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СТРАТЕГИИ



European Solidarity Corps / volunteering in Institute for Creative Civil Strategies - ICCS; www.iccs.ngobg.info

CALL for ESC volunteers from ITALY
Short Term ESC VOLUNTEERING Project in BULGARIA
CULTURAL HERITAGE REPORTERS

Period: 19th of August – 17th of October 2019 ; **Location:** Ruse, Bulgaria
Application Deadline: 28th of July 2019



About the Project

CULTURAL HERITAGE REPORTERS : is a short-term European Solidarity Volunteering project designed for 60 days and will be implemented in the city of [Ruse](#), North-East Bulgaria. The project will host eight ESC volunteers from two different EU countries: **Bulgaria (2) and Italy (6)** involving them in activities dedicated to the cultural heritage valorization giving to participants an opportunity to take an active part in increasing the popularity of the heritage of North East Bulgaria that often remains outside the focus of the mainstream destinations of the Bulgarian tourism industry.

Participation in the development of the region will provide volunteers with knowledge and practical skills in participatory heritage, new media, research and tourism industry. During the project, volunteering will be the method whereby young people learn new skills while they contribute their time and effort to support the future development of the region.

The project will be implemented under the supervision of ICCS members and in collaboration with Bulgarian tour guides, museum staff and experienced mentor and other experts.

The volunteers will work 35 hours per week having two days free of activities during the weekend plus 2 additional days off per month. The volunteer's accommodation will be provided by the host organization in shared rooms in the city of Ruse /2 volunteers in shared room/. Each volunteer will receive 120 euro for pocket money per month. For the on field activities related to cultural heritage sites/institutions outside Ruse our team will provide to each volunteer 3 meals per day.

PROJECT AIMS

The project will involve the ESC participants in activities dedicated to the digital valorization of the cultural heritage in the region giving to participants an opportunity to take an active part in increasing the popularity of the heritage of North East Bulgaria that often remains outside the focus of the mainstream destinations of the Bulgarian tourism industry.

The project is designed also to encourage young people from different backgrounds and skills levels to participate in international projects emphasizing on the development of “soft” skills, attitudes and personal growth.

METHODOLOGY: All the above will be carried out through learning by doing (informal learning) via the supervision and the guidance of ICCS team and experts in the particular activities.

ESC ACTIVITIES

The Short term ESC placement activities involve learning and using practices in the field of participatory heritage, social media marketing, library and desktop research. Special care will be taken to ensure the learning dimension and the social components of the Short Term ESC program.

The voluntary tasks during the ESC volunteering project could be described in the next points:

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES (group activities)

- Experts from the host organization as well as external experts – (tour guides, museum experts ect.) will present to the volunteers lectures or workshops to introduce the cultural heritage of the region as well as the current state of the cultural tourism industry in Bulgaria.
- The participants will take part in organised visits to different museum institutions interviewing museum representatives and experts having the opportunity to extend their knowledge, improving their skills relevant to the project topic;
- The volunteers will also attend short training about decoupage skills with the aim to create handmade souvenirs dedicated to the representative sites of the cultural heritage in the region;

PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES (the volunteers will work divided in small groups of 3 persons) ;

- Photo and/or video reportages and storytelling; photo/video content edition,
- library/online research about the cultural heritage in the region
- writhing a travel book (in English and Italian) dedicated to the cultural heritage sites in Ruse region and North East Bulgaria;
- organizing public events for popularization of the project;
- Tasks related to photographing and documenting the development of the project.
- Tasks related to developing a web-blog and/or making off short video or other visual/ printing material about the project.
- YouTube channel/web blog creation/updating;
- workshops for creating souvenirs and info brochures

TEAM-BUILDINGS ACTIVITIES

Outings to scenic spots in the cultural heritage locations in the region. Along with teaching fundamental and practical skills in team work, time/task management, photo and video documentation, photo reportages, video editing the project will provide intercultural experience by meeting the volunteers with the local community and by introducing them significant cultural heritage sites in the region of North East Bulgaria;

ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Tasks related to assistance of the logistic of the project (work planning meetings, discussions, etc.).
- More experienced volunteers will coordinate smaller voluntary groups working on different tasks assigned to each part of the voluntary project;
- Individual and group work with the mentor;
- Activities for evaluation and European Solidarity Corps Certification;

SELECTION PROCEDURE and CRITERIA

CULTURAL HERITAGE REPORTERS: ESC Short Term volunteering project is designed as non-formal intercultural learning experience aimed at young people with or without experience in travelling abroad. The volunteers should be 18-30 years old, willing to work as part of a team, pro-active and passionate

about the cultural heritage and its social value. We expect the volunteers will be interested in the South East Europe, its history and contemporary challenges, ready to live in the city of Ruse and to work in intercultural context.

Experience with volunteering or work in NGO sector is not required, but it will increase the possibility of a positive experience for the volunteer considerably. The ESC Short Term project targets young people with the following needs and capacities:

- ✓ The project is open to young people who would also like to develop in particular their: team work ability, creativity, self-confidence and to increase their sense of initiative and employability in the cultural heritage, tourism industry and civic sector.
- ✓ The candidate volunteers should want to develop their social and organizational skills and should be ready to offer their time and effort to the project in exchange for the chance to learn practice skills and take part in an intercultural work experience.
- ✓ We welcome youngsters who live in isolated regions or in economically disadvantaged areas, youngsters from immigrant cultures, early-school leavers, or those with social problems.
- ✓ We find the proposed voluntary activities as relevant also to application of candidate volunteers interested in social or cultural topics, new media or handcrafts. If there are candidates with previous experience and/or education /in field of cultural heritage, journalism, tourism etc. or anything considered relevant to the project they are welcome to send also their portfolio;

APPLICATION PROCESS: Interested volunteers have to send a **CV** and a **project related Cover letter** in English to ✉ iccs.bulgaria@gmail.com **before 28th of July 2019**. We won't consider the applications sent after that date! After the pre-volunteering screening each candidate that fits to the participants' profile described above will be invited to fill an individual questionnaire related to the administrative data, international insurance and personal expectations.

Project ENVIROMENT

The CITY of RUSE is the administrative center of [North-Central planting region of Bulgaria](#). Over the course of centuries, the city of [RUSE](#) has been a place of vibrant cultural development, hence one of the main Bulgarian cultural centers. The city is situated on the highest bank of the Danube river, at a distance of 320 km from Sofia, 200 km from Varna, 300 km from Plovdiv and only 65 km from the capital city of Romania - Bucharest

The close proximity of the [river Danube](#) has always had a great significance for the development of the city from antiquity to the present day. The major local cultural destinations were established as early as the late 19th and the early 20th century: the Regional Library, the Ruse Art Gallery, the Ruse Regional Museum of History, the Ruse Theatre, the Ruse Philharmonic Orchestra, the Ruse State Opera and the Puppet Theatre. More than 260 buildings in Ruse are on the cultural heritage list. European Heritage Labels were recently put on the facades of about 20 of them.

RUSE REGION is situated in the North-Eastern part of Bulgaria and is one of the medium sized regions in the country, concerning Bulgaria's territory and population. The northern boundary of Rouse region goes along the Danube river valley and coincides with the state boundary of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Romania. The town of Rouse is located near the capital of Romania - Bucharest /45 miles/.

The geographical situation of Rouse region characterizes the region as a major republican transport crossroad. Two of the main Pan-European transport corridors cross on the territory of the region - transport corridor № VII and transport corridor № IX, added by the possibilities given by the corridor "river - sea". The town occupies a strategic place hence the existence of well-developed transport system - automobile and railway, border checkpoints, duty free area, river transport, a bridge over the Danube River.

