



➤ MOVING FORWARD

WHO IS ARDR?

ARDR is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that aims to create opportunities for people to play an active part in the life of their community and facilitate the build up of self-governing capacity of local communities for economic and social development, serving the South West Development Region in Romania.

ARDR promotes the partnerships between schools, local businesses, public administrations, and non-profit organizations that are necessary elements of healthy development.

Up till now, ARDR has involved over 120 highly committed foreign volunteers and over 80,000 citizens in direct action.

Our experience is in engaging people individually and in groups, and in training people of all ages and abilities in order to ensure the rights of citizens to contribute directly to improve services and situations they experience in their lives and communities

In the last 2 years, ARDR has contributed also to the strengthening of NGOs and civil society in other countries such as Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine, Russia, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Argentina, Peru, Israel, Tunisia and other European Union countries in a quest for participatory democracy and sustainable development.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Global and Community Youth Development

Beyond any technical paradigm, ARDR works on the EU-Africa-Latin America partnership as focusing on strengthening the Network YEN as a means for innovation, expertise and excellence in development cooperation.

YEN may be a driver for sustainable development and particularly on aid effectiveness that is translated as a step in "using aid to end aid".

ARDR considers moving further from the stage of using aid to produce results limited by project intervention to a situation when aid becomes an instrument to raise an enabling environment for a civil society that has to be a constitutive driver for domestic societal changes; hence, ARDR indulges processes as much importance as output results.

Beyond any rhetoric, the EU has to shift from the rhetoric of ensuring equal access to a situation when civil society organizations from Africa and Latin America would have fair access to opportunities in terms of funding. Thus, a political momentum may be built also amongst the governments in Africa and Latin America once the civil society organizations from these countries are granted with trust and opportunities to stand in the front seat of steering trans-continental development. That may be replicated positively back home, at the national and sub-national territories, as a genuine dialogue in between government structures and civil society organizations in fostering good governance and updated local public policy agenda.

ARDR pledges for an EU that plays a supportive role and avail to civil society organizations from Africa and Latin America chances to address global challenges on an equal footing with NGOs from within the EU. ARDR is working on strengthening the capacity and the expertise of YEN to build on further solid premises for a sustainable EU, Africa and Latin America dialogue bringing the local and national territories into a trans-national joint development agenda.

Global Development is ensured by means of projects on **European voluntary service** and **YEN network**.

Community Youth Development encompasses learning for personal, civic and social purposes as well as for employment related purposes. It takes place in a variety of environments inside and outside the formal education and training systems. Youth Development implies increasing the investment in people and knowledge; promoting the acquisition of basic skills, including digital literacy; and broadening opportunities for innovative, more flexible forms of learning.

It looks at promoting young people's active citizenship in general and their European citizenship in particular, develops solidarity and promote tolerance among young people, in particular in order to foster social cohesion in the European Union; fosters mutual understanding between young people in different countries and it contributes to developing the quality of support systems for youth activities and the capabilities of civil society organizations in the youth field; it promotes European cooperation in the youth field.

Youth Development is ensured by means of projects on community and European voluntary service, rural youth entrepreneurship.

Community Governance and Active Citizenship

The area of Community Governance and Active Citizenship reflects ARDR's concern with community-building links and networks as these guarantee the sustainability and multiplication of community social capital on the pillars of collective identity and common vision, shared decision-making and collective action. In working to improve cooperation through mutually supporting contributions coming from the public, private and non-profit sectors, community institutions and organizations are brought together by social, cultural, economic, political, environmental and attitudinal factors in identifying community resources, both material and spiritual. Defining, establishing and maintaining a democratically legitimate strategic leadership of community governance processes through cooperative behaviours builds a sense of community belonging and marks a gradual shift from the participation in to the ownership of community affairs, a rationale that ARDR fully subscribes to in identifying the contents of community needs and in promoting leaders capable of managing positive change. In this view of social, participatory and institutional network governance, managing community capital accordingly is a learning process about dynamic stakeholdership involving accommodation of diverse views and interplay of interests in the context of grass-roots level engagement.

ARDR has made it part of its vision and mission to develop the local and regional civil society, to connect competencies and capacities for inter-institutionally led social initiative and action; active citizenship comes as proof of a shared practice of responsibility, association and partnership via public policies which emerge as a result of consolidated and structured dialogue, consultation, negotiation and co-decision. By bridging research and action projects, ARDR is working toward the establishment of local action and initiative groups based in all the major institutions within a community as well as toward setting up community boards and community development panels for community vision building; their role is to stimulate the growing need to address citizen rights and duties more responsibly and to approach democratic practices of decision-making regarding common goods, and championing ideals of self- and community representation in the aggregation and articulation of interests.



RURALEARN

RuraLearn is aimed at encouraging leader-type participatory principles in rural areas to guide citizens through the stages of participatory rural development. By focusing on local partnerships and the use of local resources, RuraLearn will create and strengthen networks within the community, and in between communities, in order to facilitate the exchange of information.

RuraLearn works to improve local public administrations by strengthening citizens: participation in all aspects of civic life, bringing together all community actors in order to have meaningful dialogues to discuss community needs. RuraLearn trains local persons to become effective community developers and spurs the creation of local action groups, bringing in a representative cross-section of the population in order to set priorities, design and implement action plans based on the needs of the community.

RuraLearn also aims at providing targeted information and visibility of local communities through an online portal as well as through a

network of community journalists. This twofold approach combines the use of information technology and "old fashioned" face-to-face contact to provide citizens with information they need to participate in civic life through weekly community information including community events, trainings, newsletter, and volunteer opportunities.

SOCIAL RELATE

Heightening awareness of important social issues affecting the community is the goal of the Social Relate Program.

Social Relate gives people the tools to live a healthy and productive life by providing non-formal education on topics such as women's reproductive issues, STDs & AIDS, proper nutrition, the importance of exercise, stress management, and environmental health, ensuring that all people living in rural and urban areas will prosper in the coming years.

Social Relate works to minimize the social cleavages in communities by promoting programs aimed at dispelling stereotypes and discouraging discrimination towards minority groups.

Local Economic Development

Local economic development is divided into four strategic directions: social economy, cultural management, and maximizing local assets (food, tourism and crafts) for economic development.

At ARDR, we include the creation and operation of social enterprise NGOs, non-governmental, nonprofit organizations, which provide many local jobs and bring money into an area, but are not created to make money for the individuals who run them. Instead, success is measured by an increased quality of life for the entire community, and jobs are created for the employees, along with the opportunity to get training and professional experience. We at ARDR believe the creation and success of social enterprises is equally important as the creation and success of profit businesses, for the community and for the individuals involved. They are especially important now, when there is a great deal of new money pouring into Romania for upgrading services to meet the standards of the European Union. Much of that money will be administered by NGOs throughout the country, and some of it will also go to private contractors to fulfill the requirements of the funding.

Promoting a dynamic business environment in rural areas is the goal of the Local Economic Development area. ARDR works in partnership with the private sector and the local public administration providing assistance and consultation on all capacity building issues, including business planning, leadership and management, monitoring and evaluation and the exchange of good practices in business and governance. ARDR encourages cooperation between the private and public sector to improve economic performance, increase the quality of community development projects, while encouraging communication and transparency.

Technical Assistance

The ARDR delivers a range of consulting and technical assistance services to help policymakers, program developers, and community leaders, including state and local officials, local public administration, start-ups, NGOs. This includes financial assistance, monitoring and evaluation, fund-raising, project cycle management, and the international assistance office for YEN network.

Why EVS - value added for schools

Depending on the degree of responsiveness, competence and organization of youth in relation to the openness of local stakeholders and the community in general, run by voluntary initiatives may focus around the following directions:

CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION AND MULTI-ENON

In collaboration with foreign language teachers, volunteers participate in carrying out programs aimed at developing language skills and knowledge about the civilization and culture of English-speaking states, Russian, French, Spanish, Italian, etc.. Through these programs young people develop their creativity and ability to communicate in a foreign language. In this program volunteers organize camps, school performances and competitions.

COMMUNITY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Follow youth awareness on topics of interest such as labor market, hygiene, environment,

sports, healthy sex life, etc.. public campaigns, billboards, Flier, posters, seminars, e-letters, emailgroups, etc. to stimulate community mobilization, youth civic attitude among young people, strengthening of group interests, social solidarity fund raising campaigns, promotion of public local youth, building a local youth associations, etc., training and leadership skills, teamwork, entrepreneurial local management, etc.. through trainings, teambuilding camps, projects, etc., local and inter-community partnerships that aim to build a collaboration around topics of interest to young people and setting local youth forums, etc..

EUROPEAN COOPERATION

It follows the increasing internationalization of local communities by promoting international networks between schools, organizations, community focus groups and communities they come from volunteers.

Staff of project FOR.W.A.R.D.



Alexandru DIACONESCU

Head of the Life Long Learning Education Programme
Currently he coordinates the Global and Community Youth Development area of expertise.
Alex has been in the NGO field for more than 7 years now, scaling up from a volunteer position to the one he currently holds. Alex graduated in Automatics but he definitely is tuned on continuing with a master in Community Development and European Integration. He has worked in numerous EVS group projects as project manager.
Currently, he also holds the full time position as the coordinator of the online Yes for EVS Platform.



Bianca GAINARU

Project manager assistant
Currently she has a full time position as project assistant on the International Center for Art and Creation Constantina Brancusi and substantially involved in the development of social economy in Gorj county.



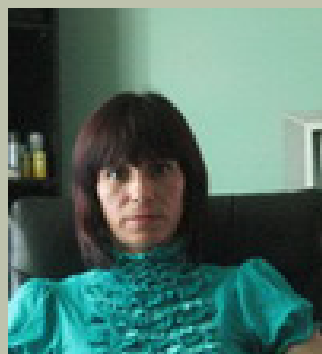
Marius Octavian Dobleaga

He is a teacher in the General School nr.3 in Rovinari. He has been working with ARDR for the last two years as a counterpart. So far he has worked directly with seven volunteers. He has graduated from the Faculty of Sociology and Psychology.



