

Description of the Get Involved! Group EVS project

Project Ref: RO-21-070-2013-R2

WHY the Get Involved! Project?

Centrul Regional de Economie Sociala is a newly formed NGO activating the city of Craiova in South West Oltenia region of Romania. The organisation was borne out of the desire of its members to have a more structured framework through which to be able to implement activities that would lead to community development and promotion of social economy.

The mission:

CRES proposes itself to empower communities regarding self-management and long-term development of social economy and public administration reform to support the EU integration process.

The aims and objectives:

CRES is to actively participate in developing and strengthening the social economy

- To increase quality, to support the development, to lobby for recognition and support active participation

WHO is CRES?

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- To increase quality, to support the development, to lobby for recognition and support active participation of organizations operating in the social economy;
- Information, training, mobilization and involvement of stakeholders in order to develop entrepreneurship and associativity of the local communities in order to preserve the cultural heritage of growth and living standards;
- Promoting social inclusion and social economy concept as flexible and durable tool for economic development.
- Develop institutional capacity and management of associative structures to facilitate access to resources in various national and international funding programs available.
- Promotion of European democratic values and European funding programs as important resource in development.
- Increase opportunities and socio-professional integration capabilities of persons deprived of opportunities. We are a youth organisation that promotes, supports and facilitates the active participation, the responsible citizenship, the good governance, the mobility and the exchange of good practices between the member organizations in order to reduce inequality in our societies and to offer new opportunities for youth development.



How long?

The EVS service will last 9 months starting with 1st of October 2013

Who can participate?

We have 9 **available placements** for youngsters originating from Programme Countries.

WHAT is the GET INVOLVED! Project?

Get Involved! is a group EVS project that involves **9 young volunteers** from Youth in Action Programme Countries who will spend **9 months** working with non-formal education methods **in education institutions** from the city of **Craiova** in South West Romania.

The project **GENERAL OBJECTIVE** is to **develop non-formal activities that increase the level of European active citizenship and civic engagement of both the target group and the volunteers while also contributing to their personal and professional development.**

The volunteers of the Get Involved! Project will **be directly involved in the planning, organization and implementation of non-formal activities in educational institutions** in the city of Craiova, activities directed towards the achievements of the project objectives.

What will a volunteer do in the Get Involved! project?

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The project will consist of 3 phases:

1. Preparation, Adaptation and Training Phase(PAT)

This stage starts from the moment the volunteers arrive in the country and will consist of a month long **Preparation, Adaptation and Training programme (PAT)** The program is designed to transmit to the volunteer all the theoretical and practical knowledge about the project and prepare them for the rest of the project. The PAT has 3 parts:

- A 1 week training that starts from the day all the volunteers get into the country. For this week we will all live together in an training house and the program will focus on getting to know each other, teambuilding, fun activities and getting used to the project activities to be done, technical details and rules
- After the training all the volunteers will go to their hosting community for a period of 1 week and will get to know the community with the help of their local mentor. In this weeks, assisted by the mentor and the project staff, they will get to know the city, know the youngsters they will be working with, the institutions that will help them and their staff and generally get an idea of how the working environment is and what are the challenges and opportunities
- The last part of the PAT will be another 1 week training in the training house where we plan the rest of the project and set up the activity calendar in detail

In the Training and capacity building phase it is also included a training organized by the Romanian National Agency(training called On-arrival Training) that will also aim at preparing the volunteers from the rest of their project. This training is part of the mandatory EVS training cycle



WHAT can a volunteer do in the Get Involved! Project?

The main themes of the project are **European Active Citizenship, Participatory Democracy and Civic Engagement. The role of the volunteers** in the project will be to organize different events that **directly contribute to increasing the awareness** on these topics using **non formal methods** of working with youth such as:

- Presentation, Workshops, Seminars and Training sessions on: Equal rights, Democracy, European Institutions, European Values Etc
- Promote Tolerance and Understanding between youngsters from the majority and other minorities (Roma ethnicity, etc.)
- Promote and implement inovative non formal education for spurring active citizenship and youth participation
- Language Sessions (English, French, German, Spanish, etc)
- Art (painting, modeling, handicrafts, etc)
- Drama – Theatre plays
- Sports & Dances
- Cultural Activities – Countries and customs presentations, dances, culinary events, etc,
- Raise youngsters cultural awareness, tradition and customs diversity
- Strengthen the role of the schools, educational institutions as other organizations in promoting and implementation of activities that encourage active citizenship and civic engagement
- Develop and strengthen cooperation relations in between the project partners as well as other stakeholders directly involved in the project (cooperation between education institutions – both on local, regional as well as European level)

