



OPEN CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

A.C.T.Y.V.E

A(ctive) C(itizenship), T(olerance) and Y(outh) V(olunteership) in E(urope)

Regional Association for Rural Development – Romania hereby launches a call to all young people, regardless of gender, religion, social or educational background, to participate in a nine months active non formal educational and reach intercultural learning experience in Gorj County.

If spending an exciting experience together with young people from Romania and other volunteers from all over Europe, learning about different cultures, developing new skills and improving yours, appeals to you, then read thoroughly the information bellow and get hold of a sending organization from your country to contact us as soon as possible.

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE HOSTING (AND COORDINATING) ORGANIZATION

Regional Association for Rural Development is going to act both as a Hosting Organization as well as Coordinating one for the A.C.T.Y.V.E project.

We are a non-governmental, non-political and nonprofit organization serving Gorj county, Romania. Our goal is to increase the capacity of local communities for self management and sustainable economic and social development.

ARDR is developing various programmes within four different areas of expertise:

- a. Lifelong Learning
- b. Excellence in Local Government
- c. Rural Entrepreneurship
- d. Technical Assistance and Training

For further information please go to our web site: www.arldr.ro



“Youngsters without Borders” Association was established in 26 of June 1997. It caters to youths between 15 and 35, regardless of race, language, and religion, with a special emphasis on youth living in rural areas.

The role of YWB association within the project is that of Hosting Organization.

Mission: To actively contribute to community development in the Gorj county.

Services:

- Organizing Youth Exchanges, Seminars, Conferences, Trainings, Contact making seminars, mainly within the Youth Programme framework
- European Voluntary Service (Sending and receiving volunteers from Europe through Youth programme)
- Animation activities
- Community Development

For further information please go to our web site: www.tff.ro

II. A.C.T.Y.V.E. – EVS project description

Type: EVS GROUP

EI Ref: 2007- RO - 2

Duration of Service: 9 Months

Period of EVS Service: October 15th, 2008 – July 15th, 2009

Number of Volunteers: 24

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT.

Summary: A.C.T.Y.V.E is a Group EVS project implemented in 11 communities from Gorj County – South West Romania that will gather 24 young volunteers from Programme and Neighbouring Partner countries

The project aims both towards volunteer social and personal development, providing them with opportunities for intercultural learning, new skills and abilities development, multilingualism and European Awareness as well as organizational and community development – encouraging youngsters participation in local communities, promoting European Active Citizenship and

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encouraging local and international partnership.

The project is structured in three main phases: the Preparation phase, EVS service and the Valorisation and Evaluation Phase.

The EVS service phase will start for all 24 volunteers at the same time, will last 9 month and shall compile a set of diverse and learning orientated activities.

Location: *YES for EVS shall be implemented in Gorj County in the following sites:*

- *Târgu Jiu, Bâlteni, Baia de Fier, Bustuchin, Rovinari, Bumbesti Jiu, Hurezani, Novaci, Târgu Cărbunesti, Tismana, Turceni.*

Follow the links <http://www.arดร.ro/map.html> , <http://www.arดร.ro/ehn.html> , in order to find out more information about each of the communities

Theme: Community Development and European Active Participation and Citizenship

Objectives:

- Stimulate the intercultural learning process and enhance the European Awareness and Active Participation within the hosting communities from Gorj County.
- Provide the context and the opportunities for all volunteers to develop both personally as well as socially by acquiring and improving new skills and competences as well as boost their self-confidence.
- Increase tolerance towards different cultures by learning and accepting the cultural differences.
- Contribute to the community development by boosting the participation and active involvement of young people in their local communities.
- Encourage the participation of youngsters with fewer opportunities
- Widen and strengthen the partnership and co-operation relation in between all project promoters

Description:

In order to build a strong society, it is necessary for youngsters to have access to education and information. Youngsters living in small urban and rural areas often do not have the same opportunities as do youngsters in urban areas. Regional Association for Rural Development (ARDR) and Youngsters Without Borders - YWB have set up and the Euro House Network (EHN), a programme/structure that works to facilitate youngster's access to information, working to build new cultural, education and ethic dimensions.

