



INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE

Agents for Rural Change Profile

19-25 October 2026 | Japin Breg, Đurđevac, Croatia

Participant Information Pack



Co-funded by
the European Union



Welcome to the RURALEM training

Welcome to Croatia and to the RURALEM International Training Course: Agents for Rural Change Profile. From 19 to 25 October 2026, youth workers and local agents will come together for five active learning days in the rural surroundings of the Đurđevac area. The programme combines practical training, exchange of European experience, reflection, networking and a study visit.

Important dates

Arrival day: 19 October 2026 | Active training days: 20-24 October 2026 | Departure day: 25 October 2026

About RURALEM

RURALEM - Youth Rural Empowerment is an Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership involving organisations from Italy, Croatia, Spain, Portugal and Bulgaria. It responds to challenges experienced by rural communities, including depopulation, limited opportunities for young people, lower participation in community life and the need for stronger youth work in rural areas.

The partnership has developed the 'Agents for Rural Change' competence framework and a set of educational modules for youth workers. The Croatian training course provides a shared international setting in which the curriculum can be implemented, discussed and connected with participants' professional practice.

Training objectives

- Strengthen the competences of youth workers and local agents working in rural communities.
- Develop communication, leadership, critical-thinking, digital and entrepreneurial competences.
- Explore practical methods for youth participation, inclusion and sustainable rural development.
- Exchange relevant practices and project examples from participating countries.
- Support future cooperation among organisations and professionals working with rural youth.
- Recognise participants' learning through reflection and Youthpass.

Who should participate?

The course is designed for 16 youth workers and local agents from Croatia, Spain, Portugal and Bulgaria, together with facilitators. Participants must be at least 18 years old, able to work in English, experienced in working with children or young people and motivated to contribute to rural development. Suitable profiles include staff and volunteers from NGOs, educational institutions, municipalities, city administrations and other public or community organisations.

Learning approach and curriculum

The course is based on non-formal education, active participation and peer learning. Facilitators guide the process, while participants contribute examples, test methods, work in international teams and reflect on how the learning can be transferred to their own communities.

Structure of every module

Introduction and learning objectives • approximately three interactive activities • reflection on learning • evaluation of learning outcomes

Training modules

Module	Theme	Facilitator
Module 1	Communication Skills and Youth Personal Development	SUMA - Croatia
Module 2	Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving	Casa d'Abóbora - Portugal
Module 3	Gender and Social Equality	MAP - Spain
Module 4	Linguistic Competences	Casa d'Abóbora - Portugal
Module 5	Digital Competences	TPD - Bulgaria
Module 6	Youth Leadership and Empowerment	TPD - Bulgaria
Module 7	Strategic Planning for Rural Development aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs	MAP - Spain
Module 8	Youth Entrepreneurial Skills	SUMA - Croatia
Module 9	Social Entrepreneurship for Youth	TPD - Bulgaria
Module 10	Leisure Activities for Rural Youth	MAP - Spain

Participation expectations

- Attend the full programme and arrive on time.
- Take an active role in workshops and group work.
- Share experience respectfully and support an inclusive learning environment.
- Complete daily reflection and final evaluation activities.

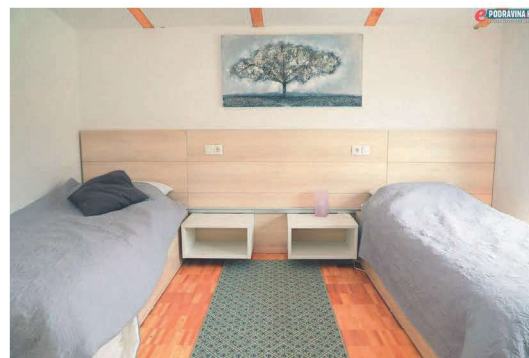
Venue and accommodation



The training will take place at Japin Breg, a modern rural retreat surrounded by forests, vineyards and open countryside. Its quiet setting supports concentration, creativity, reflection and informal exchange. The venue is located outside Đurđevac and can only be reached conveniently by car.

