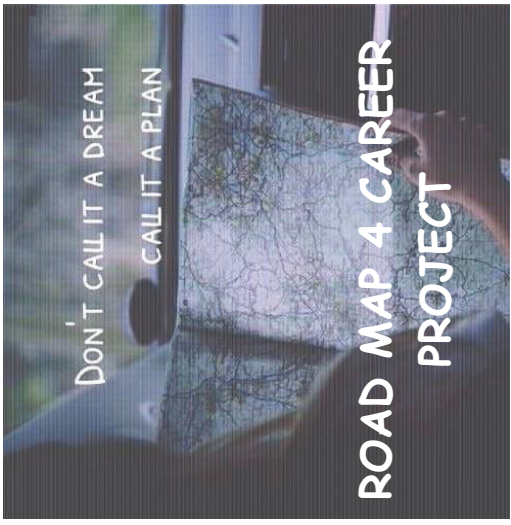


YouTHeagraph



system & generation



STORIES
FROM OUR

EUROPEAN

VOLUNTARY

SERVICE

VOLUNTEERS!



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VOLUNTEERS

This is an article for the decisions you have to take without being afraid of the consequences.



Have you ever heard about Elizabeth Gilbert's book "Eat, pray love"? Ok, so it is about a girl (Julia Roberts in the movie if you don't want to read the book) in a pursuit of her destiny and meaning of life. Now imagine me - a 22 year old girl who just graduated her BA and has no idea what to do with her life. And in that moment (yes, just like in a movie) I met Maria Slavova from "Youth development center - Mutual aid" - Kazanlak. She explained to me about EVS and what opportunities I have. And here I am -

Ankara for two months.

At the moment I am actively involved in the organization of the Social Responsibility Congress in December. I am also in charge of the implementation of one youth exchange - Road Map 4 Career. I like being a volunteer to S&G Association because I have the freedom to express myself and to organize different activities with topics chosen by me.



So, why I started with this beloved book of mine? Because it's idea is about this adventure where you find yourself. You understand who you really are and you find the motivation to pursue your dreams. Believe me, if you have the desire to do it - if you look deep into the turkish culture - you will understand me.

"But how one journey can be so amazing?", you will ask. It's not the journey itself. It's the people that you are sharing it with. I have never thought that I can meet such nice, funny and intelligent people in one place. I made so good friendships here that I will remember my whole life. I live with girls from 3 different countries and it feels amazing! Being a volunteers is something you carry in your heart and soul! I think everyone should experience it once in their life!

In the end I can only say - "we regret the chances that we didn't took". So try everything your life is offering you and don't be afraid of tomorrow because you never know how much beautiful can it be that today



I am waiting for you in Ankara, hoşgeldiniz!

*Aleksandra Lyutskanova

TWO MONTHS EVS IN BULGARIA

Sümeyra Güloğlu from Ankara made 2 months EVS in Focus – European center for development, Pazardjik - Bulgaria. The project - PARTICIPATORY VIDEO AS A TOOL FOR YOUNG VOLUNTEERS gave her a chance to develop new skills and competence.

Her willing work began in daily center after horary relaxation. She has worked with the handicapped already but this time is different because of the foreign language and the number of the handicapped. She drew pictures, traveled, played football with them and also I helped for their eatings. Voluntariness gave her peace. She figured it out that their smiling is the most valuable thing in the world.



In addition, She traveled other cities such as; Varna, Plovdiv, Burgaz, Nessebar in Bulgaria. However, she think Varna is the best in the inside which is my favorite, because it reminds me my city.

It was really nice memories to host Sümeyra Güloğlu in our organization . Pazardjik always have an important place in her life. We will miss her, because she had unforgettable memories with gorgeous friends in here.



EVS FEELINGS



There is adequate information on Google about EVS. That's why, this article isn't about what is European Voluntary Service, it's about what does EVS teach to people and how is EVS feeling?

First of all, EVS is a youth project that helps you about what do you want to do, who are you

exactly, where do you want to live. You can decide everything about your life and future without any pressure, any comment and any uninspiring person.

I can explain like that: EVS is an art of improve yourself. You're learning to survive day by day. You're learning many things. You have a lot of time for thinking alone that's why you can listen yourself. What a pity, this type of projects aren't so much common. I hope everyone can have the opportunity at least once. Let me talk about differences created by EVS.

2 years ago, i went to Finland for my first EVS. I started to cry from the first day. I wanted to cry all the time. It wasn't like my country. It doesn't smell like my country. I was feeling different from the others. I couldn't undestand anything, my foreign language wasn't enough. I wanted to go back. I can't explain that why I isolated myself and I slept all of time. I was missing my country a lot. Maybe I thought if I adapted there, I will betray my country. Now, I really can't explain this behavior.

On the second day, I was thinking it's not bad, I can get used to there. The third day, I was thinking "what a beatiful day!". People can adapt everything, this is in our nature. I had the most amazing times in Finland. In the end of my EVS, I didn't want to come back to my home.

