during the first week and the welcoming events :)

People you will work with at BBA







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About this TEAM UP mobility...

PROJECT DATES:

→ 7 January - Arrival Day

→ 8-30 January - Activity Days

→ 31 January - Departure Day

PROJECT LOCATION:

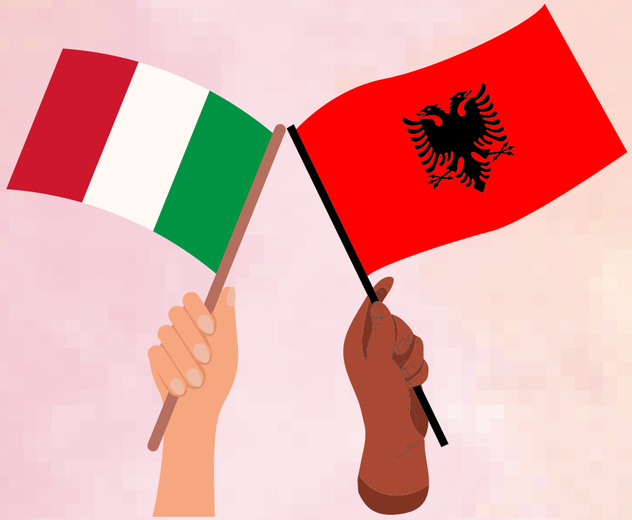
→ Tirana, Albania

DURATION OF VOLUNTEERING:

→ 23 activity days + 2 travel days

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS:

→ 5 Italians + 5 Albanians





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Volunteering Programme Overview



This volunteering programme will bring together 5 Italian and 5 Albanian volunteers to explore cultural heritage, promote intercultural understanding and engage with the local community through creative and inclusive activities.

Over the course of the project, volunteers will work in multicultural teams, exchange traditions and experiences, and discover how art, storytelling and non-formal education can bring people from different backgrounds together.

The programme combines cultural exploration with hands-on workshops, community engagement and opportunities for personal development.

Volunteers will also have the chance to contribute their own ideas, develop new skills and create meaningful connections with local young people and children.

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Highlights of the Programme

- **Intercultural Exchange & Team Building:**

Interactive activities, cultural discussions and collaborative challenges to strengthen teamwork and intercultural communication.

- **Arts & Cultural Heritage:**

Hands-on ceramics workshops inspired by Albanian and Italian traditions, cultural symbols and artistic expression.

- **Inclusive Community Workshops:**

Creative activities with children with hearing impairments, including crafts, visual storytelling and cultural exploration.







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Highlights of the Programme







- **Cultural Evenings & Local Discoveries:**

Albanian and Italian cultural evenings, film screenings, historical visits and opportunities to explore Tirana.

- **Digital Storytelling & Creativity:**

Creating videos, photographs and social media content to document experiences and share cultural discoveries.

- **Community Exhibition:**

Preparing and presenting a final exhibition showcasing the artwork and creative outcomes developed during the project.

- **Learning & Personal Development:**

Opportunities to strengthen communication, creativity, teamwork and intercultural competences through practical experiences and Youthpass reflection.

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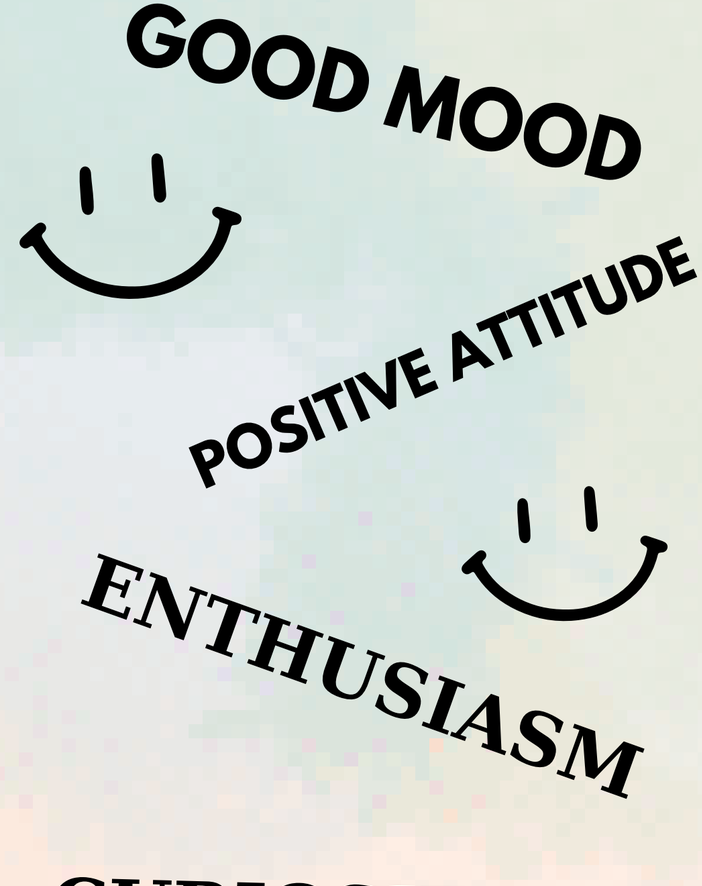
Things You Need

