

Global Village

What is Global Village?

European Platform for Youth Development (EPYD) is preparing a Group EVS application that aims at rising awareness on other cultures, spurring intercultural learning, fighting discrimination, stereotypes and stimulating tolerance and understanding for both the volunteers and the target group.

This is a dynamic and challenging project that addresses all young people, regardless of gender, religion, social or educational background. The project is to be implemented in the South West Oltenia region.

How long?

The EVS service will last 9 months starting with 1st October 2013 in 6 cities from South West of Romania.

Who is invited?

There are **10 available placements** for youngsters originating from **European Union** Programme Countries.

Why Global Village?

The world is a much smaller place now than it ever was. 'Global village', 'globalization' and 'global markets' are the new buzzwords. People are traveling more and the number of people working or settling down in foreign countries, in search of better jobs or better living conditions, is increasing all the time.

Culture relates to the norms, values and beliefs **that influence and shape individuals**, businesses and destinations. It is a strong determinant of behavior.

Culture influences every aspect of our lives and often people are unaware of why they do and see things in a particular way. **Only when we step outside our cultural boundaries can we see how our actions are determined by the culture in which we live.**

Developing a **culturally competent attitude is an ongoing process.** It is important to view all people as unique individuals and realize that their experiences, beliefs, values and language affect their ways of interacting with others and the larger community.

The respect for cultural diversity together with the fight against racism and xenophobia are priorities of the Youth in Action Programme. By facilitating joint activities of young people from different cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds, **the Programme aims to develop the intercultural learning** of young people.

Despite the fact that entering the European Union in 2007 opened borders for Romanians and made traveling and connecting to other countries and cultures a lot easier **Romanians are still largely victims to stereotypes or ignorance when it comes to other cultures.** Romania is to a very large degree a very

heterogeneous country in terms of culture, especially in the south are. The socio-economic climate in Romania made it very for many Romanian (especially those from rural villages or small cities) to be able to travel and experience other cultures so, at best, their knowledge about other countries comes from second-hand information sources such as movies, TV shows (most of them portraying other countries from the American point of view) or folk tales that portray other in simplistic stereotypical way. This has also been influenced by the fact that, given the socio-economic climate, Romania is not a place frequented by many foreigners and most of the people in small cities and villages have never seen somebody from outside of the country.

Additionally, although intolerance, discrimination and xenophobia are very rare towards foreigners, Romania has big issues with discrimination and intolerance towards the big roma population living here. One of the factors influencing this is the big difference that exists between Romanian and Roma cultures and the fact that in Romanian concepts like inter-culturality, cultural awareness and cultural sensitivity are almost unheard of by most Romanians.

Most of these issues are most prevalent in the South West part of Romania which is poorer and more isolated from the global context that the rest of the country

Despite these issues, through our work with international teams of volunteer we have found that Romanians do have a great appetite for learning about other cultures and expanding their world view. The idea of the current project has its roots in our previous experience of working with international volunteer in disadvantaged rural or small urban setting where we found that many times the people were very interested in just getting to know the foreign volunteers, talk to them and get to know the cultures they come from.

On the other hand Romanian culture is and results of its geographical position and interesting blend of western and eastern cultures that is quite unknown to foreigners. Through the project the volunteers will have the chance to discover the rich cultural back ground of SouthWest Romania.

The Global Village aims to solve both a need and a demand for expanding the cultural knowledge of Romanians from small urban settlements. We aim that trough the activities done in the project we would increase the level of knowledge about other cultures, spur intercultural learning and tolerance in these regions by organizing small scale and large scale cultural presentations activities.

What am I to do as a volunteer?

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The general objective of the project aims towards developing activities that stimulate the personal development, rising awareness on other cultures, spurring intercultural learning, active citizenship and fighting discrimination, stereotypes and stimulating tolerance and understanding of both the target group and the volunteers.

As a volunteer in the Global Village you will be directly involved in the organization of non-formal activities that directly contribute to the achievement of the general objective of the project.

The project will be structured as follows:

1. Training and capacity building phase

This stage starts from the moment the volunteers arrive in the country and will consist of a month long Capacity Building Programme(CBP). The program is designed to transmit to the volunteer all the theoretical and practical knowledge about the project and prepare them for the rest of the project. The CBP has 3 parts:

- A 1 week training that starts from the day all the volunteers get into the country. For this week we will all live together in an training house and the programe will focus and getting to know eachother, teambuilding, fun activities and getting used to the project activities to be done, technical details and rules
- After the training all the volunteers will go to their hosting community for a period of 2-3 weeks and will get to know the community with the help of their local mentor. In this weeks, assisted by the mentor and the project staff, they will get to know the city, know the youngsters they will be working with, the institutions that will help them and their staff and generally get an idea of how the working environment is and what are the challenges and opportunities
- The last part of the CBP will be another 1 week training in the training house where we plan the rest of the project and set up the activity calendar in detail

