

INFO-PACK

European Voluntary Service:

“ALIVE - Act, Learn, Improve, Volunteer, Empower”



september 10th 2018-june 10th 2019

Ozalj, Croatia

AIM & OBJECTIVES

Aim of the project is too boost active participation of young people and professional development of youth and partner organisations linked to Erasmus+ programme objectives which are the following:

- to support professional youth development
- raise quality of youth work in European context
- to raise quality of youth projects
- to develop key competences of young people (basic competences in Croatian language, improved communication in English, ability to develop and organise workshops and presentation, intercultural learning, basic project management skills, enhancement of communication and social skills, to develop sense of initiative while making workshops and small projects)
- to promote intercultural dialogue
- to promote social inclusion and solidarity
- to strenghten cooperation with the sending organisation
- develop a plan for further cooperation with the partner organisation
- motivate local youth to be active and participate in Erasmus+ for both partners
- boost cooperation with schools and local NGO in the framework of Erasmus+
- to bring fresh perspective and content in the community
- improved European profile of both partners
- improved management skills and professional skills of employees
- foreign language competences for both partners

ACTIVITIES

What will you do as an EVS volunteer in your host organisation and local community?

Monthly activity plan:

1.-2. month - Adaptation

On-arrival training.

The firts two months will be dedicated to adapting to the new environment. Getting to know the organisation, employees, local community, relevant institutions, organisations, geographical aspects, technical informations (about travel options, emergency numbers etc.)

Visiting near by areas, getting to know local volunteers and local youth and forming connections, getting to know other EVS volunteers near by, on-arrival training, introduction to Youthpass and

Erasmus+ overall, discussing the project application with the supervisor/project coordinator, language learning, meeting with local authorities.

Starting to work on promotion material - online research, brainstorming, finding a suitable visual and promotion materials. Starting with thematic workshops about Armenia.

3.-4. month - Starting to be Active and Learn

Already in the first two months volunteers will initiate with local workshops in the local community by presenting themselves, their country, culture, traditions, language etc.

Starting to learn more detailed about Erasmus+ under intensive mentorship in order to organise and implement activities in several municipalities about Erasmus+ and their EVS project. The main aim is to share the knowledge about Erasmus+ possibilities for youth and youth organisations through our EVS project

Job shadowing in LAG Vallis Colapis - cooperating in on going LAG activities and projects (involved in the primary school volunteer club, promoting volunteering etc).

Planning future ideas, activities, initiating activities. Involved in Erasmus+ project proposal that LAG will apply with great freedom to express ideas and involvement in the project preparation and application.

Mid term evaluation of the project.

5.-6. month - Improve and Volunteer

Mid-term training.

Active involvement in all activities, being independent. Implementing workshops about Erasmus+, promoting the project in several LAG municipalities in order to promote the idea, volunteers, LAG's work and Erasmus+.

Intensive cooperation with local organisations and associated partners, communication with local youth and their needs.

Development of personal project idea.

Continuing with thematic workshops about Armenia.

Involved in Erasmus+ project proposal that LAG will apply.

7.-8. month - Empower

Presentation of LAG, Erasmus+, EVS project, and youth opportunities. Continuing with Erasmus+ workshops - specifically aimed at EVS for youth and other NGO's in LAG area. The aim is to promote EVS as a tool for active participation and development (new skills, new content, more active youth

and organisations). This workshop will be held as a non-formal education for local young people and NGO's. Organizing and implementing activities (thematic workshops about Armenia). Planning future partnerships and projects.

9. month

Overall evaluation and reflection. Preparation for dissemination upon return to the homeland. Writing a final report. Preparing to return home.

