

I. Introduction

The current guide is the fruitful result of the analysis of needs, opportunities and risks that a community may have, regarding the development and implementation of EVS projects.

The analysis was conducted as a part of the ACT NOW project (Active Citizenship Through New Opportunities Worldwide, co-financed by the European Commission - Executive Agency for Education, Audiovisual and Culture, through Youth in Action Programme, Action 3.2 Youth in the World: Cooperation with countries other than the neighbouring countries of the European Union, Call for Proposals EACEA/11/10) within the job shadowing activity, and it comprised the analysis of several communities, involving: the work of 3 youth workers from Romania, Sweden and UK, the analysis of 4 rural communities and 4 urban communities, the collaboration of local stakeholders and government stakeholders – Secretary of Youth for Cordoba.

The job shadowing activity, in the current context, looked at exposing the youth workers to the reality of several types of socio-cultural contexts where EVS projects can be implemented, to reveal the specificities of EVS project management in general and EVS project management in specific social contexts.

The specific feature of the current job shadowing activity is that it required consistent and direct contribution of the youth workers in their learning process, focusing on the practical learning and exercise through research, community discovery, data collection, direct interaction with key actors in EVS, evaluation and reporting.

The job shadowing activity had multiple objectives: to give the opportunity for the job shadowers to exchange experience and expertise in implementing youth projects in general, EVS projects in particular; to improve the skills related to EVS projects implementation; to enhance their experience in order to be able to identify the specific needs, opportunities and risks within a community or organization regarding EVS projects; to learn how to evaluate their own organizations and communities' capacity for implementing EVS.

The needs and opportunities analysis and risks assessment of the communities in the realm of EVS, was conducted according to the methodology exposed in the “Kit on Needs Analysis and Risk Assessment in EVS”, developed by experts as part of the ACT NOW project. That is supposed to be a tool for the country managers in order to conduct in country trainings but also to stand as a tool for other organizations keen on quality and sustainability in EVS projects. The kit explains how to do this analysis and by what instruments, all theory and methodology being applied to EVS features and oriented to facilitate in-depth knowledge of the context and environment within which EVS projects may be implemented so that they can produce maximum impact and efficient use of resources.

The role of this guide is to offer to youth and organizations interested in taking part in and implementing EVS projects, a clear image of the different types of needs, risks and

opportunities in relation to the implementation of EVS projects, that can be identified in communities more or less experienced in working in the field of community youth development.

The data comprised within this report was collected by experienced youth workers, by direct contact with representatives of NGO's and local volunteers, by direct observation of activities developed within a series of projects implemented in Argentina and by taking direct contact with the people and the culture of the country. The results of this guide form the analysis of the reality, intercultural dialogue and informational exchange generated around EVS projects, with the particularity of having a multicultural perspective and a diversified professional experience.

Special thanks to authors for their effort and dedication to the work accomplished: field work through data collection, documentation, conducting interviews, organizing events, team work, data analysis and much more.

Job shadowing period: 20th of May– 20th of June 2011.

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II. Argentina

Location&Geography:

Argentina, officially the Argentine Republic, is the second largest country in South America by land area, after Brazil. It is constituted as a federation of 23 provinces and an autonomous city, Buenos Aires. It is the eighth-largest country in the world by land area and the largest among Spanish-speaking nations.

Argentina's continental area is between the Andes mountain range in the west and the Atlantic Ocean in the east. It borders Paraguay and Bolivia to the north, Brazil and Uruguay to the northeast, and Chile to the west and south. Argentine claims over Antarctica, as well as overlapping claims made by Chile and the United Kingdom, are suspended by the Antarctic Treaty of 1961. Argentina also claims the Falkland Islands (Spanish: Islas Malvinas) and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, which are administered by the United Kingdom as British Overseas Territories.

