

Metamorphosis Youth Exchange

28th of August-4th of September
Blue Butterfly Region, Romania

INFOPACK

Coordinated
by



Implemented
by



Host



Story of the Youth Exchange

Can stories change us and territories?

Metamorphosis youth exchange was inspired from the unique Maculinea Blue Butterfly life cycle, a butterfly that is grown and fed for 11 months underground by Myrmica ants. Two different species living and sharing together space and time, without speaking the same language. What about us, human beings? How do we live together when we are in intercultural environments? How do we relate to natural environments and biodiversity?

This Maculinea Butterfly presence has inspired five years ago the creation of a rural microregion of 12 villages, Blue Butterfly Region, a project promoting natural and cultural heritage through stories of the present and the past. This is the only place in Europe where we can still find the 4 species together of the butterfly.

Objectives

- Get aware of the importance of local biodiversity and natural environment
- Live an intercultural experience and cultivate openness and curiosity for human diversity
- Explore different storytelling artistic methods in order to bring awareness on nature and cultural protection



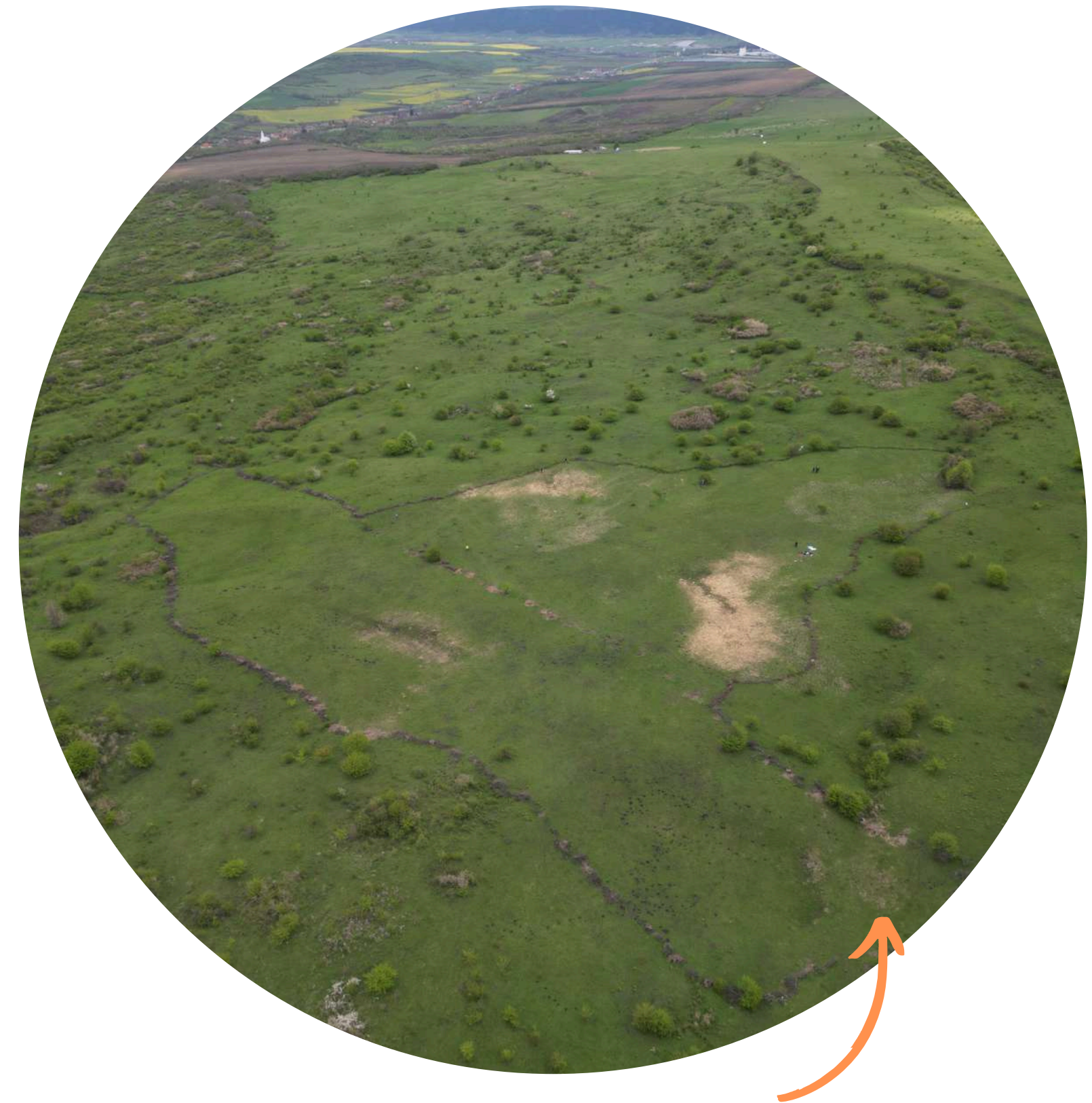
About the Blue Butterfly Region

Blue Butterfly Region is a microregion of Cluj County, composed of 12 communes along the Someș Mic river: Aluniș, Apahida, Bobâlna, Bonțida, Borșa, Cornești, Dăbâca, Iclod, Jucu, Mintiu Gherlii, Sic and Vultureni.