Alina Deaconescu

She is an English teacher in the General School in Bumbesti Jiu. She has graduated "Lucian Blaga" University from Sibiu. The project FOR.W.A.R.D. was her first project as a counterpart. She liked it very much and she wishes to continue working with EVS volunteers.



Maria Ghitu

She has been working with ardr for almost two years. She has been a counterpart for four volunteers so far. She has also worked on the project Extracurricular Education for Active Citizenship, project implemented by ARDR, financed through POS-DRU.



Cristina Scurtu

She is a kindergarten teacher in Stancesti village in the commune of Musetesti. The project FOR.W.A.R.D. was her first project as a counterpart. She graduated from "Aurel Vlaicu" University in Arad.



Cristina Cotorcea

She is a History teacher in the High School of Baia de Fier. She liked very much working with EVS volunteers.

WHAT IS EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE?

European Voluntary Service is part of the Youth in Action Programme and is a great opportunity for youths to challenge themselves and be part of a unique lifetime experience.

The European Voluntary Service (EVS) aims to develop young people's solidarity, mutual understanding and tolerance, thus contributing to reinforcing social cohesion in the European Union and to promoting young people's active citizenship.

Open to all young people aged 18 to 30, EVS is a true 'learning service'. Beyond benefiting the local communities, by participating in

voluntary activities, young volunteers can develop new skills and, therefore, improve their personal, educational and professional development. Volunteers can benefit from specific training throughout the activity and agree on their expected learning outcomes, processes and methods in advance. Their learning experience is formally recognised through a Youthpass. Participation is free for the volunteers (except for a possible contribution of a maximum of 10% of the travel costs) who also get board and lodging, insurance cover and an allowance for the duration of the project. Special conditions

apply to encourage the participation of young people with fewer opportunities. For instance, they can participate as of the age of 16. Further information can be found in the Youth in Action Programme Guide as well as in the Inclusion Strategy of the Programme.

European Voluntary Service represents one of the main community development programme which runs at county level, and which activities focus on the encouragement of youngsters' participation, active citizenship and involvement of young people with fewer opportunities.

The quality and

opportunities provided by this Action, determined ARDR to access this programme from the very beginning – in 2006 we were hosting partners in a EVS project, taking over the coordination role from 2007 onwards. The impact of the programme in the communities where it took place combined with the personal development of the hosted volunteers as well as the target group, strengthened the value and importance of EVS and determined us to develop and implement it on a continuous basis and on a broader and widening region. In 2006 – 2008 all EVS projects developed by ARDR took place in Gorj County.

WHAT IS FOR.W.A.R.D. ?

FOR.W.A.R.D. – FOR Wholesome Active Rural Development is an group EVS project and the eight developed by ARDR in Gorj County and it's duration was between 15th of March 2011 and 30th of June 2012. This includes also the preparation of the project,

the EVS stage, the follow-up and reporting of the project.

The service period for the project had duration of 9 months and was between 1st of September 2011 and 31st of May 2012.

The objective of the project was to provide

opportunities for social and personal grow of volunteers and youngsters from hosting communities along with organizational and community sustainable development by bringing added value to existing activities and implementing new ones which stimulate

the intercultural learning process, encourage active participation of youngsters, especially those with fewer opportunities and strengthen the international partnership.

THE VOLUNTEERS



Gintare Turskytė –
Lithuania



Eva Maria Lorite –
Spain



Simona Šiaulytė –
Lithuania



Patricia Dias –
Portugal



Vanessa Graf – Austria



Inmaculada Camarero –
Spain



Davide Rapacchiale –
Italy



Benjamin Sten Evald –
Denmark



Cyril Angevin – France



Laurene Hilaire –
France

IMPRESSIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT

The issue about added value is quite subjective. Of course you always bring something to the community, starting by the fact of being a foreigner, with different background, ideas and opinions, who is there available to share them. But this can be largely increased if you manage to assess the community's need and resources and combine them with your own skills. It's not easy, because it takes time to understand it or to get it said to you straight forward by the locals... so I guess the biggest contribution you can make to the community is to do your activities framed in an „external“ concept, using different methods or strategies, therefore showing them something new, made in a (possibly) different way or even approaching a different subject. If you are only doing the same they do or did, the added value is, for me, a bit redundant.

Patricia Dias, Portugal, volunteer volunteer in the project

The most important thing which volunteers can bring to a community, and to children especially, is the intercultural exchange. In my opinion, just talking to people from different countries, experiencing differences and the language barrier, finding a way to overcome those things, can be an eye-opening experience. Who knows, maybe it will inspire them

to see more than just Gorj county, maybe even more than Romania. Maybe they will do an EVS themselves, study abroad – endless opportunities. And even if they don't go down that road – at least they will be more tolerant and open-minded than before. For a long time I thought that this is the only thing which can really bring change in the communities, but after talking to the children I found out that actually we move something with our little activities as well. From the feedback I got I have the impression that Eva and me actually taught the kids to be more tolerant, to include everybody, to stop bullying and to make an effort to get to know each other.

And this is not only limited to the children – the whole town gets affected by volunteers. Even though they are already very friendly and welcoming – positive experiences with volunteers will make them even more ready for intercultural encounters and maybe some parents will be more willing to let their children go and see the world.

Vanessa Graf, Austria, volunteer in the project

It's hard to see the results right now (when we are writing, it's almost the end of our EVS). We did some activities, we could do more, we could do less. We hope that they're starting

to amplify their horizon. You will find interested students in the General School specially, less in the High School: most of them aren't interested in your activities and they won't participate. But you have to insist as much as possible before that you will lose all your expectation and all your motivation.

We hope that we did a good job. Before us, in the Kindergarten, none of volunteers went there to make activities; in General School the students didn't remember about previous volunteers. Hopefully, they will remember us. Maybe not. The point is that pretending to see results right now, it's really hard and not possible.

About teacher and students, most of them think that we are here to travel, have fun, and drink beer. You have to deal with this opinion that they have, and try to give them a different impression. But, when you will start to implement activities and when they will see you work hard, they will change opinion quickly. Anyway, don't expect that they could help you, because they won't.

Novaci is a big community where you've a lot of opportunity to implement activities. But there are some issues that you have to fight for the entire duration of the EVS, like:

-the lack of organization of the school.

-the fact that students have

to come back in their villages around Novaci

-the lack of support by anyone. You will be alone for nine months and trust us, it's hard at some point.

Daide Rapacchiale, Italy, volunteer in the project

„I felt good next to Vanessa and I know that I will miss her. She stayed in my heart. I hope that she will not forget me and that we will meet again. We are waiting for you here with an open heart.“ – **Radu, pupil, Baia de Fier**

“It was a big pleasure to meet Vanessa and that is why we want to thank her for all the activities we did together. We are sorry that she has to leave but we are waiting for her that she comes back again to visit!” – Clasa VI-B, Baia de Fier

“We are very happy that we got to know Vanessa and she is very dear to us. The time passed really quickly and it was wonderful and unique. She did a lot of different things, beautiful things, of which we learned a lot. She showed us that it doesn't matter how rich or how poor you are, we learned that we can all live together and help as much as we can. We hope that she felt well here. At the competition organized by the White Wolf Mountain Club we got to know her for the first time really well and saw that she was

IMPRESSIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT

wonderful and did unique work. We thank her for all the things which she did; for the wonderful things that she taught us.” – **Gina & Elena, pupils, Baia de Fier**

“It was very nice to get to know Vanessa and I feel sorry that she has to leave. She inspired me to do other activities after school. Thanks to her, we took part in very beautiful activities. Because of Vanessa, we had the most beautiful Halloween Party and we learned not to tolerate intolerance. I want to thank Vanessa because she showed us games from her country. I hope that she liked our country!” – **Lorena, pupil, Baia de Fier**

“I really liked to spend time with Vanessa. We matured with her, only a friend like her could show us such beautiful things. We have many things in common and I saw that she likes music as much as I like it. She is a real friend, but more than that, she is a great person. With her, nothing is boring; her ideas are all very interesting. Every activity which we did together with her, was full of imagination.” – **Basaraba Adina-Vasilica, pupil, Baia de Fier**

“Vanessa was and will be a good friend, and that counts for us! We had a lot of fun at the Hallow-

een party, with games, which she organized. She will remain in our hearts forever. We want to thank her because she gave us good advice. We appreciate that she taught us beautiful games and like that we managed to get to know each other better. She taught us to appreciate what we have and are, even if we are different. We hope that we will see each other again soon!” – **Clasa VII B, Baia de Fier**

“In those wonderful months which we spent with Vanessa, we had time to get to know a wonderful, communicative person, who is close to children. We appreciate her very much – she taught us a lot of beautiful things, fun and useful. We really, really liked the Halloween party and the project called “Nu toleram intoleranta”, where we drew a picture with our hands. We will miss her very much! She is an intelligent and beautiful girl.” – **Evelina, Iuliana, Nicoleta & Vladut (clasa VII B), pupils, Baia de Fier**

“On the first day when Vanessa came to us, I was so shy that I could not say “Hello”. But after I saw that she came to us to show us that it is not necessary to be shy of each other I started to like her. I am very happy that I met her and her family and now I am not shy anymore to say “Hello”. If I had to describe

her, I would say she is beautiful, intelligent, polite, and much more.” – **Baiesu Elena Nicoleta, pupil, Baia de Fier**

“I am very happy to have met Patricia and Vanessa, because we had fun together and it was very nice. It was nice when we did a competition and our team - called Fantastic Five - won first place. We did a lot of activities, including a theatre play named “Iedul cu trei capre”. I was Capra-Mama and it was very nice.” – **Stoica Lidia, pupil, Baia de Fier**

“It was nice that we had the two volunteers Patricia and Vanessa here. We did a theatre play, a competition which my team won and many other fun activities.” – **Diaconu Livia, pupil, Baia de Fier**