Capital City: Buenos Aires

Area: 2,766,890 km²

Languages: Spanish (de facto)

Population: 40,117,096

Currency: Peso **Time Zone:** ART
(UTC-3)

Dialing code: +54

Government: Federal representative
presidential republic

Holidays:

January 1st. - New Year

March 24th. - Truth and Justice Memorial Day

April 2nd. - Veteran's and Malvina's Day

May 1st. - Workers' Day

May 25th. - First Independent Government's Day

July 9th. - Independence Day

December 8th. - Virgin Mary's Day

December 25th. - Christmas

Religion: Roman Catholic



Traditional dishes: Besides the many varieties of the pasta, sausage and dessert dishes common to continental Europe, Argentines enjoy a wide variety of Indigenous and Criollo creations, which include empanadas (a stuffed pastry), locro (a mixture of corn, beans, meat, bacon, onion, and gourd), humitas and yerba mate, all originally indigenous Amerindian staples, the latter considered Argentina's national beverage. Other popular items include chorizo (a spicy sausage), facturas (Viennese-style pastry) and Dulce de Leche, a sort of milk caramel jam. Argentines have the highest consumption of red meat in the world. The country is the fifth most important wine producer in the world.

History

Before Europeans came to Argentina, the territory was thinly populated. In the Northwest people grew crops such as potatoes and squash. They sometimes lived in walled towns and they used metal and made pottery. However in most of Argentina people lived by hunting animals and gathering plants. They continued their hunter-gatherer lifestyle until the late 19th century.

In 1806 the British captured Buenos Aires but they were forced to withdraw. In 1807 they attacked the city again but they were repelled. Nevertheless links between the Argentina and Spain weakened in the early 19th century especially after 1808 when Napoleon forced the Spanish king to abdicate and made his own brother king of Spain. Finally on 25 May 1810 the Viceroy was deposed and a junta took control of Argentina. However the junta did not break all links with Spain until 1816. The United Provinces of the River Plate was declared on 9 July 1816.

In January 1944 Argentina severed diplomatic relations with Germany and Japan, and on 27 March 1945 Argentina declared war on Germany.

In the early 1980s, despite the repression protests spread across Argentina. To try and divert people's minds from their problems the Argentinean junta invaded the Falkland Islands on 2 April 1982.

In 2001-2002 Argentina suffered a very bad recession. However the economy then grew strongly for a few years. Like the rest of the world Argentina suffered in the recession of 2009. However Argentina recovered. Today there is every reason to be optimistic about Argentina.

Meanwhile in October 2007 Cristina Kirchner was elected president of Argentina, the first woman president.



III. Communities studied

Buenos Aires is capital city of Argentina, is located in the southern hemisphere. The city extends on a plain and has 202 square kilometers (78.3 sq miles). Approximately 3 million people live in this city including the metropolitan area, the total population of Buenos Aires is above ten millions, making it one of the 10 most populated urban centers in the world.

The climate of Buenos Aires is mild all year round. The medium annual temperature is 18° C.

Buenos Aires has always been an open-door city. Its inhabitants are called “porteños”, which makes reference to the fact that the city is a port. The inhabitant of the province of Buenos Aires is called “bonaerense”.

Porteños are warm and friendly: they usually invite tourists for lunch or dinner at their homes and prepare typical food.

Cordoba is the second largest city in Argentina with 1,5 million inhabitants and it is also the capital of the Cordoba province. It's a cosmopolitan city with a large disadvantage population in the suburbs. There is a large population of young people who are active both politically and socially.

ORPAS is an organisation from Brazil working in partnership with OAJNU in Cordoba only. They were set up in 2005 to promote social activities, 90% of those who participate are between the ages of 4-15 years old, in 2010 , 1071 children participated in their activities in Brazil. The organisation is made up of 70 Volunteers and one paid member. They view themselves as a family that cares for each other with an ideal to create a better world and future for the children.

Rosario city is located on the shore of Paraná River, in the south zone of the Santa Fe province, Argentina Republic. It is placed in a geostrategic position in relation to the Mercosur, in the south of the American continent.

In 2009, it is estimated that this city reached 1.023.158 inhabitants. It is the center of the Metropolitan Area of the “Gran Rosario”, and it is located 300 km. from Buenos Aires City.

The Province of Salta is situated in the Northwest region of Argentina. It borders three countries: Chile, Bolivia and Paraguay, and six Argentinean provinces: Jujuy, Formosa, Chaco, Santiago del Estero, Tucumán and Catamarca.

Salta stands out for its geographic and climatic heterogeneity, from the coldness desert of the Andes and the Puna to the subtropical heat of the jungle, with cool fertile val-



leys, mountains and rivers in between.

