MARCH WITH YIC

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

"UPSHIFT ARMENIA" PROGRAMME

In the frames of "UPSHIFT Armenia" Adolescents Development and Empowerment programme we finished info meetings in the schools and colleges of Gyumri and Spitak.

We have received 43 project ideas, 10 of which will be selected. The young people whose ideas were selected will take part in one-day project design training in April.

We are looking forward to the results of the selection of the project ideas **!!!**

“OPEN YOUTH WORK RECOGNITION IN ARMENIA” PROJECT

Within the framework of the “Open Youth Work Recognition in Armenia” project focus group discussions were held with stakeholders in Gyumri, Amasia, Ashtarak, Vanadzor, Spitak and Yerevan.

After focus groups, on March 28 a press conference dedicated to the "Open Youth Work Recognition" project aimed at promoting an open youth work model in Armenia took place in Media Dialogue Center.

During the press conference YIC NGO president, youth expert Artur Najaryan, public policy expert Anna Yeghoyan, youth work expert Karen Terteryan and youth researcher Marina Galstyan presented the need for open youth work in Armenia, as well as the overall goal of the project, upcoming actions and preliminary research data.

In addition on March 29 the project team members met with Lilit Tovmasyan, Head of the Department of Culture and Youth Affairs of Gyumri Municipality. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the necessity of local youth policy in Gyumri, the prospects and challenges of recognizing open youth work in Armenia as an effective way of working with young people.

CLEAN-UP DAY

On Murch 23 we and our volunteers, joined the Clean-up Day. We cleaned the surrounding area of our Youth Centre.

Our good friend EU Ambassador to Armenia Piotr Świtalski also did not stay away from the cleaning work and joined our team.

YIC INFO DAY

On March 27, we had YIC info day. During the meeting with the help of human library method attendees had an opportunity to learn about activities and local, international projects implemented by the organization. 18 young people took part in the info meeting.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH SHSU

On March 12, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding on youth cooperation with Shirak State University named after M. Nalbandyan.

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

ERASMUS+ YOUTH.INFO CENTRE

On March 5 Erasmus + Youth. Info Centre in Armenia participated in "Youth Opportunities" fair in Yerevan, which was implemented by “Youth Opportunity Club” NGO and "Restart" Student-Civil Initiative.

MOBILITY WITH YIC

During March, we had three international Erasmus+ projects.

One of which is “Water and us” Erasmus+ Youth exchange project on the topic of water protection and environment. It took place in Nowy Sącz, Poland. The participants from Armenia were Roza Simonyan and Mariam Darbinyan, YIC members, Razmik Najaryan and Harutyun Papikyan, beneficiaries of “Youth House” Open Youth Centre, Meri Mkrtchyan, student at Yerevan State Unversity, Diana Stepanyan, student at Kapan High School N9, Mane Hovhannisyan, student at Polytechnic High School and Astghik Vardanyan, student at French University in Armenia. The Armenian team was led by Ovsanna Papikyan, project assistant at YIC.

The next one was “ESC to Reality: QualiCaucasus” Erasmus+ International training course on European Solidarity Corps which took place in Rustavi, Georgia. The participants from Armenia were Almira Nikoghosyan, YIC member and ESC mentor at KASA Foundation, Hasmik Topalyan, PR and Communication specialist of the Emili Aregak Center and the project “First Inclusive and Barrier-free Bakery and Coffee Shop” and Diana Kocharyan, Manager at “First Inclusive and Barrier-free Bakery and Coffee Shop” of Armenian Caritas.

And the last one was Advance Planning Visit of Erasmus+ Youth Exchange project on music and inclusion which took place in Poland. The representatives of Armenia were YIC member Almira Nikoghosyan as team leader and YIC youth worker Anzhela Janoyan as support person. The announcement of youth exchange project has been given, the project will take place on June 20-30.

EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE

In March one more EVS volunteer Sarah Fawaz joined our big family. She will stay in Gyumri and implement her voluntary service for six months. It is worth mentioning that Sarah will run a French conversational club since April.

LONG-TERM ERASMUS+ CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT

We are happy to inform that YIC NGO became a part of a long-term Erasmus+ capacity building project "CauCAN - Counter and Alternative Narratives for Human Rights in Caucasus". It will be implemented in Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, the Netherlands, France and Czech Republic. The topic of the project is human rights education of youth using the Council of Europe manual We CAN.

The first transnational meeting of partners took place in Tbilisi (Georgia) on March 17-21, 2019 where our organisation was represented by Mariam Gharagyozyan and Liana Hakobyan.

LOCAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

On March 30, a meeting of the Local Advisory Board of YIC NGO took place.

During the meeting the current and future projects of the organization were present. New ideas and issues related to the fundraising for “Youth House” Open Youth Centre also were discussed.

MARCH WITH "YOUTH HOUSE”

Continuing its active ooperation, “Youth House” has organized different educational and thematic weeks, which were full of interesting workshops, competitions and quizzes.

The month has started with “Week of Spring”. Thematic workshops have been organized during the week, which were followed by intellectual game-competition.

Within the framework of “Alias championship” thematic week the youngsters formed groups and tried their knowledge and abilities.

During the thematic week of " Dance" the youngsters presented different dances styles with pre-formed groups. The week was summed-up with a study visit to "Hrayrq" national song and dance group, during which some of the youngsters had the opportunity to get acquainted with a number of professional dancers and learned more about folk dance, its history and types.

Honored Artist of Armenia, actor Hovhannes Hovhannisyan had an interesting conversation with the youngsters on the International Theater Day. The week was completed by the series of "Theatrical Games" and "Theater stage" performances, which were presented by the youngsters.

In this month, the info meeting of UNICEF "UPSHIFT Armenia" Adolescents Development and Empowerment program has been held with the youngsters of the centre.

In this month, Hrachya Kurghinyan, the beneficiary of "Youth House", had a special interview in an exceptional format with EN ambassador Piotr Switalski.

Some of the young girls had an opportunity to make a study visit to "Mkrtchyan Atelier", where they got acquainted with the works that were in process and the exhibited works.

In the frames of "Recognition of Open Youth Work in Armenia" project, a focus group discussion was held in the "Youth House" Open Youth Centre with the parents of 13-18 years-old beneficiaries of the centre.

The youngsters along with Gyumri "Youth Initiative Center" NGO, also joined the nationwide cleaning day and cleaned "Lilit" Kindergarten and the surrounding areas of " Youth House".

In this month, many youngsters from the centre participated in the info meeting, organized by Gyumri "Youth Initiative Centre" NGO, during which they got acquainted with the activities and projects of the organization. Within the framework of the meeting, the youngsters of the centre presented "Youth house" and its activities.