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The programme was launched by Youngsters without Borders Association in 2003 and consists in developing a regional network between the municipalities in Gorj county and enhance the involvement and participation of both the youngsters into the public life of their local communities but also build a stronger, more efficient link in between Local Public Administration and youth sector and to bring down to the local level the European dimension as a platform to foster active citizenship.

Since the summer of 2006 the management and monitoring of the EHN programme was taken over by Regional Association for Rural Development.

At present there are 10 municipalities from Gorj County involved in the EHN (Targu-Carbunesti, Tismana, Rovinari, Balteni, Novaci, Baia de Fier, Bumbesti Jiu, Turceni, Hurezani and Bustuchin) and ARDR is developing a programme that aims at enlarging and strengthening the network furthermore. The network was set up in partnership with the Local Public Administration (LPA) and the Education Institutions of each of the communities involved. In each community the LPA provided us an office - a Euro House Centre – located within the City Hall, the High-School or the Cultural House. The Euro House Center is endowed with computer and printer as well as Internet connection.

Activities

The project aims to involve the volunteers as promoters and multipliers in order to spur European Awareness and active citizenship and establish bridges of communication in between sites in their home country and the areas they are established.

All the activities will be developed in 3 dimensions: personal development, development within the host organization and community development. The Communities where the Euro House Centres are established will stand as the main working headquarters for the volunteers.

The volunteers will be charged with designing, organizing, and implementing, in conjunction with local counterparts and youngsters from their hosting communities, a variety of activities such as:

- sports events
- environmental activities
- group games
- thematic workshops
- Youth camps
- walks in the cities, visits to different sights and events
- Theatre and art creative workshop
- Music and dance
- Cultural awareness and learning activities, etc.



- All volunteers will get the opportunity to get involved in other national and/or international programmes and activities developed by ARDR and/or YWB during the EVS Service.

Volunteer's Tasks.

The volunteers tasks will be diverse and focused both on social and personal development of the volunteers as well as the community development.

The role of the volunteers will be that of attending all the meetings, trainings and scheduled activities, dedicate their time according to the recommended hours in assisting in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of various activities:

- Attend all preparation, evaluation, planning and thematic trainings (On Arrival)
- attend all language classes, participate in the class , learn and prepare accordingly.
- prepare themselves for each meeting with the requested materials (for example: filling on time the monthly evaluation forms)
- assist the local community facilitator in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the community non formal education activities
- Assist in working with the youngsters, propose activities , discussion topics, share opinions, cultural and traditional customs, etc.
- Openly communicate with the mentor, the local community facilitator, his/her peer volunteers and the EVS coordinator
- Be responsible and meet one's tasks accordingly.

TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Accommodation

During the first two month, all volunteers are to be accommodated in a hotel in Targu Jiu in 2 bedded rooms with TV set and own bathroom.

After the two months, 4 of the volunteers will remain in Targu Jiu and the rest will be distributed in pairs to the 10 different rural and small urban communities. The volunteers will live either with host families or share a living location together. The living location will meet decent living standards (private room, free access to kitchen and bathroom, current cold water with the possibility of providing hot water at least one hour/day, functioning heating system, clean and secure location).

ARDR and YWB in cooperation with each hosting community will make all efforts to find the best accommodation location for the volunteers. All accommodation and utility costs (water, gas, electricity) shall be covered by the hosting organization.



Food

Buying and preparing the food is to be the sole responsibility of the volunteers. For preparing the food the volunteers will have free access to an equipped kitchen.

In the case of volunteers staying in host families a solution will be to serve meals with the family. The hosting organization will provide each volunteer with a monthly food allowance from which they shall cover the alimentation costs. The allowance is enough for insuring a very good living standard (being much higher than the amount and average citizen from the region spends for food). However the allowance will not be enough for ensuring every day eating in a restaurant or bistro.

Transport

The local transportation costs of the volunteers necessary for the activities implementation will be covered 100% by the association from the project budget.

The international transport of the volunteer from his/her home to the site of the project shall be covered 100% - two ways (Economy flight tickets and/or 2nd class train tickets).

