



# **“HER STORIES”**

Training course for youth  
workers  
Slovenia, 2019



## About the hosting organization

HUMANITAS is for Slovene reality a medium size non-governmental and non-profit organisation. Its principal aims are to offer assistance to less privileged groups at home and around the world, to represent and assert their interests, and to promote respect and acceptance. Our mission is to raise awareness of global challenges such as poverty, over-consumption, the gap between economically differently developed countries and, through global education and awareness raising, to encourage social inclusion and responsibility. Humanitas carries out various activities which are thematically and methodologically related to the concept of global learning. Organisation runs a Global Education Resource Center with specialized library offering diverse materials related to global education. It offers also workshops and seminars for different target groups, mainly school children, students and teachers. We also organize conferences, round table discussions, outdoor actions, interactive exhibitions and public screenings of socially engaged films. Important part is production of promotional and educational materials (interactive games, manuals etc.).

## About Slovenia

Slovenia is one of the smallest countries in Europe with an area of 20,273 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of around 2 million people. Except when there are traffic jams, one usually only needs a maximum of 3 hours of driving to get from one random point to another. The neighbouring countries are Austria, Croatia, Italy and Hungary. Slovenians are known as kind but somewhat reserved people. One of the things we are proud of is our landscape.





You can swim in the sea, scale in the Julian Alps, explore the caves, swim in a lake, see some agricultural areas, get lost in a forest or visit a spa centre all within one day. Slovenia became an independent country in 1991 and subsequently joined the European Union in 2004. Since 2007, we have used Euro as our currency.

## About the project

Project Her Stories aims to empower and give a voice to women in Europe with refugee or migrant experience. The aim of the “Her Stories Project” is to encourage social interaction between diverse groups of people, using stories as “bridges” between groups. Moreover, it will develop applied methods of working with women for their empowerment and integration in a responsible and sensitive way. The project will benefit from an international team in exploring and reflecting upon the social position of migrant/refugee women and in comparing their situation in different countries.

### The aims of the projects are:

- To foster recognition of linguistic diversity and variety in Europe.
- To promote exploration and appreciation of languages and cultures that have arrived in Europe with migrants and refugees and to spread knowledge of their languages and cultures.
- To encourage exploration and reflection upon the social position of migrant/refugee women in international teams and to compare their situations in different countries.
- To create and practice methods of working with women for their empowerment and integration in a responsible and sensitive way.
- To develop a method of using languages and stories as tools to represent women as protagonists and storytellers.
- To create opportunities for connecting different women, both within migrant/refugee communities and between them and local communities.
- To publish a book with selected stories of women, thus conferring value and recognition to the various cultures present in Europe.
- To encourage social interaction between diverse groups of people, using stories as a “bridge” between groups by community engagement activities, such as a human library.



## Phases of the project

The Project will have three phases.

1. Phase 1 will take place from **15 to 22 of April** and will involve **15** participants who are working or have an interest in the topics of social inclusion, female empowerment, refugee rights (or human rights in a broad sense), literature and language. The main goals of the meeting will be to evaluate and reflect upon the position of migrant or refugee women in our countries and to learn about responsible, inclusive, non-patronizing methods of representation and about story as a tool of empowerment and social inclusion. We are also going to develop strategies and a timeline for the field phase.
2. The field phase will consist of making contact with, meeting and getting to know women with refugee or migrant experience from our local environments. There are two main purposes of this meeting. The first one is to collect each woman's life-story and her favorite fairy tale or folk tale in her native language. These two narratives will be published together in the book, where both will be represented in an interesting and/or artistic way. The second aim, which is equally important, is to observe (through interaction and building relationships) the needs of this social group and provide activities that meet some of them.
3. In phase 3 of the project, the collaborating women in each country will meet together with one worker from each team and travel together to Slovenia. This will be the building of a multinational support network and preparation for the launch: the presentation of the book and the Human Library event, which will also involve the local community in Slovenia. **The third phase of the project will take place in Slovenia in the summer 2019.**

## Who are we looking for?

People of all ages and professions who consider social inclusion and female equality to be important values and are willing to dedicate a significant amount of time during Spring 2019 to work with refugee or migrant women in their local environment.

Teams in each location will consist of **3** people selected by the local partner organization.

Besides this, participants:



- Must be fluent in English;
- Must be residents in an ERASMUS+ Programme country;
- Willing and committed to work (full participation in the programme)
- Participation from beginning till the end of the training course is mandatory, absence without prior consent with the organizers leads to expulsion from the programme and cancellation of the reimbursement of travel costs.

## Venue and accommodation

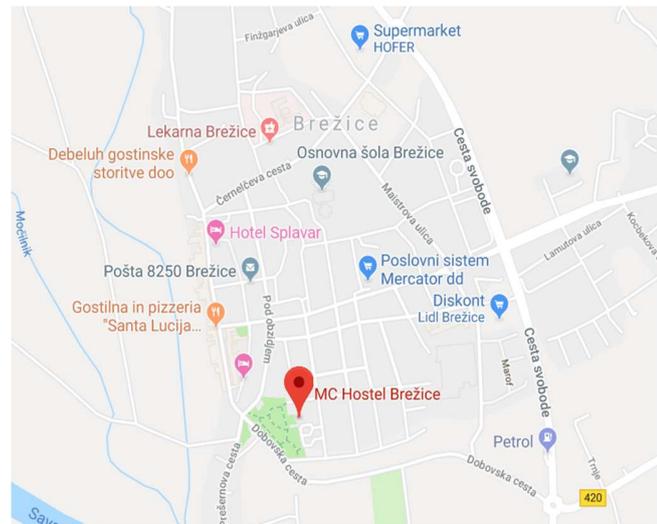
Participants will stay in **MC Hostel** in the town of Brežice. The rooms will be for 2 people – each participant will share a room with one more person. Toilets and bathrooms are shared together with other rooms.