It is known for its Bánffy castles, the "electric" festival in Bonțida, the ruins of the Dăbâca fortress, the hill of the Bobâlna uprising, the specific stone houses and the "delta" created by the bed reeds near the village of Sic.

The land takes its symbolic name from the story of rare butterflies that live here, but blue is present in its life in other forms too: in the colour of the river Someș that runs through the area, in the stories of blue-blooded nobles in the many castles around, in the traditional blue houses with their volcanic stone shrines, in the electric lights of festivals, or in the fields planted with lavender and berries.

As well as the natural and heritage heritage, what makes this land unique is a community of skilled people who give colour and authenticity to the place. Without them, the county would be poorer indeed.



[Click on the Butterfly Protected Area to see more about the region!](#)

Target group

- 20 young people aged 18-30
- From Romania (6 participants + 1 youth leader), France (5 participants+ 1 youth leader), Germany (5 participants + 1 youth leader)
- Motivated young people interested in rural areas biodiversity and environmental protection, intercultural experiences, handy activities outdoor
- English is not required in order to participate!

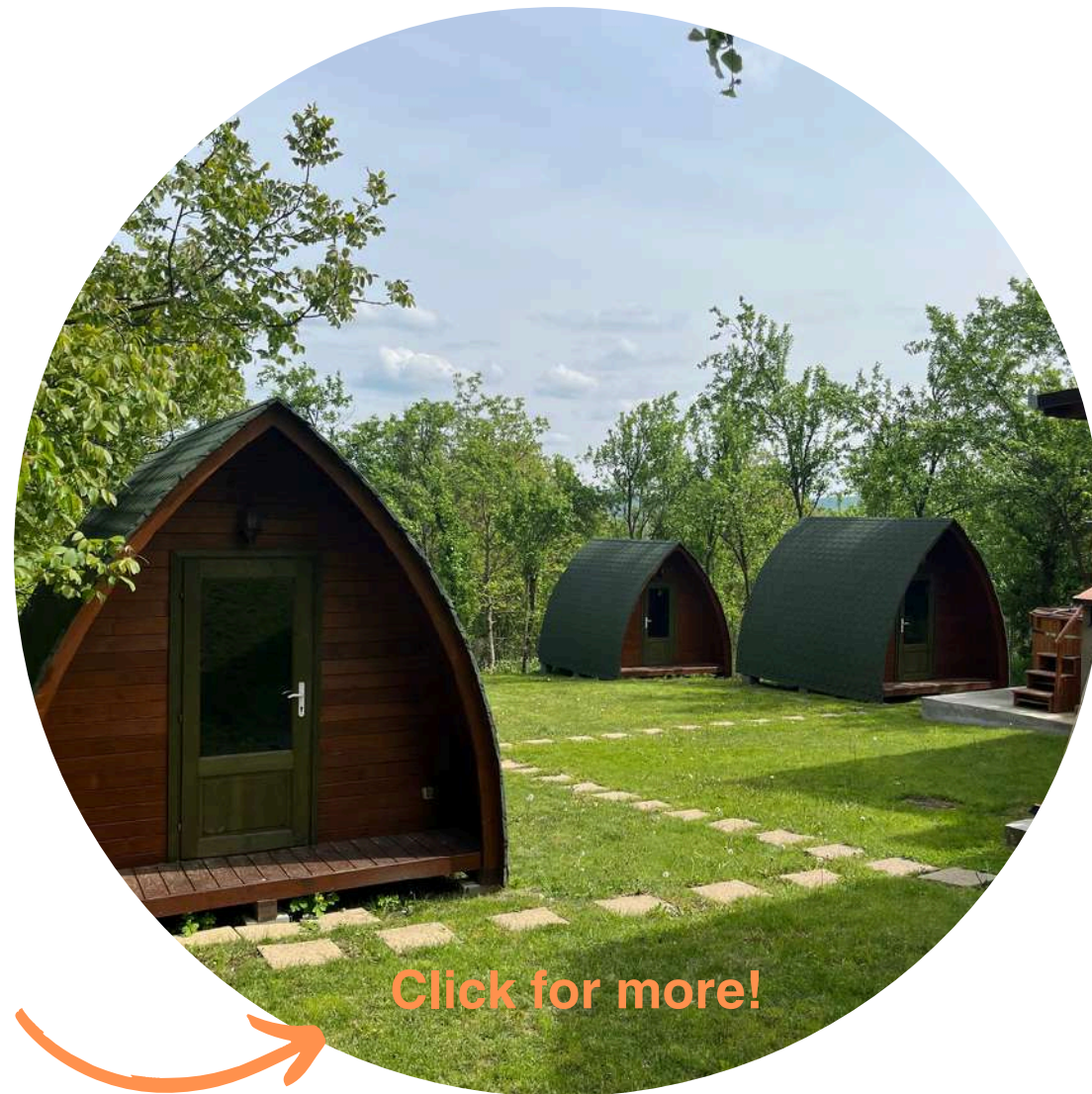
What to bring?

