



Quality in EVS

Call for partners

Based on the extensive experience of ARDR in dealing with the European Voluntary Service and of ALDA in managing programmes and consultancy for active citizenship, in the framework of NICE- Network Involving Citizens of Europe, with the technical assistance of EPYD, the Unit for Technical Assistance and Training of Regional Association for Rural Development- ARDR in fulfilling the strategic objectives as set out by the White Paper on Youth, Youth Pact, Charter for youth participation in local governance, the priorities of the Youth in Action programme, launches the call for application for the training course "Quality in EVS".

Context and motivation

A youth organization is not static but rather dynamic undergoing structural changes (job level, project team level, department and organization levels or even at the policy and political tiers). They are constantly opening new projects and bounce in between trans-European partnerships jeopardizing existing ones.

As such shifts may happen in the middle of an EVS project that may lead to critical repercussions on the volunteer's project as such. Nevertheless, if a change does happen that may require a great adaptation from both sides, the EVS staff and the volunteer.

Hereby, based on extensive experience in running and providing consultancy for NGOs running individual or group EVS projects, the following stances have been identified as adding up negatively on an EVS project development, particularly on the participation of the volunteer in the project:

- the lack of a mentoring, coaching, reinforced mentorship system in the organization;
- the lack of strategic plans for EVS development in the organization;
- the lack of an integrated communicating system in between sending and hosting organizations;
- the lack of a genuine analysis of the impact for running an EVS project;
- the lack of sustainable partnerships in the EVS area;
- poor management of crisis and conflicts in the EVS projects;
- the lack of financial and human resources stability in most of the youth organizations;
- the lack of a stable local partnership to meet the challenges of hosting an EVS;
- the lack of short term and long term planning (unstructured and unbalanced workload for the volunteers lead to exhaustion) in a host organization
- the lack of a benchmark system to monitor and evaluate on a constant basis- assessment tends to be an irregular and infrequent activity rather than an integral part of the EVS on-going project;

Hence the current TC looks to give answers to the following questions:

- Why hosting an EVS?
- What is the best profile of a volunteer we need?





- How to match volunteer with our project?
- How to prevent changes that may impinge negative impact on the EVS project and the volunteer?
- How to make sure that our organization is fit and ready to handle EVS projects?
- What instruments to use to manage qualitatively an EVS project?
- How to appease a crisis once it takes place in between the volunteer and the hosting/sending organization?

Aim:

- increasing the capacity of organizations to deal with EVS projects in disadvantaged areas;
- promoting cooperation and good neighborhood in between the EU and Caucasus and Balkans countries;

Objectives:

- Obj.1: to train 20 participants in EVS project management
Output 1: knowledge, skills and competences in volunteer recruiting, monitoring, evaluation, crisis prevention, conflict management, local and European partnering in the framework of EVS projects
- Obj.2: to explore innovative methodology in monitoring and assessing progress in the EVS projects
Output 2: a benchmark system to track progress in EVS projects
- Obj.3: to promote partnership in the framework of Youth in Action on the EVS action.
Output 3: a wide participation in fostering action and reflection on EVS projects
- Obj.4: to assist in the development of bilateral/group EVS projects in the framework of Youth in Action;
Output 4: at least 4 bilateral and 2 group EVS projects
- Obj.5: to exchange best and worst practices examples in terms of partnership development of EVS projects.
Output 5: encouraging interaction between organisations from the EU and Caucasus and Balkans regions
- Obj.6: to promote the Youth in Action programme, particularly the European Voluntary Service
Output 6: bringing participation in the EU programmes closer to its citizens by promoting YiA values
- Obj.7: to reflect on European values, European citizenship and democracy involving civil society grass roots organizations, think tanks, experts and decision-makers from Italy and Romania





Output 7: bringing Europe closer to its citizens by promoting Europe's values and achievements

Methodology:

The TC is based on the principles and practices of integrating and complementing non-formal education and formal education having at the core of its methodological structure the Learning Space Dynamic method.

In conjunction with the topics of the course, the learning process is constructed as follows:

- based on the intrinsic motivation of the learner;
- learner centered and based on the experiences of participants;
- based on a personal responsibility for learning, supported by a strong group dimension and a collective approach;
- organized in order to enable participants to apply and transfer what they have learnt to their youth work practice;
- designed as taking into account the needs and motivation of participants and being open to regular feedback and evaluations

The program of activities and contents are organized so as to allow a breeding ground for the maximum participation of the group. The working methods to be used during the seminar are: presentations, group work, round table discussions, projects' fair, LSD and simulations. Contributions from the EVS current volunteers and the projects' coordinators are also expected to introduce life experience examples to be used as springboards meant to ensure a mutual learning environment and the follow up of the seminar.

Technical

details:

Type of Project: Training.

Name of Project: "Quality in EVS".

Theme: European Voluntary Service

Date & Duration: July, 24-31st, 2008.

Place: Romania, Musetesti.

Partners: EU member states, Caucasus and Balkans

Target group: NGOs, institutions with an interest in developing EVS projects for and with youths from rural areas, youth workers dealing with youth project with or for youth from rural areas, having experience or interest in developing EVS projects;

Group size: balanced participation; 10 organizations from EU and 5 from Caucasus and 5 from Balkans .





Costs:

- accommodation and food are covered 100 %.
- transportation costs will be reimbursed 70%.
- participation fee: 30 Euros for partners coming from Caucasus and Balkan Region and 50 Euros for partners coming from EU member states; the amount is to be deducted from the travel expenses;

Deadline for submitting applications: The Preliminary Agreements (Part III)\must be sent in by fax/ scanned by 25th of March and in original format within 7 days once your participation has been confirmed; successful applicants are to be notified by 26th of March.

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