The personal transport of the volunteers (local, national or international) will be not in the responsibility of the association.

Language training

Due to the importance of communication with the people from the hosting communities (most of them can not speak any foreign languages) will be of crucial importance for the volunteers to learn the Romanian Language at a good speaking level.

The volunteers will have the responsibility to attend all language courses according to the schedule as well as to make every effort in studying and learning the language.

The Coordinating Organizations will arrange for Romanian Language Courses on weekly basis for as much time as the volunteer will need. The Romanian language lessons shall be provided by experienced language teachers. The content and structure of the language courses will be projected together with the volunteers, taking into consideration their learning abilities and needs. The language courses will be provided free of charge for the entire period of the EVS project.

Pocket money.

Each volunteer is entitled to receive a 60 Euro monthly allowance – pocket money, which they can spent as they choose/want.



III. SELECTION

Profile of the Volunteer

Age: 18 – 30 years

Selection criteria: gender and geographical balance

Education: education is a plus

Language Proficiency: - at least basic level of English (being able to make herself/himself understood by the others – able to communicate)

Other requests: availability and desire to live in the countryside of Gorj County

Application Procedure:

- Deadline to Receive Applications: **May 1st, 2008**
- Selection of Volunteers: **May 10th, 2008**
- Project Preparation with Partners: **May 10th- 25th, 2008**
- Project Application: **June 1st, 2008**

The interested volunteers shall send an application consisting of the following documents:

- *Motivation Letter – please make specific reference to the position you have towards living and working in a rural area*
- *A recent picture and the Curriculum Vitae (European Format - preferably)*
- *Support letter from your sending organization*



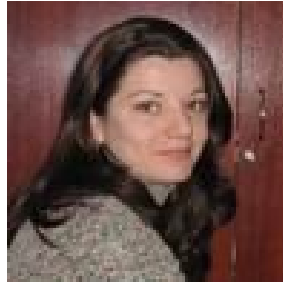
PROJECT MANAGEMENT:

- **YES for EVS Staff:** ARDR and TFF involves experienced personnel to ensure the quality of the YES for EVS programme.



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EVS councillors: their role is to provide guidance for any potential volunteer that would like to join the YES for EVS programme. Please contact any of them you seem more appropriate for you. All of them live in some of the communities that are to welcome you for the EVS project. Do not hesitate to ask questions you have in relation to accommodation, working space, community relations, and activities in the communities.



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- Tools: ARDR has developed numerous tools such as EVS White Book, Management of EVS, Community Youth Development and Monitoring Kit that are to be used during the YES for EVS programme. All volunteers will be provided with all these manuals upon their arrival.

- Support in the communities: thanks to the pilot programme Strategic Partnership for Local Active Citizenship (make link), ARDR is befitting for a wide local network comprising 15 communities. In each community ARDR has developed a Centre for Information, Counselling and European Cooperation- Euro House Centre that has the following staff: one schools' representative in the community working on extra-curricular education in conjunction with EVS volunteers and other community stakeholders, one young student working as information multiplier for youths, and one public administration representative working as contact person for ARDR for projects management. Currently, in each of the aforementioned communities there are in the making local units for active citizenship and local action groups for local development. Each Euro House Centre has broadband internet connection and necessary logistics.

EXPERIENCE IN EVS:

ARDR has provided technical assistance for the implementation of the following EVS projects:

1. "Experience and Learn" Multilateral EVS Project with Third Countries- centralized project implemented by Youngsters without Borders- 2005/2006;

Partners: Serbia Montenegro, Macedonia, Romania, France and Nederland;

2. Networking for European Citizenship- centralized EVS project implemented by Youngsters without Borders- 2006;

Partners: Albania, Macedonia, Serbia, Denmark, Portugal and Romania

3. Networking for European Citizenship- group EVS project implemented by Youngsters without Borders- 2007/2008;

Partners: Portugal, France, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, Georgia, Ukraine, Armenia;

4. YES for EVS – short term group EVS. To be implemented between July 1st till September 30th with 16 volunteers from Austria, Armenia, Georgia, France, Italy, Portugal, Poland and Ukraine.

CONTACT

For further information and sending the applications please contact:

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