- Bring your own laptop if you can
- Take all medicine and personal care you need with you
- Personal items (comfortable clothes, reusable water bottle, hair dryer, slippers)

Kitchen equipment as well as bedsheets & towels will be provided at the apartment. In case of any special needs, please contact the team right after selection.



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WHERE WILL YOU LIVE?

ACCOMMODATION

1 LOCATION

You will live and do activities in Tirana, the heart and capital of Albania, which like all other European metropolises has never-ending movement and energy.

2 ROOMS

Rooms for 2 or 3 people (same sex rooms can be arranged);
Unlimited wifi

3 TIRANA

Tirana is the capital of Albania and also the main economic, social and cultural center of the country. With its clubs, bars, cafes, and taverns, the city is worth discovering by day and night. The hospitality of Albanians is something that will mark your journey not only in Tirana but also all over the country :)

4 CITY CENTER

Our apartment is situated near BBA office, in the area called Don Bosko in Tirana, located approximately 20 min by foot from the main square "Sheshi Skenderbe".

5 APARTMENT

You will be living in one apartment equipped with all the necessary living conditions. It has 2 bedrooms and 2 toilets + a very nice balcony.

6 AREA

The area is very lively, so you will be able to find many markets, shops, bars, banks, exchange offices in the neighborhood.

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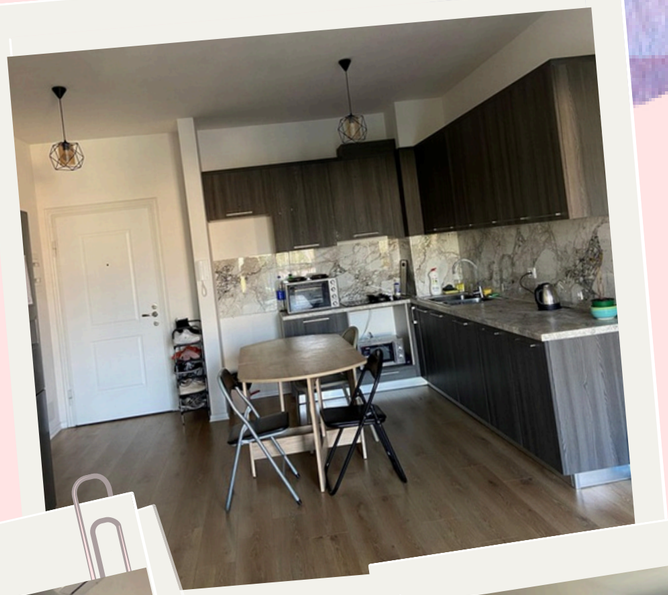









Travel Arrangements for Italians: B-Link will take care of the transportation (flight or ferry)
Budget depends from departure city: 211 - 309 € A/R