“We are glad the two volunteers came here, we had fun, we did games, a competition and other entertaining things. We hope to have you again in Romania!” – **Stoica Beniamin, pupil, Baia de Fier**

“The volunteers are wonderful.” – **Caravan Ralph, pupil, Baia de Fier**

“Vanessa and Patricia are wonderful girls. I enjoyed a lot the time I spent with them.” – **Ulmet Diana,**

pupil, Baia de Fier

“It was a great experience to know the volunteers Patricia and Vanessa. I had a lot of fun: we did posters against violence, we did a theatre play, we played games, we filmed an anti-violence video... It was great.” – **Nanu Mihai “Miți”, pupil, Baia de Fier**

“I remember the first moments when she came to Romania. I thought how are we going to communicate? How can we work together? How can we bring a good end to this project? I discovered in you that yes, we can achieve all the things that were proposed together. We made beautiful projects together, for the General School and for the school in Galbenu (for which she had a special liking and which she helped a lot, offering her spirit and heart and also new materials). I can assure her that the children from Baia de Fier, but also me, will never forget her. She showed in everything which she did: maturity, perseverance, dedication, generosity, and self-control! I am convinced that she will manage everything in life which she sets her mind too (now I am talking about the experience and the privilege it was to meet her personally).” – **Cristina Cotorcea, counterpart, Baia de Fier**

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AND VOLUNTEERING IN NOVACI

Education for active citizenship and volunteering are two activities associated with a set of practices whose purpose is to prepare and train young people and adults to actively participate in community life.

For me Forward started as a challenge, especially because I had not worked with volunteers before. I took the risks and, although the beginning was hard, eventually it became something beautiful and interesting. Through this experience I was able to bring new life in Novaci community. Students have come to know other cultures, customs and people, and their knowledge of English, Spanish and Italian have improved through communication and contact with volunteers from different cultures and civilizations like Italy, France and Peru.

I think volunteers hosted in our community have integrated quickly always willing to talk all about their home country and their habits, the only constraint being at first the language, but this issue is resolved fairly quickly by learning the Romanian language from specialist teacher.

This project opened my, both me and the students in our school, horizon

perceptive about what volunteering means, about wish and involvement with which youngsters managed to bring smiles, to determine the students to get involved in various activities, about the pleasure of a good to the community without receiving in exchange anything more than contentment, true friends and knowledge about the country and our community.

As a mentor of these volunteers I have done with every day that the enthusiasm, creativity, team spirit, responsibility, involvement don't have an age, that they can be used anytime and anywhere provided there is goodwill.

Ghitu Maria,
Counterpart, Novaci

Motto: "Understand me: voluntary, fully conscious self-sacrifice utterly free of outside constraint, sacrifice of one's entire self for the benefit of all, is in my opinion a sign of the supreme development of individuality, of its supreme power, absolute self-mastery and freedom of will." FM Dostoevsky

Trapped in continuous running and drowned in daily routine, we forget sometimes the things that are really important, sometimes forget how little it cost to do good, to help, to support, to praise in a

totally uninterested way. It is needed so little to be happy but we sometimes forget this, but we have the chance to meet youngsters, enthusiastic, responsible, very involved, that that remind us. It is the likes of Rapacchiale David and Cyril Angevin two such people, that come to Novaci to volunteer.

Volunteering is responsibility because the fact that if you are not paid it you don't have the right to be irresponsible. Regional Association for Rural Development (ARDR) has given these two youngsters, one from France and one from Italy, the possibility to accomplish something, to complete this project of nine months in which they were involved. For surely they have won experience, they have used their knowledge and abilities which otherwise they could have not use before, but before that, they also made friends. A lot of friends.

I do not know if Romania and Novaci corresponded to their expectations horizon, if what they were told about the Romanians, about the Romanian language has any counterpart in reality. Smiling, always ready to record a new word he learned in the book, the two youngsters claimed always that speakers

of Romanic languages themselves, the effort to learn Romanian is not too hard to them. Especially to understand Romanian at an average level, was from the very beginning a condition to perform other volunteer activities with us.

Boys were involved in all activities in volunteering in Novaci: went to the elderly care center where they played chess, singed, had images of their countries beautifying afternoons for everyone here, every week they went to kindergarten in town have organized various activities related to games, music and English with the kids; they also went to the General School where they also had a weekly programme of volunteering. The two were involved including in greening activities in high school, and the city.

With ambitions of leadership, David has been involved in more general actions in the organization, was appointed head of volunteers come through ARDR.

Always polite, always ready to help, get involved, meaning that social solidarity, selfless help and collective effort are the solution for a better future, the boys have left a good impression on Novaci where they can expect to return one day.

Otilia Giurca, teacher in Novaci and also language tutor for the volunteers

SOME OF THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED IN FOR.W.A.R.D.:

“Let’s get to know each other”, General School, Rovinari, 12 – 13th of October 2011



Before starting to work at school volunteers in Rovinari, Benjamin and Gintare, organized a meeting with children from the primary school. The goal was to get to know the children and let them know the volunteers a little bit. It took two days, but the volunteers had meetings with eight primary classes, about 150 children were met. They introduced themselves and played a “Fruit salad” game with each class. In the end the ice was broken and children recognized the volunteers at school and were more willing to be involved into the activities.



Making the Globe, General School, Rovinari, 13th of October 2011

One of the teachers in the General school in Rovinari was involved in "Comenius" project and wanted to make a globe with children to emphasize the idea of international citizenship and increase the knowledge about the world. The first workshop was organized at the 13th of October, about fifteen children were involved and volunteers, Gintare and Benjamin, were also asked to be involved to this activity which was a great opportunity to get to know the children and make a first step for good communication in the future. The workshop started by forming a glob using gips and filling the form with old newspapers. After the form of earth was managed to be done the globe was painted in blue, but has never been finished though – the continents have never been painted. Nevertheless, it was a great "ice breaking" opportunity for the volunteers; they became friends with children during all the workshops and were cooperating with them organizing their own activities later on.



Halloween party, General school, Rovinari, 31st of October 2011



One of the most famous celebrations in October – Halloween - were organized by teachers in Rovinari, the volunteers Benjamin and Gintare wanted to be involved and made some decorations for the event. It was considered to be an important part of the party because happiness is not the result, it is a process and that is how volunteers got children involved into organizing. For wonder children took it very



responsibly! They even prepared some decorations at home (paintings, carved pumpkins) and brought it to the class. Volunteers, in turn, prepared some templates for children to colour; they have also made origami all together. About 20 children were involved; everybody had fun, learned something new and was proud to see their work being used for decorating the classroom. The Halloween party started with "The best costume" contest (which was extremely difficult to judge, because children were prepared very well). They had an opportunity to show their talents afterwards and have also played traditional Halloween game



"Apple in the water" prepared by volunteers which was really fun for everybody - volunteers have ran out of apples very quickly!



1st Movie afternoon, Mușetești school, 22nd of October 2011

During first week in Mușetești community volunteers discovered that the life there is a little bit different that they were used to – no entertainment places like cinema, theater and etc. Sima and Inma decided to implement a little change in the community – to make a monthly activity – to show movies with a message about different values of life. The first movie afternoon was considered as successful event – there were about 25 children, who seemed very excited about the movie and popcorns (which is a very important part in cinema culture). For them it was something new – kind of a real cinema theater! The movie “UP” - a story of an old man and a young child becoming friends, traveling together and having amazing adventures - teaches of respect and value of friendship, which is very important in nowadays. Mușetești team considers their first bigger event as

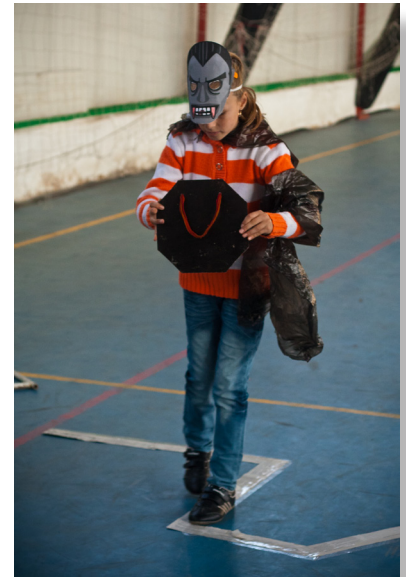
successful because after the movie kids looked very excited! Some of them said thanks; some of them didn't say anything - just came and gave them a hug and etc. It shows that these kind of activities are necessary for this community.



Halloween party, Mușetești, 28th of October 2011

The idea to organize Halloween party for kids in Mușetești came during the talking with them. Life in a small community is not full of social activities or bigger events, so volunteers decided to make something out of routine. According to Sima and Inma the nicest part was the preparation for the party. Everyone was involved in it – starting with all volunteers and ending with kids who draw decorations, made masks etc. During the party there were 5 spots with different kind of tasks at. Children had to “Catch the ghost” – put a stone from a distance in a decorated toilet paper rolls; “To kill the vampire” by taking the ball and try to hit three bottles with it; also they had to “Find a magic pill” – the pill (candy) was hiding in a balloon so kids had to blow it till it explodes and get a candy; one of most difficult tasks were the “Time traveler” – using a mirrow go backwards and follow lines on a floor. Also, for those who hadn’t have masks, volunteers made a

special corner for making them there. The corner was very popular at the beginning of the event (everyone wanted to have a Halloween mask). There were around 30 children in a party, they had music and dances as well. Mușetești team assume Halloween party as a succesful event.



SOME OF THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED IN FOR.W.A.R.D.:



Thanks giving day with a movie, Mușetești school, 24th of November 2011

Volunteers in Mușetești had an idea to spread information and inform children about different celebrations in other countries. One of them was 24th of November - Thanks giving day in America and Canada. Sima and Inma decided to link their monthly activity (movie afternoon) and this day together. The movie afternoon took place in old kindergarten in Mușetești. Before starting a movie together with children volunteers talked about the Thanksgiving celebration – they explained about the traditions in America and gave a small candy with written information about the celebration.

