

Call for participants

# NATURE OF EVS

**A space for inspiration, motivation and reflection for  
EVS (European Voluntary Service) ex volunteers and support persons.**

**We invite everybody who works with EVS volunteers: coordinators, mentors, trainers, national agencies staff and ex volunteers to come for a big RE-process: Review your motivation, Rethink your work, Restart your learning process and Recharge your batteries!**

Nature of EVS is a training course which aims to explore the potential and depth of European Voluntary Service (EVS) as a journey for personal transformation and complex growth of all the actors involved, with a focus on sustainability and service to ourselves, communities and environment.

## **WHERE and WHEN?**

24th - 31th July 2015 (including travel days) in Czech Republic,  
in a beautiful ecological centre Sluňákov: <http://www.slunakov.cz/eng/>

## **FOR WHOM?**

Nature of EVS is a training course for 24 ex-volunteers, youth workers, trainers, project coordinators, mentors and National Agencies staff, who:

- are involved in work with EVS volunteers,
- want to deepen their understanding of the nature of EVS as a life journey and a service,
- want to reflect on the impact EVS can have on their life, and on how they can capitalize it,
- are ready to explore and reflect on these topic in an experiential training course, in a community setting and in closer contact with nature,
- are able and ready to work in English,
- feel the call to work on the objectives mentioned below.

**Project countries:** Czechia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Macedonia, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, UK

## **OBJECTIVES:**

- To understand how complex the story of EVS can be, making connections with human life, natural cycles and traditional mythology.
- To explore how community life and the spirit of service can be beneficial tools for all actors involved in EVS.
- To create space for networking and sharing positive stories about EVS and their meanings for different participants.
- To experience personal strengths and shadows as EVS actors, to learn from them and get inspiration for future work.
- To collect useful tools and motivation for developing EVS into a meaningful and sustainable experience in participant's realities and their communities

## **KEY PROGRAMME ELEMENTS:**

We will have a fresh look at the EVS cycle, drawing inspiration from elements such as the archetypal Hero's Journey (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monomyth>), The Way of Council ([http://www.heart-source.com/council/way\\_of\\_council.html](http://www.heart-source.com/council/way_of_council.html)), community building and living in community, learning from challenges, nature-based education, communication and partnership, storytelling, the role of spirituality and the presence of personal ceremonies and rites in education (and life).

We will create a space to reflect on how to use all this back in our communities and work practices.

The training course is based on non-formal education and experiential learning. We invite participants with different levels of experience (from EVS veterans to newcomers and ex volunteers), and a substantial part of the programme will be based on sharing experience and exchange of good practice and inspiration. We want to create a positive and pleasant moment for sharing, evaluating and reflecting in the busy life of EVS project coordinators, trainers, mentors and volunteers.

## **TRAINER TEAM:**

Bara Bláhová - Czech Republic, trainer profile: <http://trainers.salto-youth.net/BaraBlahova/>

Carmine Rodi Falanga - Italy, trainer profile: <http://trainers.salto-youth.net/CarmineRodi/>

Helena Kosková - Czech Republic, trainer profile: <http://trainers.salto-youth.net/HelenaKoskova/>

Honza Látal - Czech Republic, trainer profile: <http://trainers.salto-youth.net/JanLatal/>

## **WHERE DOES OUR EXPERIENCE COME FROM?**

In addition to having more than 50 combined years of experience on NFE and experiential learning, using the methods described above (and others), we have been working in the EVS support cycle as EVS trainers, and in some cases also as EVS coordinators, mentors, accreditors, project evaluators or have been EVS volunteers ourselves. So trust us :)

## **COSTS:**

Programme, accommodation, food and travel costs will be financed by Erasmus+ grant. Participation fee will be based on a sliding scale (according to your financial situation) from 30 to 100€.

Payment of a non-refundable participation fee of 30 € serves as a booking of your place.

## **APPLICATION FORM:**

<http://goo.gl/forms/LcNKKGgNL1> (to be submitted by June 20<sup>th</sup> latest)

## **CONTACT:**

[natureofevs@gmail.com](mailto:natureofevs@gmail.com)

## **AND COMING SOON:**

Are you interested in this training course? Do you feel this could be exactly the thing for you, but unfortunately you are not available in July?

Stay tuned, we will offer a 2nd edition in Italy, 9.-16.November 2015