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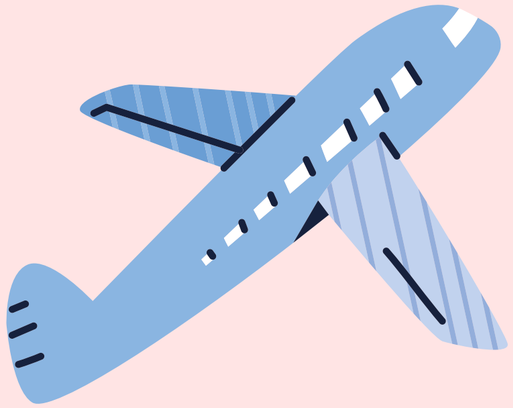
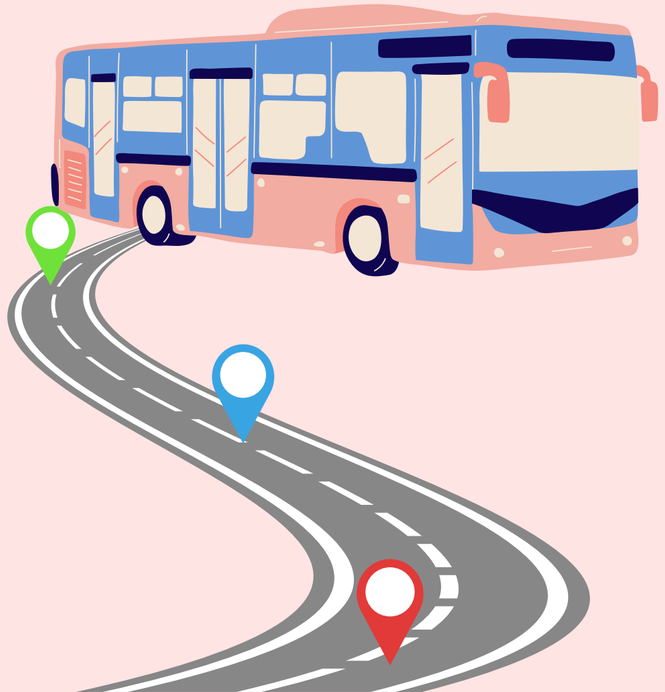


TRANSFER FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE APARTMENT

Transportation services from the airport to the apartment are available. We can provide you with the contact information of an electric taxi company. You have the option to book your taxi either via WhatsApp or by directly calling them, and subsequently waiting at the airport for their arrival to pick you up (around 20 minutes). Furthermore, we will share with you the precise location of the apartment, enabling you to provide this information to the taxi driver. Upon your arrival at the apartment, representatives from our organization will be present to assist you.
For any emergency case, send an SMS to Roel on this number +355 68 466 1631 :)

LOCAL TRANSPORT

The staff will provide you with an allowance to cover your local transport needed for the purpose of the activities. The public service in the city of Tirana is reliable and widespread. Tirana is a very busy city, and has more than 20 bus lines. All bus stations are located around Tirana Center, easy to spot and reach. You can find public bus from 6 AM-11 PM. It takes from 3-10 minutes to wait in bus stops for the next bus. The information about public transport is also accessible in Google Maps.



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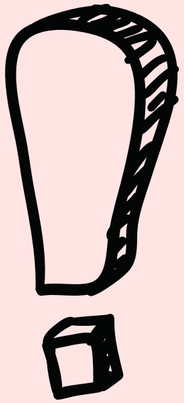
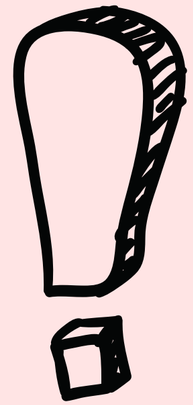


Allowances



All volunteers receive pocket money - 6 EUR/day.
Italians: you receive it from B-Link on your bank account on first day of the mobility;
Albanians: you receive it from BBA by bank at the end of the mobility.

Upon your arrival to Tirana, you will also receive a budget of 8 EUR/day to cover your food and local transport expenses. You will receive this by bank from B-Link as well.
The way you spend it it's up to you, we do not need bills for this expenses.

All ESC Volunteers are eligible to receive a Youthpass certificate at the end of the mobility :)

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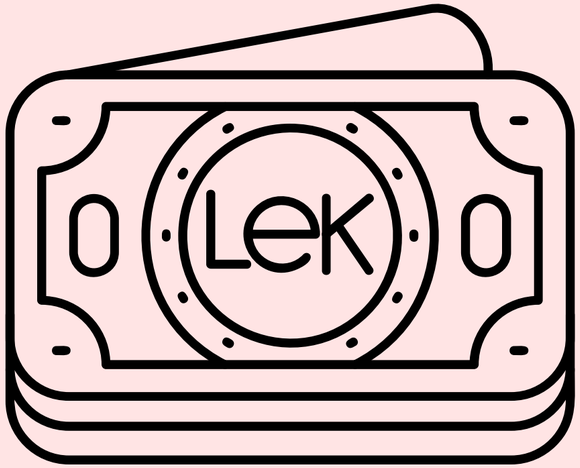

Currency

1 Euro = 89.95 Lek

Albanian currency is called LEKË (ALL) but you can also pay in Euros at some places. Anyway, we recommend that you use Lekë. You can use cash everywhere and card in most places.

