

Training Course “ESC to Reality: QualiCaucasus”

11th-18th of March 2019

Rustavi, Georgia

About

ESC to Reality: Qualicaucasus is a training course **for youth workers, project coordinators, mentors, supervisors and other persons directly involved** in volunteering support system and who are ready to improve personal and professional skills and competencies in order to develop and review their practices in coordinating, supervising, preparing and mentoring volunteers in ESC projects.

The training is designed **to discover various aspects of Caucasus reality** and **to improve quality** of existing and future volunteering projects. Participants would be able to experience different ways of learning, to reinforce synergies between formal and **non-formal education**, to create new partnerships and to share and learn tools, methods and best practices from different international perspectives.

Context

The main idea of the training course comes from working experience and a need to synchronize and update understanding of **qualitative volunteering project** with our existing and potential partners. While working together with Caucasus partners for the past few years, rather often we have observed that project reality differs from what is written in application and activity agreements due to cultural differences, different work styles, different preparation of volunteers, different motivations of involved partners and lack of proper communication face-to-face on all stages of a project. This training course will help to recognize and overcome difficulties in planning, implementing and evaluating of qualitative volunteering project.

Keeping in mind that there is **transition form EVS to European Solidarity Corps** program happening, it is the perfect time to tackle and to revise quality aspects of volunteering projects in order to **implement meaningful activities** offered by the new program.

The main subjects of the training course were discussed between partners and trainers and slowly transformed from sharing good practices to **adjusting existing and potential volunteering projects ideas in Caucasus region** based on extended qualitative criteria of ESC guidelines and principles of good project management.

Aim

Main goal for this project is to **increase quality level of volunteering projects implemented with partners from Caucasus region** by developing competences of the persons directly involved in support system of volunteers.

The specific objectives of this project are the following:

- to get better understanding of the concept of ESC and related quality aspects;
- to improve and enlarge the ability of the cooperation in the ESC field;
- to explore possibilities for successful international partnerships, taking into account specifics of Caucasus culture and reality;
- to introduce tools for better recognition of non-formal learning outcomes, such as Youthpass, Europass and others;
- to provide up-to-date information about Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme and European Solidarity Corps programme;

- to create and publish toolkit "ESC QualiCaucasus" for everybody who are involved in implementing volunteering projects with partners from Caucasus region.

Participants profile.

Training course is designed for up-to-now EVS support people in each partner organisation who are interested to work with organisations and volunteers from Caucasus region:

- representatives of ESC accredited organisations;
- active or potential ESC coordinators;
- active or potential mentors;
- ex-EVS volunteers who are willing to get involved in volunteering project support system and management;
- organisation's staff members who are supervising volunteering activities and providing task-related support.

Each partner organisation is responsible for the selection of suitable participants, who will be able:

- to communicate meaningfully in English, the main working language of the meeting;
- to actively participate in the full duration of the course;
- to share their experience with colleagues and members of involved organisations upon return from the course;
- to develop and improve future ESC projects in cooperation with EECA/Program countries according to mutual agreements on quality standards.

Partners and number of participants

Country	Organisation	Nr. of participants	Max. travel costs per participant
Armenia	Gyumri Youth Initiative Centre NGO	3	180 EUR
Armenia	Barekamutyun Educational Cultural NGO	2	180 EUR
Azerbaijan	Galajaya Korpu Public Associan Of Youth	2	180 EUR
Azerbaijan	"Common Sense" Youth Organization PU	3	180 EUR
Estonia	Mittetulundusuhing INVOLVED	2	360 EUR
France	A.D.I.C.E	2	530 EUR
Georgia	International Scout Centre Rustavi	2	20 EUR
Georgia	Union Georgian Youth for Europe	3	20 EUR
Latvia	Radi Vidi Pats	2	360 EUR
Lithuania	Siauliu Didzdvario gimnazija	2	360 EUR
Moldova	ADVIT Europa Fara Frontiere	2	275 EUR
Romania	ANTER	2	275 EUR
Ukraine	Center for Dialogue and Reconciliation "Iskra"	2	275 EUR

Travel costs reimbursement.

Travel costs are calculated for each partner according to Erasmus+ guidelines using distance calculator of European Commission. **Travel costs will be reimbursed 100%**, but not more than stated maximum amount for each participant. We expect that **partner organisations will buy tickets** for their participants and within maximum two month after training is over, travel reimbursement will be made. To make it happen **we will need all the tickets, boarding passes and invoices** from each participants, so, please, ask them to keep everything and send/give it to us. Without this documentation we will not be able to make travel reimbursement.

