

"Learning by Living Together"



*The process of adaptation and integration
of European Volunteers in Romania
seen through the eyes of volunteers*



Description of the project

“Learning by living together” has the purpose to make movie about intercultural communication between European volunteers and Romanian people. It means to show the everyday life of Romanian people and the fact of integration in Romanian society from different cultures. The project proposes to visit all communities in Romania where live European volunteers and who can tell about their experiences. This will be a movie made by and for youngsters who are interested in cultural learning and volunteer work. The main initiators of the project are Romanian youngsters and EVS volunteers from France and Armenia.

Motivation and context

At the moment we are doing European Voluntary Service in Romania. We are working with young volunteers from different nationalities, different cultures. At the same time, we have started to communicate with people from Romania, who has also their own culture. All along this project (9 months in Romanian county called Gorj) our aim is to spread European awareness, building intercultural communication, bridges between different European cultures. In this way, we want to make a movie to get and understand the answers of these questions:

- How youngsters from different cultures are able to integrate to a new culture which is maybe quite different from their own?

- How can foreigners, as *exotic people*, become more accepted within the community than local Romanian citizens?
- What are added values getting after doing voluntary work?
- Which criteria will prove the quality of the volunteer's work? How will the quality of the volunteers' work be measured?

The movie, shooting in communities where there are volunteers, will answer to these questions, and will be an instrument to inform future volunteers, as well as sending and hosting EVS organisations, NGOs, about the reality of voluntary service, and local mentality

Aims

- To make a research about life in a Romanian community with focus on the intercultural communication between local people and volunteers from different European countries.
- To show everyday life of Romanian people as well as other ethnic minorities (Roma, Hungarian, etc).
- To provide an instrument to inform future volunteers, as well as sending and hosting EVS organizations, NGOs, about the reality of voluntary service, and local mentality.

Methodology

- Visiting each community in order to conduct focus groups, interviews, filming, with the volunteers from different NGOs, with their coordinators, and with the people from their community.
- All along the project data will be collected and analyzed.
- Informational campaign by producing DVD and realizing brochures.
- Sending the resulting work to Romanian NGOs and to European National Agencies.

About us

Our visit of the different communities and feelings

Sadu: It was the first community that we visited in our project. We didn't have any experience before in moviemaking. We just had theoretical planning, strict questionnaires and ideas which we wanted to implement into practice. So we went to the community of Marrienne (from Norway) and Natalia (from Uckraine). First step that we did we went to school in order to make interviews with the teachers, students, and took some images when volunteers made activities. After we took interviews from volunteers and host family. We also took some interviews from the people from the community. We wanted to take an interview from old people in order to get some information about the mentality that old generation of Romania has and which can influence to the work of volunteers. Here the bad point was that people from the community didn't accept good that somebody is filming them and mainly didn't want to speak in front of big camera.

Bustuchin: It was the community of Donato (from Portugal) and Zinaida (Armenia). We have to write that we had more expectations from this community when in the reality it was. We wanted to show the everyday life of volunteers at school, at home with the teachers etc. We managed to take some good images from the community but we didn't manage to take interviews from the teachers because they didn't agree to give an interview without professional translator. We have to mention that the arrangements were done before and at the last moment everything was changed. The youngsters weren't informed about a lot of things and although they asked some time to prepare for the questions but during the interview they skipped a lot of questions. We can say that it was good point to show about how much the youngsters are informed or at least have their own opinion about some questions. Interview was also done with Donato. We just managed to make an interview with the director of the school and narrative interview with one of the teachers.

Tismana: Community of Geraldine(from France) and Olga(from Uckraine). Everything was organized very good.

Tirgu Carbunesti

Partners

TV station from Craiova wich is providing support with the Movie Montage and Filming



The **European Youth Foundation (EYF)** is a fund established in 1972 by the Council of Europe to provide financial support for European youth activities

