



DECEMBER WITH YIC

Dear readers, we are happy to present the monthly newsletter, which will tell you about our organization activities done in December.

International Volunteer Day-2018

The month began with the preparations of events dedicated to the International Volunteer Day. On December 4, in the frames of the **“International Volunteer Day-2018”** project the following activities took place: Volunteer Fair, Workshops in the format of un-conference on experience presentations and development of skills, discussions with the participation of voluntary work organizers and service providers, volunteer talks on success stories, as well as awarding ceremony in the category of “The Best Volunteering Initiative of the Year”. The day ended with an informal gathering for volunteers.



“VOLUNTEERING PROSPECTS IN ARMENIA” FORUM

On December 5, Gyumri “Youth Initiative Centre” NGO implemented **“Volunteering Prospects in Armenia”** forum dedicated to International Volunteer day, during which working groups were formed and discussions were held on “The results of volunteering organizations mapping”, “Legal Frameworks for Voluntary work”, “Coordination of Voluntary Work”, “Motivations and Expectations in Voluntary Work”.



YOUTH AWARD 2018



On December 13, the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of RA in the frames of "Youth Award 2018" annual event awarded Gyumri “Youth Initiative Centre” NGO president Artur Najaryan with the title of "The Best Youth Worker of the Year".

YIC 10-TH ANNIVERSARY



On the 22nd of December an event dedicated to the **10th anniversary of Gyumri “Youth Initiative Centre” NGO** was held. The event was attended by the state governmental bodies, the representatives of local and international organizations, media representatives and the members and beneficiaries of the organization. During the event Gyumri “Youth Initiative Centre” NGO president Artur Najaryan summed up the activities of the organization within the 10 years presenting the implemented projects according to the directions of the organization. Also the premiere of the song "Youth Power" dedicated to YIC took place. The song is performed by the singer Armine Kocharyan.

Summing up 2018, Gyumri “Youth Initiative Centre” NGO awarded partner organizations, representatives of state, media and public sector with traditional titles and certificates of appreciation for close cooperation with the organization and for their active participation and support in the youth field. Also the titles "Member of the Year", "Staff Member of the Year" and “YIC Friend” were awarded.

As for the organization, the president Artur Najaryan, was awarded with certificates of appreciation and souvenirs by the current Minister of the Sport and Youth Affairs Ministry of RA Gabriel Ghazaryan, Shirak governor Karen Sarukhanyan and Gyumri mayor Samvel Balasanyan.

Friday's Cafe



On December 25 another **“Friday's Café”** took place. This time the topic was Christmas. During the “Friday's café” in the warm and friendly atmosphere our EVS volunteers introduced Estonian, Slovak and Czech Christmas customs and traditions to the participants of the café with the help of the games and quiz.

OPEN DISCUSSION ON THE TOPIC OF YOUTH FIELD



On December 27, in YIC office an open discussion was held on the topic of the future of the youth field. Different regional representatives, youth workers, experts, media representatives, citizens interested in youth field were invited to the discussion. The reason for gathering was the draft decision suggested by the government to make changes and additions according to which it was suggested to decrease the number of ministries from 17 to 12. None of the suggested ministries include the component of youth.

MOBILITY WITH YIC



This month YIC team participated in the training course—hechethon “Gender 2.0” on the topic of women empowerment through digital tools and techniques.

The participants from Armenia were Valya Martirosyan, YIC project manager, Hayarpi Poghosyan, YIC member and Esmarida Poghosyan, International Board member of YIC.



“Erasmus+” international training course “TRAINBOW” on how to design, facilitate and evaluate educational activities in youth work has launched in Slovakia.

The participants from Armenia were Anna Vardanyan, YIC administrative assistant and student at Shirak State University, Emilya Yeganyan, YIC volunteer and student of Shirak State University and Manuk Khachatryan, Leadership development manager at Teach For Armenia.

On February 6-13, in Georgia an “Erasmus+” training course on project design and management will be held. The deadline for the applications is finished. We will inform about the selected participants later.

The next international training course which will be held again in Georgia is on February 5-13. The main topic is improvisation and entrepreneurial mindset. The deadline for applications is also finished. About the selected participants you will be informed later.

"BEYOND BORDERS"



A group of six scholars in the field of public health, including dean and lecturers from two universities of Turkey, visited Armenia between November 22nd and 25th, 2018, as a part of Turkey-Armenia Dialogue Programme implemented by Hrant Dink Foundation in cooperation with Gyumri “Youth Initiative Centre” NGO.

YOUTH HOUSE



In December, we hosted a new Birthright volunteer Federico Avedissyan from Argentina, who organized different **workshops** on the topic of environment.

This month was the start of a new club, "**Improvisation Club**", which was run by YIC EVS volunteers Bert Tsapov and Martina Hornickova.

During the "**International Volunteer's Day-2018**" organized by YIC, the centre team presented the centre and its volunteering opportunities.

On December 5, more than 40 volunteers from the "Birthright Armenia" initiated a **community-based project** to clean the centre's yard by doing good work for the centre.

YIC EVS volunteer Martina organized table-football competition. The winners got a present.

This month the **Russian club**, which was run by Birthright volunteer Zaruhi Karapetyan, was over. The most active and responsible participants received their certificates.

The youngsters got ready for **New Year** by decorating the centre and preparing nice greeting cards. On December 20, the "Youth House" summed up the year; the youngsters celebrated the coming New Year, and exchanged gifts. The best youngster was announced during the event who got a gift and a certificate of gratitude from the centre team



We will answer to your questions with pleasure and listen to the suggestions 😊.