The four cities visited by the job shadowers are some of the places where OAJNU, the job shadowers' hosting organization, (Organización Argentina de Jóvenes para las Naciones Unidas - the Argentinean Youth Organization for United Nations) activates and has headquarters and partners. OAJNU is a democratic non-governmental organisation run by volunteers. OAJNU works for promoting active citizenship, democratic principles and human rights, improvement of education and participation of youth in the political life. There is an executive committee which governs the activities of the organisation. There are currently seven sites for their work, all run by young people with ages between 18 to 30 years old.

Volunteer Work

- **Intercultural communication and multi-linguism**

The rich cultural and historic background of the country have determined a blend of spoken languages creating at the same time a favourable environment and opportunities for intercultural communication.



The de facto official language of Argentina is Spanish, usually called castellano (Castilian) by Argentines there are around 1.5 million Italian speakers (making it the second most spoken language in the country) and 1 million speakers of the North Levantine dialect of Arabic (spoken in Syria, Lebanon and Cyprus). Standard German is spoken by 400,000—500,000 Argentines of German ancestry, making it the fourth most spoken language. Some indigenous communities have retained their original languages. Guaraní is spoken by some in the north east, especially in Corrientes.

Usually the youngsters have basic knowledge of English language – especially the ones working in NGO's or who have worked through non-formal education.

The largest cities of Argentina have significant numbers of immigrants and thus many organizations dedicate their work for their integration and for improving the intercultural communication. The population in these cities comes from various Latin American countries and they also have a strong European influence.

- **Information and awareness campaigns**

The suburbs of the largest cities of Argentina constitute communities which are, most of them, poor, with scarce infrastructure and facilities, their members confronting with problems like delinquency, low levels of education among youngsters, drugs abuse,

violence, early school drop-out, early pregnancies, etc. These communities end up being isolated due to the poor infrastructure which makes difficult transportation to town or to the community and thus their members are not integrated and do not benefit from the modern life style and opportunities of the big city.

Various types of intervention are being implemented in these communities in order to bring positive changes and some of these interventions are information and awareness campaigns either for the community members on the issues that affect youngsters – information and awareness on education, on health, drug abuse, violence, etc – either among authorities as a lobby activity, to raise their awareness on the necessity to pay more attention to the needs of these communities.

Two of the programmes developed by OAJNU in five of the largest cities of Argentina include also the design and development of information and awareness campaigns where EVS volunteers may perfectly contribute: „The United Nations Model” exploring democracy, facilitating for participants to gain experience of how the democratic process functions within the countries of the United Nations, and „Youth for Development” programme developed mainly in Mendoza, aiming to create conditions of equity in the access to opportunities, to defend the rights of minorities, and promote an active role of youth in society in process of communitarian development as a way to give sustainability to these actions.

All these campaigns will be designed and organised with the support of the hosting organization staff, in order to facilitate experience transfer and mutual learning.



- **School tutoring and extracurricular activities**

The *OAJNU organisation* together with other partners are working in vulnerable ‘at risk’ communities where the educational level is low and the economic deprivations determine low interest of parents and children in attending school as well other social phenomena like violence, early pregnancy, early school drop-outs, drug abuse, labour exploitation, etc.

Most of interventions within these communities focus on education through school tutoring and extracurricular activities adapted to community and particularly children needs and resources.

Numerous students from the school of *Qom community*, near Rosario, cannot read or write. The condition of the school is very poor with scarce resources. The school is state supported, by way of books and chalk for the black board but this subsidy is not enough. They have a computer room but are not able to use it as they do not have the

trained personnel.

The children come to school to receive an amount of money and attend for the treats that the dedicated teachers give them. Children often miss attending school as they have to work for a living or to support their family. There is a real need for volunteers working in this community through after school activities.

Headquarter of *OAJNU Cordoba* has 120 members of this organisation but 40 are active. These are mainly students from the local Universities, and most of them do not originate from the city of Cordoba. In Cordoba, OAJNU works in partnership with ORPAS trying to strengthen what the students are learning through student support, this involving creative workshops in Portuguese, Maths, Literacy, dance and sports activities. These are all after school activities.



The *community Nuestro Hogar III* near Cordoba – has more than 3,000 families live in this area. The OAJNU develops activities with children from the school in the house of Yanina, a member of ORPAS, living in the area. The activities are held in an empty outhouse with minimal facilities. The

church in the area arrange allot of activities for the children, different types of vocational skills. There is lack of resources and most of the material are donations. Many of the children work in the local brick factory, there is some question as to weather this is slave labour. There are a number of activities run by OAJNU and ORPAS like English classes, sowing for the mothers, scholar support, plastic arts, Portuguese classes and Volleyball. A number of other organisations and informal groups are interested in supporting the community by arranging extracurricular activities. These activities engage the children and keep them off the streets where they may face exploitation and danger.

