

Text of Email sent by Erasmus program (Nov. 2009) under the Subject heading:

[Exchange] genocide project – JOIN

Dear European exchange students,

you have a unique chance to outlive Gulag experience, the European project is for young generation of Europeans.

*The description about the project: *

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We will recreate on of the most tragic periods of European history - 1941-1953 mass deportations into Siberia. Stalins' camp for deportees will be recreated in a huge fenced territory of a Soviet bunker near Vilnius as well as in 3000 square meter bunker itself. Groups of 20 to 30 persons from one country to be joined by another 20 persons from another country (total 40-50). These groups will become Stalins' victims for one day in 2010.

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* The Deportation day will begin in the early afternoon in KGB museum in the centre of Vilnius. After the 1 hour excursion (free of charge for participants of the project) , during which young people will see authentic KGB prison, the group will go to the cafe nearby. Group of actors playing Soviet soldiers and KGB officers will take each group directly from the city street or a cafe in Vilnius, put them into a authentic Soviet truck and drive through the forest 25 kilometers to the Deportation site in the secret territory of a Soviet Bunker. *

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* Upon arrival to the bunker the group will have to part with their cell phones, modern clothes etc, and put on the clothes of a political prisoner of the 50ies. They will spend 4 hours in the Stalinist camp working in a forest, making the wood, cooking for themselves, trying to survive KGB interrogations, trying to keep their dignity and love for freedom.. They will share common destiny and build the friendships the deportation victims have built in real Stalinist camps. The day of each group will end with a symbolic return to democratic Europe - a European snack discussing with actors. *

Participants - young people (18-25) from all EU countries

International participants - 300 (9 groups x 30 to 35 persons in each)

Local participants - 40 (joining international participants groups 5-10 persons per group), possibility for Erasmus mentors to join

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Language - Russian with simultaneous translation into English

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Duration - 6 - 7 hours including excursion in the KGB museum, travel to/from Bunker and the programme

Transportation - from/to Vilnius provided

*Meal - in the Bunker provided - prisoners dinner and a final snack *

Proposed dates : Saturdays/Sundays

Deadline for registration of the groups : December 1st

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NB. Every participant will have to sign a special agreement (attached). Not recommended for those suffering from claustrophobia or heart problems

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IMPORTANT:

- FIRST excursion is planned for the 5th December 2009 (saturday), so, please, every European exchange student, who wants to participate in this, please, send an e-letter with the following information: Name of student, the birth of day, contact info. and the country you are from. DO IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. The

best - till this sunday night.

- At the moment there 30 places left. (If you want to participate but can not this time, you can join any other group after 15th January, so, in the letter you should indicate the time you prefer to participate).

- Keep in mind the warnings and if you have any serious heart problems or claustrophobia - DO NOT PARTICIPATE.

- In the attachment: the programme, description of the project,

confirmation form you will have to sign.
- Language - doesn't matter at all.

My personal advice: I STRONGLY RECOMMEND YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS project. It used to be the project for the Vilnius-European Culture Capital 2009, and we had an idea to take the part in it during the ORIENTATION WEEK, but it was SO expensive (around 200 Lt per person), but, apparently, they had to turn into the project for students and make it for free. Unique, experience, interesting, a bit terrific, but interesting. OUTLIVE a DIFFERENT LIFE.

PARTICIPATE!!! :)

If you have any more questions - feel free to contact me :)

Best regards,