You can find the location of the hostel [here](#) or see the map on the right side.

The hostel is situated next to the city park. It is equipped with laundry facilities, a social room and a sunny terrace.

There is free Wi-Fi for guests throughout the hostel.

Most of the time we will work inside but sometimes we will go out, so please bring also warm clothes with you. We are expecting warm weather in April (between 15 and 20 degrees during the day) with only light rain:



MON 4/15



13° /6°

Rain

Hist. Avg.  
16°/5°

TUE 4/16



13° /5°

Periods of rain

Hist. Avg.  
16°/5°

WED 4/17



14° /5°

A touch of morning rain

Hist. Avg.  
16°/5°

THU 4/18



14° /5°

Partial sunshine

Hist. Avg.  
16°/6°

FRI 4/19



15° /6°

Sun and some clouds

Hist. Avg.  
16°/6°

SAT 4/20



15° /6°

A little morning rain

Hist. Avg.  
17°/6°

SUN 4/21



18° /7°

Mostly sunny

Hist. Avg.  
17°/6°

MON 4/22



19° /7°

Sunny

Hist. Avg.  
17°/6°



## About Brežice

Brežice is a small town in eastern Slovenia with a population of around 7000 inhabitants. It lies in the Lower Sava valley by the Croatian border. Despite its small size, the town of Brežice has a rich historical and cultural heritage. The town was supposedly established by the Celts in 2nd century BC and has been continuously settled since prehistoric times. The most interesting sites are Brežice castle and water tower, which is considered a symbol of the town, as well as the double-arched iron bridge, which spans two rivers: Sava and Krka. The water tower was built in 1914 as a part of the town's water supply system. The Castle contains the chapel and the museum with archaeological and ethnological exhibits on the topic of the Slovenian and Croatian peasant revolts and a modern history collection.



## Travel and financial details

### Costs

As the project is financed by the Erasmus+ program, 100% of costs for food (3 meals and 2 coffee breaks per day) and accommodation will be covered, as well as for the daily program and working materials.

In accordance with the Erasmus+ rules, we are able to cover travel costs up to:

- Austria 180€/per participant/per training course,
- Italy 275€/per participant/per training course,



- Romania 275€/per participant/per training course,
- Slovenia 20€/per participant/per training course.

Reimbursement of the travel costs will **only be done** upon the full attendance in the Erasmus+ activity and presentation of the **original tickets with boarding passes and receipt/invoices**. You will have to send us the original tickets and boarding passes proving your trip back home from Slovenia to your country. We will be able to reimburse you **after we receive** all the required documents (invoices and boarding passes). We will do reimbursements for each of the two events separately.

### Travel days

- **Arrival day: 15.4.2019. Departure day: 22.4. 2019.**

We **cannot** reimburse travel tickets of any kind which are not dated for the travel days stated above. So if you will need to start your trip a day or two before the arrival day, please let us know so that we can arrange and confirm the possibility for reimbursement. The deadline for buying tickets is **31.03.2019**. If you need any help with organizing your trip, please do not hesitate to contact us. After buying your tickets, please send us scans **or pictures** of the tickets. Once again: any proposals for making your stay shorter or longer should be discussed with the organizers. Reimbursements will be done in EUR, regardless of the currency indicated on your ticket and receipts/invoices.

### How to get here

**By plane:** The closest airports to Brežice are Ljubljana Jože Pučnik airport or those in neighboring countries: in Trieste or Venice, Italy; in Zagreb, Croatia; or in Graz, Austria. To travel from any airport, the easiest way is to book a [Goopti shuttle](#) to Ljubljana or directly to Brežice. We suggest flying to Zagreb since our accommodation is just 40km from there. We can always help you to arrange transfers from Ljubljana or Zagreb to Brežice.

**By train or bus:** Slovenia is also reachable by **train** from Austria by connections to Ljubljana from Vienna, Graz and Budapest. There are also **bus** connections to Ljubljana from various cities in both these countries and in Italy. Try [Flixbus](#) or [Getbybus](#) for connections. You can then go by train to Brežice from the main Ljubljana train station, which takes around 2 hours. For information on trains and timetables in Slovenia and internationally, see the Slovenske železnice [website](#).

**Please feel free to contact us about making your travel plans** and together we will find the easiest solution for you to reach Brežice.



### What to bring with you?

- Good mood, openness and a respectful attitude
- General information about your organisation.
- Medications (if you need them).
- Comfortable clothes.
- A towel. The hostel will provide beddings.
- Personal hygiene accessories.
- Slippers.
- Electronic devices, board games, instruments and anything else that will make you feel comfortable during the free time and will not disturb others.

### Insurance

Each participant is responsible to arrange his/her own health and travel insurance for staying in Slovenia. We strongly recommend you to have a travel and health insurance during the project dates to avoid any troubles. It is not that expensive, yet worthy. In addition, European health card is also an option.

### The pre-training task

We will ask each participant to make an interesting and/or artistic presentation of themselves on one side of A4. Imagine your presentation is a page in the book – in other words, exactly how it is going to be for the women you will work with. Not too much biographical information is necessary and there is no need for extraordinary or sensational details. Rather, we are interested in features that are important to you - those that make you unique, are distinctive and characteristic yet relatable – they simultaneously distinguish you as an individual whilst uniting your experience with that of other people.

### Things to do next:

- Find participants
- Buy tickets
- Send us scans/photos of the tickets
- Complete the pre-training task



If you need any additional information, please don't hesitate to contact us:

Andreja Šmrgut Okrajšek: [andreja@humanitas.si](mailto:andreja@humanitas.si).

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU ALL AND GETTING STARTED  
WITH THE PROJECT 😊**