The density of the road network is approximately 0,370 km per sq.m on the region territory, which is considerably higher compared to the average for the country. There is constructed and well-developed railway infrastructure on the territory of Rouse region

Rouse PORT/ Rouse East & Ruse West/ is the biggest Bulgarian port on the [Danube river](#), a part of the important transport crossway of the trans-European transport corridors №7, №9 and the TRASEKA corridor - Europe-Caucasus-Asia.



The distance from **BUCHAREST International Airport** to Ruse is **80 km**.

The distance from **VARNA International Airport** to Ruse is **210 km**.

The distance from **SOFIA International Airport** to Ruse is **370 km**.

Close to the city is located the Natural Park [Rusenski Lom](#) where the canyon of the rivers Beli and Cherni Lom creates the valley of the Rusenski Lom River – the last right-side tributary of the Danube River. The canyon-like relief of Rusenski Lom River is famous for its beautiful landscape. It is called “a mountain in the plain” and it is known for its incredible diversity of orchids, birds, bats and butterflies. [Rusenski Lom NATURAL PARK](#) is named after Rusenski Lom River. It’s is located 20 km south of Ruse, takes up a territory of 3408 hectares and has been a protected area since 1970. Nowadays it is part of two Natural 2000 sites and an Important Bird Area with about 200 nesting bird species. The Park is a member of the [DANUBEPARKS](#)-Danube River NETWORK of Protected Areas

The [World Wide Fund for Nature -WWF](#) considers the Rusenski Lom Nature Park as an [area of high conservation value](#) because with its four rivers features unique nature, history and traditions. The combination of rocks, forests, rivers, and caves with meadows is reason for the biological diversity on the territory of the park. There are different marked routes in the park that allow volunteers to observe its biological diversity in their free time. On area of 3408 ha only, can be found 900 plant species (23% of Bulgaria’s flora), 200 bird species are nesting, 76% of Bulgaria’s mammal species use the area and 22 fish species swim in its waters. The

fauna represented in the park are Egyptian vulture, Black stork, the European ground squirrel, or Crexrex. The rock monasteries in the river valley offer the visitors of the park the possibility for cycling, cave visiting, walking tours, rock climbing and canoeing. All routes are well-marked and do not require special training.



The Natural Park is also famous for its rich cultural and historical heritage. On the territory of the park are situated the [Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo](#)– included into the UNESCO’s list of the world cultural heritages, the [Medieval Town of Cherven](#) considered as national *archaeological reserve* since 1965 as well as the only active rock monastery in Bulgaria, [Basarbovo rock monastery](#). The park’s territory includes also the second largest cave in Bulgaria –[Orlova Chuka](#).

HOST ORGANISATION:

[INSTITUTE FOR CREATIVE CIVIL STRATEGIES](#) was founded in 2010 with the aim to assist the successful personal development, social integration and professional realization of young people who work with, developing their creativity as a model for active participation in the civil, social and cultural dimensions of society and promoting the European youth and lifelong learning policies.

The organization is based in Ruse and works also on national and international level. Institute for Creative Civil Strategies is registered as cultural organization in the list of cultural organization of the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture. Since 2015 the organization is a member of the Anna Lindh Foundation network for intercultural dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean area;

The ICCS’s long-term strategy is to mix the boundaries between creative industries and youth civic participation, implementing on this base different educational and cultural projects focused on youth cultural participation. All our projects should be built on three major pillars – creativity, sustainability and employability encouraging the youth social and cultural entrepreneurship.

OUR TEAM consists of young university professors, PhD and MA students in Cultural studies, Media and Communication and Social work who also have EVS and other non-formal education experiences. We also work actively with Bulgarian youth from different Bulgarian universities with profile in social studies and humanities.

More about the organization find on our website, our weblog and on our FB Fan Page:

www.iccs.ngobg.info (BG)

www.iccsbulgaria.wordpress.com (EN)

www.facebook.com/InstituteForCreativeCivilStrategies