

## **A) Barriers to Participation**

### **Participants to split into six groups:**

Participant 1 - Potential EVS volunteer or Youth Exchange group

Participant 2 - Sending Organisation Representative

Participant 3 - Hosting Organisation Representative

Participant 4 - Friend or Family member (EVS groups) & another exchange participant (YE groups)

- A set of hurdles are marked on the floor using chalk or masking tape at regular intervals through the room.
- Each group has a scenario describing the potential volunteer / youth exchange group and a short profile on the sending and hosting organisation. The role & personality (whether positive or negative etc) can be established by the group.
- The group stand behind the first hurdle in their small groups

## **Group One**

**Potential EVS volunteer:** You are 25 years old, it is your last chance to volunteer. You have over the last few years experienced numerous short stays in prison. You have for the last two months managed to hold down a part-time job, and you have attended basic education classes for the past year (since your latest release from prison). You like the idea of volunteering and have recently been helping out in a local centre for the homeless.

**The Sending Organisation:** You are a government probation department with the remit of supporting people released from prison, EVS is a very small part of your work you have previously sent one volunteer abroad before.

**The Host Project:** You are an organisation co-ordinating a number of social community projects in Turkey including a homeless hostel, a centre for the elderly, and a disability resource centre. You plan that the volunteer will work in the homeless hostel, but this is flexible.

## Group Two

**Potential EVS volunteer:** You are currently in prison due to a minor first offence. You have been offered a chance to participate in EVS from your outreach worker who is supporting you in prison and, on release you want to go on a project immediately to prevent you getting involved with the 'wrong crowd' again.

**The Sending Organisation** is based in the prison where you are remanded, the worker who will support you on EVS has a remit to work with prisoners, whilst inside, and on release.

**The Host Placement** you are being offered is very supportive, it is a project based in the outskirts of a small town, in the South of France close to a number of leisure facilities. The project is to work in painting and decorating skills workshops, and the volunteer will work alongside a group of local volunteers as well as one long-term volunteer.

## Group Three

**Potential EVS volunteer:** You are 19 years old and have never been abroad. You have come from an unstable family background and have been in the care of the local authorities, living in children's homes, foster care (or the equivalent) in your country. You have recently made contact with your mother, who has after 15 years of no interest, suddenly decided she wants contact with you. You need to feel loved and have got into many inappropriate and unfulfilling relationships, looking for love. You have started getting into trouble, to prove yourself and be accepted by your chosen group of 'friends'

**The Sending Organisation:** You are a local voluntary organisation who supports young people with fewer opportunities. You have met this potential volunteer through a youth club, who has asked you to support them in preparing and sending this young person.

**The Host Project:** Is a project working with children in Germany. The project is based in a small village close to Berlin. The activities will include working alongside long-term volunteers, to offer pre-school children educational activities and older children out of school holiday club activities.

## Group Four

**Potential Youth Exchange Group:** You are a group of young people from a community probation group - You have experienced time in prison for petty crimes (all of you your first offence and all of you spent less than 3 months in prison.) You have been released and now have to spend another six months involved with the community probation service whom you must visit daily.

**The Sending Partner:** You are a government probation department with the remit of supporting people released from prison, European work is a very small part of your work you have previously been involved with one Youth Exchange before, but had a lot of negative press - where you were accused of taking criminals on holiday. You are motivated (with some reservations to try again).

**The Host Partner:** You are a community/religious organisation in Italy specifically working with youth with 'less opportunities'. Although you never hosted a group of offenders, you have already hosted three Youth Exchanges and are committed to work with this new group. Generally the groups you host have come from low socio-economic backgrounds with poor education.

## Group Five

**Potential Youth Exchange Group:** You a group of 16 - 19 year olds, all with a history of drug and alcohol misuse. You are now supported by a community organisation which helps young people with previous addictions. Although most of the group are more-or-less over the worst of their 'addictions', some are still tempted to use these substances when they mix with friends who use drugs and drink excessively. Some members of the group have been involved with prostitution as a way of making money for their habits, although you no longer need to, occasionally they use prostitution as a way of making money when they are short of cash. All the group are motivated to take part in a supportive Youth Exchange.