The area is very deprived, built on the old city dump. The ground gives off Methane gas from the decomposing rubbish. There are serious pollution problems and this poses a serious risk to the health of the children.

The volunteers are not qualified teachers, but they have the support of a pedagogue. The volunteers are very dedicated and do their best with little resources and in very difficult conditions. There are many needs in the community as a whole and for the children in particular. Health is a major complex issue because of the pollution, as well as basic hygiene awareness which is lacking. Sexual education both for children and parents is also a priority to prevent disease and unwanted pregnancy. Education particularly for older children is an urgent requirement as there is no secondary school. At the nearest secondary school to take these children, there is reported bullying and discrimination.

The language poses a risk if it is not spoken by the volunteer, this will result in isolation and lack of trust by the community. There are buses to town.

Rosario de Saladillo is a very remote poor rural village with 180 inhabitants, 190

Kilometres from Cordoba. Inhabitants work mainly in the agriculture sector and also in a local brick factory.

The bus service leaves once a day to the nearest town. There is one fixed phone for the whole community, and are no internet facilities or televisions.

There is a primary school in the village and the secondary school is in a very poor condition with 60 students who come from various villages in the area. The doctor is a teacher in the school, enables him to complete the medical check-ups of the children, as travelling distances is difficult. Health is a major issue and there is a great need to improve the basic hygiene of the inhabitants. Vocational education is a requirement, farming, wood work. None of the inhabitants in the community speaks English.

The lack of facilities and infrastructure and the remoteness of the community would make the volunteers' living there for the entire duration of the project, almost impossible.

The Secretary of Youth for Cordoba is very interested in the EVS and is running a rural education project in the east of the province. This project educates children in a specialized field related to the local specific - environmental agriculture.

This is a prosperous Rural community, with good facilities; it has 250 students from various villages attending the school. There are buildings to house the students and a new complex for girls. The students live in the accommodation provided by the school. There is a good infrastructure in the community. There are community facilities available. English lessons are an identified need within the community.

The OAJNU headquarter in *Salta* has 45-50 members and 32-35 are currently active. They have been operating now for five years. They have five different projects like UN Model, the rural schools project, the youth 'Prison' and National forum, and mini projects. They work with a total of eighty schools.

Las Pircas a rural community near *Salta*. The school within the community is located in a very isolated area outside of the city. The school itself is in good condition but they do not have internet. OAJNU representatives go there twice a month because of the difficulty of access to the school.

The school is located in the middle of a tobacco plantation and the children go to school as a way of not being coerced into working in the fields; education is not a high priority for the families of these children and the school does not get a great amount of support from the families. Families receive a certain amount of money for their children who attend school and social aspiration is low.

The only major risk is access to the location of the school. Buses are regular but the school is a considerable distance from the bus stop, this in turn is far from the city.

Atocha community is a very poor rural community, many of its inhabitants living by subsistence migrant work. The school is 40 minutes from the city and relies on bus transport to access to it.

The families do not engage with the school within the community and only send the children there as a means of getting money from the state. Education is not considered

important by this community, as social aspiration is very low.

There is a need for vocational training but this was tried before and was not successful because of lack of interest within the community. The school members advised that programmes should use creativity, arts, culture, music, and dance, as they might be more successful.

There is a high level of domestic violence but this stays within the community. The school is not very accessible. Alcohol, drugs addiction and teenage pregnancy are high.

The school tutoring in after-schools, week-end schools or summer schools means to assist their children while they are doing their homework, to offer them language classes, dancing, painting, singing classes, interactive games, etc. School tutoring can be quite attractive to children especially if it is provided by a young foreign volunteer as it involves also extracurricular and non-formal education which can be provided in very creative ways.

- **Fundraising**

The OAJNU projects reached a total of 10,000 participants in 2010. The organisation running costs are estimated at \$40,000 per year with half of this being raised by sponsorship and the other half through fund raising activities. OAJNU is developing strong links with local, municipal Government who occasionally support their work through the donation of office space and other non-monetary donations.

