

Carta EVS

- HOW WE SURVIVED -



Asociația Regională pentru Dezvoltare Rurală

- HOW WE SURVIVED -

Welcome to our beautiful world called "How We Survived Guide".
We put part of our souls into this book for our sweet memories and also for you,
my dear reader, to show how useful and interesting volunteer life is.

Volunteering is a choice to work for others and for the community. To be a volunteer means to be active and to have the desire to help people. As the project unfolds, you get to discover and to develop yourself: meeting new people, learning new skills and having fun. Of course volunteer work is not paid, so it is truly your desire to do this work in a responsible way.

"Volunteers are not paid not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."

As you already know this book is not only for us, but also for you. Here you can find interesting stories about our volunteer life and experiences in Romania, and we have some useful advice for those of you who may become a volunteer in the future.

Let us tell you why we gave this name to our book. "How we will survive guide..." because it's EVS, a great lesson of life. We can consider life an exam; passing this exam is to survive. Survive a new life and more, a new life style in a foreign country.

So my dear reader this is what we wanted to tell you in advance, now it's time to tell you WELCOME to our wonderful world called

... "How we survived" Guide

Best wishes

**Lika
Veronica
Tatia**



The European Voluntary Service is a project sustained by the European Commission, in Youth in action Program (action 2). EVS enables young people to carry out voluntary service for up to 12 months in a country other than their country of residence. It fosters solidarity among young people and it's a "true" learning Service! Besides the benefits brought to the local communities, volunteers learn new skills and languages, and discover other cultures. The aim of the European Voluntary Service is to develop solidarity and promote active citizenship and mutual understanding among young people.

EVS projects mean practically a partnership between associations: the sending organization from the youngster's countries and a hosting organization from a foreign country where the volunteer wishes to join a project. There are two types of EVS projects:

- long-term projects can vary from 2 to 12 months
- Short term projects can vary from 2 weeks to 2 months.

According to the number of promoters and volunteers involved, an EVS Activity can be defined as an *Individual* or *Group* EVS Activity. Individual EVS Activity is one volunteer sent by one Sending Organization to one Host Organization. A Group EVS Activity means a number of 2 to 100 volunteers sent by several Sending Organizations to one or several Host Organizations.

Activities developed during EVS projects have usually a very punctual scope and must represent a clear European or International added value. These can aim at a variety of domains: culture, youth, sports, social care, cultural heritage, arts, environment, development cooperation, civil protection.

A.C.T.Y.V.E. – EVS PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Type: EVS GROUP

EI Ref: 2007- RO - 2

Duration of Service: 6 Months

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

Number of Volunteers: 16

Summary: A.C.T.Y.V.E is a Group EVS project implemented in 11 communities from Gorj County – South West Romania has gathered 16 young volunteers from Program and Neighboring Partner countries.



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

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

The EVS service phase has started for all 16 volunteers at the same time, will last 6 month and shall compile a set of diverse and learning orientated activities.

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 selfconfidence.
- 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 program/structure that works to facilitate youngster's access to information, working to build new cultural, education and ethic dimensions.

The program was launched by Youngsters without Borders Association in 2003 and consists in developing a regional network between the municipalities in Gorj county. The idea is to enhance the involvement and participation of 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.

“ Since the summer of 2006 the management and monitoring of the EHN program was taken over by Regional Association for Rural Development. At present there are 10 municipalities from Gorj County involved in the EHN (Targu-Carbunesti, Tismania, Rovinari, Balteni, Novaci, Baia de Fier, Bumbesti Jiu, Turceni, Hurezani and Bustuchin) and ARDR is developing a program 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.”



Volunteers



Almudena Avis Melo
- Spain -



Amelie Lacout
- France -



Astrid Maria Elisabet Sorensen
- Finland -



Jasmin Nekowitsch
- Austria -



Jenny Toumisalo
- Finland -



Giulia Occhio
- Italy -



Julieta Dolinian
- France -



Lena Nazaryan
- Armenia -



Lika Rogava
- Georgia -

Volunteers



Maria Teresa Lorenzo
- Spain -



Nikoloz Tsertsvadze
- Georgia -



Victorya Davtyan
- Armenia -



Tatia Kurashvili
- Georgia -



Veronika Scholz
- Germany -



Shykin Veniamin
- Ukraine -

Partners

- 1. Youth Association „DRONI” – Georgia**
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- 2. International Association " Civitas Georgica" – Georgia**
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- 3. CE.S.I.E - Centro Studi e Iniziative Europeo – Italy**
Contact person: Sarah Beal - sarah.beal@cesie.it
- 4. Allianssi Youth Exchanges – Finland**
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- 5. Civil Society Institute – Armenia**
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- 6. Federation Youth Clubs of Armenia FYCA – Armenia**
Contact person: Gohar Chalumyan goharch@yahoo.com
- 7. InCo - Interculturalità & Comunicazione - Italy**
- 8. Asociación para la Integración y Progreso de las Culturas AIPC – Pandora – Spain**
Contact person: info@aipc-pandora.org
- 9. Grenzenlos – Austria**
Contact person: Daniela Fellingner daniela.fellinger@grenzenlos.or.at
- 10. VJF | Vereinigung Junger Freiwilliger – Germany**
- 11. Itineraire International – France**

First Days in Targu Jiu



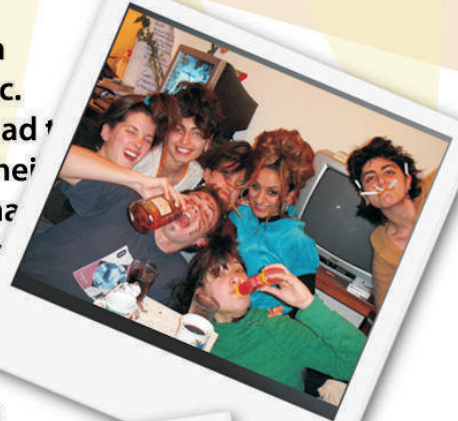
Volunteer life in Romania for the volunteers of the project ACTYVE began on 15 January 2009 when they arrived in Romania. They spent the first days of the project together in Targu-Jiu, the capital city of Gorj County. The first days were a little bit difficult, everyone had his/her own fears; at the beginning, the group wasn't actually a team but over the course of a few days everything changed. Living and working together was a great experience. The volunteers spent 10 days in Targu-Jiu. They lived in student's dormitory, a really lovely place. They had Romanian language classes and thematic training courses..

The first days were not easy, everyone was frightened, but at the same time they were trying to work together. In order to become one real team, they worked together and during their free time they took long walks through town. Romanian classes were a great experience.

First Days in Targu Jiu

Volunteers had classes in two groups, one group was in the morning and the other in the afternoon, and everybody did his/her best to study Romanian, because they liked the country, the project, and mostly they liked their teacher. In addition to Romanian classes they had thematic training courses with Marian Ancuta and Florin. Marian had interesting and useful sessions for them. One of the volunteers' favourite exercises was "introductory hands" and later this exercise became the "logo" of the project.

