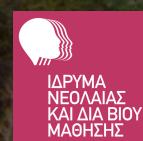


Cultures of Belonging

A Youth Exchange on Identity, Communication & Shared Experience

July 14 - 20 , 2026 · Platamonas, Greece



Erasmus+
Ανοίγει δρόμους, αλλάζει ζωές.



We often begin with a simple question:
“Where are you from?”

Most of the time, the answer comes easily, a country, a city, a place we identify with. **But culture is more than geography.** It is also shaped by the experiences, habits, values, environments, and relationships that influence us throughout our lives.

Today, cultures constantly interact, overlap, and influence one another. We grow up surrounded by shared trends, media, aesthetics, and ways of communicating, often regardless of where we come from. At the same time, we are encouraged to define ourselves, stand out, and build our own identity.

This creates important questions:

How much of who we are is shaped by the world around us?

What connects us to other people, and what makes us different?

How do culture, belonging, and everyday experiences influence the way we see ourselves and others?

This youth exchange invites participants to explore these questions together through dialogue, shared experiences, creative activities, and intercultural interaction.

What is this project about?

This youth exchange starts from the idea that culture is not something stable that we simply carry or present. It is something that continuously shapes how we think, how we relate, and how we position ourselves in the world. At the same time, it is something we reproduce through our choices, our habits, our language, and the ways we interact with others. Much of this happens without us even noticing it.

We begin with identity, not as a fixed definition, but as something formed through experience, environment, and relationships.

From there, we move into how we encounter others. Understanding others is not automatic. It is shaped by our assumptions, experiences, and the way we interpret what we see and hear.

We will also reflect on the spaces we create together, and how group dynamics, participation, and communication shape people's sense of belonging.

An aerial photograph of a coastal town with a sandy beach and a large body of water. The town is built on a hillside, surrounded by lush green trees. The beach is wide and sandy, with many umbrellas and people. The water is a deep blue-green color. The text "The experience" is overlaid in the top left corner.

The experience

what will we do

A shared process of exploration,
where culture is not explained,
but experienced.

What will we do?

This exchange is built as a shared process of exploration, where culture is not treated as a fixed idea, but as something we encounter, experience, and participate in every day.

We will work with culture as something that exists in:

language **gestures**

spaces **routines**

aesthetics **media**

relationships

Each phase of the program approaches culture from a different angle,

gradually connecting personal experience with social realities.

Something we move through constantly, often without noticing, yet something that shapes how we see, feel, and respond.



The journey

project phases

A structured process of exploration,
moving from personal experience
to shared understanding.



project phases

Phase 1



Noticing Culture

Everyday Practices, Habits, and Meaning

We begin by shifting attention to what usually goes unnoticed. Instead of defining culture, we explore how it appears in everyday life.

Phase 2



Culture and the Self

Identity, Belonging, and Formation

Once culture becomes visible, we turn to how it shapes who we are.

Phase 3



Culture in Relation

Communication, Perception, and Misunderstanding

We then move into how culture operates between people.

Phase 4

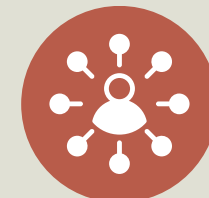


Culture, Space, and Participation

Norms, Power, and Group Dynamics

Here we focus on how culture shapes the spaces we are part of.

Phase 5



Culture as Pattern and Influence

Repetition, Trends, and Shared References

We step back to examine how culture circulates and repeats.