Children were sharing their opinions as well. After small discussion they showed a movie. This

time it was a "Ratatouille" – a movie that sends a message of family values and importance of following dreams.

This time small cinema was even more crowded – more than 30 kids came. One of nicest part was that children were involved in preparations as well – they helped to cover windows, to find chairs and to bring heavy speakers! Mușetești team started to reach one of their goals – to become one team with kids.



Decorating the office of the vice mayor, The City Hall, Rovinari, 30th of November

The volunteers, Gintare and Bejnamin had a meeting with the vice mayor to discuss the details about upcoming events. Luckily, the vice mayor was very supportive and open about their ideas and even asked the volunteers to help him decorate his office for Christmas period. Volunteers were happy to help and took this opportunity with enthusiasm; it was also a great opportunity to develop a relationship with the second most important person in the community. Volunteers worked in the office for two days, few hours each day. They were also discussing the upcoming



events with the vice mayor. At the end the office were nicely decorated, possible future matters were talked over and this connection helped a lot when they had to organize important activities later.



Christmas period, Mușetești - Sârbești - Stăncești schools, December 2011

Before Christmas holidays, volunteers were preparing different activities in 3 schools of their community. During English activities they taught children to sing Christmas carols in English. One week was dedicated for writing a real letter for a Santa Claus and one more week – for handycraft workshops. Together with kids volunteers prepared plenty of colourful Christmas cards. Sima and Inma considers December as a productive month because they had some motivated, excited and involved children in all activities. Also girls had an opportunity to participate in the Christmas celebrations and to show for the parents what they done in the community so far. It was a good chance to spread information and Mușetești volunteers used it very well – they received plenty of positive feedback from their community.



National Day of Romania, General School, Rovinari, 1st of December



It's important to be aware of the history of your country and keep being patriotic at least at some level. The volunteers from Rovinari, Gintare and Benjamin, wanted to mark this important day and made small ribbons with children which represented the colours

of Romanian flag. The workshop didn't last very long, about half an hour, there were 10 children participating, but everybody was happy in the end, the ribbons were pinned up to the clothes of children and wore on the National Day to commemorate this occasion.

Social campaign in Rovinari, The social canteen and the hospital, Rovinari, 19th of December

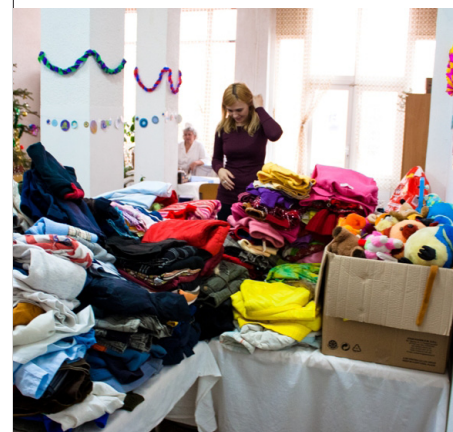
Social campaign in Rovinari had been made in two places: social canteen and the hospital. The objectives of this campaign were to bring something positive in the community during the Christmas time, to help poor families, to teach children how

important is to share the happiness and involve them in this process. First, the volunteers asked children to help them to make some decorations and for the canteen. Also, with an extra help of a lovely colleague Laurene, Gintare and Benjamin



managed to make enough decorations and turn the canteen into a really nice area and create a positive atmosphere. Volunteers have collected second-hand clothes from the children at school for poor families. Third, volunteers organized the show for the canteen where talented children from school could perform. Benjamin and Gintare got many children who were willing to perform in the event and after several rehearsals they had few dance groups, many singing kids and reading poetry also. Gintare, with the help

of Vanessa and Lorene has also organized a dolls sewing workshop



at school. After two meetings they had a bunch of handmade dolls to give away for the little sick ones in the hospital. Volunteers experienced a little bit of disappointment because



SOME OF THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED IN FOR.W.A.R.D.:

of people being more interested in clothes than the show in the canteen and learned a lesson that it does not always has to happen exactly as it is expected it to be, they also got the opportunity to reconsider their organizational skills. All in all, more than fifty children were involved in the event, few dozens of people came to the

social canteen to enjoy the show; eight mothers with children joined the entertainment in the hospital. Collected clothes, toys, and shoes were given away to the families who have a rough time during the campaign, a little bit of light were brought into their lives that day and children from the school had a lot of fun being



Painting eggs, Stancești schools, December 2011



Before Easter holidays and seeing the importance of the painting's eggs in Romania, volunteers did a small and very interesting activity in Stancesti School. Sima thought the technic that the Lithuanian people use to paint eggs. First they had to heat wax, once the wax was melted the kids were doing different shapes

with the wax in their eggs. When the shapes were finished they put the eggs in different colourful waters and after a while and when the eggs were dry they removed the wax and they had their eggs ready and beautiful. It was a new technic for the kids and they were very interested in the activity, and went home showing their eggs to everybody.



January in Mușetești was dedicated to promote a healthy lifestyle. Volunteers made several different activities in all 3 schools of their community: firstly talked with children about what is healthy and unhealthy food, then together with kids prepared a nutrition pyramid. One week was dedicated to play a big game – “Find a healthy food” in which kids had to find hidden papers with different information about healthy lifestyle. There were around 14 children involved in the game. Children also seemed excited about the sportive event – making acrobatic pyramids. It

Healthy lifestyle month, Mușetești - Sârbești - Stăncești schools, January 2012

was the great idea – children needed to spread their energy and at the same time they got some useful information and ideas how to do sports in more variable ways.

At the end of the “Healthy lifestyle month” Sima and Inma proposed to kids to make a healthy desert by themselves. It was one of the best activities of the month because children were super involved and excited. Volunteers



assume “Healthy lifestyle month” as successful – all activities were well received and important

information was sent using a non formal technique.

Anti-Violence-Campaign, General School and High School, Bumbesti Jiu, 24th to 26th of January 2012

For one week in January, the two volunteers in Bumbesti Jiu, Patricia and Vanessa, organized an Anti-Violence Campaign in two of the schools of the town: General School and High School. The objective was to raise awareness about violence, especially in schools, and to help to put a stop to bullying.

The campaign was split into different small activities: First of all, the volunteers invited children from both schools to come and make posters together, which were later displayed in the halls. In General School there were about 25 students who worked with the volunteers, in High School only two. The second

activity was the filming of a video against violence where the students could be actors. It was very successful - in Liceul, there were 8 dedicated actors, in High School six. To end the campaign, the volunteers showed the filmed videos to the two schools - in General School the children came on their own accord, while in High School, two classes were chosen based on their bad behavior. The showing of the video was also accompanied by a short discussion. In the end, the impact was not very big,



SOME OF THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED IN FOR.W.A.R.D.:

but at least the students put some effort into the work and participated. It was also the first activity which the two volunteers in Bumbesti Jiu did together, since there had been a change of volunteers, so it was a chance to introduce the new volunteer to the community.



Lovely month, Mușetești - Sârbești - Stăncești schools, February 2012

For the reason that there are St. Valentines and Dragobete days in February, Mușetești team decided to dedicate this month for Love. The main goal was to spread the



idea of importance of friendship, family values, love etc. For doing this volunteers used several different techniques and made different activities –

Movie afternoon – “Gnomeo and Juliet” in Mușetești school. Movie tells a story about pure love and friendship. About 20 children participated in this event.

Handicraft workshops – children were excited to make flowers and postcards out of paper. All kind of handicraft teaches patience, attention control and also improves cognitive development. Volunteers made these activities



in all 3schools of their community.

Dragobete party, 24th

of February, Mușetești school. It was a party with a hidden lesson again – volunteers taught children that it is not possible to get everything for free all the time. During the party children had a possibility to buy some snacks from a bar, but they had to pay by using “points” that they could earn by doing some tasks. So it was kind of a “work” they had to do. Points were giving for writing a poem on the wall, making a flower out of balloon, painting faces, making pictures with a poster or dance in the dancing room. And according to Sima and Inma it was a great idea to do like this – at least ~30 children got to know the value of money and work.



The talent Show, General School, Rovinari, 20th of February

Before the Talent Show one of the teachers in Rovinari asked Gintare to prepare the poster for the show. The volunteer wanted children to be involved and made a poster together with them. Seven children were involved in the activity, they got an opportunity to express their creativity, learn how to work in team. In the

end of the day the poster was made and used to advertise the event. In the Talent show Gintare was asked to be one of the judges and help to decide who is worth to compete with other communities. All the school and also some parents were involved in the event. It was extremely hard but in the end volunteer together

with some teachers picked one group of dancers and decided to let them participate in the next event. It was a happy day for the volunteer, because she was introduced to some of the parents and also got a proof she is accepted in the school community.



Love Weeks, General School and High School, Bumbesti Jiu, 15th to 24th of February 2012



In celebration of Valentine's Day and Dragobete, the two volunteers in Bumbesti Jiu organized some activities about Love. The

objective was to promote interaction between students and to make them more aware of foreign traditions, like the Valentine's Day. In both

schools, a "Love Letter Box" was set up where the students could write anonymous messages to other students, which were to be delivered on Dragobete. Unfortunately, only the General School participated with about 15 entries, while there were no letters in the box in High School. For one week, seven descriptions of foreign traditions concerning Valentine's Day were displayed all around the Liceul. One day, the volunteers invited 15 students from Elementary school to draw the traditions and all their creations were shown alongside the descriptions on a board in the hall of Scoala

Generală. At the end of the two weeks, the volunteers celebrated Dragobete together with the students through delivering the love letters and looking at the wonderful traditions in the hall. One good result was that more children got to know the volunteers in the course of the Love Weeks.