I gained a lot of things by EVS. The most important thing is to be aware of very excessive nationalism is racism. Now, I'm in my second EVS and I'm full of the nice memories with people who I was prejudiced 3 years ago. I was prejudiced and staid to Greeks, Armenians, Germans... I could have first opportunity by my Greek friend Vasiliki and I shared a home with my Armenian friend Khactur and my German friend Milena now and Ireally love them too much (also Carlos, Janeek and Melike I didn't forget you <3) they're my family in Italy. I never saw helpful people like them before. They understood me more than the other people. Because we have a common bygone and close culture. I never thought that we resemble each other that much. I wish political problems didn't sever us. If personnel interests doesn't provoke to people, if they let us alone, nobody will not hurt anyone and the world will be better. In

every resemblance that you cached, you feel complicated feelings of happiness and sadness...



EVS FEELINGS



EVS is the most important opportunity that broaden one's horizon. Everyone says, Scandinavian people are cold. I need anything in Finland under all of my mentors favor. They did everything for me so I don't feel my family's absence. In that through EVS, I started to not believe everything before gaining experience. I have numerous friends from numerous countries. That's why, EVS provided me to look for different perspectives about every subject, also provided me patience. Now, I'm more peaceful and humanist person so it changed my opinion, relationship with people and changed my life totally. I learnt to cope with difficult situation and to keep calm. I gained ability to be sufficient by oneself, to stand on my own legs and to get my feet on floor steady. In brief, I learnt to be stronger.

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I'm very thankful to all hardship because of that. I'm very grateful to all people that I've met. In every intercultural exchange, I learnt one more thing and always I found something that confused me. I feel I'm changing from a little hollow princess to powerful and equipped woman. My other awareness is about how appearances are fallacious and unimportant. I remember I cried when I couldn't find available number of shoes that I like 4 years ago. What a silliness? I never worry about insignificant things anymore. My friends started to be insufficient after my EVS. I'm also grateful to my friends who left from my life. Briefly, as my Portuguese friend Carlos says: EVS is more than experience.

My best regards,
Nilüfer AYHAN.





PROJECTS

VOLUNTEER DAY - THE BEST TIME FOR VED FORUM

During 3rd- 5th of December 2015 System and Generation Association had hosted a Volunteer Engagement of people with Disabilities (VED) Forum in Ankara. VED Forum is a follow-up event of the Large-scale EVS event: Disabled Free Fest, which took place in October 2015 in Didyma (Turkey).

The goal of the VED Forum was to evaluate and analyze the results and outputs of our Project: Disabled Free Fest. The participants were: ex-EVS volunteers of this project, representatives from partner organizations from both sides: abroad and local, representatives from local NGO which working in area of volunteering and with people with disabilities, experts from Turkish National Agency and Ministry of Family and Social Policy of Turkey.

The coordinator of the project—Svitlana Sobova made a summary of the Disabled Free Fest project, which was supplemented by ex-EVS volunteers.



Also the advice from the Ministry—Kenan Önalán shared his own experience from participation in the Festival activities. He enjoyed his diving experience, despite his blindness.

After that Neslihan Sağlam – an expert in Erasmus+ Youth Mobility Coordination Eurodesk, made a presentation about Erasmus + Programme and special opportunities for people with fewer opportunities as one of the priority group of the Programme.



Viivi Setälä – the vice-coordinator of project made an workshop about social inclusion of people with disabilities, which included brainstorming and group discussions.

The dates of VED Forum were chosen not spontaneously – 3rd of December – it is an International Day of People with Disabilities and 5th of December is International Volunteer Day.

ROAD MAP 4 CAREER YOUTH EXCHANGE



From 02 till 08 December System and Generation Association organized youth exchange “Road map 4 career” in Ankara.

There were participants from 7 different countries—countries Czech Republic, Turkey, Serbia, Albania, Romania, Estonia

and Hungary.

The goals and objectives of the project were: teamwork, cross-functional collaboration, strategy and planning, problem solving, risk management, time management, resource management, creating competence, more positive attitude to European Project and EU values, increase young people's basic skills and competencies to labor market participation, promote intercultural dialogue, increasing the personal development and self-reliance of the participants.

On the first evening we organized intercultural evening where the participants presented their country and tradition with food, dances and songs.



This project's goal is to draw attention to youth employment and career, measuring the perception on the international level. We want to discuss with people how they organize their career plans. In this context, the point of making the participants' career plans to be open to different ideas, our priority is adequate training and could not be included in the state to have education in the labor market.

The participants visited Vocational Training Centre where they participated in the activities there—they painted the traditional Turkish art of Ebru. And talked to the people who organize this workshops.

Other activities included—Visiting Gazi University and participating in Social Responsibility Congress (SSP) held in Yunus Emre Kültür Merkezi.

In the end of the youth exchange the participants received Youth passes.





SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY CONGRESS IN ANKARA



On 5 and 6 of December in Yunus Emre Kültür Merkezi in Ankara was held Social Responsibility Congress (SSP).

System and Generation was partner organization along with AKTIF-IZ . In this social responsibility congress, organizations who submitted sustainable projects, NGO's in national and international level were involved in the organization of the project. The project participants were volunteers, grant institutions of direct social responsibility, working with representatives and participants from the private sector. Participants benefit from the transfer of high-level dialogue and common experience. We used interactive training techniques, audio-visual interaction with project-presented and poster presentations. Also NGOs, Institutions, Organizations in the private sector and companies prepared the ground results and networking.