Phase 6



Expression and Repositioning

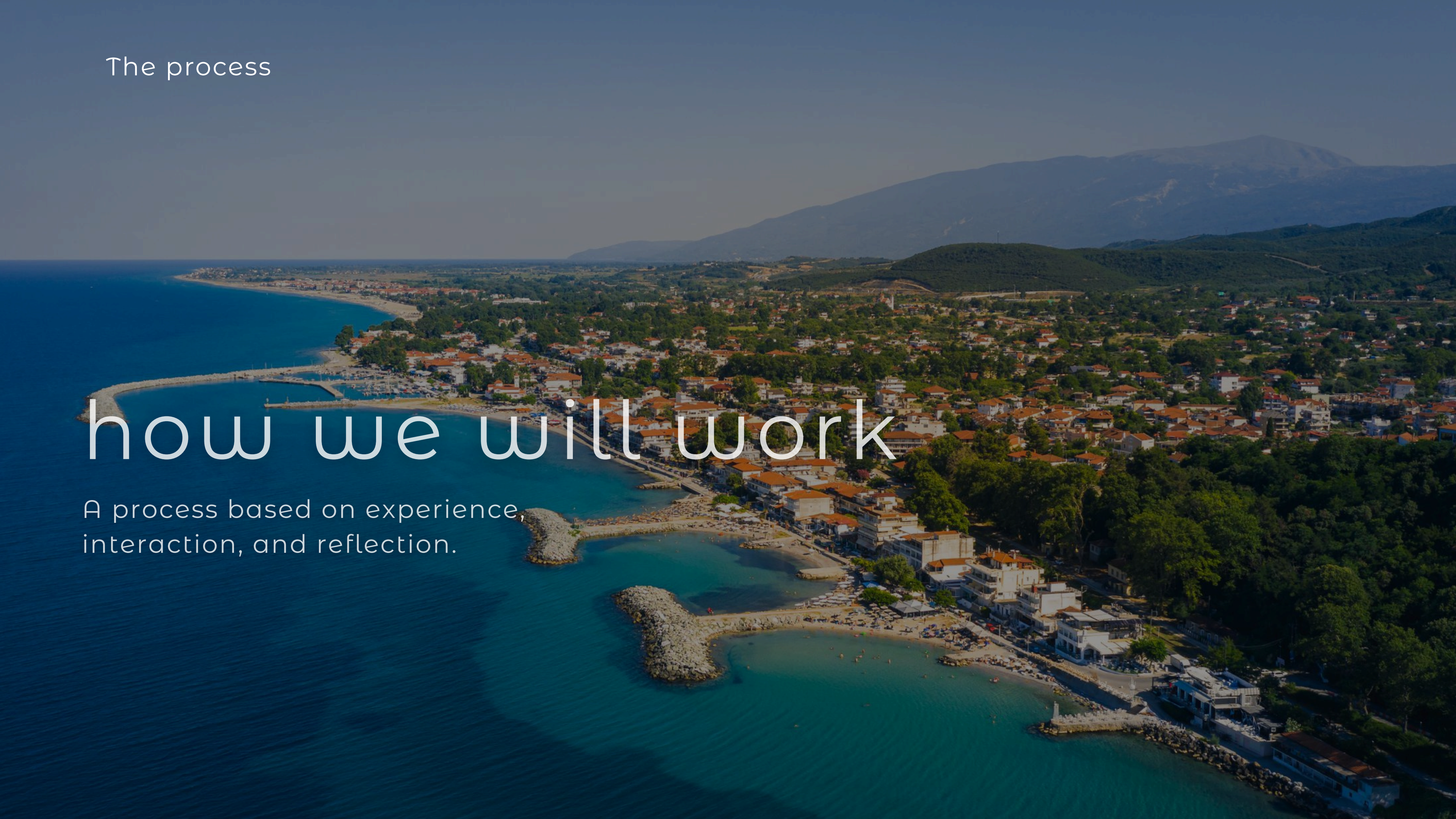
Making Sense of Experience

In the final phase, we bring the process together through reflection and expression.

The process

how we will work

A process based on experience,
interaction, and reflection.



how we will work

The program is based on non-formal learning. This means we learn through **experience**, **interaction**, and **reflection** rather than lectures.

You can expect

group processes and collaborative exploration

creative and sensory activities

discussions that go beyond quick answers

time to observe, question, and process

What to expect

a closer look at how culture appears in everyday life

moments of recognition and surprise

space to question what feels “normal”

encounters that challenge assumptions

a balance between thinking, experiencing, and creating

Our Methods

We learn by **doing, discussing, creating,** and **reflecting** - together. These methods guide every phase of the program.



1. Non-formal Education

Learning through experience, interaction and reflexion.



2. Peer Learning

Learning with and from each other.



