

Behind Borders

A person with long brown hair, wearing glasses and a brown scarf, is shown in profile from the chest up. They are looking out over a body of water under a hazy, sunset-like sky. The person is wearing a dark leather jacket. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

An EVS Project meant to support the personal and professional development of young people involved in it as well as to lead to development of community as a support for youngsters in general.

VOLUNTEER



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PROJECT'S AIM

The main objective of the project is therefore to have 1 young person from Belgium who have a better understanding of interpersonal solidarity and social responsibility that goes across all age groups and is not limited by any political, cultural or social border, and are empowered to bring the European dialog to the next level.

Dates of the mobility: 01.03.2018 - 30.08.2018



CURBA DE CULTURĂ

CURBA DE CULTURĂ - RECEIVING ORGANIZATION

Curba de Cultură focuses on teenagers and youth development. Our mission is to use non-formal education as a complementary method to the formal educational system for young people. We want to create the premises for a better development of the young people and their more suited integration within their respective communities. We want to make young people aware that they actively belong to their local and national culture.

We started hosting EVS in 2015 and since then we hosted 12 volunteers in 5 different projects. Ever since, the impact upon community was stronger and more visible than expected so we decided to continue hosting EVS volunteers in order to ease the community development.

More about the implemented projects:
<http://evs.curbadecultura.ro/>

HOSTING ENVIRONMENT

The youth centre will be the base of operations for all projects taking place in the rural community of Izvoarele village, Prahova County in Romania. The beautiful surroundings and the mountain landscape will provide an excellent environment for building trust, tolerance and understanding and will create great personal development opportunities. The commune has a population of 6268 and it is spread over several hills and river basins. The actual name of the village, Izvoarele, it's translated as "Springs" as natural springs can be found on each road or alley in the area. The main revenue source in the community is timber processing, as well as small agriculture.

The hosting placement, Izvoarele, is 60 kms from Brasov, 50 kms away from Ploiesti and 110 kms away from Bucharest, the capital and the main city in Romania. The volunteers will live inside the community, which is a regular mountain community in rural Romania.



Accommodation will be provided in a traditional rural house, therefore the volunteers will be responsible for their own resource management and will have the opportunity of experimenting the rural life of the community thus developing strong civic and social skills. The temperature does not exceed 35 celsius in mid summer and can go as well as -12 celsius in mid winter. Izvoarele is a warm hearted community and most people are religious. The main faith is Orthodox, yet Catholic and Adventist communities are present. The youth centre is serving the local community providing educational activities, training courses, campaigns and events. It also serves as a networking and friendship building framework for young people in the community offering the space and opportunity for planning trips throughout the country and mountain hikes. The youngsters also develop projects in the interest of the community with the help and support of the staff. The youth centre also offers a public library aimed at young people and plenty of games and juggling resources and materials.

PRACTICALITIES

Support and training

The volunteers will receive language courses, through the OLS system. The volunteers will also receive the support of a local mentor to help integrate within the community and develop and follow his/her personal development plan during the project. In order to be able to fully respond to the tasks of the project, the volunteers will receive training in:

- basic nonformal learning
- feedback and communication techniques
- basic event management.

Accommodation. Additional Resources

All volunteers will be hosted in a traditional mountain house in the community. The house will be shared among volunteers hosted in shared dormitories. The volunteers will have the possibility to host guests, but loud parties are not tolerated (especially by the local police).

The facilities offered will be the following: kitchen, bathroom, phone, access to a washing machine, ironing machine and a vacuum cleaner. Broadband wireless internet (1 Gbps) and cable TV will be available in the office/ youth centre.

Local Transportation. Food. Allowance

As the community is not widespread, the volunteers will be provided bicycles for transportation within the municipalities. For farther transportation they will use the public transport system – minibuses for which they will be provided with monthly cards.

Food is not something strange in the community of Izvoarele- Romania, people have used it for thousands of years (And since we're not quite in Transylvania, we don't drink blood.). It can be found in local traditional markets, in local shops, in local households as small agriculture is one of the main occupations in Izvoarele or at the supermarket in the nearest town (Valenii de Munte – 15 mins away). The volunteer will be responsible for acquiring and cooking his/ her own food and will be granted the equivalent of 100 EUR/ month to do so. The volunteer will be responsible for providing receipts for the total amount received. Receipts including alcohol or non food products will not be accepted.

Allowance will granted once per month or per week as preferred by the volunteers in the equivalent of 60 EUR/ month. It will be dispensed along with the food budget.

Info regarding prices:

- 1 EUR = 4.45 RON (the currency is called „LEI”)
- 1 loaf of bread = 1.00 RON
- tomatoes = 0.5 RON/ kg during summer season or up to 8 RON off-season.
- Olive oil = not really handy. We use sun flower oil. Sun flower oil = 7 RON / L
- potatoes = between 0.5 and 2 RON/ kg
- Pork meat (we love pork!) = 14 RON /kg
- Local beer = 1.5 – 3 RON / 0.5 liters

ACTIVITIES

The activities the volunteers will organize and take part in will be, but not limited to:

1. Promoting nonformal learning and volunteering. This will be done in local school in the community through energizers, icebreakers, teambuilding games, simulation games and workshops during small events or during different holidays (Education Day, Halloween, Volunteers Day, Christmas etc).
2. Non-formal learning activities with young people and children in the school during English language classes.
3. Nonformal learning activities with young people aged 15-19 within the Youth Centre. The volunteers (EVS and local) will design and implement short activities or workshops for young people attending the youth centre. They will facilitate board games and competitions, group discussions and English Speaking meetings.
4. Organizing cinema nights in the community and the surrounding villages. A team made of EVS volunteers and local volunteers will be in charge of organizing cinema nights for the community.
5. Managing the library within the youth centre. Curba de Cultura youth centre has also a library with books interesting for youngsters.
6. Documenting activities and reporting. For every activity the volunteers will have to fill in a report.
7. Mentoring sessions. As often as agreed with the mentor they will help volunteers evaluate their learning process, set objectives and mediate possible incidents.





**"BEHIND BORDERS"
IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO DISCOVER
YOURSELF AND TO IMPROVE THE WORLD YOU
LIVE IN**