**The Sending Partner:** You are an organisation which works specifically with young people with previous addictions. Although you are a voluntary organisation, your referrals come from statutory services, such as the Health Authority. You are a recognised service providing high quality support. You are based in a large city and come into contact with many young people, you feel a Youth Exchange could be a great opportunity for this small group of young people, but you have never arranged one before. You realise there are a number of specific support mechanisms you must put in place before a Youth Exchange could be possible.

**The Hosting Partner:** You are an environmental project based one hour from Oslo, with lots of opportunities to host a group who is interested in environmental exchange and also learning to live self sufficiently. The opportunities you could propose for a Youth Exchange would be around alternative ways of living, life outside the city and sustainable living.

## **Group Six**

**Potential Youth Exchange Group:** You are a group of young people who have not done well at school, you have been quite rebellious and not attended regularly. Finally you have been excluded and now attend an alternative education project or second chance school. The group have no qualifications and no history of training or work experience.

**The Sending Partner:** You are an organisation which works as a 'second chance school' offering young people who have not achieved well in school the chance to engage in some alternative education. These young people are considered to be at risk of becoming engaged in crime. Your education opportunities particularly focus on arts and cultural activities as a way of engaging your students. You have arranged one Youth Exchange before which was successful.

**The Hosting Partner:** You are a Bulgarian arts & culture project, interested in offering opportunities to young people to work within the local community, you would be happy to host a Youth Exchange and would also be interested to send a group of some of the young people you have engaged with on your arts workshops. You would like to find a partner who would like to both send and host a Youth Exchange.

Various barriers/obstacles will now be proposed either by powerpoint or on flip chart paper to the group who will have to decide if they are in a position to move forward on the next step to beginning an EVS activity or Youth Exchange - there will be lines drawn with chalk or marked with tape on the floor and each time a group decide the obstacle does not present a barrier they move forward one step. There are three options with each stage:

- 1) The group move forward - they feel the obstacle posed is not a barrier
  - 2) The group stay where they are - the barrier will slow progress but is not insurmountable
  - 3) The group return to the first stage - this obstacle has put them off participation altogether.
- \* If step 3 is chosen they begin the steps again with the next obstacle.

Before the exercise begins each team explain their scenario, then after each step they describe why they made their decision. At each obstacle the groups are offered the chance to 'role-play' the scenario in their groups with participants being encouraged to take on the characteristics of their chosen role. Obstacles are presented on a powerpoint projector one by one and 5 mins will be spent on each stage, the group discuss/act out then decide to move.

Examples of obstacles which could be used

Obstacle 1 - The host partner calls the sending partner to explain that the accommodation conditions have changed. It will now be necessary that the group/volunteer stay right in the city centre, instead of in a small village approx 30 minutes from the centre.

Obstacle 2 - The volunteer/a group member receives a call from his/her mother to say that she is very ill, she has just been diagnosed with cancer, and although it is treatable, she would prefer her son/daughter to be around for treatment which could last six months.

Obstacle 3 - Additional funding which had been offered to you by the local municipality has been withdrawn. You had planned to use this to part fund the project.

Obstacle 4 - The project activities have to change and will now focus around sports activities instead of what was planned. This is a significant change for your volunteer/group.

Obstacle 5 - The volunteer and their partner/two of the participants find out they are having a baby.

Obstacle 6 - The person responsible in the Sending Organisation gets another job, someone will replace this post, but they know nothing about EVS or Youth Exchange.

Obstacle 7 - The volunteer/an exchange participant steals a car.

Obstacle 8 - The volunteer/a participant gets into a fight after a drunken night out, causing a broken rib and suffering cuts & bruises them self.

Obstacle 9 - You should leave in one week, but the HO calls to say there is a problem with the accommodation and the project must be delayed for another three weeks.