The Secretary of Youth Salta showed interest in supporting EVS projects after listening the job shadowers' presentation on the European Voluntary Service. They offered in the first instance, material support to OAJNU, in order to strengthen their interest in becoming partners within EVS. they might be acceptable to the EVS.

Volunteers can practice their skills as fundraisers to sustain an already existing project, or to initiate sponsorship campaigning for a various range of issues, from social to environment. There is a whole range of activities that volunteers can put in practice to raise money for different causes, or to collaborate in institutional presentations and fundraising activities to obtain external support for the projects in which the volunteer works.

- **Social inclusion**

Social inclusion offers a wide range of possibilities for volunteers to apply their ideas of projects. Due to the profile of the rural communities and communities of the suburbs in Argentina, there is a great opportunity for developing projects regarding ethnic minorities, anti-discrimination, insertion on the labour market, juvenile delinquency or social integration.

- **Community development**

Community development seeks to empower individuals and groups of people by providing these groups with the skills they need to effect change in their own communities.

OAJNU, by working in vulnerable ‘at risk’ communities, especially on education issues, is not just implementing simple extracurricular activities but is empowering youth through education, cultural dialogue and exchange, self –awareness, fostering collaboration between stakeholders, etc.

The Infant Citizenship Programme implemented by OAJNU looks at how to be a better citizen within your community. Participants are encouraged to explore a problem within their community and to develop and implement a solution to that problem. This is an exercise of active citizenship and empowering.

Also The United Nations Model implemented by OAJNU, is a programme exploring democracy in which participants gain experience of how the democratic process functions within the countries of the United Nations. Participants learn about and represent different cultures and pass resolutions in a facsimile of the United Nations headquarters. Knowing and understanding the democratic processes is a preparation for contributing concretely to their improvement and efficiency and thus to active participation and community development.

Cultural & free time

The city of Buenos Aires offers traditional tours and secret places:

- The Colón Theatre and small experimental theatres.
- Old book stores and new cultural centres.
- More than one hundred museums.
- Handcraft fairs and modern shopping malls.
- Historic cafés, tango, milonga, parks and bars to enjoy the first and last drink of the night.

The most visited destinations in the beautiful city include the San Telmo Market, La Boca neighborhood, Costanera Sur, the centre of town with the obelisk and the Tigre delta, a few kilometres away from the urban centre.



The tours and excursions that denote the strong cosmopolitan spirit of Buenos Aires are Caminito, Recoleta, Boca's Stadium, Matador's Market, the Botanic Garden, the Zoo, the Japanese Garden and Holy Land, the first religious theme parks in the world.

The city of Cordoba contains many historical monuments preserved from the Spanish colonialism, especially buildings of the Roman Catholic Church. The most recognizable is perhaps the Jesuit Block (Spanish: Manzana Jesuítica), declared in 2000 as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO which consists of a group of buildings dating from the 17th century, including the Montserrat School and the colonial university campus (today the historical museum of the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba).

There is also a relevant offer of Museums: Palacio Ferreyra – Evita Museum, Natural Sciences Museum, Caraffa Museum, Paseo del Buen Pastor.

In Cordoba is also a vast range of educative, cultural and recreational for youngsters. In fact, Córdoba has more than 100 sports clubs, hundreds of Gyms, more than 25 Language Centers, Hundreds of Language teachers, many institutions focused on informal education and support for university students, many arts institutes (Music, different dancing styles, painting, sculpture), cyber bars with internet connection, and a wide offer in terms of nightlife.

Rosario is known by its high level of education for youngsters. The National University of Rosario, with its 12 Schools, is one of the most important and qualified universities from Argentina. 85.000 students from different Argentinean provinces and people from all around the world (due to interchange and cooperation programs) come to take courses at this prestigious institution. The National Technological University is a public one, as well, with high standards in exact sciences. There are also Private Universities, which are: the Aeronautic University Institute, Italian University Institute, the Inter-American Abierta University, Austral University, Argentinean Catholic University, Argentinean Catholic University of La Plata, Concepción del Uruguay University, Latin-American Educative Center University, Salvador University, Belgrano University, FASTA University and Spain Distance Education National University.

Learning activities

The learning activities will consist of initial trainings:

- 2 months of intensive course of Spanish.
- 1 week of training about OAJNU and the way it works.
- A pack of materials with information, planning, videos, photograph of the projects will be given to the volunteer.
- 1 month of intensive training related to the tasks the volunteer will be in charge of.
- The volunteer will also receive a manual explaining what the main tasks are in the projects he/she will work.

