

# Evaluation of 2014 EVS coordinators' meetings in Eastern Partnership countries and Russia



SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus (EECA) Resource Centre organised national meetings and trainings for EVS coordinators already for third time. In 2011 the EVS accreditation system was established for the region and SALTO EECA became responsible for EVS training cycle (on-arrival trainings and mid-term meetings). First national meetings for EVS coordinators took place in 2012, next ones in 2013. The concept of the meetings evolved to include training elements for beginning coordinators and non-accredited organisations interested in EVS. Even though each activity was evaluated separately and has its own report, we decided to run this common follow up on-line questionnaire between May and June 2014. To facilitate the process the questionnaire was in English and Russian parallel. Below you can find main findings of the on-line evaluation.

All 7 meetings gathered **148 participants**. Sixty seven of them answered the questionnaire (we have received 8 responses from Armenia out of 21 participants [8/21], Azerbaijan 4/10, Belarus 11/29, Georgia 12/14, Moldova 3/21, Russia 18/29, Ukraine 11/24). **The turn out on average was 45%**, which is quite good for such qualitative research. Please note the exceptional Georgia and Moldova turn outs.

## EXPECTATIONS

**93% of participants answered that their expectations were met very good or good!** Only 4 participants answered that their expectations were met on average and no one was dissatisfied giving poor or not-at-all answers.

## LEARNING POINTS

The most important learning points that participants identified:

- learning about Erasmus+, especially its practicalities:
  - rights and responsibilities of sending, receiving and coordinating organisations, volunteers as well as mentors;
  - finances and budgets of EVS projects;
  - project's life cycle, management;
  - risk prevention conflict resolution;
  - international partners' finding and cooperation;
  - process of cultural adaptation, intercultural shock;
  - learning and evaluation process;
- useful examples of solving different issues and challenges;
- visa issues and residence permits;
- meeting EVS volunteers, other experienced EVS coordinators, visit of EVS accreditor and presence of SALTO EECA officers;
- finding support and consultancy;
- motivating volunteers, volunteers' work division;
- learning about EVS (re)accreditation in Eastern Partnership countries and Russia;

Majority of participants do not find any useless elements of the programme, anyway some coordinators mentioned:

- getting to know each single organisation;
- sending organisation responsibilities;
- mentors' competences;
- administration and finances;
- information about PIC number;
- repetition of some information at meeting and training parts;
- SWOT analysis;

- too many games;
- some aspects concerning politics;

## OUTCOMES

Participants identified following outcomes after the meeting/training for themselves and their organisations:

- we are doing EVS (re)accreditation;
- we start our first EVS hosting experience;
- I'm in contact with EVS coordinators met at the meeting;
- I'm starting cooperation with some organisations I met at the meeting;
- we are preparing new EVS projects, with new approach and much more awareness;
- we plan to organise a training about using IT tools in EVS;
- I shared info gained at the meeting with my organisation and community;
- we have organised info meeting for organisations in our region interested in EVS;
- we are collecting information on how to work with volunteers with mental disabilities;
- in case I have some challenging moments, I remember our exercises;
- we add additional elements to our EVS work (especially when searching EVS partners, preparing projects' applications, preparing volunteers for sending);
- we reorganised our work with EVS volunteers, we are more confident now;
- we try to offer volunteers more diverse work with more precise preparations and instructions how to do things;
- we are talking with volunteers much more, making them aware how important is their contribution;
- I'm using new practical methods that we have discussed for sending volunteers;
- we developed a Facebook group for EVS coordinators in my country;
- I got lots of new energy and enthusiasm;

## METHODOLOGY

**90% of participants found the methods of work appropriate for the activity** (good or very good), 10% of participants indicated that the methods were average for such kind of meeting. No one was dissatisfied with the methods (no poor or not-at-all answers).

## VENUES

**75% of participants evaluated practical arrangements (hotel, food, working room) positively** (good or very good options), for 20% the conditions were average and only 3 persons were rather dissatisfied with the venue (poor option).