Florin presented many different sessions for volunteers including: community youth facilitation, fund-raising, monitoring, evaluation, etc. During the evenings the volunteers were free and had to get to know each other better. They organized their own intercultural parties or visited clubs with Roma youngsters who lived in the dormitory and tried to become friends with them. During the first days volunteers had a meeting with scout children, at this meeting they used the skills learned during the sessions. After several days the volunteers went to Predeal, where they had on-arrival training.



on-arrival training in Predeal

Predeal – one of the most beautiful winter resorts in Romania. A mountainous place with snow and wonderful landscape. National Agency of Romania organized a training for the volunteers of the ACTYVE project and also for some other volunteers. They had four trainers Marian Ancuta, Florin Predescu, Claudiu Nanea and Constantin Sabmitianu, interesting people with great and important information.

The training course was for five days, a serious but at the same time very easy, full of energizers and workshops. Days began early in the morning and continued until late at night. After every workshop volunteers had parties. During the training course a representative of the National Agency visited the volunteers, a visit that made the meetings even more interesting. He spoke about volunteer life in Romania and about their experience, explained that in case of emergency they could have the help of National Agency of Romania.



The most funny evening was the last one, when the administration of hotel made a surprise for them: a big fire outside with "tuica". Later they had traditional dinner and the most wonderful party with wine and music and of course the lovely energizer "pony..."

Nature Inn

After the training in Preadal, the volunteers went to Musetesti, where they lived in a lovely guest house "Nature Inn", a wonderful place at the countryside and the volunteers felt like home there. They had a wonderful cook who prepared really delicious food for them. The work continued with sessions with Marian and Florin. They spent 6 full days there, during this time they visited all the communities. Visiting communities was interesting and funny. But one day they had really crazy fun. In the morning the day seemed to be an ordinary one, they were going to visit two communities: Bustuchin and Hurezani. Everybody was in the cars and the journey began. The first destination was a petrol station in Targu Jiu. There they realized that Veniamin (a volunteer from Ukraine) was not there. It was funny but at the same time everybody felt uncomfortable because they forgot him, but maybe Veniamin spent too much time in his room in front of the mirror. Visiting communities was important for the volunteers, but at the same time people were nervous because they knew in just a few days they had to go to their communities.



Everybody was waiting last evening in Musetesti, when they would have had the "matching" evening, they had their fears about communities and they were waiting decisions. At last the matching evening came. At first they had discussion and evaluation about communities with coordinator. Matching was made by Florin and Aliana. Next day everybody went to their communities, only with one thought:

"we will survive, hopefully..."

Bumbești Jiu

Communities

Two volunteers, Amelie from France and Lena from Armenia have lived in Bumbesti Jiu since February , this year.

It is a small town also known as Sadu, surrounded with mountains and beautiful nature. This little city in the north of Gorj County has roughly 10.000 inhabitants. There is a long and wide river Jiu crossing the city. This town used to be a village some decades ago, but it became a town because of gun factories which are still working, although not at the capacity they did once. During the time of Ceausescu, Sadu was a busy place with two very important gun factories.

Some residents of Sadu still have a job in factories, but most of them they go to work in Targu-Jiu (a neighbouring city, the capital city if Gorj County). The streets of Sadu are very tidy and clean, there are a lot of benches along the streets with nice patterns that invite you to sit in the shade. The city is quiet, but in the evenings when work and school is done for the day, people come out to breathe the fresh mountain air. The weather here is quite unpredictable. Sometimes it is rainy and some days are extremely hot. But the spring is something extraordinary, you feel like you are in a fairytale.

There is a small clothes market behind their block. People sell second hand clothes there, most sellers are Roma, and probably this what they usually do for a living. They sell everything: shoes, bags, shirts, glasses and so on. Sometimes the volunteers see from their balcony how they arrange their merchandise horses. They are really not similar with the rest of the residents of Sadu. Usually women wear long dresses and colorful handkerchiefs on the head. They also have long hair. The good thing about this market is that it's really cheap, for example man's shirt cost 1 – 3 RON.

Markets are a very good place to communicate with people; sellers are interested to talk to you about their merchandise.



Bumbești Jiu

Communities

Music is an important thing for all Romanians and Sadu's residents make no exception. They listen to music everywhere- in cars, buses, shops and they do not get tired of this. For foreign ears Romanian music sounds a little bit strange and all songs seem to have the same rhythm, particularly traditional music, but Romanians do not agree and always are ready to defend their music and tell you about the excellent sounds and voices of Romania's singers.

The volunteers live in the small apartment on the third floor. They are lucky because they have internet connection at home and they can work from there. They have a little kitchen, a bathroom and a living room. At first the walls seemed colourless, not so nice, and empty and they decided to decorate them. They put colour paper, made origami birds and they decorated their house. Now it looks very hospitable and warm, particularly when teachers from school, where they developed their activities, gave them flowers. It happens very often.

There is one Elementary School and one High School located in the middle of the city centre. As a volunteer, you have a good opportunity at the Elementary School, because the kids are eager to learn.

During these months they established some relationships in High School, Primary School and Kindergarten. They acquainted with peoples from shops, City hall administration, Bus stations. Mostly they work in Kindergarten and Primary School. They do little programs for kids and children, they organize sport and manual activities. In Kindergarten they teach the kids English language, in Primary School they organize lessons of carious crafts, they teach them how to make origami, mask, drawing and so on. Of course, they have to study themselves before teaching them and it is very interesting because they a have a chance to study something else, it is very precious experience for them. That is why they value this work very much. Kids love them, all the time they stop them on the street, shops, buses, talk with them, sometimes hug and kiss.

The administration of City Hall speaks a bit English and will help you to make different phone calls, print documents, etc.

The high school has another atmosphere, mainly because the students are older and their classes are more serious. They couldn't continue their work in high school, maybe because teachers didn't want to support them to set up some activities, because they were to much busy or maybe because volunteers were not enough resistant to push them to do something. Anyway they decide to give up to exert efforts to do something in high school and moved to another places.

Kinder gardens director is very kind woman, she used to be a nurse long time ago, and now she is a director of very lovely home for kids. Kids stay in kinder garden from 8 am to 13 pm. Some of them even stay there until afternoon. Almost four months ago they already know some simple English words such as kind of animals, numbers, words related with spring, family, street and toys. All the time they are trying to amaze them, because volunteers are like guest and they expect something extraordinary from them. That is why sometimes they propose games, they do tricks for them, make origami. They don't need much things for smile.

Hurezani

Communities

Two volunteers from different countries and cultures arrived in Hurezani. Julieta, or mummy, is from Armenia. She is 23 and in Armenia worked as a English teacher. Almu ,or Alimu or Almundena, is from Spain and she is 22. In Spain she worked in animation, but she is a social educator. The girls arrived to the lovely and wonderful village in February, in the morning. It was cold and nobody knew them but from the beginning they tried to do their best in Romanian to communicate with the people of that magic village. The mayor, the director of the school and their host family were waiting for them with a lot of food in the city hall and later all together went to show them their new family. They have "father" "mother" "brother" and "sister", amazing family.

Hurezani is a little village with five hundred citizens. Here you can find just three shops, a pharmacy, two bars, the police station, the post office, a kindergarten, a school, a cultural house, a library and, of course, the city-hall. The best day in Hurezani is Wednesday because the pharmacy is open. There is also a market where you can find fruits, flowers and clothes. The citizens of Hurezani are really great (foarte amabila) and they really collaborated with volunteers. Their real job began on 11 February at one o'clock. They started with English lessons. They delivered English lessons from the beginning of the project till the end. They also gave Spanish lessons. In February they got the materials for their big project in March. The Cultural House was empty and cold but they tried to make it beautiful. They made all of the decorations by hand: flags, flowers, little chains, big pictures with different topics like freedom, equality and environment. After this they cooked a rich dinner for all the people from the village to introduce themselves and their work.