Visibility and dissemination of results.

It is expected that:

- information about the project and TC outcomes will be distributed by all partner organizations;
- photo documentation and articles will be published in project partners websites, monthly newspapers and local media;
- the participants will be encouraged to spread information and share their experience with their friends and colleagues;

The direct output of the TC will be the **toolkit “ESC QualiCaucasus”** focusing on volunteering specifics in Caucasus and quality aspects creating projects with partners from Caucasus region. The toolkit will consist of presentations, discussions and workshop's outcomes in following activity blocks:

- Summary of Erasmus + and its opportunities for the EECA region, Values and principles of volunteering and ESC programme,
- Effective ESC Partnership and quality in volunteering project cycle,
- Intro in Caucasus reality (Cultural and historical input on different aspects of Caucasus reality, gathering tips for preparing, sending, hosting volunteers for the volunteering in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, gathering tips for preparing, sending, hosting volunteers from Caucasus for the volunteering in EU),
- volunteering as learning service (Youthpass, Role of support persons, mentoring, Evaluation tools and recognition of learning),
- Conflict management and mediation,
- volunteering practicalities,
- Evaluation and follow-up of volunteering projects,
- Financial management and reporting,
- notes of Learning diaries.
- Short texts of good volunteering practices implemented in partner EVS projects will be mentioned within all toolkit blocks as well.

Expected impact of TC.

We expect that:

1. participants will use these knowledge and skills in their professional lives and share them with other colleagues in their organizations;
2. Partner organizations will follow up this project with improvements in their volunteering activities, will increase efficiency in promoting volunteering in general and ESC in particular;
3. Program countries will establish stronger international cooperation with organisations from Caucasus region;
4. this training course will directly impact quality of existing and future common volunteering projects.

Programm of the TC

Programm will be justed according to the needs of participants.

	Monday – 11 MAR	Tuesday-12 MAR	Wednesday -13 MAR	Thursday- 14 MAR	Friday -15 MAR	Saturday –16 MAR	Sunday – 17 MAR	Monday –18 MAR	
7.00									
8.00-9.00	BREAKFAST								
9:00		Opening ceremony	Intro of “harvesting circle”	“Harvesting circle”	Learning diaries and Harvesting circle	“Harvesting circle”	“Harvesting circle”		
9:30		Getting to know each other	What is Solidarity?	ESC as learning service					
10:30		Expectations and fears.	Values and principles of ESC	Role of support persons. How to prepare organisation for hosting and volunteer for sending	EVS as non-formal education experience	Conflict management and mediation	Evaluation and follow-up of ESC projects	D e p a r t u r e s	
11:30		Coffee/tea/juice break							
12:00		Mapping the venue and surroundings	Effective ESC Partnership and quality in ESC projects	Good practices in volunteering projects	Mentoring in ESC	ESC practicalities	Financial managment and reporting		
13:00		Programm							
14:00-16:00	LUNCH								
16.00		Team building	Working session III: Intro in Caucasus reality	15:00 Visiting EVS and ESC Organisation in Rustavi and Tbilisi	Evaluation tools and recognition of learning in ESC	Exploration of Erasmus+ opportunities for innovation and quality of education. Developing ideas for cooperation	Learning diaries. Learning outcomes.		
17.30		Coffee/tea/juice break							
18.00		Intro to Youthpass,	Intro in Caucasus reality	Visiting EVS and ESK Organisation in Rustavi and Tbilisi	Evaluation tools and recognition of learning in ESC	Developing ideas for cooperation	Final evaluation		
19.00		Learning diaries and “Base Group” meeting	Learning diaries and “Base Group” meeting		Learning diaries and “Base Group” meeting	Learning diaries and “Base Group” meeting	Youthpass ceremony		
20.00-21.00	DINNER								
21:00	Unofficial welcome evening	Tasting cultural differences and commonalities (Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan)	Tasting cultural differences and commonalities (Latvia, France, Romania, Moldova)	Free evening	Networking organizations (eve)	Free evening	Farewell Evenng		



Venue and Accommodation.

Training will happen in International Scout Centre Rustavi in Georgia.

Participants will be accommodated in double or triple rooms.

Three hot meals a day + two coffee breaks will be provided everyday for participants.

More practical info will follow in info pack for selected participants...