



## Zach Piazas

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📍 **Home:** Trikala (Greece)

### ABOUT ME

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A few years ago, I got a feeling of how a more fulfilling life can be like. Ever since, a pursuit to discover its full potential has been going on.

The starting point was when I decided to take on my first-ever volunteering experience abroad in order to break free from a miserable life, and make a new beginning. What I received in exchange were tools to help me in my orientation - courage and "colour".

And so the journey started and still goes on. Now towards deeper and sometimes new directions. Now with shaper tools and ignited drive.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

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#### Trainee

**United Societies of Balkans (U.S.B)** [ 04/10/2020 – 28/02/2021 ]

City: Thessaloniki | Country: Greece | Website: <https://www.usbngo.gr/en>

U.S.B is an NGO activated in the fields of youth empowerment, active citizenship, social inclusion and volunteering. During my traineeship there, I passed through all departments in order to get a view of how the organisation works as a whole. These departments consisted of Project management, Volunteers' coordination, Mobility office and Finances. Some important tasks that I undertook were:

#### - Project management

- Contribution to the writing of reports and manuals for ESC and Erasmus+ projects
- Contribution to the financial management of ESC projects
- Conduct of workshops related to social inclusion through arts
- Coordination of ESC volunteers
- Organising info days about ESC and Erasmus+ opportunities for the public and for ESC volunteers

#### - Communications

- Communication with partner organisations at local and international levels
- Search for partnerships in the EU projects' framework
- Creation of graphic presentations, evaluation forms and dissemination material for projects
- Organisation of an online campaign for the promotion of ESC and Erasmus+ opportunities
- Management of the organisations' social media accounts

#### Project Manager & Head of Sports Department

**United Societies of Balkans (U.S.B)** [ 01/03/2021 – 28/02/2023 ]

#### - Project management

- Coordination, management and implementation of European youth projects, mainly funded by Erasmus+ (KA1, KA2, KA3) and Europe for Citizens programmes
- Writing Erasmus+ KA2 youth proposals
- Designing and piloting non-formal education activities

- Introduction and guidance of entry-level interns to European projects' management
- Establishment of cooperations with local and international organisations, as well as with regional municipalities

#### - **Activities, events and volunteers' coordination**

- Coordination and facilitation of youth exchanges and training courses on the topics of social inclusion, environmental awareness, active participation and digital-storytelling
- Organisation of events for local youth on active citizenship (debates, conferences, facilitated discussions)
- Organisation of dissemination events in the context of EU projects
- Coordination and facilitation of USB's first networking event among international organisations
- Organising and running monthly football matches for social inclusion between refugees, local and international volunteers and the local community of Thessaloniki
- Coordination of the weekly meetings of USB's group of local volunteers
- Coordination of events' organisation with the group of local volunteers (e.g. charity bazaar, treasure hunt, community events, treasure hunt)

The main thematic fields of my work were youth empowerment & activation, intercultural dialogue and sports.

### **Trainer/ Facilitator**

2021

- Youth exchange on Social inclusion, environmental awareness and active participation
- Youth exchange on Gender equality
- Training on Creating artistic events for social inclusion

2022

- Training course on Digital storytelling
- Youth exchange on Environmental awareness
- Online training course on Facilitation skills

2023

- Online training course on Facilitation skills
- Youth exchange on Intercultural games

2024

- Online training course on Facilitation skills
- Training on Expression, communication and self-development

### **Techno event organiser & DJ**

**City:** Thessaloniki (mainly)

Since discovering the liberating power of electronic music, I started getting deeper into it. Starting from DJing in 2020 during quarantine, a year later I had my first event in a club, resulting in now having co-organised somewhere around 8 events in clubs, nature, and free spaces. Sometimes we held events for solidarity purposes, such as donating all our profits to help earthquake-stricken people in Türkiye in February 2023 and recently to flood victims in Thessalia in autumn 2023. Lately, I'm shaping my vision for the expression and connection that I want people to experience when coming to a rave.

### **VOLUNTEERING**

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[ 31/03/2019 – 27/02/2020 ] Sighisoara, Romania

**EVS volunteer** I was promoting a healthy lifestyle in the local community by:

- facilitating workshops in high-schools about mental health, internet addiction and correct body posture
- organising functional training classes in high-schools
- organising summer camps for kids (6-14 years old)

- having non-formal education activities for kids living in underprivileged villages
- organising of local cultural events and festivals

What was most important to me was that I took the initiative to create a charity running contest, which is now established as an annual event, thanks to the help of my fellow volunteers and coordinators.

[ 13/12/2020 – Current ] Soliya

### **Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange Facilitator and Coach As a facilitator**

After being trained by Soliya, I facilitated 2 semesters of online meetings between university students coming from different continents. What I did was to:

- engage the participants in constructive dialogue
- encourage curiosity, self-awareness, active listening and critical thinking through non-formal education
- enhance the quality of the discussions in a neutral and guiding manner

### **As a coach**

I coached co-facilitators that were facilitating discussions in the same context as I did before. What I did was to:

- support the facilitators in their skills development by helping them set goals
- watch the sessions of my coachees and provide them with written constructive feedback on their facilitation approach and their areas of desired improvement
- have online meetings with them to discuss the provided feedback, their individual and their group's process

[ 12/06/2023 – 01/10/2023 ] Castellazzo Bormida, Italy

**Animator and Facilitator** I spent the last summer in a small rural community in Italy, invited by my EVS's best friend Peter. This experience was like a 2nd EVS, as I was there with my old best buddy, but now in new adventures. Together we organised:

- daily summer camp activities for local kids for 6-weeks
- a week of summer camp for the elderly
- a youth exchange on the topic of international games

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

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### **CrossFit® Trainer**

**CrossFit®** [ 19/01/2020 – Current ]

Level in EQF: EQF level 1

Along with my 5-year experience of practising the sport, I have gained knowledge and skills on:

- programming and coaching
- proper technique in different sports (weightlifting, Olympic weightlifting, gymnastics, running, rowing, biking, swimming)
- identifying and correcting unsafe movement
- nutrition

## **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

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**Mother tongue(s):** Greek

**Other language(s):**

**English**

**LISTENING C2 READING C2 WRITING C2**

**SPOKEN PRODUCTION C2 SPOKEN INTERACTION C2**

**Spanish**

**LISTENING A2 READING A2 WRITING A2**

**SPOKEN PRODUCTION A1 SPOKEN INTERACTION A1**

*Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user*

**DRIVING LICENCE**

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**Driving Licence: B1**