lokalPatriot

Hosted by:
LokalPatriot Mladinski klub DNŠ
Dilančeva ulica 1, 8000 Novo mesto
Contact: lokalpatriot@lokalpatriot.si

YOUTH EXCHANGE

# LYRICS

## Learning (Youth Reflection) through Interpretation of Cultural Symbols



**Novo mesto, Slovenia**
**13 - 18 September 2026**

**Arrival day: 12th of September**
**Departure day: 19th of September**

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# About the Exchange

## INTRODUCTION

Popular culture, especially popular music and music videos, plays a significant role in shaping values, norms, identities and everyday perceptions. While we are constantly exposed to these cultural products, there is often little space for critical reflection, discussion and conscious interpretation of the messages they convey.

In our experience, lyrics and visual narratives are frequently received uncritically, particularly when they are presented as entertainment or when they are in a foreign language. Meanings related to power, gender, relationships, violence, stereotypes or consumerism often remain unnoticed or unquestioned. This project aims to address this gap by creating a safe and creative learning space where we will analyse and critically reflect on popular culture, and actively engage with its social and ethical dimensions.





# About the Exchange

## WORKING PROCESS

**Preparation phase**
Participants will meet their national groups, explore the topic and prepare examples of songs or music videos from their countries. We will also plan an online preparatory meeting.

**Youth exchange**
Participants will take part in workshops, discussions, creative tasks and public presentation activities.

Dissemination and follow-up
Participants and partner organisations will share the results, reflections and creative outputs in their local communities and online.



# About the Exchange

## WHO IS IT FOR?

Young people who are

- are curious about music, lyrics, music videos and popular culture,
- want to look at songs from a different, more critical perspective,
- enjoy discussions about society, identity, relationships, stereotypes and values,
- are open to meeting young people from other countries and sharing opinions,
- want to express themselves through creative work, video, writing or performance,
- are ready to take part in group work, role-play, reflection and public presentation,
- do not need to be musicians or experts — just motivated, open-minded and willing to participate.



# Participant Profile

## WHO CAN APPLY?

**AGE:** preferably 18 to 25 years old

**NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS per COUNTRY:** 4 young people + 1 youth leader (18+)

It is important that the participants are prepared for active cooperation, ready to explore different things and are open to new experience.

They should be interested in meeting new people, cultures and open to learn about others and their background.

Youth leaders will be provided by the partner organisation and will be responsible for all arrangements.



# Program Outline

| Day | Time | Activities |
|---|---|---|
| **Day 1** | Morning | Welcome and group building: getting to know each other, expectations, fears, contributions, group agreement. Introduction to the programme, Erasmus+ and Youthpass. |
| | Afternoon | Introduction to the topic: music and popular culture as part of identity. Sharing personal experiences and examples from different cultural backgrounds. |
| **Day 2** | Morning | Understanding messages, context and language in popular culture. Analysis of song lyrics in international groups. |
| | Afternoon | Analysis of music videos: visual storytelling, symbols, stereotypes and representation. Discussion on how visual elements influence the meaning of a song. |
| **Day 3** | Morning | Thematic walk through Novo mesto: exploring the local environment and identifying forms of communication, symbols and messages in public space. |
| | Afternoon | Connecting local context with popular culture. Exploring how messages from popular culture appear in real-life social situations. |
| **Day 4** | Morning | Creative workshops: rewriting and transforming messages from popular culture. Creating short video content as a response to the topics discussed. |
| | Afternoon | Finalising creative outputs. Preparing for the round table: topics, questions, key messages and division of roles. |
| **Day 5** | Morning | Final preparation for the round table: rehearsing presentations, clarifying roles and preparing key messages. |
| | Afternoon | Public round table with young people and local decision-makers. Presentation of creative outputs and project reflections. |
| **Day 6** | Morning | Evaluation of the learning process. Introduction to and completion of Youthpass. |
| | Afternoon | Follow-up and dissemination planning. Final reflection circle and closing of the exchange. |

# Accommodation, working venue, and food

## ACCOMODATION and FOOD

The accommodation and all 3 meals will be provided at **Hostel Situla**, a youth hostel and restaurant managed by Zavod Situla. It is located in the centre of Novo mesto and just 5 minutes walk from our working venue.

The address is: **Dilančeva ulica 1, 8000 Novo mesto** and is around 15 minutes (walking) away from the bus/train station.

## WORKING VENUE

The working venue will be at Rozmanova ulica 21, Novo mesto, where LokalPatriot has it's own space.



# Travel Guide

Find transport tickets (to arrive on 12th September and leave not earlier than on 19th September in the morning from Novo mesto and let us know about your arrival time.

Please do not buy travel tickets before our approval. To enter Slovenia, you will need a valid passport, or for citizens of the EU, a personal identity card will be enough.

## ARRIVING to SLOVENIA

### BY BUS

Flixbus from all major European cities to Ljubljana main station.