3. Debate & Simulation

Exploring different perspectives through dialogue and role-play.



4. Creative Expression

Using creative tools to explore ideas and emotions.



5. Reflection Tools

Individual and group reflection to connect experience and meaning.



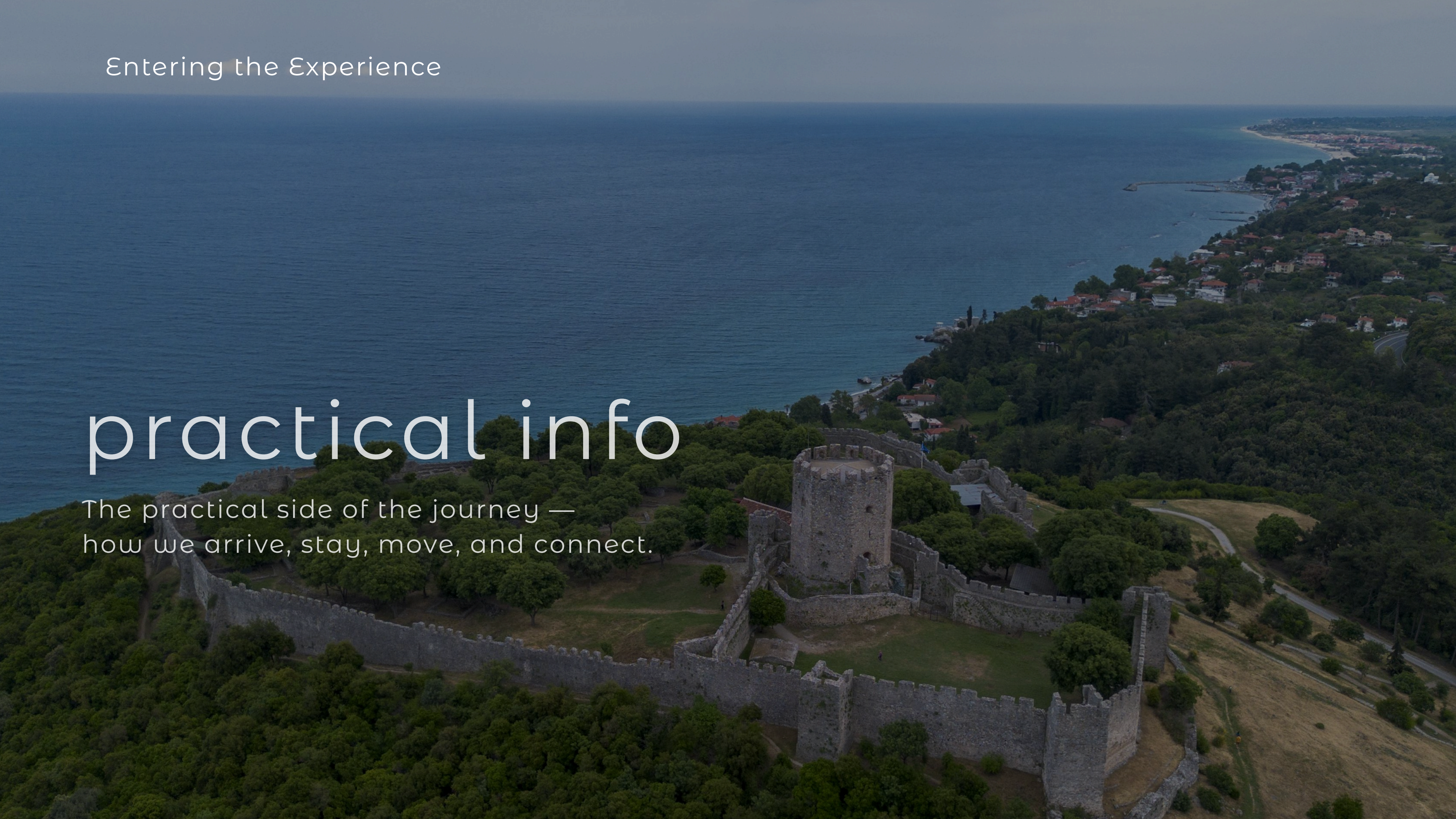
6. Outdoor & Experiential Learning

Learning in nature and through real-life experiences.