Sexual Health Week, General School, Bumbesti Jiu, 21st to 23rd of February 2012

For one week in February, the two volunteers in Bumbesti Jiu organized several activities about Sexual Health. The objective was to inform the students about Sexual Health and refresh their knowledge, since the volunteers had found out that the children did not know a lot about that topic. They invited each class of 8th grade to come and play an educational game about Safe Sex, STDs, and sexual myths. Each day, another class came and had to

separate sentences into two categories - true or false. After they had completed the task in teams, the volunteers presented the results and corrected the mistakes of the students, teaching them about the right answer and about the reason behind it. In total, 40 children participated in this activity. After all the meetings were done, the volunteers gave envelopes to every student of 8th grade with information about Sexual Health and important addresses, links, etc. The



impact was quite big and the students learned a lot

about Sexual Health.

Dental campaign, Muşeteşti, March 2012

Volunteers of Muşeteşti dedicated March to promote a healthy teeth care. Sima

and Inma prepared an orientation game related to the topic. Children had to run around the school

and look for the hidden papers with questions about the mouth hygiene (eg. how many times and how long teeth have to be brushed, what materials has to be used and etc.) There were 14

children participating in the game in Muşeteşti school, 8 children in Stănceşti school and 11 in Sărbeşti school. Girls presume this game as usefull and productive.



Ecological campaign, Mușetești - Sârbești - Stăncești schools, March 2012



It is so beautiful that the spring is coming but at the same time the snow in Mușetești is melting and you can see all the trash in everywhere. So the volunteers decided to do an Ecological campaign in order to clean the community, and the most important to raise the kids awareness of being ecological. There did three activities, two in Mușetești and one in Stăncești. In Mușetești first they projected the movie "Walle" that tells the story about one robot that is cleaning the Earth and nobody can live there because is full of garbage. In this activity around 10 kids participated, some of them for the other village, and they got the idea of the movie and realized that we have to keep the planet clean.

The second day was one of the most important. At the beginning the kids made some decorations about what is for them to be ecological and with the volunteers they were talking about recycle. After that they

were to collect trash around the school but not in the simple way. To motivate the kids Inma and Sima decided to make two teams and make a competition. Before the volunteers gave t-shirts, trash bags and gloves to every participant. The trash collected competition finished in draw and with a lot of amount of garbage collected. Later the volunteers gave diplomas to the participants. To finish the day the Ecological organisation of Gorj came to Mușetești and showed a movie and talked with the kids about ecology and recycle. Even not a lot of kids participated in the activity they became awareness of ecology and recycle. The third day the volunteers and the kids of Stăncești School were collecting trash around their school. They were very excited and even when the activity about collect garbage was finished they continued taking trash. The volunteers think that they did a small change in their community.

Lithuanian dance "Galiopas", General School, Rovinari, 5th of March

Lithuanian volunteer Gintare wanted to teach children something about her country and dance seemed to be a good choice because it is interactive and can be used for various occasions. She had several workshops with children every day rehearsing the dance, ten of them were involved. The dance was prepared in the end; children got to know more

about different culture and were happy and proud to dance. The dance was used in during the show for Woman's Day, also when the school had guests from Turkey. That time about forty children gathered together to dance.



Ecological Activity, General School, Bumbesti-Jiu, 29th of March

In this day we celebrated nature and ecology by inviting many students in classes to participate in a rally activity about this subject. It was a surprise to actually have almost all of the kids who accepted the invitation: in total, 53 pupils. The objective was to check their knowledge on pollution, preservation of the environment, reducing consumption at home and recycling and also to give them the opportunity to learn some more.

We started at school by gathering



all in the courtyard and sign up the previously arranged teams; then, we explained the rules, gave each student a t-shirt of the campaign „Respect pentru natura. Respect pentru tine” and handed them the list of questions they would have to answer and the list of places where they had to search for those hidden questions. And then, chaos: the kids started running all around the town centre and, unfortunately, due to an unexplained misunderstanding, some kids took with them the



papers with the questions, which complicated a bit the activity, but he involved volunteers and other participants. In the end, it all worked out well: we gathered them all again in the school courtyard, checked their answers (which were not so bad) and awarded them with a participation certificate. When asked what they thought about the activity, they excitedly answered it was great and it was obvious in their joyful faces that they had a lot of fun.



Theatre Play “Iedul cu Trei Capre” (by Octav Pancu - Iasi), Gymnasial School, Bumbesti-Jiu, 2nd of March to 4th of April

The two volunteers gathered a group of 8 interested kids, exactly the number of characters in the play, which was an adaptation they made (with some help, of course) of this story to theatre, in Romanian language. Every Tuesday they met for one hour of rehearsal. The objective was to create a short children’s play and act it out in Kindergarten. With this, the participants could explore and develop their drama skills, sensitivity, perception of their own body and, at the end, it would contribute for a good image of themselves and self-esteem.

The kids were very excited to act and quickly memorized the text, with their own input and customizing. During the rehearsals, the students improved a lot their acting, even though it was very hard for them. In the 4th of April they presented the play as it was planned in Kindergarten.



9th of May

The volunteers marked the 9th of May Europe's Day, in Rovinari, together with the volunteers from Dolj County. The young citizens of Rovinari had the opportunity to participate in a European Competition and win cake, water and a diploma and at the end of the competition everybody had the opportunity to

participate the music and dance show that was prepared for the end of the event. The objective of activity was that to mark the day of 9th of May and also to raise awareness on European Citizenship and get the children to learn more about Europe and it's countries in a fun way. The kids were very excited and learned a lot



of valuable things about European Countries. Some of the children were accompanied by their parents who also liked the event. The 9th of May celebrated in Rovinari was one of the most successful activities made by ARDR through and

with the volunteers of an EVS project because a lot of people participated in the activity and it was very simple and elegant planned. The next day people in town were all saying hello to Gintare and Vanessa, the two volunteers that planned the event.



Some funny things happened in FOR.W.A.R.D.:

That one time when Patricia, our CouchSurfer Jolita from Lithuania, and me went out for a walk and we found ourselves at an impassable point, in front of a little house. All of a sudden, a very angry little woman came outside because she thought we were trespassing. When she understood that we were foreigners, she invited us inside, got us more than a little bit tipsy, and gave us all the food she could possibly give us, including two big pieces of animal fat which we felt too bad to throw away but were still not ready to eat. I will never forget the walk back in the dark, through the masses of snow, down the mountain and quite drunk.

Vanessa Graf, Austria, volunteer in the project

In the beginning of our EVS, we all had to go to Predeal to the arrival training. It was extremely hot and we had carried our suitcases the thirty minutes down to the bus station, but of course, the bus was not there – welcome to Romania! Ten minutes later, a car stopped, with a couple

of kids and a man inside. He offered us a ride to Targu Jiu later that day, he just needed to do a few things before. Thankfully, we accepted, and spent the day with him and his wife at the mountain club, drinking tea, eating nuts, chilling in the hammock and trying to communicate in our broken Romanian. Ion (that was his name – surprise, surprise! Everybody here is named Ion) took us to his family house later where we got fresh grapes, saw the wine cellar and met his family. At the end of the day, we were in Targu Jiu on time and had a wonderful day. Vanessa Graf, Austria, volunteer in the project The children at school were always really excited about Eva and me, so they always wanted us to come over. I did not feel so comfortable with it in the beginning because I did not know what the parents would think, but one day they finally got me to the point where I gave up and we went to a boy's house. When we arrived there, his mother was just finishing baking bread and cozonac and true to

Romania's hospitality, we were invited to eat all those delicious things. I remember when the mother opened the bread and smoke was coming out – it was delicious!

Vanessa Graf, Austria, volunteer in the project

One thing I will never forget was when our host family was doing the wine harvest. I was sitting outside on the terrace, smoking a cigarette (back in the days when I still smoked), and watching them, even the little boys, carry buckets full of grapes down the hill. I felt so useless, so I went up the hill and asked the family in rather crappy Romanian if I could help. I will never regret this! Even though we worked all afternoon, I was so happy afterwards and the tuika we all drank together afterwards was the best tuika I had ever tasted.

Vanessa Graf, Austria, volunteer in the project

In Romania, everybody always drinks. I had this suspicion before, but it was definitely confirmed when I moved in with my host family and met my new grandfather. Two

times it was especially worth to remember: Once, I woke up really, really early in the morning to get ready to go to the school in Galbeniu, and I was lucky enough to meet the grandfather in the kitchen. He saw me, was very happy, and put a cup of tuika fiarta in front of my face. Which was, admittedly, delicious. The other time, all the volunteers were over at our place in Baia de Fier, and our two little host brothers decided to entertain us. They went to the barrel of tuika, laid down underneath it, and let the liquid pour into their mouths, while we were all screaming at them to stop! The grandfather came, saw, and laughed. Only in Romania! Later that night, he gave the boys his bottle of tuika to enjoy. Fucking Romania.

Vanessa Graf, Austria, volunteer in the project

- Once we were all hitchhiking to Musetesti from Crasna, late for the 3rd part of the Capacity Building Program. One car stopped for me and another volunteer and, of course, at that time our level of Romanian

was close to null, but somehow we managed to explain what we were doing in Romania. In the end, not only the driver took us to the exact place we were going, but also gave us 50 lei for all us to have a coffee.

Patricia Dias, Portugal, volunteer in the project

- Me and Vanessa were hosting a couchsurfer and we wanted to show her the mountain close to Sadu, but the snow was too high and we couldn't

pass. That's when an old lady cam outside her house and asked what were we doing there, trespassing. We explained who we were and, the moment she realized we were foreigners, she invited us inside to have a glass of wine. We ended up staying for a few more glasses of some delicious homemade wine talking to her and to her curious neighbour and left with a warm heart (and cheeks!) and a backpack full of

homemade products (pickles, tomato sauce, smoked meat, wine... you name it).