The funniest thing in Hurezani is that everybody knows everything about the volunteers, sometimes even better then they know themselves, but this is not a problem, everybody wants to be kind to them. One day the volunteers went to a shop for bread. The owner invited them to a barbeque and he gave them bread for free. So lovely, Hurezani is such a good host for the volunteers and for sure it will be like this all the time.



EVS Bustuchin 2009

Communities

...this Actually Can Tell You What EVS is....

The beautiful story of Astrid and Niko's EVS began in Musetesti, and continued in Bustuchin where they spent their 6-month long stay in Romania (or at least most of it).

At first feelings were mixed since they were separated for a week because Astrid participated in a Training Course in Musetesti; however, the issue was easily solved by the ARDR staff that offered Niko the possibility to stay in Targu Carbunesti with Giulia from Italy and Jenny from Finland during the first week!

Finally the two volunteers arrived in Bustuchin where they were greeted by three cheerful guys: Marian, Adi and Alin. The city hall (primaria) Papi also welcomed them with its colorful and splendid Christmas decorations in the dark night. After having our first, but not the last, beer in Bustuchin we were accommodated in our sweet room in the teachers house. Niko was a bit disappointed about the fact that a TV was missing from the equipment in the room. The next morning he woke up with one thought in his mind: Where to find Cosmote connection for speaking with the other volunteers?



During the first days we made the grand tour of Bustuchin and Poiana, a village nearby, with the guidance of the English teacher Marian, who was also our counterpart in the community. We realized that we shouldn't have let the first impression of Bustuchin fool us. The small centre consisting of a city hall, a High School, a tiny store, and a bar appeared to be just an exterior that was hiding a dynamic and warm-hearted community. Bustuchin was actually a big commune consisting of 8 villages...wow!



We introduced ourselves to the students in the schools so that they wouldn't have to be afraid of the weird boy from the Caucasus Mountains and the strange girl from somewhere up in the North Pole. Slowly we began playing games and talking about our countries in French and English with the students.



Step by step we got to know the habitants and the students in Bustuchin, and especially the important people who were hanging around the Papi center. The most important of them was, in our opinion, still doamna Lilika, an angel who provided the dirty volunteers with clean clothes and internet access in the evening`ITTT. Go Lilika!

Mușetesti

Communities

A community with 8 villages

The heart of the community contains the city hall, the Scoala Generala (Class 1-8), the casa cultural, the library, the pharmacy and the police station – all located next to each other. Last but not least there is also the Euro House Centre, in which Vica from Armenia and Vero from Germany were working.

We can say that we had the privilege to be accommodated in a host family. That means three generations living together. (*Mamaia, Tatai, Mihaela, Ion, Denisa, Gabi and Nero, porc, Stelu-cal, gajina, pisica and curcano*). The Romanians have a big heart when it comes to hospitality. We were even offered homemade wine at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, which made the two volunteers (of course) really happy.

The most important facts:

Landscape: Wonderful view to mountains

Food: Grown in the garden with many vitamins, better than any other kind of food!

Transport: feet, bus, Dacia, horse, donkey

Weather: Nice but sometimes windy (grrrrr)

Fun: Disco bar, Coffee bar, little shop, room of Vica and Vero

Worst place: Kitchen of Vica and Vero

Best place: The rest of Mușetesti

Another nice thing is that in the village people know us and greet us by name.

Negative point: Mamaia is the best informed woman in the village. She always knew where we were, for how long we were gone and with whom.

Final statement:

We survived and lost a part of our heart in Mușetesti!



Novaci

Communities

Once upon a time...ok, we can start again...I understood...it's not a fairytale, but it could be one, seriously!

Once upon a...February, two volunteers went to a beautiful village near the Ranca's mountains: Novaci.

Everything was really incredible, the mountains, the streets, the houses, the weather...Ok, I'll tell the truth!

The day that they arrived to Novaci, they couldn't see anything because it was really dark!!! But they felt like they were in a fairytale! They felt butterflies in the stomach, they wanted to start immediately all the activities that they had in mind, they wanted to improve everything so fast!!!

And they started to meet people... The most important people: the host family. A man and a woman so nice, always trying to help and to speak Romanian with them... trying to teach them some useful words, but the volunteers could only say "aha, aha, da, da, nu, nu"...but step by step! And also two lovely cats, Pisica and Garfield, with them were easier to have a real conversation.

After a few days they got to know Romanian style and they never used future tense in speaking. They knew that they can never say "everything going to be okay" they could just say "everything is good at this moment."

The first month they did some activities at high-school and at student's club. Film projection, little concert, discussion and energizers. They tried to connect high-school, student's club, cultural house and city hall with their activities but...it wasn't easy. Let's say that is was really difficult. They had many disappointments and sometimes depression because everything wasn't working always like they wanted.. But they found good points. Sometimes you learn more from disappointments than from success. Also another good thing was that soon the volunteers became real friends. They felt like twins. They were always together, always singing and dancing. This friendship made their life in Novaci more interesting and joyful. The only problem for them was that they were living so far from the centre that to get to school they had to travel 45 minutes. The bus schedule wasn't so exact, so they tried to hitchhike but that wasn't a very good option either because it happened on several occasions to meet men who showed great interest in finding out if the girls were married and when they knew the answer they received "interesting" proposals from them...funny but sometimes scary.

One of the most important activities developed at the end of the project was a trip . They took students from Novaci and from Ticleni high school to "Pestera Muieri." They found friends in both communities and they had a great time.

This is the life in Novaci - sometimes interesting, sometimes successful, sometimes boring and sometimes funny...this is volunteers' life in our communities



Rovinari

Communities



Rovinari is the community where Veniamin, a volunteer from Ukraine and Jasmin, a volunteer from Austria live and work. The first days they walked around the town, visited the city-hall and the school, they met the mayor, the vice mayor and of course, they met their counterpart. They had some discussions with their counterpart about the school, about the activities of the former volunteers, about their worries.

Rovinari is famous for it's power station, which is the biggest in Gorj county. The factory is a part of the town and nobody could imagine it without this factory. Rovinari is a very young town -of almost 20 years- with a population of 12,603 and it was founded and exists because of the factory. Almost every inhabitant of Rovinari works or has worked in the factory. Everyone is proud of the factory but at the same time they realize that because of it the area has ecological problems. You can barely see trees in Rovinari and when it is cloudy the air smells very bad.

During the first days volunteers visited the school and they took part in the activities organised there, but they also began working on their activities. They began extra English lessons. The preparation took too much time at the beginning, but it was very good, because they got ready for these activities. They also began working in a Roma school in Targu Jiu. Volunteers organized an interesting activity for the International Women's day". The activity consisted in discussion groups about typical gender "prejudice" and discussions about famous Romanian women. At the same time volunteers began working on weekly activities and very soon they had a definite schedule. That gave them the opportunity to organise their time and to think about other activities. Most important and interesting activity which they did was connected to the International Roma Day. They organized power point presentations and had discussions with students and teachers. Volunteers in Rovinari did not finish with these activities, and they did many interesting and important things for students. So at the end of the project every student will miss for sure the two amazing volunteers from two different countries.

