

Welcome to DiscoverEU pre-departure information meeting!

13 April 2023



OPETUSHALLITUS
UTBILDNINGSSYRELSSEN



Erasmus+
Muuttaa elämäsi – avartaa maailmaasi.



EUROOPAN
SOLIDAARISUUSJOUKOT

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Pre-departure information meeting programme

- Opportunities for young people under EU Youth programmes
- Practical tips for DiscoverEU train travel
- Young people's experiences of DiscoverEU trips
- Opportunity to ask questions at the end of the event

Practices of the pre-departure information meeting

- Keep your microphone muted when it's not your turn to speak
- You can ask questions
 - by raising a virtual hand
 - on chat
- We will answer the questions towards the end of the event at the latest.

Opportunities for young people under EU Youth programmes

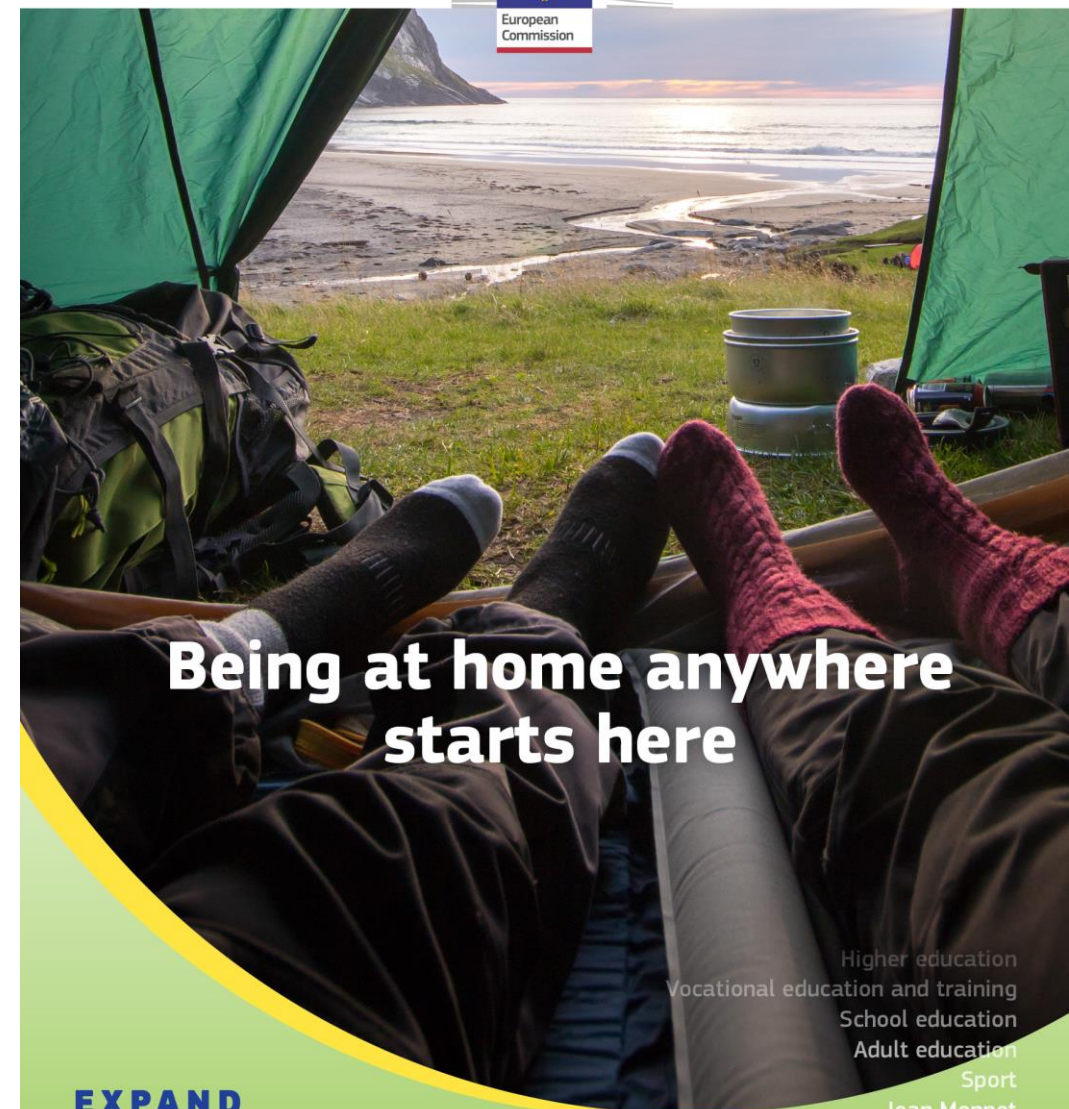
Click on the following links to check out the opportunities:

- [Youth exchanges](#)
- [Solidarity projects](#)
- [Voluntary work with the European Solidarity Corps](#)
- [DiscoverEU](#)



DiscoverEU in a nutshell

- An opportunity for 18-year-olds provided by the EU
- An opportunity to travel by train in Europe, learn about the cultures and people in different countries as well as get to know other travellers – and you will also be likely to learn something about yourself
- Includes the EU countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia and Turkey
- Travel card and discounts for young people
- Travel time 1 to 30 days, fixed and flexible options for travel cards



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ZONE

#DiscoverEU

Higher education
Vocational education and training
School education
Adult education
Sport
Jean Monnet

Youth

Erasmus+

Enriching lives, opening minds.

Good to remember: DiscoverEU Help Centre

If you have specific questions, go to: <https://start-discover.eu/> and click on Help Centre

→ To send your question, click on 'Submit a request'

The Help Centre is also easily accessible through the DiscoverEU Travel app. This is the best way of getting the correct answer to your question fast.

Meet ups

- DiscoverEU [meet ups](#) are organised throughout Europe
- For travelling young people
- Getting to know other travellers
- A fun programme for everyone
- Often includes accommodation and meals
- You need to register separately



Safety

- Take out a travel insurance!
- Get a European health insurance card from Kela. With the health insurance card, you have the right to receive public health care at the same price as the citizens of the destination country.
- Print and/or email to yourself copies of reservations and important documents.
- Remember to take a note of the blocking number of your debit card. Bring cash and store it in different places in your luggage.



Safety

- Get to know your travel destinations in advance: [the travel bulletins of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#) (in Finnish) provide an overview of safety in your destination country and local emergency numbers.
- Bring an extra lock for hostels, as not all accommodations have lockers with locks.
- Bring along your common sense!



Accommodation

- What kind of reviews have other travellers given to the accommodation?
- Make sure the accommodation is convenient for visiting the locations that interest you.
- Check the conditions for cancelling accommodation beforehand. Sometimes your plans may change rapidly when interrrailing. It is therefore a good idea to check on what conditions you can cancel the accommodation.

Links to find accommodation

- Hostels, e.g., Hostelworld (<https://www.hostelworld.com/>) and Booking (<https://www.booking.com/hostels/>)
More affordable accommodation than a hotel. Possibility to stay in a private room or in a shared dormitory. Hostels usually offer the opportunity to have breakfast, in addition to which there is a shared kitchen and toilet and washing facilities.
- AirBnB (<https://www.airbnb.co.uk/>)
Apartments or rooms rented by local parties. A more expensive option but suitable for travelling with friends, for instance.
- Couchsurfing (<https://www.couchsurfing.com/>)
Free accommodation offered by locals. An opportunity to get to know the target country with a local, but on the other hand, not the best option for those who need privacy.
- Housesitting (<https://www.mindmyhouse.com/>, <https://www.trustedhousesitters.com/>)
Free accommodation based on exchange, where instead of paying, you take care of the house and/or pets. Sometimes more short-term options are also available. Best suited for a person who wants to spend a little longer at the same destination and is prepared to commit to caring for a pet.



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New friends

- DiscoverEU meetups
- Hostels offer a good opportunity to get to know other people. Also check out MeetUp (<https://www.meetup.com/>) Couchsurfing and the DiscoverEU Facebook group!
- The best way to find like-minded company is to go to events that interest you – whether it's a local football match, a drag show or a hiker campsite.

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Other tips

- Check the limitations of your phone operator regarding international calls. Favour WiFi and make calls via, for example, WhatsApp.
- You can find up-to-date information on the coronavirus-related restrictions on arrival in each target country here:
<https://reopen.europa.eu/en>
- Information on different cities can be found in, e.g., the Use-it website (<https://www.use-it.travel/home>)
- Check for any free days at museums and check out other free opportunities at your destinations!