Patricia Dias, Portugal, volunteer in the project

- When we did an ecological activity in Scoala Generala, we gathered 53 pupils, organized in teams, and did a rally paper on the town centre. I shouldn't have handed them the sheets with the clues before explaining everything, because

they just started running like crazy the minute they got the papers and I couldn't explain some details! Result: they misunderstood and thought they had to take with them the hidden questions – and how will the others play now if they have no questions to answer?? Come on, kids!! Think!! But it was a fun chaos, after all.

Patricia Dias, Portugal, volunteer in the project

Partners in the project:



Would you like to do EVS?

How to proceed

Leaving your country to go and volunteer abroad is anything but improvisation!

First, ask yourself a few questions:

- What is your personal motivation? It will account for your inner drive while completing your project.
- What is the area in which you want to commit yourself? We all have personal interests in one... Be realistic and truthful to yourself, it is the best way to get to a successful experience.
- For how long are

you ready to commit yourself in an EVS project, including the search for a project, the preparation, the administration, the training, the service, the follow-up?

- How much time do you have? Meeting new and different people is hopefully part of your motivation - so start with finding people who will help you make your EVS project come true.

1st step

Find a Sending Organisation that will assist you individually along the procedure, before, during and after your EVS.
In case you do not

know EVS Sending Organisations in your country of residence, consult the organisations' database (www.evdatabase.eu), or contact your National Agency if you live in a Programme country, or the regional SALTO Resource Centres (www.salto-youth.net) for Eastern Europe and Caucasus, the Euro-Mediterranean region, and South East Europe.

2nd step

Co-operate closely with your Sending Organisation in order to develop details of your individual project. Start contacting potential Host Organisations

through your Sending Organisation. Bear in mind that EVS is huge - with thousands of potential Host Organisations in different areas.

3rd step

Keep your fingers crossed and persevere in your search as the difficulty is not to find a placement, but to find the placement that corresponds to your interests and is ready to host you within the time limit you have. Keep in mind that preparing an EVS project takes time, both at administrative, organisational and personal level. Therefore, plan ahead, try to think of everything, stay

motivated and it will work out for you!

Ready to go? Found a project? It's only a start!

After the initial euphoria has subsided, prepare yourself for the puzzle work to do for getting ready to leave. Contact former volunteers in your Sending Organisation to find out about their experiences. Figure out the administrative requirements both in your country of origin and in your hosting country (visa, residence permit, health insurance, etc.). Get in touch

with ex-volunteers associations. They can help you to get a better idea of the development of a project, what to expect or not, and so to better prepare yourself. Gather as much information as you can about the country you are going to. Initiate personal contacts in your Host Organisation. Keep on asking questions...

Off you go but remember...

EVS is not a job or an internship, nor a work placement, a humanitarian mission, a language course or a holiday period...

Your Sending Organisation is still there to counsel and help you all along your EVS project.

Your Host Organisation will nominate a personal Mentor for you. It is very helpful to have somebody nearby, with a good understanding of your situation and ready to give personal advice and support.

It may sometimes be difficult but who said it would be easy?

Communication brings common understanding, while lack of communication leads to false expectations and wrong interpretations. Take care that you and your partners ask the

right questions and bring along the helpful answers.

All your questions should be addressed to the Sending/ Host/Coordinating Organisations of your project. If you need additional info, depending on the geographical location of your project, you may contact your National Agency, or the Executive Agency, or the regional SALTO Resource Centres for Eastern Europe and Caucasus, the Euro-Mediterranean region, and South East Europe.

And, last but not least... Enjoy your EVS!

Currently ARDR offers the possibility to do EVS: Europe, Caucasus, Africa (Cameroon), Latin America (Argentina, Peru)



EVS in Cameroon

YAOUNDÉ

Yaoundé is the capital of Cameroon and the administrative center of the Central Southern Province. Yaoundé is one of the most quiet and tranquil capitals on the African continent. The city is almost entirely located along the main street, Kennedy Avenue, and the neighboring hills. Today numbering about one and a half million inhabitants is the chief city of the region. The Center, South, and East provinces are characterized by dense tropical rain forest.

VOLUNTEER WORK

As a calendar of activities, the volunteers will have a part time working day and field visit in the region - 5 days a week (the 6th day for meeting) and one day off, flexible agenda. Meetings will take place in Yaounde at AJVC organization for evaluation and planning.

The main fields where the volunteers are needed in this region are the following:

- Urban renovation or restoration of rural habitats
- Intercultural activities to promote integration and the fight

against tribalism and conflicts

- They can develop promotional materials; look for sponsors and partners for the local group and youth organization at the local and region level who will support the association on the strategic plan for a sustainable development.
- Help in the creation of a database of the categories of organizations for youths, their main activities, and the needs they have to better manage their organizations.
- Support the organization and network objectives in the region and town.
- Learn basics communication skills.
- Environmental and health education in schools with the youths clubs and in youths centers.
- Work with some poor families in their farms to help grandmothers and fathers in the villages.
- Help to put in place youth clubs and youths associations.
- Work with existing youths groups.
- Elaborate strategies on training and access to resources in schools and universities.
- Help design communication tools to insert on the electronic

platform.

- Help promote youth activities.
- Activities on intercultural awareness.

CULTURAL & FREE TIME

Yaoundé has become famous for its numerous cultural events and festivals, particularly, its "months" devoted to Dance, Drama, Music, Jazz, Choral Music, Fashion, Painting, Book promotion etc. Publishing houses, libraries, bookshops and art galleries. On the book shelves, the literary works of "elders" like Ferdinand Leopold Oyono, Rene Philombe, Francis Bebey are displayed alongside those of post independence writers. The Center and South are culturally dominated by the Beti peoples, which include the Ewondo, Eton, and Bulu, and are linguistically and culturally related to the Fang of Gabon. They are patrilineal, grow root crops and peanuts for their own consumption, and grow cocoa as a cash crop. The Ewondo were early converts to Catholicism. The current president is Bulu, and many prominent authors are Beti. Peoples in the East include the Maka and Gbaya, both with relatively egalitarian forms of social organization.

The region covering Cameroon's Centre, South and East provinces belongs to the Bantu cultural sphere. The group that stands out by virtue of their numerical strength is the Beti-Fang whose traditions abound with mythical narrative stories of their past migrations, tales, legends, epics and song-fables, which are performed within a frame of highly emotional epic music of high artistic standard.

DOUALA

Douala is the largest city in Cameroon -with slightly over two million inhabitants- and the capital of Cameroon's Littoral Province. Home to Cameroon's largest port and its major international airport, Douala Airport, it is the commercial capital of the country. Consequently, it handles most of the country's major exports, such as oil, cocoa and coffee, timber, metals and fruits. The city is located on the banks of the Wouri River, the two sides linked by Bonaberi Bridge. Learn more

VOLUNTEER WORK

As a calendar of activities, the volunteers will have a part time working day and field visit in the region - 5 days a week

(the 6th day for meeting) and one day off, flexible agenda. Meetings will take place in Yaounde at AJVC organization for evaluation and planning.

The main fields where the volunteers are needed in this region are the following:

- Assistance to the elderly, sick or disabled
- Environmental and health education in schools, youth clubs and in youths centers
- Environmental projects helping to install cooking stoves.
- Work with the network from our focal points on youth activities.
- Support to the sellers in the markets.
- Public work in the markets places, public places.
- Work with some poor families in their farms to help grandmothers and fathers in the villages.
- Help to put in place youth clubs and youths associations, and youths enterprises.
- Work with existing youths groups on agriculture, and educational support for large families.
- Elaborate strategies on training and access to resources in schools and universities.

CULTURAL & FREE TIME

The city is divided into quarters with Akwa and Bonanjo being the most important. Akwa

is Douala's nightlife center and Bonanjo its center of commerce and administration. Along the city's main thoroughfare lie some of Cameroon's best restaurants, coffee houses and French-style patisseries; along the waterfront, many bars and bistros may be found, commanding views of the Gulf of Guinea and nearby mangrove swamps. Many of these are frequented by the city's large expatriate population, mainly French or Lebanese. The Sawa culture belongs to this region. The history, traditions and world-view of the Sawa people are portrayed through masks, photos and work of art found in the museums and art galleries in Douala, Buea or Limbe. Currently, the Sawa culture is experiencing a new revitalization through the performing shows (music, theatre, ballet dances and choreographic performances) across the length and breadth of the coastal region. Douala has gained artistic renown as the unassailable bastion of makossa: the new generation of makossa musicians are working hard to maintain the high musical standards bequeathed to them by their illustrious elders. Every year during the dry season, Douala plays host to the Ngondo festival, a great rendez-vous of the Sawa people with their history and traditions.

THE BAMENDA, BAMILÉKÉ, AND MAMBILLA HIGHLANDS

These locations belong to the west and south west regions. This area of tropical forest has been categorized by the World Wildlife Fund as the Cameroonian Highlands forests eco-region with Mount Cameroon considered separately because as an active volcano it has a distinct environment from the other mountains.

VOLUNTEER WORK

As a calendar of activities, the volunteers will have a part time working day and field visit in the region - 5 days a week (the 6th day for meeting) and one day off, flexible agenda. Meetings will take place in Yaounde at AJVC organization for evaluation and planning.

The main fields where the volunteers are needed in this region are the following:

- Help design communication tools to insert on the electronic platform of AJVC/ REJEFAC.
- Work with the community to solve local projects.
- Work on research themes at the rural level.
- Creation of a day center for young and disabled people from a town or region.
- Creation of green spaces at the rural level

with community.

- Develop local facilities (hiking...)
- Transform a piece of wasteland into a public garden

CULTURAL & FREE TIME

The volunteers will have the possibility to choose amongst the towns and villages of the west regions, very diverse. Some of the famous towns are:

Foumban is a city in the central part of Cameroon, one of the best recreation centers in the country and an important center of traditional arts.