Țicleni

Communities

Ticleni is a little town in Gorj County, it's one of the eight communities where volunteers from project ACTYVE work. Here works Lika, from Georgia. It is a little town with 5575 inhabitants; it has one main street, on which one can find everything: the city-hall, kindergartens, schools, pharmacies, policlinics, police station, library, cultural house and, of course, shops. Citizens of Țicleni are very kind, but at the same time everybody is trying to know everything about the volunteer's life, especially they want to know everything about her private life.



*What is
Lika doing
in Țicleni?*



She came in the community at the beginning of February, and from the beginning of the project she worked at high-school. Work at high-school was not so easy but she tried and did interesting activities there. First she made a questionnaire for students, for getting information about what they wanted to do with her. After receiving the questionnaires back she made a presentation of the activities what she could do there at high-school. The first activity with students was extra English lessons for students from 11a class. She also organized discussion meetings about different topics. The most important activity was nature week in Țicleni, with title "Nu omarați natura" (don't kill the nature). The week began with the visit of the director of Eco agency. The meeting was about pollution of nature and he made film presentation for students. After this discussions, Lika organized cleaning day of the river with the help of ARDR and the city-hall of Țicleni. Students from high-school and secondary school participated, ARDR stuff also and some other volunteers.

Lika organized and joined activities with some other volunteers from other communities. These activities were the most interesting for the students, they were more active and wanted to participate in them.

Step by step Lika managed to do everything what she wanted to do in the community. So at the end of the project she feels a "little pain" in her heart, because of the amazing students from high-school, but life is continuing and everything has to finish one day...

Târgu-Cărbunești

Communities

On the 5th of February Gulia and Jenny arrive to Targu Carbunesti. The very first thing they did was to drag all their baggage to their new home , which luckily was situated very near to the bus stop. They were tired and shocked but after sleeping that night and putting their things in order they started to feel better. At least a bit...they spent the first days trying to get used to their new home town, finding out where the shops are, where the schools are and what's the most important...where could they find internet???

Carbunesti is not so big so they found out useful information soon. In Carbunesti town live about 5.000 inhabitants, but there are also many villages nearby the centre, so actually there are 10.000 people. In the town there are 2 schools, primary and secondary school, a beautiful church, a monastery, many shops, and a library. Carbunesti also has good connections to other cities by busses and trains which is a good thing. The thing that the volunteers didn't like were the dogs. Dogs in the street, in the park, in the back yards of houses, big dogs, small dogs, scared dogs, and scary dogs. ..dogs and more dogs! Later

Jenny had a bad experience when a dog bit her and she had to go to hospital many times to fix her problem.

In Carbunesti there is also a disabled people's house.

The volunteers took part in their daily activities which included everything from baking bread to growing carrots and making clothes...for them working with disabled and only Romanian speaking people was very challenging...but also very rewarding.

They also did different activities in the school: English classes, playing fun games, introducing their countries, painting flags, talking, they also have organized a mid-spring fest in primary school in the village Pojogeni with classes from 5th to 8th. They were outside all together playing games like bag run, spoon race with beans, etc. at the end they had picnic. In April they arranged a football match between the high school of Carbunesti and Bustucin and they had a great game on the big football stadium. Except for these activities sometimes they did not have much to do in the evenings. So especially in the beginning they were collecting a list calls "11 ways to spend your day when there is nothing to do" here are some examples of their evening activities:

- Give names to the dogs living in the back yard
- Arrange and count your teabags
- Build towers from matches
- Have a competition: who kills more mosquitoes(in the summer only)
 - Color the kitchen paper
 - Buy raw beans and cook them(it takes a lot of time)

So.. it seems that they had an interesting life in Targu-Carbunesti.



Amelie Lacout

Personal Pages



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Story about yourself: I'm from
France, 22 years old. I live in
Toulouse, south of France. I like
travel & meet people, that's why I
am in Romania.

What does this EVS mean for me?

For me this EVS is a learning experience of life as well as an opportunity to gain new professional skills.

On one hand, due to the style of my accommodation, I mean to share a little flat (and bed) during six months in a village with foreign girls too. On the other hand by cultural differences and daily life in Romania.

I am delighted because it is difficult to change and adapt myself to a lifestyle that I enjoy more or less, but now I know that I am able to do it and all the negative points will be positives in my mind. And the greatest thing is that I have new friends in Europe and Caucasus and more reasons to travel again !!!

This project allows me to practice my skills, to develop according to cultural differences but also to face my weaknesses and my mistakes. However I have started this project with ambition and motivation coming from two sides: myself and my community, and experiences of this project makes me think that it is really difficult to integrate in a foreign country and to position oneself as a promoter of a project goals. Rural Development, especially if you don't find a really helping hand in the community to give run up to your ideas.

But in all cases this experiences will be positive for my future, and I hope they are going to be useful for my community.

To conclude I have 3 words to characterize my EVS : Tolerance, Open minded, and be Active !!!!!!!!

Almudena Avis Melo

Personal Pages



Name: Almudena Avis Melo
Nickname: Almu, Alimu. Almo
Date of birth: 20. 06. 1986
Full address: C/Encina,3 H.DE
Animas, Caceres, Spain
Postal code: 10290
Phone number: +34625465281
e-mail: doride_20@hotmail.com
Life motto: "If you want you can!" ; " El secreto de aburrir a los demois es decireo todos."

Story about yourself: " I'm Almu, I'm from Spain from a little, nice village which is named " Huertas de Animas" and I live with my family (my lovely sister, mummy, daddy and my funny brother) for some months I work out of my wonderful village so I usually live with different people (because of my work-Animation). I studied Social Education and really I like to travel, to know different cultures and meet people for open my mind, learn from them and grow personally... sorry, I forgot my little dog (Xena) and all our plants and birds... PEACE!!!

What does this EVS mean for me?

Good question!! EVS has a lot of meanings for me, honestly this opinion has changed a lot from the beginning until now.

EVS changes your view about this world, it makes you open your eyes and see that all is in our hands, but it is necessary to pay attention to the small things that for a shallow mind it seems like they don't mean anything but they can change all. It is to wake up every morning in a different world and know how to adapt, it is open your eyes, ears and HEART. Plus, you learn to be patient.

A lot of times in our normal life we are so absorbed for our daily life and we forget all the things that we can do, and also that we can do it without needing so many things.

With this experience I have developed myself more than I had imagined. I have understood a part of myself that was hidden, I have seen my possibilities...some of them that I didn't know that I had.

Let me say some important words which summarize this EVS for me: Friendship, Tolerance, Patience, Intercultural Exchange, Open Mind, Open Eyes, Open Heart, Learning,

Astrid Sorensen

Personal Pages



Name: Astrid Sorensen
 Nickname: Assu
 Date of birth: 06. 03. 1986
 Full address: Hameentie 36 as.3
 Finland
 Postal code: 20540
 Phone number: 358504655741
 E-mail: asorensen@abo.fi

Life motto: "Life is not measured by the number of breaths you take, but by the moments that take away your breath." AND "You have to be the change that you want to see in the world."

Story about yourself: Astrid is a girl from the Finnish archipelago who swam and flew to Romania to be a volunteer. She speaks French, loves ice cream, dances in her own way, needs to go to rock or reggae concert. Loves classic music, looking forward to be a granny and take care of green plants and hug her grandchildren.

