



## **Do your European Voluntary Service with Curba de Cultură**



### **THE ORGANISATION**

Curba de Cultură is all about reaching out to rural youth. We are an NGO committed to non-formal learning, to culture and to participation opportunities. Our focus is to improve education levels and community engagement for the young people living in rural environment in Romania. We take our work very seriously, yet we do it in a relaxed, witty and humorous spirit. A youthful spirit.

Our main goal is to revitalise rural environment. In our view, change finds its most fertile ground in the ones most aptly equipped for change: YOUTH. Their energy and their desire to set a new way of doing things inspired us to provide for them an organisational framework capable of allowing them to implement this change for themselves and for the community they live in. We believe that our projects function as a pilot initiative addressing the issues of rural development, educational access and better opportunities for the ones who need change and a better life within the rural area.

Our organisation's headquarters are based in Izvoarele, a small rural community near the town of Vălenii-de-Munte, in Prahova county, Romania. The other affiliate organisation we run is located in Roşia Montana, in Alba county, Transylvania.

## THE COMMUNITY

The youth centre will be the base of operations for all projects taking place in the rural community of Izvoarele village, Prahova County in Romania. The beautiful surroundings and the mountain landscape will provide an excellent environment for building trust, tolerance and understanding and will create great personal development opportunities.

The commune has a population of 6268 and it is spread over several hills and river basins. The actual name of the village, Izvoarele, it's translated as "Springs" as natural springs can be found on each road or alley in the area. The main revenue source in the community is timber processing, as well as small agriculture.

The hosting placement, Izvoarele, is 60 kms from Brasov, 50 kms away from Ploiesti and 110 kms away from Bucharest, the capital and the main city in Romania. The volunteers will live inside the community, which is a regular mountain community in rural Romania. Accommodation will be provided in a traditional rural house, therefore the volunteers will be responsible for their own resource management and will have the opportunity of experimenting the rural life of the community thus developing strong civic and social skills. The temperature does not exceed 30 celsius in mid summer and can go as well as -12 celsius in mid winter. Izvoarele is a warm hearted community and most people are religious. The main faith is Orthodox, yet Catholic and Adventist communities are present.



The youth centre is serving the local community providing educational activities, training courses, campaigns and events. It also serves as a networking and friendship building framework for young people in the community offering the space and opportunity for planning trips throughout the country and mountain hikes. The youngsters also develop projects in the interest of the community with the help and support of the staff. The youth centre also offers a public library aimed at young

people and plenty of games and juggling resources and materials.

## THE PROJECT

Youth and youth issues are usually under the radar of the local authorities and generally the community itself. Nonformal learning as well is perceived as child's play and not as an opportunity for real, actual learning and development.

**The project aims at increasing the sense of solidarity and support of the community towards young people and the issues they are facing using nonformal education and peer learning.**



**The project will start in May 2015 and it will end in April 2016.**

**The main elements** of the project and the volunteers' tasks are:

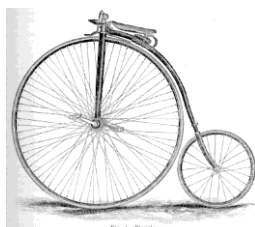
- Promote nonformal learning and volunteering in the extended community (3 municipalities)
- Nonformal learning activities with children in schools in the community
- Nonformal learning activities with young people aged 15-20 within the youth centre
- Organizing cinema nights in the community and surrounding villages
- Managing the library within the youth centre
- Organizing events for young people as part of the youth centre
- Producing, filming and streaming the online video show – «EVS Romania TV»
- Documenting activities and reporting

### Support and training

The volunteers will receive language courses, once/ twice per week as needed by the volunteer. The volunteers will also receive the support of a local mentor to help integrate within the community and develop and follow his/her personal development plan during the project. In order to be able to fully respond to the tasks of the project, the volunteers will receive training in:

- Basic Youth Work
- Working with Children
- Nonformal Education
- Video Processing and vlogging
- Computer Assisted Design

### Local Transportation. Food. Allowance



As the community is not widespread, the volunteers will be provided bicycles for transportation within the municipalities. For farther transportation they will use the public transport system – minibuses for which they will be provided with monthly cards.

Food is not something strange in the community of Izvoarele- Romania, people have used it for thousands of years (And since we're not quite in Transylvania, we don't drink blood.). It can be found in local traditional markets, in local shops, in local households as small agriculture is one of the main occupations in Izvoarele or at the supermarket in the nearest town (Valenii de Munte – 15 mins away). The volunteer will be responsible for acquiring and cooking his/ her own food and will be granted the equivalent of 100 EUR/ month to do so. The volunteer will be responsible for providing receipts for the total amount received. Receipts including alcohol or non food products will not be accepted.



Allowance will granted once per month or per week as preferred by the volunteers in the equivalent of 60 EUR/ month. It will be dispensed along with the food budget.

Info regarding prices:

- 1 EUR = 4.45 RON (the currency is called „LEI” )
- 1 loaf of bread = 0.85 RON
- tomatoes = 0.5 RON/ kg during summer season or up to 5 RON off-season.
- Olive oil = not really handy. We use sun flower oil. Sun flower oil = 7 RON / L
- potatoes = between 0.5 and 2 RON/ kg
- Pork meat (we love pork!) = 12 RON /kg
- Local beer = 1.5 – 3 RON / 0.5 liters

### Accommodation. Additional Resources

All volunteers will be hosted in a traditional mountain house in the community. The house will be shared among volunteers hosted in shared dormitories. The volunteers will have the possibility to host guests, but loud parties are not tolerated (especially by the local police).



The facilities offered will be the following: kitchen, bathroom, phone, access to a washing machine, ironing machine and a vacuum cleaner. Broadband wireless internet (1 Gbps) and cable TV will be available in the office/ youth centre.