You can bring Euros with you and exchange them in Tirana Airport or in the city when when you are here. Keep in mind that you can pay your taxi ride in Euros or ALL but only cash!

1 Euro = 89.95Lekë (it varies from day to day).

You can check the exchange rate here :
https://www.bankofalbania.org/Tregjet/Kursi_zyrtar_i_kembimit/





AROUND TIRANA



Skanderbeg Square



Tirana National History Museum



Et’hem Bej Mosque



Pyramid of Tirana



Bunk’Art Musem



Dajti Ekspres

Let's Get To Know: Food









You will find different possibilities of food, but also you will notice the Italian, Greek and Turkish cuisine influence, which you will actually find almost everywhere in Tirana.

If you decide to cook at home during your mobility, you will be shown all markets where you can buy fresh vegetables, meat, and everything you need.

Of course, you are welcome to try out some Albanian traditional food :)

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Albanian Language

During your mobility project in Tirana you will have the chance to learn the basics of the Albanian language. It is a very unique language, since it forms a separate branch of the Indo-European Family and cannot be closely connected with any other Indo-European language.

We have prepared this mini-dictionary for you, just to get you started ;)



Hello! - **Çkemi!**

How are you? - **Si je?**

I don't speak Albanian - **Nuk flas shqip**

Yes! - **Po!**

Please! - **Të lutem!**

No! - **Jo!**

Thank you! - **Faleminderit!**

I'm sorry! - **Më fal!**

Good morning! - **Mirëmëngjes!**

Good afternoon! - **Mirëdita!**

Good evening! - **Mirëmbrëma!**

Good night! - **Natën e mirë!**

Goodbye! - **Mirupafshim!**

*I love you! - **Të dua!**

Application

For Italians:
Applica attraverso il sito ed invia una mail motivando la tua applicazione a:
basilicata.link@gmail.com

First, inscribe on the EU youth Portal, because to become an ESC volunteer everyone needs to be registered.

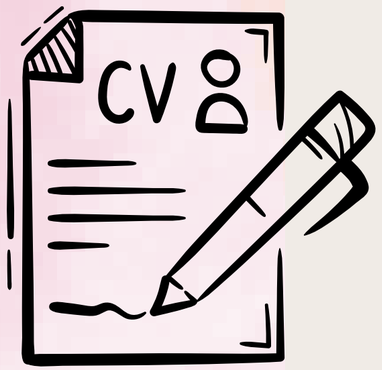
The only requirements for application are a CV and a motivation letter in English. Please send them via email.

After this step, you will get notified for arranging an online selection interview.

Good luck! :)

For Albanians:
Apply by sending an email with your CV and Motivation Letter to our coordinator at:

rafaela.mborja@beyondbarriers.org









Your ESC project is not a touristic trip !
You have responsibilities and a great opportunity to learn & grow. We are always happy to work with motivated participants.

Kind reminder

More about Beyond Barriers:

beyondbarriers.org

Beyond Barriers- Pertej Barrierave

beyondbarriersngo

rafaela.mborja@beyondbarriers.org
+355 692707743

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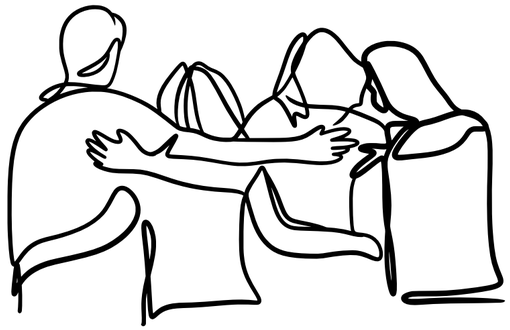
Looking forward to welcoming you in our team!



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