



February with YIC

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

News about “UPSHIFT Armenia” Adolescent Development and Empowerment programme

Within the framework of the “UPSHIFT Armenia” adolescent development and empowerment programme a number of memorandums have been signed with different organizations this month.

On February 1st, we and “Spitak Helsinki Group” NGO signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation according to which both parties will support each other during the activities of the project in two schools in Spitak.

Next Memorandum of Understanding was signed On February 13, between Gyumri “Youth Initiative Centre” NGO and Shirak Marzpetaran, according to which the parties will support each other in promoting innovation, initiative, civic engagement, as well as educational and personal development of adolescents and young people, aged 12 to 18 in secondary and vocational educational institutions in Gyumri.



On February 22-23, mentors' training of UNICEF "UPSHIFT Armenia" programme took place, during which 5 mentors of the programme had an opportunity to get acquainted with the styles and key competencies of mentors, the features of work with adolescents, the steps to develop youth initiatives, and also they identify important methods for supporting and directing adolescents, which will help them to become skilled mentors.

Finally on February 26, the first info meeting of UNICEF "UPSHIFT Armenia" Adolescents Development and Empowerment programme took place in Shirak State Regional College.

During the info meeting, the project manager Artur Najaryan presented the programme goals, implementation stages, and the format of the project idea proposals made by youngsters.

Students also had an opportunity to participate in the training course "Initiativeness, Active Citizenship", held by Narek Tutkhalyan.

*"UPSHIFT Armenia" Adolescents Development and Empowerment programme is implemented by Gyumri "Youth Initiative Centre" NGO in cooperation with UNICEF Armenia.



Memorandums with educational institutions have been signed

On February 25 and 26, we signed Memorandums of Understanding with Shirak Regional State College and National Polytechnic University of Armenia Gyumri Branch on youth cooperation.

The goal of these memorandums is to support partnership strengthening between the parties, providing opportunity for students and lecturers to participate in YIC international projects.



EU Ambassador's visit to YIC and Youth House

On February 23, the head of the EU Delegation to Armenia, Ambassador Piotr Świtalski visited Gyumri "Youth Initiative Centre" NGO. During the visit the Ambassador got acquainted with YIC staff and activities of the organization, as well as the implemented and on-going projects.

Later, the Ambassador visited "Youth House" Open Youth Centre founded by Gyumri "Youth Initiative Centre" NGO, which is the first centre working with the methodology of open youth work in Armenia.

During the visit, the Ambassador got acquainted with the activities of the centre, its projects, the daily work carried out with the young people, as well as the youngsters of the centre had an opportunity to ask their questions to the Ambassador.



Study visit of youth representatives from Sweden to YIC and Youth House



On February 28, Gyumri “Youth Initiative Centre” NGO and Youth House hosted the representatives of the youth sector from Sweden who were on a study visit in Armenia.

The representative from "FRYSHUSET" NGO Martin Dworén and the representative from " Framtidståget" NGO Mégan Muller had an opportunity to get acquainted with the activities of YIC, as well as implemented and current projects.

During their visit to Youth House, they got acquainted with the activities of the centre, its projects, the daily work carried out with the young people, also communicated with the youngsters.

Meeting in the National Assembly of RA

Taking into consideration Government new programme, the expected structural changes and highlighting the importance of the development of youth sector the RA Minister of Diaspora Mkhitar Hayrapetyan on February 11 had a meeting with the sector representatives.

From YIC Project Manager Karen Terteryan participated on the meeting. During the meeting the absence of the law on youth affairs, interdepartmental cooperation, the issues on elevation of effectiveness in cooperation between state and private sectors, as well as the promotion of youth engagement and participation in regions were discussed.

As a result the parties agreed on frequent meetings for further activity discussions.





Friday's Café

This month we organized another “Friday’s Café”. This time the topic was Love.

In the warm atmosphere of “Friday’s café” our EVS volunteers presented customs and traditions of celebration of Love in Estonia, Slovakia, Czech and Armenia. The guests also had an opportunity to taste traditional cookies made by EVS volunteers and play quiz on the topic of love songs.

Erasmus+ Youth. Info Centre

On February 27, the annual meeting of Erasmus+Youth. Info Centres took place in Ukraine.