## FUTURE MEETINGS

Suggestions for the future EVS coordinators meetings and trainings:

- more working days;
- sent materials we are going to discuss beforehand (for example the application forms, charter, etc.) and print them for the meeting as working materials;
- print / provide take-outs, so we can be equipped after the activity;
- more real life case studies;
- city excursion as getting-to-know activity;
- do not split the activity to training and meeting because some themes repeat, maybe only to have 1 intro day for beginners and remaining time for all together;
- base the activity specifically on our needs presented in the application forms;
- will be great to see more video materials and concrete numbers / facts / statistics;
- do meetings twice a year per country in different locations to save on travels;
- more open-air work;
- more small groups' discussions, especially when there are experienced coordinators;
- such meetings should be obligatory for all EVS organisations from our country;
- maybe some moments for individual consultations with trainer and/or SALTO staff;
- in case there is not enough time for networking during the activity, maybe collecting presentations of each organisation and sharing it by internet would help;
- always invite relevant guests (EVS volunteers, accreditors, SALTO staff, others)
- keep meetings during weekends;
- propose evening activities;



COUNTRY	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Belarus	Georgia	Moldova	Russia	Ukraine
DATES (2014)	20-23 March	15-16 March	17-18 May	20-23 March	25-28 March	20-23 May	23-26 March
FACILITATORS	Anahit Minassian	Natalia Nikitina	Marisha Korzh Olga Paddubnaya	Giorgi Kakulia	Andriy Donets	Natalia Nikitina	Oksana Yuryk
SALTO officers	Andriy Pavlovych	-	Andriy Pavlovych	Małgorzata Pawłowska	Tomasz Szopa	Tomasz Szopa	Tomasz Szopa
No. of PARTICIPANTS	21	10	29	14	21	29	24
PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS...	Araks Centre	The Mary Center	Assistance to children and young people with disabilities	Borjghali	ALGA	AYA volunteer	Academy of Ukrainian Youth
	Ayrudzy	Bridge to the Future	Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs	Bridge of Friendship „Kartlosi”	ADVIT Moldova	Aetas	Alternative-V
	Center for Community Mobilisation and Support	Common Sense	BOSS	Children of Georgia	AIESEC Chisinau	All-Russian Association of Disabled	Bukovinian Agency for Regional Development
	Flight	Great Silk Way	Charity Initiative Medicine and Chernobyl	Georgian Youth for Europe	AIESEC Moldova	Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North of Khabarovsk region	Cariats Sambir-Drohobych Diocese

	Full Life	NAYORA	Ecointur group	Koda Community Education Center	Art-Labyrinth	InterAction	Center for Educational Initiatives
	Future in Our Hands	West Resource Union	Education Development Centre	Merkuri	AVE Copiii	Desnitsa	Center for European Initiatives
	HUJ-Voluntary Service of Armenia	Yaddash	Fialta	Regional Development Resource Center	Assistance and Protection for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings	DiGe vu	Community Foundation of Irpin Region
	International Center for Intercultural Research, Learning and Dialogue	-	Help for children and youth with disadvantages	SIQA	Casa Providentei	Ediny Mir	Donetsk Youth Debate Centre
	KASA Swiss Humanitarian Foundation	-	Historica	Strategic Development Union of Chokhatauri	Faclia	EkoCentre	European Movement for Ukraine
	New Generation	-	KinoBunker	Tkibuli District Development Fund	MilleniuM	Euroclub Vladimir	Green Cross Society
	Public Information and Need of Knowledge	-	League of Youth Voluntary Service	Youth Association DRONI	Miras-Moldova	German-Russian Exchange	Iniatsiyvni Turbivchanky
	Stepanavan Youth Center	-	Meredian Nadezhdy	Youth Space	Motivatie	Kaleydoskop	Institute of Ukrainian Studies

Treni Cooperation	-	New Faces	-	Oberliht	Konkort	Kreativ
UN Association	-	Office for Initiatives Promotion	-	Planeta Caritatii	Interra	Kremenchuk European Club
United Youth	-	Rechitsa	-	RCTV Memoria	Lastochki	L'Arche-Kovcheh
Women's Resource Center	-	SOS - Children Village Borovlyany	-	Regional Consilium of Youth in Gagauzia	Library for Children	Mosaica
Youth and Women's Center	-	Swedish Research Centre	-	Rehab Centre "The ray of hope"	Lyceum of physics and mathematics	Nashe Podillia
Youth Events Holding Center	-	The Third Sector	-	Small Group Homes	Consciousness ("Falcogroup")	Our Children
Youth Initiative Centre	-	Unihelp	-	Terra-1530	Association of institutions of non-formal education	Pangeya Ultima
-	-	World without borders	-	Vintul de Est	Platform Skorohod	PAUCI
-	-	Young Men's Christian Association	-	-	World for youth	Podolian Agency for Regional Development
-	-	Young Women's Christian Association	-	-	Perspektivy	SVIT-Kharkiv
-	-	Reveal	-	-	Youth "Memorial"	YMCA Ukraine
-	-	-	-	-	Veras	-
-	-	-	-	-	World4U	-
-	-	-	-	-	Sodrujestvo	-