2. Community Action phase

In this phase the volunteers will get busy working on planning, organizing and implementing non-formal activities in educational institutions (high schools, youth club, community library etc) with the purpose of raising the level of active citizenship and civic involvement of the youth attending these institution. For this phase the activities will be structured in:

a) **Daily Activities** – The daily activities are activities done in the educational institutions on a daily basis by the volunteers like workshops/seminars/debates/ on active citizenship, EU functioning mechanisms, participatory democracy, etc.

b) **Scale Events** - These are activities done in a limited period of time that have a bigger scale than the daily activities. These involve a lot of preparation and go beyond the involvement of only the target group. The objectives of these activities are multiple and benefit the project and programme, the volunteers and the community altogether. The objectives of scale events are to give visibility of the organization, the project and the YiA programme in the community, raise awareness on certain topics, create the culture of celebrating major European events, give the volunteer learning opportunities in what concerns the organization of bigger events that involve a lot of coronation and organization. Example of such events to be organized: Europe`s Day(to mark the international day of europe), International Day for Tolerance; International Day of Democracy; World Day for Cultural Diversity– an event to celebrate diversity of culture and others

3. Evaluation and follow-up phase. This will be take place in the last month of the project and will be orientated towards evaluating the degree to which the project achieved it`s objectives, the impact of the activities and planning the follow-up activities to the project.

The project activities are designed in such a way that the project takes the volunteers from the stage of **LEARNER** about the European Union mechanisms, topics, values etc. to the stage of **DOER** in which the volunteers get actively involved in running, managing and implementing non-formal trainings and activities aimed at preparing the students for the simulation of the European Union Council.

Not only will the project increase the volunteers understanding of the European Union but it will also increase their capacity of implementing non-formal activities and trainings, youth work, management etc.

The main defining feature of the **Get Involved!** project is its strong **learning dimension**, it is a hands-on learning experience for every participant involved.



Technical Details

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Travel details for the volunteers will be coordinated jointly by CRES and the sending organizations.

The accommodation of the volunteers for the duration of the 9 months will be done in rented apartments in the city of Craiova situated in the South West part of Romania. We will be directly responsible for assuring good living conditions for the volunteers by hosting them in apartments that have all necessary facilities (running hot/cold water, adequate heating, fully equipped kitchen, etc.).

For communication all volunteers will receive Romanian phone cards for their phones and will receive monthly recharge of those cards that will allow them to communicate with the project team, between themselves or other phone numbers in Romanian without personal spending.

Local transport done in the interest of the project will be reimbursed by the organization

SELECTION

Placements: 9 EVS placements

Age: 18 – 30 years

Nationality: Volunteers from Programme Countries,

Selection criteria: gender and geographical balance

- 1 place will be reserved for a volunteer that has IT skill (especially web-site maintenance)

Education: education in a relevant domain for the project topics (political sciences, international relation etc) will be considered a plus but is not mandatory and we shall not refuse anyone based on this criteria

- Volunteers need to have a genuine interest in Active citizenship, participatory democracy, and civic engagement and be willing to learn and share the information about the EU

Language Proficiency:

- at least a **basic level of English** is required (being able to make herself/himself understood by the others –

Able to communicate)

- Knowledge of Romanian would constitute a plus but will not be an exclusion criteria

IMPORTANT

We are looking for **active, open-minded, creative, innovative, responsible and motivated volunteers** who are interested in the topic of **ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP** and will like to get involved in activities that focus and aim at this topic.

The volunteers who apply for this project need to **like and be willing to work with YOUTH** (aged 15 and up) for 9 months.

No kind of experience is needed to participate in this project but we are looking for volunteers who are open to a **LEARNING EXPERIENCE**, who value personal development.

If you don't feel attracted to the topic of active citizenship or dislike youth work then the Get Involved! Project is not what you are looking for.



Application Procedure:

- Motivation Letter –motivating why the volunteers wants to join the project, what recommends him for the task making specific reference to the project tasks
- A recent picture and the Curriculum Vitae (European Format - preferably)
- Support letter from the EVS accredited sending organization

