



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

### **"OPEN YOUTH WORK IN ARMENIA" PROJECT**

We are pleased to announce that with the financial support of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Gyumri the Youth Initiatives Center has launched the "Open Youth Work in Armenia" project. Through this project we want to bring youth work to Armenia a new stage of development The goal is to contribute to the establishment of Open Youth Work in Armenia The project will be implemented in Gyumri, Vanadzor and Yerevan. Keep up with our news. We will provide additional details and actions.



## YIC ENGLISH CLUB

On July 1st new English clubs for pre-intermediate learners and beginners launched and the first meeting took place with the participants. The participants got acquainted with each other and with the club leaders by the help of games, as well as the procedure and format of the clubs were presented.

We wish the club members a productive and an interesting work.



## "UPSHIFT ARMENIA" ADOLESCENTS DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

"UPSHIFT Armenia" Adolescents Development and Empowerment program teams teams completed their projects

### "GYUMRIVER" team





On July 6 and 7 GyumRiver team of "Cleaning Gyumri river" project had a clean-up day during which they cleaned 3 different parts of river in Bus Station, Dzori Maila and Mher Mkrtchyan streets, within the "UPSHIFT Armenia" adolescents development and empowerment programme. Gyumri Municipality staff, teachers and pupils of N1 high school, EVS and Peace Corps volunteer and a number of other young people joined the clean-up day



### **"ECO CLEAN BAGS" team**

The given eco clean bags contained calls to Gyumri dialect and humor, for example, "Clean City, Ap "or" Let's Breath Air Without Toxic Gases ".

The day was completed by pupils of "Yntaniq" centre with their songs and dances.



### **“OXILIO” team**

On July 11 in the frame of "UPSHIFT Armenia" Adolescents Development and Empowerment programme the Auxilio team of the “Tree planting, cages and feeding pots for birds” project idea held installation of cages and feeding pots for birds in Bagratunyats park.



### **“COMMUNITY WITH OUR HANDS” team**

On July 18 in the frame of "UPSHIFT Armenia" Adolescents Development and Empowerment programme “Community with our hands” team held a final event of their project.

As a result of their community programme, a smart working place has been set up in the yard of the "Youth House" Open Youth Centre, where a solar panel has been installed, as well as benches and a table, which were made up by adolescents.





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

### GET A BIKE. GET A LIFE

Within the framework of YIC "Get a bike, Get a life" social entrepreneurship program, recreational and cognitive cycling campaigns have been launched since July. Thus, on July 14, the first cycling tour to the Akhurik village of "hot water", a lake near the village and the Akhuryan River was carried out.



And on July 20 and 21 at the Marmashen Monastery Complex, Akhuryan Gorge, Lake Nadia, with the inscription of Argishti I.





Next campaigns will be in August, follow the program [page](#) and join the campaigns. At the same time, we have activated the activities of the Gyumri YIC NGO cycling club and invite you to join. Details for [registration](#).



And for those who do not know how to ride a bicycle, let's note that we have begun a series of video-training courses on biking.

## MOBILITY WITH YIC

We are glad to inform, that “CAUCAN – Counter and Alternative Narratives for Human Rights in the Caucasus” job shadowing has launched in, Caen France.

The participants from Armenia are Mariam Hakobyan and Syuzanna Petrosyan from YIC, Meline Shakhnazaryan from Jinishian Memorial Foundation.

We wish our team an interesting project.



Also this month we had three Erasmus + project opportunities, one of which was an international training for youth workers in Wroclaw, Poland, the other was an international youth exchange program in the Italian city of Tramonti and an international training for volunteer coordinators in Poznan, Poland.

## EUROPEAN EXPERT GROUP VISIT TO YIC AND YOUTH HOUSE

On July 17 at the invitation of Gyumri “Youth Initiative Centre” NGO 5-member expert group from a youth policy advisory mission of the Council of Europe (CoE) visited Gyumri and had meetings with Gyumri mayor, Shirak Marzpet and representatives of local youth organizations.

The main objective of this mission is to assist the Armenian authorities, in particular Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of RA, in the improvement of the legal framework for the state youth policy, and, in particular, by offering recommendations on the revision of the Armenian national youth strategy and on the basis of the CoE norms and standards with respect to youth issues.

They also visited Gyumri “Youth House” Open Youth Center, where they got acquainted with its activities and routine.



## MEMORANDUM ON COOPERATION IN YOUTH

On July 18 Gyumri “Youth Initiative Centre” NGO and Gyumri Branch of the Yerevan State Conservatory after Komitas signed a Memorandum of Understanding on youth cooperation. The document was signed by Gyumri “Youth Initiative Centre” NGO president Artur Najaryan and Gyumri Branch of the Yerevan State Conservatory after Komitas director Hasmik Harutyunyan.

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





## EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY WORK



On July 30, 2019 the farewell event for Jozef Banas (Slovakia) took place. Jozef has been volunteering for ten months at Gyumri “Youth Initiative Centre” NGO, he was involved in public relations work, organizing different projects like the “Friday’s Café”, Photography and Video Editing club at YIC and Youth House, English club in Bavra and making monthly videos.

During the event, EVS Coordinator Mariam Gharagozyan awarded the volunteer with a Certificate of Appreciation and YouthPass for his work.

## GLOW SUMMER CAMP

We are happy GLOW Spitak is a reality now! We carried out a day camp in Spitak YMCA with the participation of 20 campers from the local communities of Spitak, Saramej, Lernantsk and Jrashen. GLOW Spitak Day Camp was implemented by US Peace Corps Volunteers and the [YIC Gyumri - Youth Initiative Centre NGO](#) in collaboration with [YMCA Spitak](#).

During the camp, participants got the chance to explore and develop leadership skills, to design their community projects and deepen their knowledge on world-famous women who have an invaluable impact on science and education, environment, human rights and so on.

We thank our beloved counselors for their hard work, our supporters, donors and partners for making this camp come true. The next stop is Meghri!