But Astrid, what is that? Well. For me EVS in Romania in 2009 was...
 ...To be a stranger in a strange country... to learn how to welcome and open yourself, your home and your culture to a stranger so that the stranger feels at home...to learn the difference between planning and putting in action...to lose yourself...to find yourself again, but with something new inside ...to fall in love with people...to begin to appreciate new things in life...to learn to play chess...to learn that it's not the place that makes the people, but that it's the people that make the place...to learn how to dance traditional dances...to watch things going in a totally different direction than the way that you planned them...but to let it come and realize that it's ok...and to adapt yourself to the new situation...to learn learning by doing!... to notice that you are still that lazy and disordered pig that you were back home...but that it's also nice to do things in a different way... to learn how to work with children... to meet ten different new cultures...to learn how much you love your own country, your own family and your own home... to realize that people are not so different around the world...to realize that you shouldn't try to be someone that you are not... to learn a new language...to be afraid...and to overcome your fears!...to learn to always have a plan B in your pocket...to open your eyes and to realize which are those things that actually makes life worth living...to realize that you can do things you earlier just had watched others do...but to discover that you weren't either exactly the person that you thought you were...and that you aren't good at everything...but to realize what especially you are good at...and to get a hint of what you could imagine doing in the future...to bring with you new habits back home... to plant a piece of your heart in another country...and to just wait for coming back!

*You did your EVS because you wanted to change something somewhere else in the world - when you came back you wanted to change your own country
 I didn't change Romania - Romania changed me!...*

Florin Păsătoiu

Personal Pages

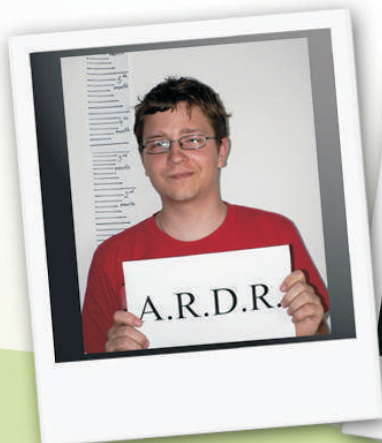


Date of birth: 24.06.1975
Full address: Mușetesti, jud. Gorj,
Romania
postal code: 217300
phone number: +40744 399412
e-mail: florin.pasatoiucardr.ro
life-motto: While there is a will,
there is a way!

Story about yourself by you: Hard working guy, difficult to work with, committed, addicted to countryside life, crazy over kids, has a lovely daughter and a charming and intelligent wife, fabulous mother and father; he loathes kissing up to the boss, cowards, lack of trust;

What does this EVS mean for me?

The best action of the Youth in Action programme of the European Union that I have worked with so far. It gives individuals, organizations and communities capacities and chances to make change happen.



Alexandru Diaconescu

Nickname: Alex
Date of birth: 24. 03. 1986
Full address: Romania
Phone number: +40766271694
E-mail: alexandru.diaconescu@cardr.ro
Life motto: "Ignorance is bliss!"

Story about yourself: "It's nice to be important, but it is more important to be nice!"

Giulia Occhio

Personal Pages



Nickname: Giuly, Ju
Date of birth: 29. 06. 1984
Full address: V. Giovanni XXIII, 18
Pregnana Milanese (MI), Italy
Postal code: 20010
Phone number: +390293290588(fix);
+393477780862(mob)
e-mail: giulia.occhio@hotmail.it

Story about yourself: Hi! I'm Giulia, I came from Italy. I live with my family (dad, mum, sister, dog and cat) near Milano, where I studied at the University Political Science. I really like travelling, especially for voluntary experiences- I was in Bosnia, Brazil- It.

What does this EVS mean for me?

Try to speak in English 24/7

Find new way to express yourself, with the other volunteers but with all the people what we have met (Romanian disable people.. Can you imagine how to speak with them?? ;-)

New cooking experience: new food, new (...) kitchen, and, of course, my long term activity, cooking beans!!

Fight against mosquitoes: not only like hunter, but also using the tent.. it's helping me to improve my creativity!

Survive when I'm alone with Juliet and Niko.. I'm improving my patience! ;-)

But also something more serious:

Try a new way of life

Meet new people

Improving my skills

Compare different culture, history, languages

Live with different people

Live in another Country, culture, language

Doing something useful for the others

Show to the Romanian youngsters that it's possible to live in other way, not only for fun (or at least I hope so ;-)

Confirm what I want to do in my life

So.. Not so little things!

Jasmin Nekowitsch

Personal Pages



Date of birth: 09. 01. 1989
Full address: Gartenraststrasse 8,
9545 Radenthein, Austria
Postal code: 9545
Phone number: 0043424629109,
00436504940088
E-mail: eppursimuoive@gmx.net
Life motto: Libertate!

Story about yourself: it's the sense of the humans, the gathering, the cooperation and the helpful suggestions in a community without borders, only a space, a get-together which used to be a shelter to escape from the system controlled society. You just can stand up and go-going your way.

I am not a human in the virtual, actual sense. I'm open for quite all. Slightly confused, and always searching."

What does this EVS mean for me?

...To see and to live other cultures; to jump over your shadow; to be aware of your roots; to become acquainted with people from different countries; finding hidden skills and pleasures; to live in another country..."



Jenny Tuimisola

Personal Pages



Date of birth: 15. 01. 1985

Full address: Aijansaarentie 81,
04380 Tuusula, Finland

Postal code: 04380

Phone number: +358405661143

E-mail: jenny.tuomisola@yahoo.com

Life motto: "love all, trust a few, do
wrong to anybody."

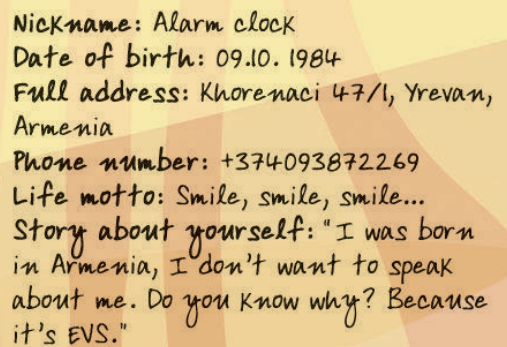
Story about yourself: "I'm 24 and I came from southern Finland where I live in a small village in countryside. I studied tourism and finished my university of applied sciences about a year ago. I participated in 2 voluntary work camps in Germany before, I really really liked them and now it was a good time to take a part in a longer project. So here am I!!!!..."

What does this EVS mean for me?

This EVS mean to me a great experience in another country with people from different countries and a chance to learn a lot of things about other cultures and about myself.



Personal Pages



Actually the EVS project is amazing and helped me learn a lot of things:

- welcome to the EVS project &...
LA REVEDERE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Lena Nazaryan

Personal Pages



Nickname: Lenok
Date of birth: 09. 03. 1983
Full address: Nork-Marash,
Armenakyan 117, Yerevan, Armenia
Phone number: +37491707985
e-mail: lenanazaryan@list.ru
Life motto: Love

Story about yourself: "I was born in Armenia. It's a small and sunny country in the south Caucasus. When I was 24 I decided to travel to see something else. I have been in Russia, Georgia, now I am in Romania. I like to be in Romania not only for travelling but also because I've met a lot people, I have worked and I've studied. I like to take photos, to help people."