### BY TRAIN

Train to Ljubljana from all major European cities.
Optimal connections: https://www.thetrainline.com/

### BY PLANE - Airports nearby

- Ljubljana (LJU) - just 1 hour drive from Novo mesto,
- Zagreb (ZAG) - just 1 hour drive from Novo mesto,
- Graz (GRZ),
- Trieste (TRS)
- Treviso (TSF).

*!! There are shuttle buses available from all the surrounding airports by a company called **GoOpti**. It works like the public transport, but it is much faster and more adaptable. They could also drive you directly to Novo mesto, but it is a bit more expensive..*




Make sure you have an active European Health Insurance Card (or order it).

# Travel Guide

## ARRIVING to NOVO MESTO

*If you come to Ljubljana you can take the Bus or Train directly to Novo mesto from the **Ljubljana Main Bus/Train Station.***

**BY BUS**

You can buy the tickets via the website: **https://www.ap-ljubljana.si/en** with a credit card or you can buy them directly at the driver with cash or at the main bus station.

**BY TRAIN**

You can buy the tickets via the website: **https://potniski.sz.si/en/** with a credit card. You can also but them directly on the train, but you will have to pay extra 5 € or at the main train station.

**BY GOOPTI**

You can arrrange the transport from Ljubljana/Zagreb Airport or Zagreb Bus station, if the national team goes together you can pay around 15 € for 1 way ticket. Their website: https://www.goopti.com/en/

If you need help, you can always contact us.

Slovenske železnice
SŽ - Potniški promet, d.o.o.

LJUBLJANA BUS STATION

GoOpti

# Travel Costs

## ARRIVING to NOVO MESTO

*Please save all original travel documents (public transport tickets, flight tickets, boarding passes, bus and train tickets). We will not be able to reimburse travel expenses incurred by private carriages such as taxis, Uber, or Bolt if public transport is available. Carpooling is eligible (minimum two passengers in a vehicle).*

*Travel costs will be reimbursed following the submission of original travel documents. We encourage you to use online check-in to minimise the effect on the environment and reduce administrative paperwork. Reimbursements are going to be executed through bank transfer to the participant's sending organisation up to the maximum amount listed below.*

*The maximum travel budget will be calculated according to the Erasmus+ distance calculator: https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/distance-calculator*

| Travel distance | Green travel | Non-green travel |
|---|---|---|
| 10–99 km | 56 EUR | 28 EUR |
| 100–499 km | 285 EUR | 211 EUR |
| 500–1 999 km | 417 EUR | 309 EUR |
| 2 000–2 999 km | 535 EUR | 395 EUR |
| 3 000–3 999 km | 785 EUR | 580 EUR |
| 4 000–7 999 km | 1 188 EUR | 1 188 EUR |
| 8 000 km or more | 1 735 EUR | 1 735 EUR |

# Novo mesto

Novo mesto is a town in south-eastern Slovenia and the centre of the Dolenjska region. It lies on a beautiful bend of the Krka River, surrounded by green hills, vineyards and a calm local atmosphere. The town has around 24,000 inhabitants and is known for its old town centre, river views and strong regional identity.

The history of Novo mesto goes back to the 14th century, when it was officially founded in 1365. The area, however, was inhabited much earlier and is especially known for its rich archaeological heritage from the Iron Age, including important situlae — decorated bronze vessels that are among the most recognisable symbols of the region. Today, the town combines historical heritage with everyday local life.



# What to pack?

## Don't forget:

- ID card or passport
- health insurance card / travel insurance
- comfortable clothes and shoes
- personal hygiene items
- reusable water bottle
- notebook and pen
- phone charger
- any personal medication
- something for the intercultural evening
- one song, lyric or music video example
- good energy and an open mind

Towels and bed sheets are provided by the accomodation.

*Optional: laptop, tablet, headphones, camera, musical instrument or anything small that represents your music culture.*



# Relevant info

## Important addresses:

- Novo mesto Hospital: Šmihelska cesta 1, 8000 Novo mesto
- The closest pharmacy: Lekarna Novak, Novi trg 9, 8000 Novo mesto
- Hostel: Dilančeva ulica 1, 8000 Novo mesto
- Working venue: Rozmanova ulica 21, 8000 Novo mesto

## Important numbers:

- Police: 113
- Ambulance: 112
- International code for Slovenia: 00 386
- Youth centre phone number: 00 386 64 286 878
- Hostel phone number: 00 386 40 601 900



# Contacts and partners

## LokalPatriot

Slovenia
lokalpatriot.si
Contact:
Ema Koncilija: ema.koncilija@lokalpatriot.si, +386 31 409 597
Kim Hočevar: kim@lokalpatriot.si, +386 30 609 711

## Udruga Prizma

Croatia
udrugaprizma.hr
Contact: info@udrugaprizma.hr

## Associazione Ottovolante

Italy
facebook.com/ass.ottovolante
Contact: associazioneottovolante@gmail.com

## Udruženje Svetlost

Serbia
https://nvosvetlost.org/
Contact: nvo.svetlost@gmail.com

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# APPLY

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