Bafoussam is the capital of the West Province of Cameroon, in the Bamboutos Mountains. And the city is the region's center of trade. People are farmers who grow coffee, tobacco and tea. The city has also a coffee processing facility and brewery. It is the main city of the Bamiléké people and is the home of a chief's palace. It has two main markets (Marché A and Marché B), several internet cafes, restaurants and supermarkets and a movie theater. Most of Bafoussam nightlife centers are on the area called Akwa (so-named in the honor of the neighborhood in Douala). Akwa features several bars, stores, and a live music venue, along with customary vendors of soya (grilled meat brochettes), poisson braisé (grilled fish)

and other foods.

The Batcham - Bamenda area has big deposits of volcanic salts with a unique composition containing virtually every known trace element and in the future it may become one of the best spa resorts in Africa. There is also the big mount Bamboutos and large falls and sacred forest. Adamoua, North, and Extreme North

ADAMOUA, NORTH, AND EXTREME NORTH

are three provinces from the Northern area. Stretching across Cameroon from the western mountain area, the Adamaoua forms a barrier between the north and south.

VOLUNTEER WORK

As a calendar of activities, the volunteers will have a part time working day and field visit in the region - 5 days a week (the 6th day for meeting) and one day off, flexible agenda. Meetings will take place in Yaounde at AJVC organization for evaluation and planning.

The main fields where the volunteers are needed in this region are the following:

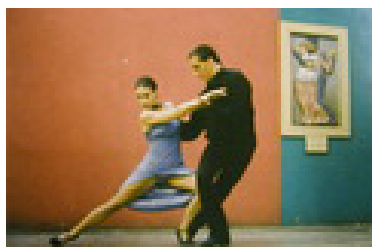
- Environmental and health education in schools; collection for recycling waste and reforestation,
- Work with the network of focal points on youths activities
- Public work in the markets places
- Work with some poor families in their farms to help grandmothers and fathers in the villages
- Help to put in place youth clubs and youths associations
- Work with existing youths groups
- Elaborate strategies on training and access to resources in schools and universities
- Help design communication tools to insert on the electronic platform
- Environment campaigns and organize visits in the parks and zoos
- Support to illiterate youngsters and English classes in schools



- Research, field work, support to the elderly and vulnerable youths
- #### CULTURAL & FREE TIME

Since the jihad led by an Islamic cleric in 1804, the northern region has been culturally dominated by the Fulani. Urban Fulani are renowned as clerics in the Sunni branch of Islam. Most Fulani are cattle herders. The main crops in this area include cotton and millet. The Waza National Park, located in the far north of Cameroon, is of great interest to those who are interested in African flora and fauna. Regarding the

specificity of the Adamawa Province, written and oral accounts both testify that it is considered as the point of convergence, encounter and dispersal of our major Bantu and Sudano-Sahelian cultural traditions. Lastly, regarding the major towns and cities of the "Great North", each of them organises a grand annual festival, especially during the touristic season which runs from November to May. Such festivals provide a suitable occasion for extensive, cultural and artistic displays, punctuated by a thousand and one very colourful and diversified attractions.



EVS in Argentina

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.

Volunteer work

The volunteer will be permanently working with other young volunteers of OAJNU or related institutions. The working places will vary. A permanent place will be the office of OAJNU, in the downtown area of Buenos

Aires; then in private or public schools of residential areas or from the suburban areas.

The volunteer's intervention will generally be directed to 14 – 25 young people of public and private schools of the city and the province of Buenos Aires. All that integrating the team work of the social projects of OAJNU.

They will have the chance to work on:

- Teach high school students at school about of human rights, youth involvement, democracy and social projects. Project: „Citizenship of Childhood“.
- Help and monitor the students in the process of building and executing their projects
- Train Model United Nations participants on United Nations System, represent their countries through negotiations and topics of global agenda.
- Fully work during the development of the project „International Model United Nation“ in Buenos Aires and others cities of Argentina where OAJNU does this project.
- Work into the international campaign „Stand Up Against Poverty“.
- Work into the Short

Film Competition to promote The Millennium Development Goals.

- Fully work during the Model United Nation for university students in Buenos Aires.

- Collaborate in institutional presentations and fundraising activities to obtain external support for the projects in which the volunteer works.

- Write a Memory of each one's working and living experience the project of OAJNU in Argentina.

- Participate in projects in which OAJNU collaborates with other civil society institutions

The partners that will work with OAJNU and will support the volunteers activities are the following:

- 50 Schools where OAJNU develop their projects.
- United Nations Information Centre for Argentina and Uruguay
- Civil Association "Jóvenes Latinoamericanos Unidos" („United Latin American youngsters“)
- Foundation "FUNDAMIND"
- Civil Association "Un Techo para mi País" („A roof for my country“)
- Civil Association "GreenCross"
- Civil Association "Idealistas"

- Peace Child Argentina.
- Ashoka.

CULTURAL & FREE TIME

- The city offers traditional tours and secret places. The Colón Theatre and small experimental theaters. Old book stores and new cultural centers. 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 center of town with the obelisk and the Tigre delta, a few kilometers away from the urban center. 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.

Other sites of remarkable cultural and historical interest are the Cabildo, the Government House, the Cathedral, the Town

Hall, the Obelisk, the Colón Theater, la Manzana de las Luces (Block of the Lights) and the Planetarium, an emblematic site in the memory of all children in Buenos Aires.

In the evenings, "the city that never sleeps" is open to concerts, shows, theaters, cinemas, casinos, discos, coffee-shops and pubs that make visitors stay up late hours.

For all these reasons, Buenos Aires opens up to a wide range of entertainment options.

CORDOBA

• Yaoundé is the capital of Cameroon and the administrative center of the Central Southern Province. Yaoundé is one of the most quiet and tranquil capitals on the African continent. The city is almost entirely located along the main street, Kennedy Avenue, and the neighboring hills. Today numbering about one and a half million inhabitants is the chief city of the region. The Center, South, and East provinces are characterized by dense tropical rain forest.

VOLUNTEER WORK

- The volunteers can be hosted for long periods of time throughout the whole year.
- Teach high school students about human rights, youth involvement, democracy and social projects. Project: „Citizenship of Childhood"
- Help and monitor the

students in the process of building and executing their projects

- Train the participants in the project „Model United Nations" developed by OAJNU on United Nations System, negotiations and topics of global agenda
- Fully work during the Model United Nation in Córdoba and other cities of Argentina where OAJNU develops this project
- Work with young people, participants in „Technology for Change Program": helping them in using informatics tools and developing actions of communitarian strengthening and youth involvement. All this in Rosario del Saladillo, a small town in the Province of Córdoba
- Work with vulnerable youth population of immigrants in communities in the south of Córdoba in order to create spaces of integration with the natives
- Fund raising activities to obtain external support for the projects in which the volunteer works
- Participate in projects in which OAJNU collaborates with other institutions that belong to the civil society

CULTURAL & FREE TIME

The city 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 youngster. 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.

MENDOZA

Mendoza city is situated in the northern-central part of the province. Mendoza used to be a desert, but now it's a beautiful place full of trees and plants.

- Mendoza is well known because of it's huge mountains and especially for Aconcagua's Mountain (highest one in America). In 2001, Mendoza's population

was 110,993. The metropolitan population was 848,660 in 2001, making Greater Mendoza the fourth largest census metropolitan area in the country.

VOLUNTEER WORK

Youth for Development in Mendoza is an initiative aiming to include European volunteers in social interventions dealing to create conditions of equity in the access to opportunities, 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.

The volunteer's intervention will generally be directed to 14 – 25 young people of public and private schools of the city and the province of Mendoza. All that integrating the team work of the social projects of OAJNU.

In this context, the volunteers will have the chance to work on:

- Teach high school students at school about of human rights, youth involvement, democracy and social projects. Project: „Citizenship of Childhood"
- Help and monitor the students in the process of building and executing their projects
- Train Model United Nations participants on United Nations System, represent their countries through negotiations and topics of global agenda.

- Fully work during the development of the project „International Model United Nation” in Mendoza and others cities of Argentina where OAJNU does this project.
- Collaborate in institutional presentations and fundraising activities to obtain external support for the projects in which the volunteer works.
- Write a Memory of each one's working and living experience the project of OAJNU in Argentina.
- Participate in projects in which OAJNU collaborates with other civil society institutions
- Work with vulnerable youth population of immigrants in communities in the south of the city of Mendoza in order to create spaces of integration with native local population. The partners that will work with OAJNU and will support the volunteers activities are the following:
 - NGO OIKOS red Ambient(well known organization working for environment issues)
 - Public sector. (Municipalities, Youth Secretary, Legislature, etc)
 - 80 Schools where OAJNU develops their projects.
 - Secretary of Education of Mendoza's province.
 - Peace Child Argentina.
 - Ashoka.
 - Cuyo's National University
 - Crycit y Conicet (Argentina's highest professional research centre)
 - IMD (Multidisciplinary

Institute, Cuyo's National University)

PROTECA

Work with young people, participants in "Technology for Change Program": helping them in using informatics tools and developing actions of communitarian strengthening and youth involvement. This project is set up in a "Cepillo". Its a small town in a rural area in Lavalle's district, 25 kms away from the city.

CULTURAL & FREE TIME

On March 2, 1561, Pedro Del Castillo founded the city and named it "Ciudad de Mendoza del Nuevo Valle de La Rioja". But, after a severe earthquake that suffered the province in 1861, and killed at least 5,000 people, Mendoza had to be rebuilt. Now is one of the newest cities in Argentina. Since that, the center had to be totally remodeled. Few ruins remained where the town center was. Its zone is called Foundation Area. Mendoza is one of the most important cities in the world if we consider its wine production. It has one of the largest wine productions in South America. Actually, is the 8th World Wine Capital. It has around 700 wineries, being the province with the biggest wine production in Argentina (70%). Because of this, Mendoza constantly receives tourism from the entire world. Another factor

that makes Mendoza a touristic province is the big diversity of landscapes and ecosystems. Big mountains, like the Aconcagua (6,962m), natural reserves, like Llanquanelo Lake, long rivers, like Mendoza's River, Potrerillo's Dam, are some of the most beautiful places that you can visit here.