What does EVS mean for me?

"I came in Romania for EVS, because I was looking for a long time for the opportunity to change, my style of life, my mind, my vision of the world. And I knew that I could do it only by living in another country, with another people, doing something not connected with my profession, by travelling, discovering new places and exploring myself in new conditions. Well I had the great chance to renew myself, to be more tolerant and more patient. The second reason why I am here as a volunteer is the opportunity to help people. I don't have the ambition to save people, but I think that when you want to help people you give them not only your hands but you also give them your love and care, which is more important."



Maria Teressa Lorenzo Sanchez

Personal Pages



Nickname: Mayte
Date of birth: 29. 08. 1984
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Gonzalez N.28, Pozvelo De Alarkon,
Madrid, Spain
Postal code: 282223
Phone number: 0034 659 10 9664
e-mail: maytelorenzos@yahoo.com
Life motto: "Live, don't survive."

Story about yourself: "I am a normal Spanish girl who loves music, art, nature...all the things that make me feel the beauty of this World. Of course I have Latin blood, I can be lazy, and that's why I love COFFEE!!!

I come from a small family; we are only 15, so I like to communicate with other people. I'm really open and I like to learn more about other cultures.

I am trying to live everything with the 100% of myself, to enjoy every minute and try to catch all the beauty around me. I like the little things of life, they make me smile every second."

What does this EVS mean for me?

"For me EVS means the opportunity to discover the beauty of other cultures, learn more about my colleges, a new country, Europe and also about myself.

The project tested my ability to adapt and work; it also tested my skills and helped me to discover that I can do more for the people around me than I ever thought!

EVS means an experience that you will never forget!"

Personal Pages

Tatia Kurashvili



Nickname: Begura

Date of birth: 05. 10. 1990

Full address: Nutsbidzis 4, house 9, flat 4, Tbilisi

Phone number: +99591 51 50 10

E-mail: tatia_kurashvili@yahoo.com

Life motto: be happy :)

Story about yourself: I love life, music, people and animals. I'm always trying to get from life what I want and even during the hard periods of my life I can say that I'm a lucky girl.

What does this EVS mean for me?

....A new Life!

Madalina Elena Cheana



Date of birth: 15. 05. 1986

Full address: Geman, Com.

Musutesti, jud. Gorj, Romania

Phone number: +40741775269.

+40761995317

E-mail: maad_uc@yahoo.com

Story about yourself: Nothing exciting and interesting to say :)



Personal Pages

Lia Rogava



Nickname: Lika
Date of birth: 10. 02. 1986
Full address: A. Chikobava str. 31,
Zugdidi, Georgia
Postal code: 2100
Phone number: +995 95 60 07 60
E-mail: lika.rogava@yahoo.com
Life motto: "The future will be
whatever we make it."

Story about yourself: "I live in west part of Georgia in a little town with my sweetest family. I love life and I want to do everything what I planned for my future. I want to be independent because life is a chance which is given to everybody and it depends on person how wonderful he/she makes it."

What does EVS mean for me?

"EVS Romania was a great experience for me. I'm happy that I've come in Romania as a volunteer. I think that this experience helped me pass my first test of life."

Marian Ancuța



Nickname: Mario
Date of birth: 07.12.1981
Full address: Str. Jiului, 59 C, Targu-Jiu
Postal code: 210171
Phone number: 0721 790 578; 0765 418 606
E-mail: marian.ancuta@yahoo.com
Life-motto: Everything is possible, but
nothing is easy!

Story about yourself by you:
Enjoying life: working, travelling,
meeting people, changing myself
continuously, defending and believing in
values, trying to discover or to motivate
the dreamers;), volunteering. Enjoying the

Nikoloz Tsertsvadze

Personal Pages



Nickname: Niko
 Date of birth: 01. 01. 1989
 Full address: Shatberashvili I distr.
 NB, Tbilisi, Georgia
 Postal code: 0179
 Phone number: +995 55 22 00 23
 (mob); +995 32 22 00 23 (fix)
 e-mail: cercva@yahoo.com
 Life motto: "Don't worry, be happy,
 be cool..."

Story about yourself: "I'm Niko. I like sport very much, especially swimming. I had been swimming for 10 years. I am shy but I don't know why. I need much time to get good relationships with people. It's my problem. I can't find a girl who has same life style as mine. I am unlucky, but I have many friends."

What does EVS mean for me?

EVS is an important experience in my life. During the project I've learned a lot of interesting things. I've learned to work with children, to communicate with people from a different culture. People who do EVS will be changed by this project as I was

Veronica Scholz



Nickname: Vero, Veriko, Be creative
 Date of birth: 04. 03. 1989
 Full address: Burgstr. S 35428, viedeleen
 Postal code: 35428
 Phone number: 0049064471029/
 016095526924
 E-mail: veronica.scholz@web.de
 Story about yourself: "I was born in a little village in Germany then I wanted to do an EVS in Malta with tortoise... I ended up in a little village in Romania, with chicken

What does this EVS mean for me?

Helping! Learning! Loving! Getting hearted, need to adaption, being foreigner! Emotions! Freedom! Incredible experience which opens your mind and heart!"

Personal Pages

Victoria Davtyan



Nickname: Vika
Date of birth: 01. 03. 1983
Full address: Leningradyan 20-22,
Yerevan, Armenia
Phone number: +37410392303
E-mail: vicky100@crambler.ru
Life motto: "Action no conversation."
Story about yourself: "What can I
say about me? It's difficult to tell
something about myself but I'll
try. I'm a very interesting person
and I'm a very "modest" as you see.
I like dance, music, sports, art, to
have a fun, to drink etc...I'm crazy
person and I like to have people like
me around me."

What does this EVS mean for me?

EVS means for me to go to another country and to live without family. To be by yourself. To be ready to communicate with different people from different countries. To be open for everyone, to be friendly. To help people, to do something useful for them. To get more experience. To know about culture of different countries. To learn different languages. To learn something new. To share the experience that you have, to get new one. EVS means for me life experience.

Marian Sindrinaru

Date of birth: 02. 09. 1979
Full address: Bustuchin locality, Poiana- Securi village, Gorj county,
Romania
Phone number: 0744905434
E-mail: ehnbustuchin@yahoo.com

Story about yourself: "English teacher in a high school from the rural area, skilled cultural activities.

Working with young people since I graduated high-school in 1992.

Created a traditional dancing group "Brail de la Poiana".

Presidet of Euro-house Bustuchin association.

Like to work in the country-side. Only to visit the towns.

Shykin Veniamin Anatolievich

Personal Pages



Nickname: UncleVen

Date of birth: 21.02.1985

Full address: 51, 26/a, 60 let VLKSM, 97410, Yevpatoria, Crimea, Ukraine

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E-mail: elephant-studio@yandex.ru

Life motto: "Hasta la Victoria siempre!"

Story about yourself: In my live, what is not so long yet, I used to try a lot of professions. It is hard to believe, but I used to be a gardener, a beach-boy, tour guide, TV- announcer, PC operator, sales manager, teacher of History, photographer, event manager, realtor, but never - volunteer.