Since all the activities will be of non-formal character the volunteers will, throughout their service, develop and enhance their competences as following:

- foreign language competence (ability to speak Croatian and improved English)
- improved social and communication skills (due to implementing workshops, events)
- cultural competence (learning about cultural heritage of LAG Vallis Colapis area)
- basic project management skills (organizing and implementing workshops, events)
- improved knowledge about Erasmus+ (workshops about Erasmus+)
- acquired knowledge about functioning NGO's especially in rural area
- acquire skills to improve employability (while conducting workshops, usage of Youthpass and promoting volunteering as a tool for improving employment)
- to recognize the importance and methods of non-formal education and ways of learning
- to realize personal projects
- develop a plan for further activities
- digital competence (online tools, making visual for promotion material etc.)
- competences in technology (using different technical equipment)
- sense of initiative (problem solving, sense of initiative in certain situations)

LANGUAGE

Official language of communication will be **english**. Help in learning Croatian will be provided. You can also teach your language to others.

You will learn Croatian through an OLS (online linguistic support provided by the National Agency).

DATES

The service will start on September 10th 2018. until June 10th 2019.

HOST ORGANISATION

-Lokalna akcijska grupa (LAG) Vallis Colapis was **founded** in 2009 as an **effort** of rural towns and municipalities in the north west of Karlovac county to **implement** EU LEADER program procedures for rural development. LAG **covers** a wide **area** which includes **14** towns and municipalities (Karlovac, Duga Resa, Ozalj, Draganić, Kamanje, Netretić, Ribnik, Žakanje, Lasinja, Pisarovina, Pokupsko, Žumberak, Krašić, Kravarsko).

-An area of 1025 km² and has over 45 000 **inhabitants** and works on **strengthening** local **capacities** in order to **empower local community** to be self sufficient in different fields relevant for this area - entrepreneurship, industry, tourism, agriculture, youth.

-LAG has 6 **employees**, most of them women from **rural** areas. LAG includes **local volunteers** in its' work and in that way get **new** and **fresh ideas**, perspectives and **empowered young people**. Most local volunteers are involved in the organization on **long term** periods.

-Within LAG works a local **Volunteer center Kupa** (since 2013) which gives **support** to local NGOs and non-profit organizations in **volunteer management**.

-We've put a **special focus** on working with **youth** and we have **implemented** 3 transnational youth initiatives and **5 youth exchanges** through Youth in Action and Erasmus+ programme. As for EVS, we hosted 2 long term (8 and 12 months) volunteers in our organisation.

Our **future aims** in field of **EVS** are:

- creating a **space** and **activities** for **young people** to spend their **free time**
- developing **non formal education activities** for youth
- contributing to the **empowerment of youth NGO's** from urban and **rural** areas
- giving **opportunities** to **youth** coming **from** rural areas
- supporting young **entrepreneurs**
- developing **new** and **innovative ideas** and **implementing** it in **local communities**

SENDING ORGANISATION

Gyumri Youth Initiative Centre is a non-governmental organization which was established by a group of active young people experienced and well recognized in the field of **youth work**.

The Mission of YIC: Assist in the development of the civic activism of the youth through promoting youth initiatives and active participation.

YIC possesses the following strategic activity directions:

To promote the civic activism of youth through raising the role of youth in society and ensuring youth participation in youth policy development through

- Youth Policy
- Community **Development**

To raise **youth employability** through increasing youth competitiveness in the labour market and supporting youth **entrepreneurship** through

- **Competitiveness** in the Labor Market
- Youth Entrepreneurship

To promote intercultural learning among youth through raising cultural awareness, supporting cultural expression, and enhancing cultural exchange through

- Art and culture
- Cultural exchange

“Youth Initiative Centre” YIC NGO has been active and involved in **European Voluntary Service** while not being registered as a formal NGO, but rather a non-formal group of young active people. While being a non-formal group, YIC hosted **2 volunteers** with the help of our partner organization.