Entering the Experience

practical info

The practical side of the journey —
how we arrive, stay, move, and connect.



Who's Organising This?

This project is hosted by **SISERA Greece**


 Social, Innovative, Sustainable and Educational Research Association

 Based in Larissa, Thessaly

SISERA is a dynamic team of educators, researchers, youth workers and eco-activists.

We focus on:

 Sustainability & Environmental Education

 Youth Empowerment

 Digital Skills & Inclusion

 Social & Cultural Innovation

Project Partners

YOUTH SUPPORT CENTER -
POLAND

ASSOCIATIA SE POATE -
ROMANIA

MLADI- EU -
CROATIA



We are part of the Erasmus+ network and committed to building a greener, fairer Europe.

Who Can Join?

We're looking for:



Young people aged **18–30**

From Greece, Poland, Romania or Croatia

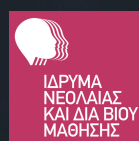
Interested in culture, belonging, and social connection



Open-minded, respectful, and ready to learn and share

Especially those with fewer opportunities or who haven't traveled abroad before

Each country will send 5 participants + 1 youth leader

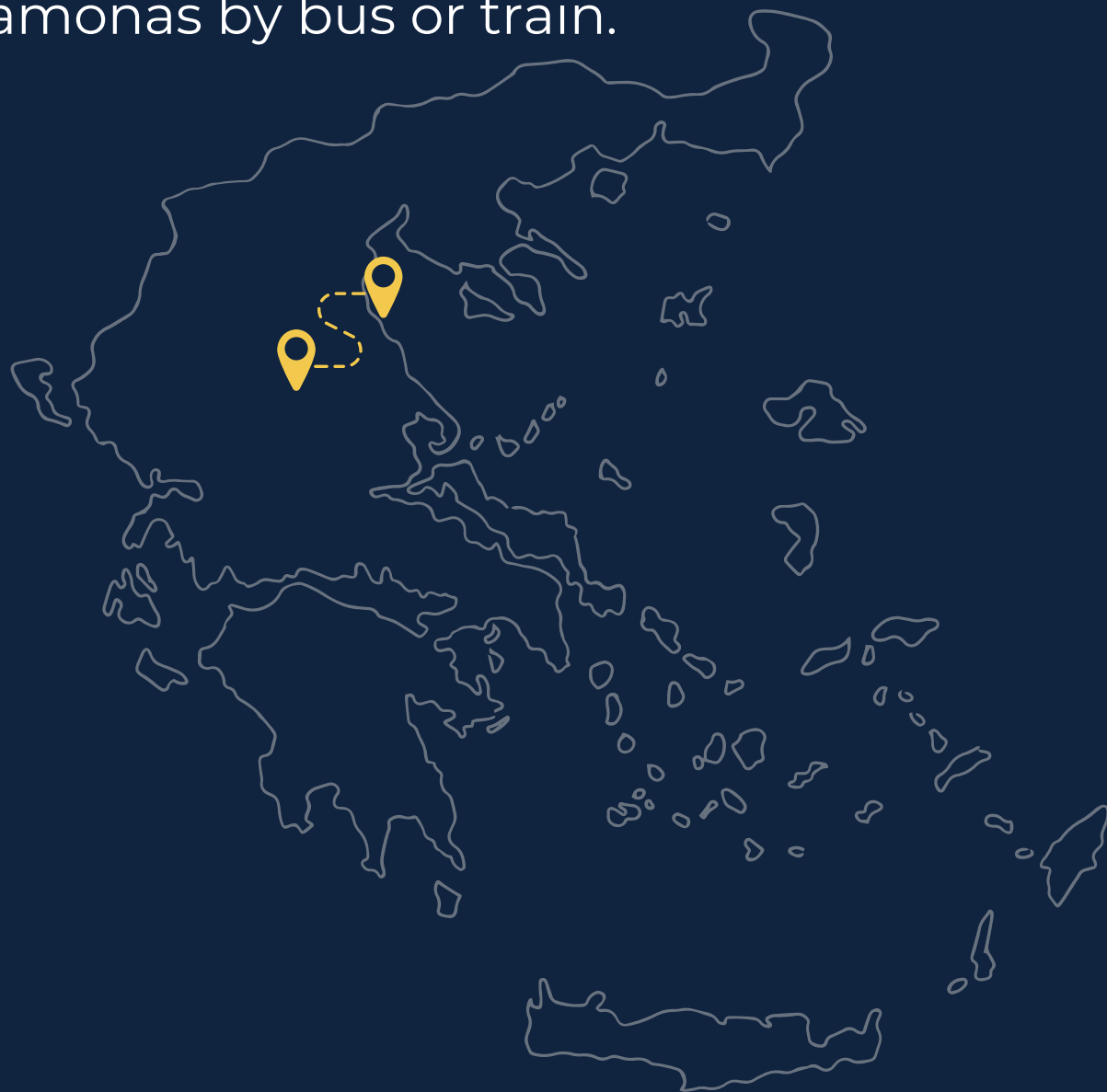


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Arrival Plan

How to Reach Platamonas, Pieria

The closest city is **Larissa**.
From there it's easy to reach
Platamonas by bus or train.



1



Fly to Greece:

Athens International Airport (ATH)
or Thessaloniki International Airport (SKG)
Both airports are easy to reach.



From your
location

2



Reach Larissa:

- From Athens Bus ~ 4.5h or Train ~ 3.5h
- From Thessaloniki Bus ~ 1.5h or Train ~ 1h

3



Transfer to Platamonas:

- By bus ~ 1.5h
- By train ~ 40min



PLATAMONAS



We will provide a detailed travel guide with