It is typical for my age to try myself in something new and not to be scared to go abroad for gorgeous volunteer experience. I came here, in Romania, to find out, who I am. So, I guess, I made a big step in direction of that understanding.

What does this EVS mean for me?

EVS is an opportunity to find yourself. It is a pity that I did not know about it when I was 18 or 19 years old. When you go to another country and see other people's life it gives you vision from the side, how you live and what you can change. Anyway, this experience is unforgettable.

Antonio Tomoni



Nickname: Toni

Date of birth: 23. 04. 1980

Full address: Tismania, Gorj, Romania

Phone number: +40766411010

E-mail: Antonio.tomoni@cardr.ro

Life motto: "To have success you don't have to do extraordinary things all you have to do is normal things extraordinary well."

Story about yourself: "A stone does not get polished without been rubbed a lot and neither does a man perfect himself unless he goes through a lot of tryouts."

Romanian language

What Does EVS in Romanian Means?

...It means many things but first of all you have to learn Romanian language!

Why?

- Because it's EVS.
- Because it's EVS in Romania
- Because unfortunately nobody speaks English at the airport.
- Because... unfortunately nobody speaks English in the shops and maybe you will get sparkling water instead of simple water.
- Because... Taxi drivers guess immediately that you are foreigner and charge 10 Lei instead of 5 Lei.
- Because... maybe one day a strange man will knock on your door and will make a wonderful ritual against "kukaracha". After the ritual the whole room is wet and smells terrible you have to pay 40 lei.



• Because... maybe one day you get sick and you have to go to the hospital. Everyone tries to speak with you but you don't understand and it makes them all laugh at the hospital, and you still don't understand what's wrong with you and why you have to get so many injections.

• Because... in the hospital of Carbonești almost every doctor speaks English but it's better to communicate with them in

Romanian, maybe they will tell you that you have "kist" in your kidneys but it means that you have little "lovely" stone there.

• Because... maybe you will have this kind of conversation with English teacher:

Teacher: - How are you?

Volunteer: - I am fine. Dog bite me.

Teacher: - Me too. I am tired.

• Because in your community everybody tries to know everything about you, especially men want to know if you are married or not. Maybe they have some "interesting proposals" for you.

• Because you have to work with Romanian youngsters and most of them can't speak English.

• Because you have such an attractive teacher of Romanian Language that it's impossible not to go to her lesson even at 8 o'clock in the morning.

• BECAUSE... we already gave you enough reasons to learn this beautiful language.

Stories from funny life

How we get to Romania

This is the story about a French girl from Toulouse with a "south" accent who first wanted to go to Georgia and a girl from Germany who is living in a little village next to Frankfurt who wanted to go to South America or at least Malta.

Both ended up in Romania (happy).

Why? Well it's EVS.

It's the 15th of January 2009.

20:51 Amelie is writing an email to Vero "hello my name is..." (.....)

(France)

Please wait for me in the airport, bisous.

20:51 Vero can't decide what she should take with her

(Germany)

20:52 she decided to take all

20:53 Impossible, her luggage is overweight

16 January

4:30 Amelie is sleeping

4:30 Vero finished to prepare her luggage. She reads Amelie's email and wonders if Amelie will read the answer before leaving and if she is still awake.

11:00 both are on the plane.

14:00 Lufthansa is Faster; Vero is taking her first steps in Romania and waits for Amelie.

15:00 both meet. First impression: Amelie has less luggage then Vero. She met a wonderful Romanian woman in the plane. She also has to go to Targu-Jiu.

17:00 all three are eating mici in Gara de Nord.

18:00 accelerat to Targu-jiu.

20:00 Aliana is calling, if we met a man on the airport who should help us to find the Gara..

20:03 actually not!

22:45 Final destination: Targu-jiu

First impression: where are we? 6 months? Mama? We want to sleep!

24:00 first contact with volunteers.

17 January

Our Romanian adventure has started.

20 January

Amelie is reading Vero's answer.



Stories from funny life

Georgian's first days in Romania

15 January, 12 o'clock, Romania, backrest, Otopeni airport

Three Georgian volunteers arrived. They wanted to go out from the airport as soon as possible, but, sorry, policemen stopped them and began speaking. The volunteers did not understand anything and the policemen also did not understand them, because volunteers did not speak Romanian and the policeman did not speak English. After waiting, ringing and speaking half an hour the volunteers went out.

The first Romanian they met was Andrew, one of the best boys in Romania :) he took them to "Gara de nord" and waited with them 4 hours to the train of Targu Jiu.

Everything was new and interesting. The volunteers were a little bit frightened, because from the window of the train they saw only fields and woods, no houses. They thought that everything was strange. After 5 hours on the train they arrived in Targu Jiu where they met Jasmin (a volunteer from Austria), Aliana (coordinator (that time) of the project) and Anka (volunteer from organization YWB) they took them to the house where volunteers had to spend 10 days. It was student dormitory, really poor building.

The volunteers were really tired but they had one question "we have to stay in such conditions for 6 months? No, it's impossible, maybe something will change." The next morning all volunteers came, began discussion about the situation. Everyone was frightened, thinking what and how to do. Aliana promised to come but she was late. Ok no problem volunteers taught her style :)

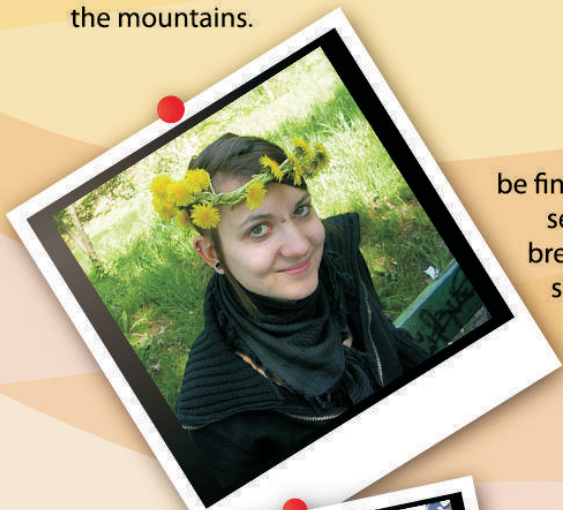
In the afternoon volunteers visited Targu Jiu. It wasn't so bad as it seemed at night. It was really good and city became familiar for everyone.



Stories from funny life

Mountain adventures

Mamita, Niko, Lena, Veniamin and Vero visited bran castle! Then they needed accommodation, so they asked woman in the park. She knew someone and so they had a room in a village next to the mountains.



The story could be finished here but...our crazy volunteers wanted to see the sun going down and to eat. So they took breads and walked up to the mountains. The story. The story could finish here but...they found a house with hay where they wanted to stay, but they decided to go on the top of the mountain to sleep in this beautiful and natural "accommodation". Lena went down followed by Mamita, who fell down on the mountain! AXA!!! Veniamin, Niko and Vero were followed by a dog who took care of them the whole night. In the morning they called Alex.. Actually he didn't ask where we were.. What to say? On the top of the mountain? Sleeping in hay? Well... end of story!



Stories from funny life

Story of Tismana

Six volunteers decided to go to Tismana one wonderful weekend. They went by bus and they were very happy. The main reason of their happiness was that they were without ARDR staff (it's just a joke.) The bus stopped in the center of Tismana and the first person whom they met was Toni Montana (Antonio Tomoniu-financial manager of the A.C.T.Y.V.E . project) It was really good meeting. After the meeting the volunteers from Georgia Miss Tati realized that she left her mobile phone and flash in the bus:(the volunteers called many times but no answer.. What could they do? Nothing. They continued their way to the monastery.