In the Training and capacity building phase it is also included a training organized by the Romanian National Agency(training called On-arrival Training) that will also aim at preparing the volunteers from the rest of their project. This training is part of the mandatory EVS training **cycle**

2. Cultural presentations phase

In this phase each volunteer will start country presentations and cultural presentation of his culture for youngsters from the community. The main target group will be students from the local schools but any person from the community can join. In this phase we aim to transmit as much information about the volunteers country to the target group with focus on culture and traditions but also including history,

geography, lifestyle etc. This will be done through non-formal methods in an informal setting and can make use of a variety of methods such as visual and digital presentations, movies, show and tell, songs and dances, workshops, games, cooking workshops, painting workshops etc.

3. Preparation of the final event(The Global Village)

The project will aim at making a big intercultural event to show off each participant's country and culture in the biggest city of the region (Craiova). One of the main activities of the project will consist in preparation of the materials to be used in the event. The event will consist of setting up country stands with information, food, brochures, pictures, posters hand-made stuff that represent each country and the volunteers performing dances, songs or presenting on stage their country. The aim of the project will be that the volunteers include in their show youngsters from the community where they work so a big part of the project will focus on teaching dances, songs, specific handicrafts, traditional costumes manufacturing, to the children from the community where they will work so that these children will also be part of the show.

4. The Global Village

The biggest activity of the project will be organizing of the Global Village event, a big intercultural event that aims at presenting in one big event the cultures of the countries involved to the population of Craiova.

5. Evaluation

The last part of the project will be dedicated to the evaluation of the project and drawing conclusions on the impact we had.

Besides this the volunteers will also get the chance to be involved in organizing other big events that relate to the project objectives such as an event that marks Europe Day on 9th of May and will have the chance to get involved in other activities of the EPYD: workshops, conferences, etc.

More concretely your role in the project will be to organize:

- Discussions on different topics related to cultural sensitivity, interculturality, European values and active citizenship
- Language workshops
- Workshops on Multilingualism, Discrimination, Intercultural Conflict Management, etc.
- Presentations followed by open discussions (cultural country presentations, intercultural awareness, cultural views on active citizenship etc)
- Cine-forum (thematic movies followed by discussions)
- Intercultural awareness activities (visual presentations, intercultural games, gastronomic events, traditional songs and dances, etc)
- Active citizenship workshops where the values, knowledge and skills required by active citizenship will be developed through a “learning by doing” methodology by the volunteers and target group
- Promotion of EVS (Presentations, Distribution of promotion materials, Discussions with youngsters interested to join EVS, etc)

Large Scale Events:

- Europe Day – the international day of the European Union is an event that is traditionally celebrated every year by EPYD as an important tool of rising awareness amongst the general population.
- Global Village – as described above
- Other large events like volunteers day, International day of the Child

The Target Group you will be working for (in order of importance):

1. Students at schools in your hosting community
2. Youth from the community
3. General population

Where will I live for 9 months?

The volunteers will live in rented apartments or houses in one of the 6 communities in the programme. Be prepared for the case where you might have to share a room with another volunteer.

There will be **6 small cities** from the South West of Romania involved and the **24 volunteers** will be split **in teams of 4** in each one of the communities.

All accommodation costs (including utilities), food and local travel costs **are to be covered 100%** by EPYD.

In addition to this you also get 60 euro as pocket money per month (it may not sound a lot but the in Romanian currency it is more)

The **international transport costs** are **covered 90%** by EPYD.

To keep this document light and easy to read we have included only a part of the info. You can read more about the organization, similar projects, and technical aspects (food, local and international transportation, photos of the hosting communities) on the page of the project: <http://www.epyd.eu/>

SELECTION

Placements: 24 EVS placements

Age: 18 – 30 years

Nationality: Volunteers from [European Union Programme Countries](#), South America and Africa

Selection criteria:

- gender and geographical balance
- 1 place will be reserved for a volunteer that has a good IT skill (especially web-site maintenance)
- Any experience and/or educations in non-formal education and animation skills are a plus
- Artistic competences (basic, not professional) will be a plus
- The volunteers should have a good awareness of their culture and willing to share it

Language Proficiency:

- at least basic level of English (being able to make herself/himself understood by the others – able to communicate)
- basic knowledge of Romanian is a plus

Application Procedure:

For Accredited Sending Organizations:

Interested Organizations should send to serban.nagy@epyd.eu the following documents:

- Part A and B of the EVS application form (the one with partner details)
- The [Preliminary Agreement](#) of the EACEA should be filled in, signed and stamped and then send by email

For Volunteers:

Send to serban.nagy@epyd.eu a:

- Motivation Letter – making specific reference to the project tasks.
- A recent picture and the Curriculum Vitae (European Format - preferably)
- Support letter from your sending organization

Contact

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