Venue website

japinbreg.com



Accommodation arrangement

Participants will stay in four fully equipped rural houses reserved for the project. The standard capacity is 16 participants. Up to 18 people may be accommodated only when the final group includes couples or when participants explicitly agree to share a double bed. Room allocation will be prepared after participant information and accommodation needs are confirmed.

- Bedrooms with double, twin or bunk-bed arrangements depending on the house.
- Bathrooms, shared kitchens and common living spaces.
- Wi-Fi, terraces and outdoor areas.
- Training and group-work space within the complex.
- Free parking for participants and facilitators arriving by car.

Daily life at Japin Breg



Meals

Breakfast will be organised as a self-service breakfast. The hosting team will purchase groceries and participants will use the shared kitchens in the accommodation units. Lunch and dinner will be delivered by a nearby restaurant and served at the venue, except for the planned dinner out in Đurđevac on 22 October.

- Estimated breakfast value: approximately EUR 3 per participant per day.
- Estimated lunch value: approximately EUR 7 per participant per day.
- Estimated dinner value: approximately EUR 10 per participant per day.
- Estimated total food value: approximately EUR 20 per participant per day.

Dietary needs

Vegetarian meals and other dietary requirements can be respected when they are communicated to the organisers in advance. Participants must clearly report allergies, intolerances, medical diets or serious dietary restrictions before arrival. Last-minute changes may be difficult because food is ordered from an external restaurant.

Shared responsibilities

- Keep bedrooms, kitchens and shared areas tidy.
- Return dishes and equipment after use and follow the agreed breakfast routine.
- Do not move between accommodation units late at night without respecting other participants.
- Inform facilitators immediately about damage, technical problems or safety concerns.
- Use water, heating and electricity responsibly.

Internet and equipment

Wi-Fi is available, but participants should be prepared for occasional limitations typical of a rural location. A laptop is recommended for selected module activities, project presentations and the Steering Committee. Participants should bring their own chargers and any adapters they need.

Evening atmosphere

Evening activities are part of the learning process. Some evenings are structured; others allow time to rest and connect informally with the international group.

Travel to Croatia

Recommended airport

Zagreb International Airport - Franjo Tuđman. Morning arrivals are strongly recommended because the onward journey to Đurđevac takes several hours.

Option 1 - Croatia Airlines shuttle bus

The airport shuttle is the most straightforward public-transport option. It leaves from the area on the right-hand side after exiting the terminal and displays Croatia Airlines branding. The estimated ticket price is around EUR 5 and departures are usually every 30 minutes. The bus terminates at Zagreb Main Bus Station. Zagreb Main Railway Station is approximately a 10-minute walk from there.

Option 2 - Public transport

A local public-transport stop is located outside the airport parking area, approximately five minutes on foot when walking south from the terminal. The city stop used for the onward connection is around a 15-minute walk from Zagreb Main Railway Station. This is usually the lowest-cost option, but it is less practical with heavy luggage.

Option 3 - Bolt or Uber

Ride-hailing services are often the best option for a group of three or four people, particularly when participants coordinate similar arrival times. The cost can be divided among passengers. Always check the vehicle registration and driver details in the application.

Option 4 - Taxi

A taxi is available at the airport, but it is not the recommended option because it may be considerably more expensive. Confirm the estimated fare before starting the journey.



Travel coordination

Partners should collect participants' flight and onward travel details. SUMA needs confirmed arrival times in Đurđevac in order to organise car transfers to Japin Breg.

Travel to Đurđevac and Japin Breg

By train - recommended

Tickets can be purchased online at prodaja.hzpp.hr or at Zagreb Main Railway Station. Search for Zagreb Glavni kolodvor to Đurđevac. The journey normally takes between approximately 1 hour 45 minutes and 2 hours 30 minutes, depending on the connection. Due to temporary railway modernisation works, a part of the journey may be operated by a replacement bus. Follow staff instructions and keep your ticket available throughout the journey.