KEY PERSONS

1. Supervisor/Project Coordinator: long term LAG employee Petra Cule experienced in Erasmus+ programme and activities. Petra was the supervisor and project coordinator on our previous EVS project. She works closely with the local community regarding activities with young people, pupils, volunteering etc. She has been working in LAG for more than 2 years now. Petra will be the person who will provide tasks, activities, give feedback on your activities, provide support and brainstorm with you about possible ideas :)
2. Head of social activities department: Martina Marušić Britvec will be another support person for you from whom you will learn and implement activities with. Martina and Petra work together on activities regarding youth.
3. Mentor: a person from the local community who will fit the profile best. Jelica Mrzljak was a mentor to our previous volunteers and by profession she is a school teacher. Experienced in volunteering and working with young people.
4. Your Sending organisation with whom you will have regular contact

PLACE

Ozalj is a picturesque town on the shore of Kupa river, in the center part of Croatia with total inhabitant of 6817 people.

In Ozalj, you can find a gas station, numerous cafe bars. Church and a castle and of course a well-supplied grocery store. There is also an ambulance, pharmacy, bank and a library.



Ozalj is 20 minutes drive away from one of the largest cities

(administrative centre of the County) Karlovac, an hour drive away from the capital Zagreb, 1,5h drive away from the closest town in the seaside Rijeka, 30 minutes drive from closest town in Slovenia and not even 2 hours from Slovenia's capital Ljubljana!



ACCOMODATION

During your EVS, you will stay in Ozalj. Both volunteers will be accommodated in an apartment in the centre of Ozalj. Apartment is typical for Ozalj and most of the apartments here look like that. What you need to prepare for is: classical heating - which means bringing wood from the basement and heating the fireplace; be rational with electricity and water, respect the rules of the building.

COSTS

Domestic expenses.

Pocket money: 150 € per month

Food money: 135 € per month

Local transport costs: will be refunded if needed for activities, not for leisure.

Important: money will be paid in Croatian Kuna's (HRK) on your croatian bank account, according to the erasmus+ currency converter.

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/inforeuro/index_en.cfm

TRAVEL BUDGET

Erasmus+ program allocates a **limit amount** to be refund for travel costs, according to the Erasmus distance calculator <https://goo.gl/V7BiyG>

For Example: from Gyumri, Armenia to Ozalj, Croatia it is 2347.77 km

For travel distances between 2000 and 2999 kilometers limit amount to be refunded is **360 EUR per participant**

Travel costs will be refunded to your account.

Warning! Don't buy any ticket before consulting with us by e-mail.

Important: save all receipts, invoices, tickets and boarding passes!

REIMBURSEMENT

Reimbursement will be done by **bank transfer** to volunteers local bank account.

VISA

Visa costs are reimbursed 100%, but you have to **provide** us with invoices, receipts and bills. Total budget for visa costs is **100€** per participant.

IMPORTANT: SAVE ALL RECEIPTS AND INVOICES FOR VISA JUSTIFICATION.

INSURANCE, CIGNA

As an EVS volunteer you will get CIGNA insurance. As a planmember of CIGNA free healthcare/reimbursement for healthcare related expenses will be provided to you. You can find out more <https://www.cignahealthbenefits.com/en>

TRAININGS

During your EVS, you will have two mandatory trainings with other EVSers in Croatia: On-arrival training in Orahovica and mid-term training in Split. Your sending organisation will provide a pre-departure training.

EVS INFO KIT

Every volunteer will get an EVS info kit before arrival consisting of:

- Welcome letter
- What to expect from EVS
- EVS Charter
- Youthpass information in EVS
- CIGNA insurance information

VOLUNTEERING AGREEMENT

Each volunteer will sign a volunteering agreement with tasks, obligations and rights, before arrival.

WHAT TO BRING?

You are coming here for 9 months. From September to June. It means, that you will experience ending of Croatian summer, warm autumn, not so warm autumn, rain, snow, winter, cold spring, warm spring, and summer. As said, weather here may vary from one "extreme" to another, but is usually pleasant. According to weather, you should have with you:

- Warm footwear and clothes, which will take you through possible winter
- clothes to protect you from rain
- summer clothes
- waterproof footwear
- laptop
- chargers - Croatia has 220v
- everything you think you need to survive
- ID and passport, all relevant documents
- medical documentation if you have one that we should know about

See you soon in Croatia!