Throughout the whole project, every single volunteer is to benefit from a personal development plan being coached by trainers and experts to reach his/her personal potential. The volunteers will build the development plan together with the management team, the mentor and the monitor.

The volunteers will have the opportunity to meet new people from the community and he/she can be a part of the local projects of the school, library and local organizations. They can see how the institutions work and also help or create new projects.

In Cordoba there is a Youth Centre well equipped which runs a number of free workshops for the youth of the area. There are plenty of opportunities for development of a volunteer project in this area. This is an excellent opportunity for personal development of the volunteer. The youth centre is only a walk from the centre of the town, there are 120 people employed by the centre but not all work there. Not all of the projects are based in this building. There is a good working relationship with OAJNU, and know about the EVS. They can give plenty of support to the EVS project.

Accommodation & food

The volunteers will live in the city of Buenos Aires with a hosting family in a residential area or in a flat with other volunteers in the downtown area.

The expenses for food are going to be entirely covered. The hosting family will provide the volunteers breakfast, lunch and dinner. However, lunch or dinner out of his/her house will be covered if it is motivated on their job responsibilities. In case the volunteers will live in a flat, they will receive a monthly allowance for food. The volunteers will also receive “pocket money” of 75 Euros for their personal needs.

Transport - Buenos Aires is a city easy to access. The cost of the transport from the volunteer's country to Buenos Aires will be covered. The project will also cover daily transportation inside the city or travels to other cities in the sphere of the volunteering work in OAJNU.

Multiple means of transport allow you to travel around the city: five lines of subtes (subway), more than one hundred lines of colectivos (buses) and interurban railways (or



trains). Taxis and remises are very common means of transport because they are safer and more economical than in other cities.

The bus (colectivo) is a fast and inexpensive means of transport to travel over the Capital. There are more than 180 lines going through the city and providing connection with all districts in the Greater Buenos Aires. The service is available at regular intervals.

Office - It is common in families of residential areas to have access to internet. However, the volunteer will be able to use internet in the Office of OAJNU. Visa - OAJNU will help the volunteer to get an annual Visa for Argentina.

The volunteers will live in the city of Rosario with a hosting family in a residential area or in a flat with other volunteers in the downtown area.

The expenses for food are going to be entirely covered. The hosting family will provide the volunteers breakfast, lunch and dinner. However, lunch or dinner out of his/her house will be covered if it is motivated on their job responsibilities. In case the volunteers will live in a flat, they will receive a monthly allowance for food. The volunteers will also receive “pocket money” for their personal needs.



Transport - Rosario is a city easy to access. The cost of the transport from the volunteer's country to Rosario will be covered. The project will also cover daily transportation inside the city or travels to other cities in the sphere of the volunteering work in OAJNU.

Office - It is common in families of residential areas to have access to internet. However, the volunteer will be able to use internet in the Office of OAJNU.

The volunteer will live in Córdoba with a host family in a residential area or in a flat with other volunteers in the downtown area. The food is going to be entirely covered. The host family will provide him breakfast, lunch and dinner. However, lunch or dinner out of his/her house will be covered if it is motivated on their job responsibilities. In case the volunteer lives in a flat, a monthly allowance will be given for food.

Organizations

OANJU is a democratic organisation run by volunteers, there is an executive committee which governs the activities of the organisation. There are currently seven sites for their work, all run by young people from 18-30 years of age. To gain active (voting) membership you have to be two years in the organisation.

OAJNU is a strong and prestigious institution that has more than 40 members in Buenos Aires, all of them young volunteers with a strong social commitment and opened to share their experiences with foreign volunteers.

Currently there are two main programmes run by OAJNU,

A) The United Nations Model, exploring democracy in which participants gain experience of how the democratic process functions within the countries of the United Nations. Participants learn about and represent different cultures and pass resolutions in a facsimile of the United Nations headquarters.

B) The Infant Citizenship Programme which looks at how to be a better citizen within your community. Participants are encouraged to explore a problem within their community and to develop and implement a solution to that problem.

The organisation is a non political, non partisan group with a strong ethos of mutual cooperation, non sectarianism, non discrimination and inclusion. Tolerance is a core founding principal.