By bus

Tickets can be purchased at Zagreb Main Bus Station. Search for Zagreb to Đurđevac. The journey usually takes approximately 2.5 to 3 hours because the bus stops in several towns and villages.

Đurđevac to Japin Breg

Japin Breg is approximately a 10-minute drive from Đurđevac and is not conveniently accessible by public transport. SUMA will organise car transfers from the Đurđevac railway or bus station. Participants must communicate the exact arrival service and promptly report delays or missed connections.

Zagreb Airport	→	Zagreb	→	Đurđevac	→	Japin Breg
Flight		Bus or train		Arrival point		SUMA transfer

Useful QR codes



Train tickets



Japin Breg



SUMA Workspace

Before travelling

Carry the organisers' telephone number, keep your phone charged and save offline copies of tickets. Do not travel to Japin Breg independently without confirming the plan with SUMA.

Programme overview

Programme	Tuesday 20 Oct	Wednesday 21 Oct	Thursday 22 Oct	Friday 23 Oct	Saturday 24 Oct
08:00-09:00	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
09:00-12:30 Morning session Break 10:30-10:45	Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving	Digital Competences	Communication Skills and Youth Personal Development	Youth Entrepreneurial Skills	Social Entrepreneurship for Youth
12:30-14:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch 12:30-13:30	Lunch	Lunch
14:00-17:30 Afternoon session Break 15:30-15:45	Gender and Social Equality	Youth Leadership and Empowerment	Study Visit to Đurđevac	Strategic Planning for Rural Development, Agenda 2030 and the SDGs	Linguistic Competences
17:30-18:00	Reflection and Youthpass	Reflection and Youthpass	Return and informal reflection	Reflection and Youthpass	Final evaluation and Youthpass reflection
19:00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner out in Đurđevac	Dinner	Dinner
20:00 Evening programme	Rural Fair	Best Rural Projects Across Europe and Beyond	Free evening	Leisure Activities for Rural Youth	Farewell Evening and Youthpass Ceremony
Programme note The programme may be adjusted in response to travel, weather, facilitator or logistical circumstances. Any changes will be communicated to participants.					

Study visit and evening programme



Study visit to Đurđevac - 22 October

After the morning module and lunch, participants will travel to Đurđevac. The programme will include the town centre, the medieval Old Town Fortress, the City Museum and Interpretation Centre and the Croatian Sahara with its camel enclosure. The visit connects local heritage, tourism and community identity with the wider theme of rural development. Dinner will be organised in Đurđevac before the group returns to Japin Breg.

Evening activities

20 October - Rural Fair

Present your organisation, rural work and selected projects. Bring concise digital or printed materials.

21 October - Best Rural Projects Across Europe and Beyond

Exchange successful initiatives and transferable practices. Bring one concrete example from your country or work.

22 October - Free Evening

Time for rest and informal exchange after the study visit and dinner out.

23 October - Leisure Activities for Rural Youth

A full MAP module using practical activities designed for an evening format.

24 October - Farewell Evening and Youthpass Ceremony

Closing celebration, recognition of learning and farewell activities.

What to prepare for the Rural Fair

- A short description of your organisation.
- One or two projects or methods related to rural youth.
- Optional leaflets, small materials, photos or a brief digital presentation.

Youthpass and preparation

Youthpass is the European recognition tool for non-formal and informal learning in Erasmus+ youth activities. Every participant who completes the training course will be entitled to receive a Youthpass Certificate. The certificate confirms participation and supports participants in describing the competences they developed during the activity.

How Youthpass will be integrated

- Short daily reflection sessions from 17:30 to 18:00.
- Individual reflection on relevant learning moments and competences.
- Peer exchange and feedback within small groups.
- Final evaluation and Youthpass reflection on 24 October.
- Youthpass ceremony during the farewell evening.