At first they wanted to find a place where they could sleep. A volunteer from Germany Miss Vero (Georgian Veriko) decided to visit the youth hostel to find a room. The others were waiting near the monastery. Suddenly a yellow bus appeared and Vero came down from the bus and introduced them to two people. The volunteers guessed that one of men was a priest and they thought that other one was a driver, sorry but he wasn't driver; he was "dom' primar" from Draganesti. They found the volunteers a hotel, it sounds unbelievable but they paid for their hotel too.

It's amazing that sometimes we meet such kind of people. They drank beer with the mayor and then they went to the Monastery. It was wonderful. After a little praying they went up to the hill. They ate there, talked and joked a lot. They were waiting for Toni or maybe for his present" wine and tuica"

Toni took them to another place where they began their big walk to the monastery. The road was little bit difficult, ok not little bit; it was hard for them to reach the monastery. The first walking was Toni and behind him the volunteers. The last one was a poor volunteer from Georgia Miss Lika with big a stick...like an old woman.:)

The Monastery was beautiful with nice people, they also met a cat, a big cat, no.. a lion. After visiting the monastery they went back. In the hotel they tried to sing and make more fun but unfortunately one woman came and explained that the hotel had some old people staying there and they had to be quiet. After this they went out with some alcoholic drinks and guitar...and their voice spread across the universe...



Stories from funny life

Story of Tismana

How did they sleep? It's a good question to have ask, dear reader. Why? Because there were most "crazy" volunteers, Mr. Niko from Georgia and Julieta from Armenia. As you guessed it's impossible to sleep with them. Miss Vero was sleeping with them in the same room.. Poor Vero.. Miss Julieta and Mr. Niko were laughing and shouting the whole night. It was horrible but also little bit funny ☹ terrible couple. The next morning they were so quiet nobody could believe that they were so crazy the whole night, but maybe they were tired, nobody knows...

The next day was really super.Sunny and warm. The Volunteers spend the day in the balcony with beer, guitar and of course wonderful UNO cards. Miss Lika and Miss Almu (called Almudena from Spain) were playing it for 4 hours non-stop.At 2 o'clock the bus came and they went to their communities. They were really shocked and they told everyone unbelievable story of "don Primar"



Stories from funny life

Sibiu...

Mamita, Niko, Lena and Vero wanted to go to Sibiu. Their biggest problem was how to get to Targu Jiu? Hitch hiking! A big truck stopped. After a nice conversation he offered them a ride by truck to Sibiu with one of his colleagues.

Okay... volunteers call Florin regarding work. The conversation changes to private stuff: "Florin imagines we are in the truck to Sibiu." "Take care"

Three hours later the driver said that there is better connection from Petrosani to Sibiu. so bye bye truck, hello train. The Volunteers asked a friendly woman from the train station about the next train to Sibiu. She closed window. The Volunteers didn't give up. We are foreigners, we are volunteers please tell us when the next train is. Finally, the volunteers convinced her.

One hour later: they decided to go to Sigisoara. They convinced her again to tell them. So she might have been happy to sell the tickets because then she would know for sure that we were leaving Petrosani!! The Volunteers planned to meet Jasmin in the train (she was coming from Targu Jiu and paid the same) two minutes before departure of the train the "truck group" is sitting on a cold personal train alone without light, but they are sure that this is their train. They asked three times. The volunteers called Jasmin...her train has light but... truck group is sure they are on the right train. Just Lena is not so sure. At departure time: Lena is screaming "come on we are on the wrong train!" The volunteers run to stop the train... they found Jasmin and found out their mistake! They asked three times the same man. In their ears they heard Florin's words: "take care"...



SONGS

We will survive!

am dm
At first you were afraid, you were petrified
G Cmaj7
kept thinking you could never live with they (Elvira, Mephisto, Fausto, Rabia, Chhildren....) by your side.
fmaj7 dm
But then you spend so many nights thinking how you did it wrong
E
And you grew strong and you learned how to get along.

am dm G Cmaj7
In the village without shower, in the city with pollution and food
fmaj7 dm
And you spend so many days painting walls with your kids
E
And you grew strong and you learned how get along.

am dm G Cmaj7
Cows, horses, chicken (children) everywhere,
fmaj7 dm
some dogs having rabia
E am dm
And you without vaxination in the middle of nowhere,
G Cmaj7 fmaj7 dm
Thats calles Rumania, six month, we are together.
E
And we will grew strong (So strong to push a minibus out of the earth)

am dm
We will survive, hopefully
G Cmaj7
We will survive, propobly,
fmaj7 dm E
We will survive with Cosmote and AXA
E
Ahahahahahahahahahha lallalalallallalalalala aaaaaaaa

am dm
Vom supavietui speram
G Cmaj7
Vom supavietui speram
fmaj7 dm E
Vom supavietui cu cosmote si AXA

We will survive!

Funnies

Do you remember...?

Do you remember?

Trei fetele si un baiat! (truck driver from Targu Jiu to Petrosani)
Trei fetele si doi baiati (women in the park in bran)

I can't believe oh my good! (Vica)

It's sooo cold! (vica)

Ja Ja, Schwein! (Mamita)
Alio! (Niko, screaming in his phone)

Noi sunt voluntarii pentru 6 lunii a Gorj si lucrem cu copii a scola! (All hitch-hikers)

I guess khave! (venjamin)
So nice.....(veniamin)

I am working in ARDR office! (Alex)
I used all my intelectual capacity! (Florin)
Eat here die at home (Tony)

Multumesc , la revedere (Tati)

You have a mouth not only for eating, also for speaking (Alex)

Tuika tuika pentru fetele! (Women in eden)
Perfect! (Gulia)

I don't care, pssss (Almu)

Take me photo! (Lena)

Hello, Hello, Hello (Jasmin)

It is amazing! (Lika)
Good night, lady. (Mayte)

I need skype (Tati)

Super, mega, giga, turbo, cooper, cool, pizzeria downtown (really downtown) (Florin)
End of story, basta! (Florin)
It's up to you guys (Florin)

I'm fucked up with your russian language (Jenny)
Do you have mobile phone in caucasus? (Vero)



Association for Rural Development

ARDR is a **regional organization** that works to **network many communities** so they can **work together** to benefit their residents and **improve the quality of life** for everyone. It is not just a consulting company, but stays involved to facilitate development all levels. Projects are designed to **serve the entire community**, not just public officials or youth, but people of all ages; all experience levels, all walks of life.

ARDR is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that aims to increase the capacity of local communities for self-management and sustainable economic and community development.

ARDR promotes the **partnerships** between **local businesses, public administrations, and non profit organizations** that are a necessary element of **healthy development**. ARDR assists communities by facilitating **local strategic planning and implementation** based on **needs analysis and targeted expertise**, always emphasizing **citizen participation** that continues throughout the **entire development cycle**: planning, development, management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.



Conținutul prezentului material nu reflectă poziția oficială a Finanțatorului.

proiect finanțat de:



Education and culture DG

"Youth in Action" Programme



**Asociația Regională
pentru
Dezvoltare Rurală**

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