- comfortable shoes and clothes for outdoor activities (hiking and manual work)
- sun protection clothes, cream, hat
- raincoat
- swimsuit



Accomodation and food

The group will be hosted in Sic, one of the 12 villages from Blue Butterfly Region at Viczei pension (rooms with 2 or 3 beds, in total 18) and Tulipan Camping (2 beds bungalow), two very close facilities from SIC village. Tulipan Camping will be our activity venue with an indoor space and outdoor terasse.



[Click for more!](#)



Food will be prepared by the host of the pension: breakfast, lunch, dinner or pique-nique food for outdoor activities.



- **Travelling to Blue Butterfly Region and back home**

STEP 1: Arrive to the city Cluj-Napoca by train (there is a good connection from Vienna to Cluj), by bus, such us: Flixbus, Tabita Tour companies or by airplane (there is an airport in Cluj-Napoca).

Arrival day is 27th of August before 18 p.m. (if possible) in Cluj-Napoca and departure on 5th of September.

We highly encourage travelling as green as possible in order to have as minimum impact towards the environment!

STEP 2: Plaiuri Noi Team and volunteers will pick you up in Cluj-Napoca and transport you to SIC Village by car (40 km). We encourage each national group to travel together if possible in order to facilitate the transport. We will accompany back the participants to Cluj-Napoca after the end of the exchange.

- **Travelling in Blue Butterfly Region**

We will move in the territory for 2 days of the exchange and we will have a 20 people bus for the group.

- **Reimbursement of travel costs**

Travel costs will be reimbursed up to:

- 417 EURO (green transport)/ 309 EUR (non-green transport) for participants coming from Germany or France
- 56 EUR (Green transport)/ 28 EUR (non-green transport) for participants coming from Romania

METAMORPHOSIS PROJECT has three parts:

Before the youth exchange

- **Attend physical or online preparation for the departure with the sending organisation**
- **Attend an international call with all the participants and prepare a short task before YE**

Youth exchange

- **Get ready to metamorphose in a storyteller change-maker for nature and culture diversity preservation**

After the youth exchange

- **Implement at local level an activity in order to raise awareness on local biodiversity or cultural differences**
- **Attend a follow-up and sharing experience meeting in maxim 2 months after the project**

Youth Exchange Programme and Methods

Each day of the exchange represents one element of the Maculinea Blue Butterfly that is contributing to its metamorphosis. Our exchange is built as a metamorphosis process for young people that will become storytellers of diversity in all its forms: nature, culture, human beings.

The project is build around hands on activities and outdoor immersion such us the summer traditional activity of protecting the butterfly hotspot by cutting and collecting the grass.

Storytelling will be explored through several artistic workshops (photography, writing, dance, theater, Kamishibai in order to build a collective story for the Blue Butterfly Community and local public and bring awareness on the importance of protecting biodiversity or fostering interculturality.



Metamorphosis youth exchange programme

Arrival day
27/08/2024

Day 1
28/08/2024
We are eggs

Day 2
29/08/2024
We are larvas

Day 3
29/08/2024
We are ants

Day 4
30/08/2024
We are plants and
soil

Day 5
01/09/2024
We are relaxing
free day

Day 6
02/09/2024
We are the
ecosystem

Day 7
03/09/2024
We are humans

Day 8
04/09/2024
We are pupas and
butterflies

Departure day
05/09/2024

Facilitators of Metamorphosis Youth Exchange



Amalia Spinu/ Plaiuri Noi

She is a non-formal education facilitator in environmental and intercultural projects since her experience as an international volunteer in Hors Pistes association (2019-2021). Since the discovery of Blue Butterfly Region she builds local projects on biodiversity protection and awareness through volunteering or international exchanges.



Mihai Giurgiu/ Plaiuri Noi

He is the branding creator of Blue Butterfly Region and has been facilitating projects and workshops on rural development and tourism, local volunteering and digital skills in rural areas. Also, he is a very talented graphic designer and rural creative promotion person.



Bastien Donat

He is an art and design student, an intern and volunteer in Hors-Pistes association. His work revolves around involving participants in creative and artistic group activities in a fun, democratic, social and playful manner.

About the Plaiuri Noi Association

Plaiuri Noi Association believes that places can also develop through local brands that tell a coherent story.

We research, promote and activate local experiences in order to develop place or micro-region brands.



For more details on the project contact: amalia@plaiurinoi.ro