Youthpass is a process, not only a certificate

Participants should actively record learning throughout the week rather than trying to remember everything at the end.

What to bring

- Valid passport or national identity card.
- European Health Insurance Card and any additional travel insurance documentation.
- Personal medication and relevant medical information.
- Comfortable indoor clothing and layered outdoor clothing.
- Warm and waterproof jacket suitable for late October.
- Comfortable walking shoes for the study visit and outdoor activities.
- Laptop and charger - recommended for selected sessions.
- Mobile phone and charger; power bank is useful during travel.
- Reusable water bottle and personal toiletries.
- Materials for the Rural Fair and a rural good-practice example.

Weather and clothing

Late October in northern Croatia can be cool, wet and changeable. Mornings and evenings may be cold, while indoor spaces are heated. Bring layers, a waterproof outer layer and footwear suitable for walking on uneven or wet surfaces.

Insurance and documents

Participants are responsible for carrying valid identification and appropriate health and travel insurance. Keep digital and paper copies of important documents and tickets. Organisers should be informed in advance about medical conditions that may require support during the activity.

Risk management and participant safety

The organising team will provide a safety briefing at the beginning of the course, emergency contacts, first-aid materials and organised local transport. Participants are expected to follow instructions, communicate concerns immediately and behave responsibly in the accommodation, during travel and throughout outdoor activities.

Risk	Level	Prevention and response
Travel delay or missed connection	Medium	Allow enough transfer time; select morning flights; inform SUMA immediately; keep tickets and emergency contacts accessible.
Health issue or injury	Medium	Carry EHIC/insurance and medication; report relevant conditions; first-aid equipment and emergency contacts will be available.
Food allergy or dietary reaction	Medium	Communicate allergies in advance; verify meals when served; carry prescribed emergency medication.
Adverse weather	Medium	Bring waterproof and warm clothing; adapt or move outdoor activities when required.
Road and local transport	Low-Medium	Use organised transfers; wear seat belts; follow driver instructions; do not arrange unconfirmed transport to the rural venue.
Fire or evacuation	Low	Review exits and assembly instructions during the safety briefing; do not obstruct exits or misuse cooking equipment.
Loss or theft of belongings	Low	Keep valuables secure; label luggage; do not leave passports, wallets or electronics unattended.
Interpersonal or safeguarding concern	Low-Medium	Respect boundaries and the code of conduct; contact a facilitator privately; discriminatory, violent or harassing behaviour is not accepted.
Alcohol-related incident	Low-Medium	Participation in learning activities is the priority; responsible behaviour is required; alcohol is not permitted to compromise safety or attendance.

Emergency principle

In a serious or immediate emergency, contact 112. For project-related assistance, contact Vladimir at +385 91 567 9877.

Contacts and final checklist

Key contacts

Host organisation	SUMA - Association for Sustainable Development
Training venue	Japin Breg, Đurđevac area
Steering Committee venue	SUMA Workspace, Augusta Šenoa 34, Đurđevac
Project emergency contact	Vladimir: +385 91 567 9877
General emergency number	112

Before departure

- ☐ Travel approved by your sending organisation.
- ☐ Arrival and departure details sent to SUMA.
- ☐ Đurđevac transfer confirmed.
- ☐ Passport/ID and insurance checked.
- ☐ Dietary and medical information submitted.
- ☐ Room-sharing needs communicated.
- ☐ Rural Fair and good-practice materials prepared.
- ☐ Emergency number saved in your phone.

Communication during the activity

A WhatsApp group will be created for practical updates and coordination. It should be used for relevant information such as travel delays, meeting points and programme changes. Sensitive or personal matters should be discussed directly with a facilitator rather than posted in the group.

Useful links

- Venue: <https://japinbreg.com/>
- Train tickets: <https://prodaja.hzpp.hr/>
- SUMA Workspace map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/zUvgsHCFter8gt1N9>

We look forward to welcoming you

Come prepared to learn, contribute, share your experience and build new ideas for rural youth work across Europe.



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