The implementation of this project is as a result of improvement in the desired level of problems in the majority of projects and communities' quality and efficiency of social responsibility projects' During the project there were exchange of good practices, NGOs carrying out work on the same theme.



The project bring together institutions from private sector, youth and volunteers by increasing the impact of the social responsibility projects. The partners—National Congress of the Social Responsibility, System and Generation Association, Actif-IZ are very pleased with the support from the host community and Kecioren Municipality.



Our goal is to improve the quality of the Social Responsibility Project and the establishment of different interdisciplinary networks. The issues we identified are: 'Youth Opportunities Limited', 'Recycling', 'Social Entrepreneurship', 'woman' and 'project Quality'.

Arrival training in Istanbul

In the last week of January our long-term volunteers TsiTsi Ghlonti, Cecilia Szalóky and Nele Buschan attended on arrival training in Istanbul. For one week they meet with the other EVS volunteer in all around Turkey and shared their EVS experience.



Tsitsi shares her experience:

“The arrival training in Istanbul was very interesting. I can say that my expectations came true.

The most important thing that I learnt from the training was that I understood more about European Voluntary Service. Before the training I thought that I knew the most important things about EVS, but after this week in Istanbul I felt that what I knew was nothing and now I have the full information about this Erasmus+ program.”



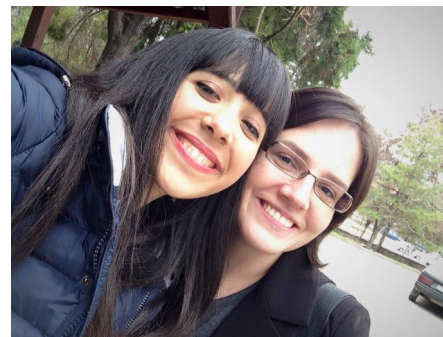
“ Another thing I learnt more about was my rights and roles in this program.

The training was full of examples which we were making together in spontaneous way. This made the time in Istanbul more joyful and I think this is the best way to get the information you need and to memorize it well.

For me money case was also very important and the trainers explained it very well. The information about how to use our volunteer insur-

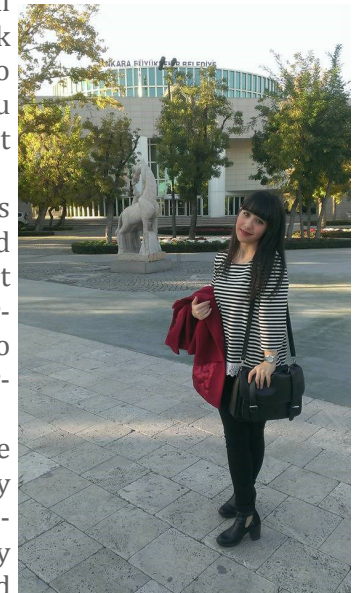
ance was very helpful for me.

In my opinion the group was open; we were sharing our experiences to each other. I was very interested in the projects of the other volunteers. I enjoyed one activity very much – one day



we shared our projects with the other volunteers from different organizations and cities. We asked questions and we understood the differences between our projects and lifestyle in Turkey.”

Tsitsi Ghlonti



FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES FOR THE PROJECT “HEALTHY LIFE – YOUR ‘NEW HIGH”

Healthy life – your ‘new high is the initiative of ZURY Association from Timisoara (RO) whose aim is to diminish the consumption of drugs, alcohol and tobacco among youth by organizing information and awareness raising campaigns, presenting the negative effects of their consumption as well as promoting in the same time a healthy lifestyle through



stimulating young people and children to get involved in recreational sportive and outdoor activities, non-formal educational activities and activities of spending their free time in a constructive and pleasant way in disfavor of consuming drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

The methods & instruments that the EVS volunteers will use to develop the activities are from the non-formal area: games, workshops, sportive activities, presentations, flash mob, debates, brainstorming, socio-educational animation, public cafe, street animation, audio-video materials etc. The types of the activities the EVS volunteers will develop are belonging to the following categories: information and awareness raising campaigns, workshops, events, club, non-formal activities.



Within the project there will be involved a total no. of 8 EVS volunteers, sent by 4 different sending organizations from 4 program countries. Out of them, 4 volunteers will be with fewer opportunities. The EVS volunteers will be developing voluntary stages of 10 months each, first 4 of them being involved in the community of Arad and the other 4 in the city of Timisoara. The general period of the voluntary stages will be: 1st of May 2015 – 29th of Feb 2016 and 1st of Mar 2016 – 31st of Dec 2016. The entire project will last for 2 years, between 1st of Feb 2015 and 31st of Jan 2017.

Until the follow-up activities, the partners organized many workshops against drugs and alcohol use, healthy lifestyle and general campaign to promote the use of bicycle



The project aims to promote a healthy lifestyle among 300 young people and children from Arad and Timisoara during the project duration



A Facebook page was created to promote the use of bicycle.