timetables and recommended routes once
participants confirm their tickets.



Departure Plan



Official end date of the exchange:

July 20th.

Plan your return travel from this date onward.

1 Staying Longer?



You may arrive up to **2 days earlier** or leave up to **2 days later.**



This is allowed by Erasmus+. Participants must be present from 14 to 20 July 2026.



Extra days will not be covered by the project budget. (accommodation, food, etc.)

2 Reimbursement Rules



Travel Reimbursement applies as long as the total trip follows Erasmus+ rules.



Keep all travel documents (tickets, invoices, boarding passes, etc.) in digital + print form.



Accommodation, food & other expenses during extra days are your own responsibility.





3 Let Us Know!



Please inform the project team in advance if you plan to extend your stay so we can support your planning.

Contact us here!

Erasmus+ Reimbursement

Country	Distance	Standard Travel	Green Travel
 Greece	10-99km / 100-499km	28 € / 211 €	56 € / 285 €
 Poland	500-1999km	309 €	417 €
 Romania	500-1999km	309 €	417 €
 Croatia	500-1999km	309 €	417 €

Reimbursement Process

- ✓ Keep original travel documents: boarding passes, e-tickets, receipts.
- ✓ Use green travel (train, bus, carpooling) if possible
- ✓ Submit your travel documents to the project coordinator after the activity

Book tickets **only after confirmation.**

If you're unsure about your route or want help booking your journey, **reach out early — we're here to support you every step of the way!**



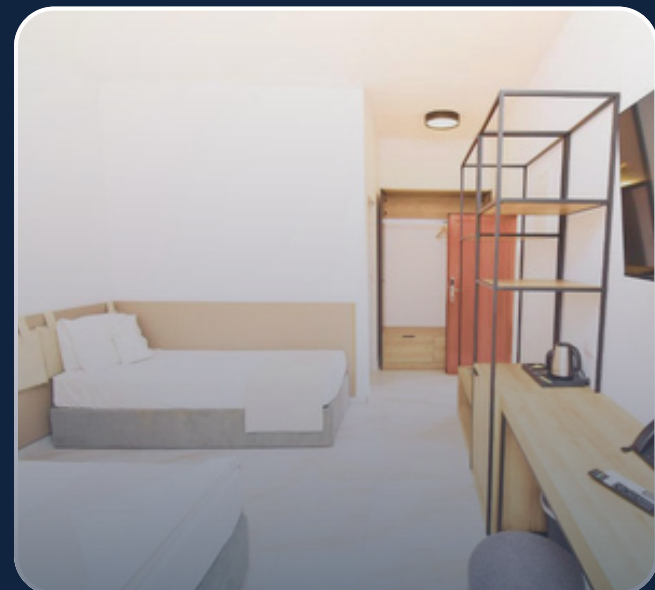
Accommodation



Olympion Melathron Villas

 Megalou Alexandrou,
Platamonas, 60065, Greece

[Check it on Booking.com →](#)