Further OAJNU programmes:

Each of the seven regions in which OAJNU operate, decide the most suitable programme for their area dependent on the specific need of the population of that area. This is then ratified by the general assembly of OAJNU and implemented by the volunteers on the ground in that area. A detailed analysis of the impact and outcomes are measured by the organisation after completion of each programme.

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FAQ - Frequently asked questions on the European Voluntary Service

1. What is the European Voluntary Service (EVS)?

EVS is a partnership project between two or more organisations allowing young people to do a voluntary service in another country.

The aim is to develop solidarity and promote tolerance, mutual understanding and active citizenship (particularly European citizenship).

A strong focus on training and personal and task-related support helps young people develop skills and competences which will be useful in their future employment or education.

2. How can I apply to become an EVS volunteer?

An EVS project is a partnership between two or more promoters (organisations). These promoters are responsible for recruiting volunteers for their project. If you want to be an EVS volunteer you have two options:

- a) Contact an organisation that is recruiting volunteers for a granted project
- OR
- b) Contact an organisation to discuss starting a project

You can contact organizations accredited in working with EVS by following: www.yesforevs.eu, www.clickonevs.eu, www.aradr.ro.

A volunteer participates in EVS through a Sending Organisation in the country where he/she is legally resident and a Host Organisation which receives and hosts the volunteer during the Service period.

In order to get in contact with an organisation you may consult the database of accredited organisations (<http://ec.europa.eu/youth/evs/aod/>).

3. What are the criteria for becoming a volunteer?

Age: volunteers must be 18 - 30 years old on the application deadline (young people with fewer opportunities can participate from age of 16).

Home country: volunteers must be legally resident in the country of the Sending Organisation.

4. Do volunteers have to pay anything?

EVS is free for volunteers, and you receive free accommodation and food, insurance and pocket money. The only thing you have to pay is a small part (maximum 10%) of your travel costs.

5. How long does an EVS project last?

- Service period abroad: 2-12 months (or a minimum of 2 weeks for young people with fewer opportunities and groups of 10 or more volunteers)

- Total duration of the project, including preparation and follow-up: max. 24 months

6. What type of work do volunteers do?

There are many possible fields, e.g. culture, youth, sports, children, cultural heritage, arts, animal welfare, environment and development cooperation.

7. What countries can volunteers go to?

Eligible countries are listed on page 17-18 of the Programme Guide.

Volunteering can take place in any 'Programme Country', 'Neighbouring Partner Country' or 'Other Partner Country of the World', but volunteers from Partner Countries must carry out their Service in a Programme Country.

8. What restrictions are there on the voluntary Service?

The Service must:

- take place in a country other than volunteer's country of residence
- be unpaid and non-profit making
- last between 2 and 12 months (except for young people with fewer opportunities and large groups - see Question 5)
- represent a clear European or international added value
- benefit the community
- not involve job substitution

9. Can young people with fewer opportunities participate in EVS?

Yes - EVS is open for all young people, whatever their background and no prior knowledge should be required.

Special efforts are made to help young people with fewer opportunities, including those with disabilities, to participate.

10. What do volunteers learn through EVS?

Volunteers acquire and improve skills related to their personal, educational and professional development, e.g. through:

- personal support (from a mentor)
- task-related support (from a supervisor)
- language training

There are also common trainings for all volunteers (normally organised by the National Agency or SALTO) covering issues such as:

- basics of social engagement and voluntary work
- conflict resolution
- group dynamics
- intercultural learning
- values of EVS

The learning in EVS is referred to as “non-formal learning”. This is learning which, although being carefully planned, is voluntary and takes place outside the formal education system through active participation.

11. Do volunteers get a certificate after the project?

Volunteers have the right to receive a Youthpass after completing their Service. The EU uses the Youthpass to ensure voluntary activity is recognised as an educational experience and a period of non-formal learning. An achievement report is filled in jointly by the volunteer and the Host or Coordinating Organisation and given to the volunteer.

12. I still have a question - where can I get help?

There is more information in the Programme Guide.

Do not hesitate to contact any stage the various groups that are here to give you help, training and advice - your National Agency (or the Executive Agency, if your country does not have one), the Eurodesk network and SALTO Youth Resource Centres.

Also, feel free to contact any of the organisations mentioned in the present guide.

They can provide information or advice on things such as how to develop your project ideas, find a partner organisation or fill in your application form. They are available to help you before and after your project is set up.

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