In those places are multiple activities you can enjoy such as wind surf, canoeing, kayak, rafting, four wheel drive, fourtrack, rappel, top rock, etc. In Mendoza are important and beautiful monuments and attractions such as the Army of The Andes, Cerro de la Gloria, the Continent Fountain in San Martin's General Park, lots of museums, civic centre, cathedral ruins, among others, etc. Moreover, you can find just a few minutes far from downtown the particular Mendoza's Zoo. It is situated in a marvelous place full of a wide variety of vegetation that simulates a jungle. Mendoza receives annually a great number of young people from all over the country who come to start their university studies. Cuyo's National University is the biggest university in the province, having around 37,900 students. The educational offer in Mendoza is one of the largest in Argentina, allowing its inhabitants to study lots of careers without moving their own province. The night life in Mendoza offers options for all ages. Aristides

Villanueva Street, located in the luxurious Fifth Section, provides the youngsters a number of bars, pubs and discos. It is a street full of life where youngsters have a drink and enjoy night before going to dance clubs.

ROSARIO

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.

Volunteer work
Over the years, Rosario has developed a strong organized civil society. There exist numerous Organizations of the Civil Society, Non Governmental Organizations and Social Movements, formed by numerous voluntary people. From the provincial area, the work fulfilled by these organizations has been outlined; consequently, Santa Fe's government launched Programs of Strengthening for Civil Society, to improve the functioning and the effects of these organizations; and of Voluntary work of the Province of Santa Fe "Adding Wills", encouraging

the civil participation in improving social's reality. The volunteer's intervention will generally be directed to 14 – 25 young people of public and private schools of the city and the province of Santa Fe, and to youngsters belonging to vulnerable population of this province. All that integrating the team work of the social projects of OAJNU.

They will have the chance to work on:

- Receive a previous intensive training to develop the activities assigned.
- Participate in all the meetings of the Projects team work.
- Teach high school students at school about of human rights, youth involvement, democracy and social projects. Project: Citizenship of Childhood
- heir projects
- Participate as active member of the United Nations Model group, and, if necessary, train participants on United Nations System, the country they have to represent, negotiations and topics of global agenda.
- Fully work, as authority, during the United Nation Model in Rosario and others cities of Argentina where OAJNU does this project.
- Work with vulnerable youth population of immigrants or aborigine population in communities in some neighborhoods of Rosario City, in order to create spaces of integration with native local

population.

- Collaborate in institutional presentations and fund raising activities to obtain external support for the projects in which the volunteer works.
 - Write a Memory of it experience working on the project of OAJNU and it life in Argentina.
 - Participate in projects in which OAJNU collaborates with other civil society institutions.
 - Help and monitor the students in the process of building and executing their projects
- Partners of OAJNU in Rosario:
- .Vice-Government of Santa Fe Province
 - Provincial Office of Youths Policies. Youth Cabinet.
 - Government of Santa Fe
 - Ministry of Education of Santa Fe Province.
 - Ministry of Innovation and Culture of Santa Fe Province.
 - City Hall Government.
 - 20 Schools where OAJNU develop their projects.
 - Contacts with around 15 Civil Association, NGOs, Institutes and Movements.
 - National University of Rosario. Inter-American Abierta University. Austral University. Latin- American Educative Center University.
 - Contacts with around 10 enterprises and companies.
 - Peace Child Argentina.

CULTURAL & FREE TIME

Rosario is known by its high level in 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. Rosario also has around 70 (seventy) superior education institutes, with a great variety of degrees to choose.

In this context, there are many leisure and recreational activities for students to do. In Rosario, youngsters can find a lot of parks, clubs, beaches and handcrafts markets. At night, students can go to bars, pubs, night club and discos specialized for them. Rosario is characterized by great variety and very high level of cultural activities that take place

in downtown, which turn it as a unique cultural place into the country. In this city, we can find numerous historical and commemorative buildings; the most important one is the Flag National Memorial that evokes the first hoist of the Argentinean flag realized at the beginning of the 19th century. For this reason, Rosario is known as the "Cuna de la Bandera (Cradle of the Flag)".

There are also more than 20 theaters in the city, with a vast range of plays. The Círculo Theatre is a fantastic architectural work, opened to visit it every week.

A lot of Cinemas are available to different types of public, with different style of movies.

There is also a relevant offer of Museums Cultural Centers and Festival and events, examples of them are: Memory Museum, Civic Square, "Juan B. Castagnigno" Municipal Museum of Fine Arts, Rosario Contemporary Art Museum, "Dr. Angel Gallardo" Natural Science Museum, "Bernardino Rivadavia" Cultural Center, National Fest of Collectivities, etc.

SALTA

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 valleys, mountains and rivers in between.

Volunteer work

The volunteer will be permanently working with other young volunteers of OAJNU or related institutions. The working places will vary. A permanent place will be the office of OAJNU, in the downtown area of Buenos Aires; then in private or public schools of residential areas or from the suburban areas.

The volunteer's intervention will generally be directed to 14 – 25 young people of public and private schools of the city and the province of Buenos Aires. All that integrating the team work of the social projects of OAJNU.

They will have the chance to work on:

- Teach high school students at school about of human rights, youth involvement, democracy and social projects. Project: „Citizenship of Childhood”.
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- Train Model United Nations participants on United Nations System, represent their countries

through negotiations and topics of global agenda.

- Fully work during the development of the project „International Model United Nation” in Buenos Aires and others cities of Argentina where OAJNU does this project.

- Work into the international campaign „Stand Up Against Poverty”.

- Work into the Short Film Competition to promote The Millennium Development Goals.

- Fully work during the Model United Nation for university students in Buenos Aires.

- Collaborate in institutional presentations and fundraising activities to obtain external support for the projects in which the volunteer works.

- Write a Memory of each one's working and living experience the project of OAJNU in Argentina.

- Participate in projects in which OAJNU collaborates with other civil society institutions

The partners that will work with OAJNU and will support the volunteers activities are the following:

- 50 Schools where OAJNU develop their projects.
- United Nations Information Centre for Argentina and Uruguay
- Civil Association “Jóvenes Latinoamericanos Unidos” („United Latin American youngsters”)

- Foundation “FUNDAMIND”
- Civil Association “Un Techo para mi País.” („ A roof for my country”)

- Civil Association “GreenCross”

- Civil Association “Idealistas”

- Peace Child Argentina.

- Ashoka.

Red de Escuelas Sutentables is an educational and environmental project for students aged 12 to 18 years in rural schools in the province of Salta. We encourage youth participation and full awareness of environmental care. Through training and participation from areas where young people feel real agents of change, we provide tools and knowledge necessary, on the theme of Environment and Sustainable Development, to warn and detect problematic situations, and pose possible solutions aimed at solving or improving basic aspects of their everyday lives.

CULTURAL & FREE TIME

The city offers traditional tours and secret places. The Colón Theatre and small experimental theaters. Old book stores and new cultural centers. 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 center of town with the obelisk and the Tigre delta, a few kilometers away from the urban center. 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.

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EVS in Peru

VENTANILLA

The District of Ventanilla is located in the largest constitutional province, Callao, and the second in population. The district has gone through a process of economic, social, cultural, political, urban change, etc. many of them planned. Territorially, it is inarticulate, untidy, with worrying levels of environmental pollution and has grown with rhythms that have exceeded the capacity of local management. It is located at 34 kilometers West of Lima - Peru's largest city - and 18 kilometers north of Callao with a population of 277,685 inhabitants.

VOLUNTEER WORK

It is recommended a stay in the project of minimum 2 months in order to achieve the goals proposed and to ensure fluidity to the other projects.

The volunteers who come for a whole year, can take three weeks vacation separated by periods. The first can be done in the month of March, the second on the month of August and the third in the month of December. For the volunteers who come for a period less than a year and they want to

take vacations, they should apply this requirement directly to the project coordinator.

The volunteer's working schedule will be 6 days per week, from Monday to Saturday and 6 hours per day. The schedule is usually flexible.

The volunteers will have the chance to get involved in the social work. Working with disadvantaged children and youngsters, who run the risk of social exclusion because of poverty or because they come from broken families. The volunteers can choose to work on:

- activities of leisure and good use of leisure time, with children and adolescents
- give assistance to other volunteers and coordinators of the association
- to stimulate and to mobilize the community in general and the youngsters in particular to take initiatives by organizing campaigns, raising awareness on the problems that affect the youngsters
- to stimulate the involvement of local authorities through promotion and publicity of organizations and voluntary work

- to contribute to the community development through education
 - promote volunteering among the youngsters in the community who don't perceive yet the benefits of being a volunteer
- One of the programmes that the organization has set up and for which it needs foreign volunteers who will respond to the local needs, bringing also an added value is called „Aprender en Verano“ („Summer learning“). The programme arises from the lack of opportunities concerning participation and good use of free time during the summer holiday season when it is evident the need of the children from the community to occupy their free time during this time of the year. Once the children finish the school year, they have no space or a set of appropriate activities and the existing activities do not follow a schedule compatible with the working hours of parents. Besides this circumstances, there are the economic issues and the difficult access to this type of activities which sometimes can not be found within the area of residence.

The „Summer Learning“ programme is designed to offer a recreational space based on cultural activities; sports; games; outdoor activities; trainings. The programme has the purpose of giving the children the opportunity for personal development and development of social skills. The usual activities developed with volunteers for the summer schedule are: sports (football, basketball; ping-pong); school rehabilitation; artistic activities; cultural exhibitions; contests on cultural or sports theme; classes of foreign languages; walks on the beach. Therefore the volunteers should have skills in organizing recreational activities and they also should have skills in singing, dancing, painting, sports, etc. The volunteers are expected to help the children develop a sense of responsibility, to develop the children's artistic skills, to develop the children's social skills. The organization will develop work schemes for all communities where they intervene, each according to the communities and the volunteer's possibilities.