Stay & Experience

 Accommodation ·  Activity Spaces ·  Meals



Accommodation

Rooms will be shared (triple, or quadruple) depending on availability.



You may be placed in a shared room with other participants



We will do our best to accommodate everyone's comfort levels



Venue & Activity Spaces

All main workshops and sessions will take place in:

- A private conference room inside the hotel
- The hotel's outdoor natural space for open-air activities, group work, and reflection time

Expect a balance between **comfort**, **connection**, and **inspiring surroundings**.



Meals & Food

Each day, you'll be served three full meals from the hotel's buffet:



Breakfast



Lunch



Dinner



Snacks, coffee, tea, and water will also be available during breaks.

Vegetarian, **vegan**, and **allergy-related** dietary needs can be accommodated — you'll have the opportunity to share your preferences before arrival.

Before you Book

Please contact us **before** purchasing tickets.




1



SEND YOUR PLAN

Email us before booking any tickets.

Include the following:

-  Your preferred travel option
-  The means of transport you plan to use for the entire trip
-  Your exact travel dates & timetables



siseragreece@siseragreece.com

2



WAIT FOR APPROVAL

We review your route and budget.



Approved

Once approved you can safely book your tickets.

OR



Suggested Changes

We may suggest changes to find the best option together.

3



BOOK SAFELY


Only purchase tickets **after** our confirmation.



PLEASE NOTE:

If you buy tickets without sending your plan or without waiting for our confirmation, and your trip is over budget or not eligible, **your travel costs may not be reimbursed.**



Help us help you — always ask first, book later!
We're here to make sure everything runs smoothly 

Let's Stay Connected

Once the selection process is complete, all confirmed participants will be added to our private WhatsApp group for the project.

This group will be your main hub for updates, guidance, and interaction before the exchange.

📌 What You'll Find There:



What to pack & prepare



Step-by-step travel instructions



National team tasks and cultural night coordination



Important reminders & deadlines



Pre-exchange questions & reflection prompts



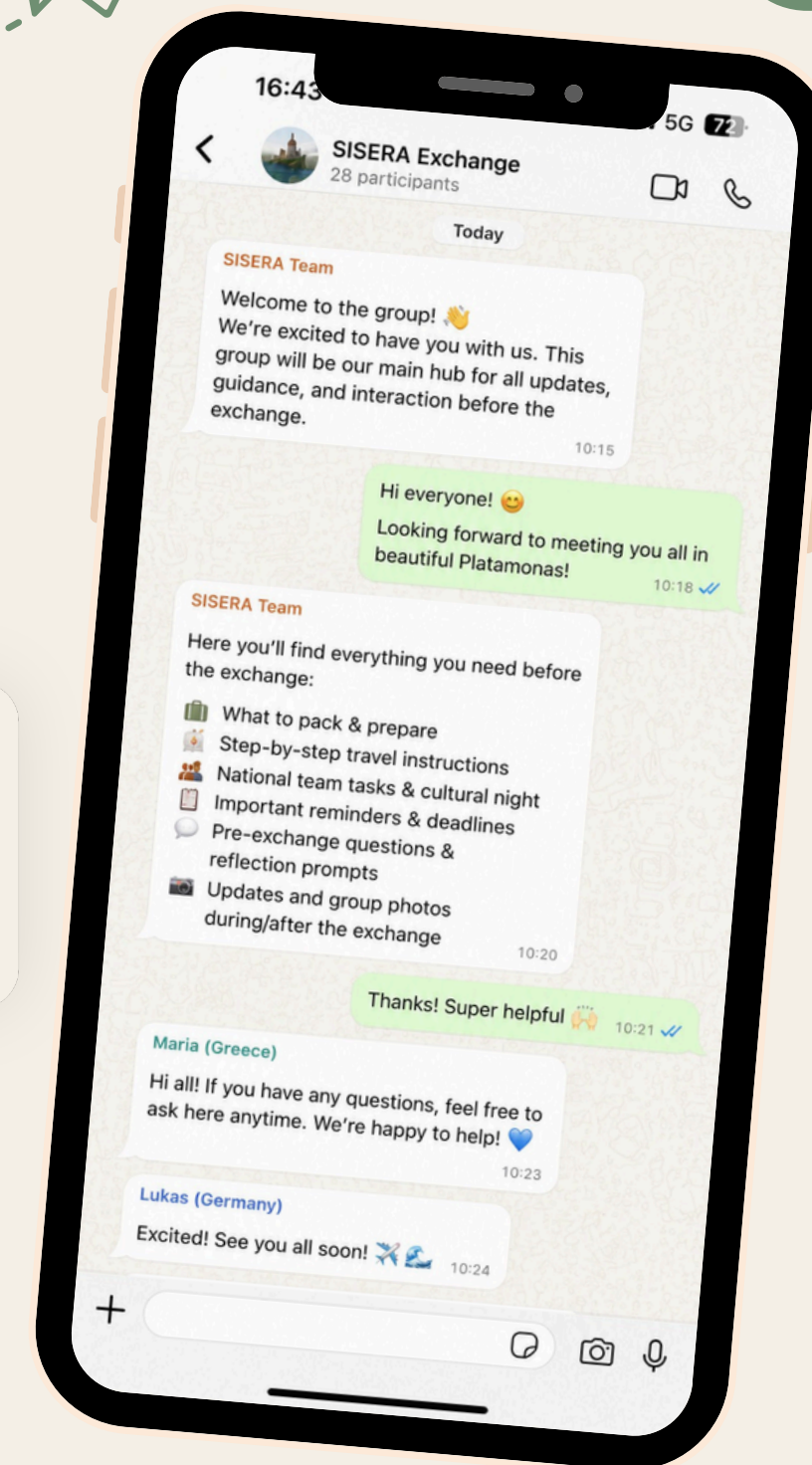
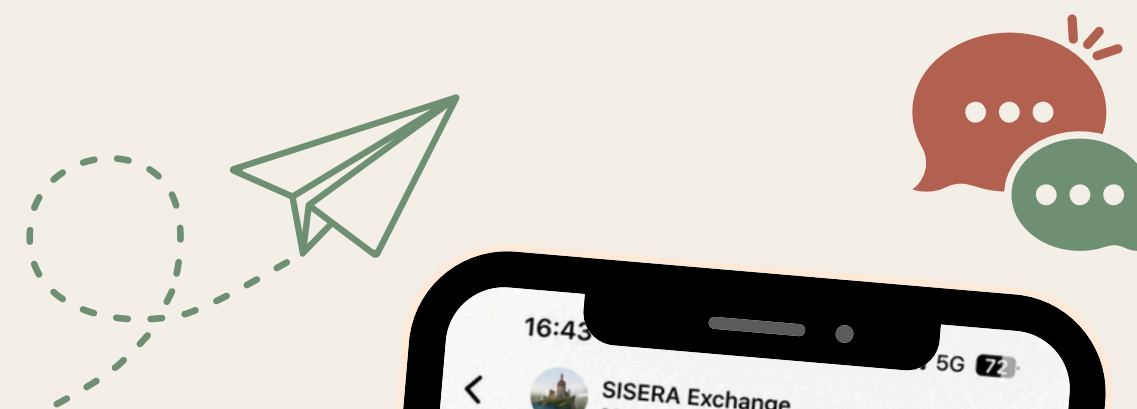
A space to introduce yourself and meet everyone before arriving!



Updates and group photos during/after the exchange



See you in Platamonas!



Thank you!

We appreciate your trust
and can't wait to welcome
you to **Platamonas**.

New People · New experiences · Lasting memories



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Ανοίγει δρόμους, αλλάζει ζωές.