EU programmes

Erasmus + Programme

The main EU programme promoting youth mobility, and is available for North Macedonia is the Erasmus + Programme. The decentralized actions of the programme are implemented by the National Agency for European Education Programmes and Mobility [1].

In May 2014, Republic of North Macedonia became Programme Country [2] of the Erasmus + Programme, and following actions are available today:

- Key Action 1 - Learning Mobility of Individuals [3]
- Key Action 3 - Support for Policy Reform [5]
- Jean Monnet Activities [6]
- Sport [7]

According to the Erasmus + Project Results webpage, by the moment (last checked on October 2019) 4531 Erasmus + project involved Macedonian entities, either as coordinator / beneficiary ether as partner, of which 3241 are in Erasmus + Key Action 1 - Youth Mobility.

European Voluntary Service
At the moment, 59 organizations form North Macedonia are accredited EVS organizations [8] (last checked October 2019).

**Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) 2007 - 2013**

In December 2005, North Macedonia was granted candidate country status for EU membership. On 18 February 2008 the Council adopted the Accession Partnership [9] for the country, thus updating the previous European Partnership of January 2006. The main objective of IPA is to assist the countries in their progressive alignment with the standards and policies of the European Union, including where appropriate the acquis communautaire, with a view to future membership.

North Macedonia has been given the prospect of becoming an EU member state. On its way towards membership, the European Union provides continuous support and financial assistance in order to help the country with the necessary reforms.

The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) came into effect at the start of 2007 and provide financial support for the country in the period 2007-2013. Afterward IPA II was created for the period 2014-2020 with financial allocation for North Macedonia of € 664.2 million. Young people are a target group of IPA 2014-2020 Action Program EU Support for Education, Employment and Social Policy [10] with one of the aims to strengthen evidence-based policy making and support the employability of youth. IPA also funded the establishment of a Western Balkans Youth Window [11], within the Youth in Actions program. The main aim of this Program is to support young people’s transnational non-formal learning mobility through cooperation projects and activities.

**Other Programmes**

Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) is an international organization financed by the governments of the region and it is supported by the EU and other donors. They are supporting different youth mobility programmes which can be found on their web page (http://www.rycowb.org [12])

**Legal framework applying to foreign volunteers**

Foreign volunteers are subject of the Law on Volunteering as well. Thus, the Law determines the possibilities and conditions for volunteering of foreigner. A foreign individual may volunteer in North Macedonia upon issued Consent for volunteering by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and regulated residence in the Republic of North Macedonia (article 8, par. 2). After the Consent for volunteering is being issued, the organizer of the voluntary service has obligation to inform the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy about the start of the volunteering activity, within 60 days. The procedures related to the issuing of Consent for volunteering are explained in the Regulation of the manner, procedure and evidence for issuing of Consent for volunteering of foreign (non-residential) individual in the Republic of Macedonia (Правилник за начинот, постапката и евиденцијата за издавање на согласност за волонтирање на странско лице во Република Македонија [13]).

**Visas**

Citizens of the following countries are not required to have entry visa [14] for the Republic of North Macedonia:
- EU member countries and signatories of the Schengen Agreement - have right to enter the Republic of North Macedonia with a valid ID card.

- Third countries with permanent stay in an EU member country or signatory country of the Schengen Agreement - may stay in the Republic of North Macedonia for up to 15 (fifteen) days upon every entry to the territory of the Republic of North Macedonia, and the total amount of the subsequent stays in the Republic of North Macedonia must not be longer than 3 (three) months within a six-months period, starting from the date of the first entry.

- Third countries with multiple entry short stay Schengen visa type C valid at least 5 (five) days beyond the intended stay in the Republic of North Macedonia - may stay in the Republic of North Macedonia for up to 15 (fifteen) days upon every entry to the territory of the Republic of North Macedonia, and the total amount of the subsequent stays in the Republic of North Macedonia must not be longer than 3 (three) months within a six-months period, starting from the date of the first entry.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia has published information about visa entry in the country [15] for the countries and unrecognized territories on its web site in alphabetical order.

A foreigner, with country of residence that requires visa entry in the Republic of North Macedonia, might apply for two types of entry visas: Short-Stay Visa [16] or Long-Stay Visa [16].

Registration of Foreign Nationals

All foreign citizens, irrelevant whether a visa is necessary for their entry in the Republic of North Macedonia or not, are obliged to register themselves in the nearest police station within 24 hours of their entry on Macedonian territory. For the foreign volunteers in North Macedonia, the organizer of the voluntary service (the host) can assist the volunteer to register.

Customs Guide

The Republic of North Macedonia, according to the legislation, has developed procedures for customs. The customs service of the Republic of North Macedonia developed information booklet with title “What you need to know when you are departing from and arriving in Macedonia [17]”. There are no specific custom rules for volunteers.