In frames of the meeting the representatives of the centres presented the results, achievements and challenges of their activities during 2018.

We are happy to announce that the jury highly appreciated the job done by the Armenian Info centre and officially announced that in 2019 the coordination of Erasmus+ Youth. Info Centre in Armenia will be done by YIC.



European Voluntary Service

This month we also had the farewell event for EVS volunteer Bert Tsapov (Estonia). Bert has been volunteering for nine months at YIC organizing different projects like the “Friday’s Café”, Improvisation Club at Youth House, International Youth Day, making monthly videos “Through the eyes of EVS”, etc.



From February 1 of 2019 Gor Khachatryan and Syuzanna Margaryan are doing their six months long voluntary work within the framework of the European Voluntary Service at the Asociatia Nationala de Dezvoltare Continua a Tineretului din Romania “ANDCTR” NGO in the city of Craiova, Romania.

The aim of their voluntary work is to raise children's interest in education by applying innovative mechanisms and actions during lessons. Gor and Syuzanna will organize good manners interactive workshops in local community (in partnership with High School “Stefan Odobleja”), will promote local and international volunteering opportunities among young people in Dolj, will organize different events, write articles and make promotional videos about their volunteering experiences.



Mobility with YIC



This month, an “Erasmus+ Mastery” international training course on project design and management took place in Georgia.

The participants from Armenia were Gohar Yeranyan, project coordinator in Armenian Caritas, Grigor Janikyan, president of “Youth For Change” NGO and Azganush Mnatsakanyan, member of “United Youth Union” NGO.



Another Erasmus+ International Training Course “What comes next?” took place in Georgia this time on Improvisation and Entrepreneurial Mindset.

The participants from Armenia were Izabella Khanzratyan from AEGEE-Yerevan and Vahram Shaboyan, student of Armenian State University of Economics Gyumri branch.

We are glad to inform, that “Live and let live: desertification and its effects” Erasmus+ Youth exchange project on desertification and its effects took place in Nefta, Tunisia.

The participants from Armenia were 4 beneficiaries of “Youth House” Open Youth Centre - Gevorg Arakelyan, Tatevik Najaryan, Nadezhda Avetisyan and Zhirayr Kuzikyan.

The Armenian delegation was led by Artur Najaryan, president of YIC NGO.



Long-term Erasmus+ capacity building project

We are happy to inform that Gyumri "Youth Initiative Centre" became a part of a long-term Erasmus+ capacity building project implemented in Armenia, Georgia, Latvia, Italy, Spain and Ukraine. The topic of the project is Youth Entrepreneurship Education in Hospitality and Tourism.

The first transnational meeting of partners took place in Vinnytsia (Ukraine) on February 7-12, 2019 where our organisation was represented by Anna Yeghoyan and Liana Hakobyan.





February in Youth House

“Youth House” continues its daily work and various activities. Different educational and thematic weeks are organized, which consist of interesting workshops, educational games and quizzes.

During the thematic week of “A piece of love” the youngsters prepared beautiful postcards and baked cookies.

During the thematic week of “Books in Our Lives” the youngsters celebrated book’s day and 150th anniversary of the great Armenian poet H. Tumanyan. The participants had the opportunity to read their lovely poems and to discuss the role of the book in our lives.

The youngsters took part in football training with GOALS Armenia, promoting the healthy lifestyle and the idea of leadership among youngsters.

This month “Yoga club” and “Discussion club” have started. The “Self-awareness club” was over.

The youngsters had meeting with representatives of the Armenian Progressive Youth /APY/ about “Social Entrepreneurship”

Girls took part in exhibition and presentation of the course work and offered opportunities about sewing at Shirak State Regional College.

This month employees and children from “Hope” Care Centre after F. Nansen came for study visit to the centre. They were presented the centre and its educational opportunities.

Within the partnership between YIC and “Oxijen” organization, Burastan Hovhannisyan started her two-month working practice at the centre.

The head of the EU Delegation to Armenia, Ambassador Piotr Świtalski visited YIC and “Youth House”. The youngsters had an opportunity to have an interesting conversation with the Ambassador at the tea table.