

EVS IN BITOLA MAKEDONIA

EVS PROJECTS IN MACEDONIA



TOGETHER
MACEDONIA IS A
NON-PROFIT
ORGANISATION
FOUNDED IN 2006

THE COORDINATION OF EVS GREW NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU!!!

SINCE 2008 WE COORDINATE VOLUNTEERS' PROJECTS IN THE REGION OF BITOLA IN MAKEDONIA

THERE WILL BE 5 PROJECTS COORDINATED BY TOGETHER: MUSEUM, THEATRE, KINDERGADEN, ORPHANAGE AND TOGETHER ORGANISATION ITSELF.

THE COORDINATION WILL HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT THROUGH LOCAL PROJECTS. WE WILL BE THE PIONEERS IN THE REGION AND WE WILL MAKE THE EUROPEAN IDEA GROWING IN THE REPUBLIC OF MAKEDONIA.

THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES SUPPORT OUR PROJECTS AND THE LOCAL COUNCIL OF BITOLA SUPPORTS THE PROJECT.

EVS IN TOGETHER IS NOT ONLY A VOLUNTEERING PROJECT IN AN ORGANISATION. IT IS A GREAT NON-FORMAL EDUCATION EXPERIENCE, IT IS A CHANCE TO LEARN HOW TO DEAL IN

FOREIGN COUNTRIES, TO COPE WITH AN UNKNOWN ENVIRONMENT, TO STUDY OTHER LANGUAGES, TO DISCOVER TOGETHER WITH OTHER VOLUNTEERS DIFFERENT CULTURES.

TO GIVE AND TO GET, AND THIS DURING THE WHOLE TIME OF AN EVS PROJECT, AND ONCE IT IS FINISHED, IT IS TIME TO MULTIPLY THE EFFECT.

THE COORDINATION IS BORN WITH THE ENERGY OF AN EX-VOLUNTEER, MITRE GEORGIEV, WHO TOOK THE RESPONSIBILITY TO CREATE TOGETHER IN BITOLA. IN THE NEAREST FUTURE THE NUMBER OF THE PROJECTS WILL GROW, AND LIKE THAT, WILL GIVE MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO YOUNG PEOPLE.

LUC WENDLING
FOUNDER OF THE NETWORK



The volunteer spirit

Our Philosophy

By MITRE GEORGIEV, President of Together Makedonia

The word "volunteer" is derived from Latin "voluntas" and is the synonym for free will, or personal choice. Ever since the beginning of the movement, volunteers have been driven by the wish to contribute positively to today's societies, working towards peaceful living conditions through a common effort. **Peace and international understanding, friendship and co-operation** form the part of the overall aims of voluntary service. These are pursued through a common commitment based on a free personal decision and through the coming together of individuals and groups of different backgrounds.

We are expecting you as a volunteer to join our team and philosophy of the organisation with all your enthusiasm, loyalty and commitment. We will provide you with possibilities to use our resources but asking you your **time and enthusiasm to help, your willingness to learn, openness to new experience** (sometimes it may be negative also...) and certainly the **respect** of rules and agreements, as well as the respect of our members, and your colleague volunteers.

For all this we will offer you:

- Possibility to work in an international NGO
- Possibility to learn new skills, e.g. project management (but many-many others besides - you will be surprised yourself how much you'll learn!)
- New contacts and friends
- Chance to learn a new language (or make it fluent)
- Possibility to live and work with interesting international people

- Possibility to travel
- Accommodation and food
- Pocket money
- This means that you will not have a many-star hotel to live in, or any other benefits like this.

NB!!!

Volunteer service is NOT a holiday, a job, a stage, an opportunity to learn a language that is simply paid for you on the part of European Comission!!!

Certainly, you will be provided with basic things needed - you will have a simple room to live, some of you will share the room space with each other. As far as food is concerned, some of you will eat at the working place (ADEPPA) some of you will get money to buy food by yourselves, etc.

The most important that you should come with the volunteer spirit. It means **the wish first of all to give, and not to take.**

Please, make sure that you realise it before you come on the place. It will help you to avoid possible disappointment. If you have doubts there is still time to tell it to us!

But at the same time don't be afraid... © We will take very good care of you, and having the volunteer spirit ourselves in our organisation, we will offer you friendly atmosphere, and help to deal in case of difficulties.

We will meet very often, and we will overcome difficulties (if they appear) **TOGETHER!**

EXAMPLE OF AN ACTIVITY:

Theater show in Bitola in the frame of a youth exchange.

The exchange gave the possibility to 50 young people to meet, to learn about theater, to develop intercultural skills and to contribute to our idea of a wide Europe.



THE COORDINATION: What is it?...How it works?!!

Dear Ambassadors,
Very-very soon, your life may change...

And it's just because some time ago you took your personal decision to become a volunteer in France. Remember, not so long ago you were writing motivation letters, filling in various application forms, and - what a great news - you were chosen!!! Then, you felt impatient because you were waiting for the decision of the National Agency, and again a fantastic news follows - your project is approved, and very soon you have to leave for another country and start a new life experience...

I can bet that now when everything is certain and the organisation, where you wanted to help, is waiting for you, thousands and thousands of questions and doubts start to appear in your head.

This "philosophy" was created especially for you in order to give some answers to your questions and make the situation clearer. Of course, not everything is mentioned, but it is an important guideline for your project within the coordination of "TOGETHER":

Language training:

As far as the language training is concerned, you will get a possibility to improve your skills on the place, no matter what language level you have at the moment. However, if you are a "complete zero" in English, or in Macedonian, please, make an effort to find some conversation book, or language course right now, so that you're able to know at least a bit by the moment of your arrival.

The language training will depend mostly on your individual motivation to study. From our side, we will provide you with necessary methodology - DVD with a language course, various dictionaries and French books, etc. We will also encourage you to make a duo with a local youngster (whom you can motivate to listen and probably also to learn a little bit your mother tongue).

And certainly, what is probably the most important for language learning, you will be surrounded by real Macedonian people everywhere - on your working place, in town, in shops, etc. So, just use the opportunities that you'll have!

We will also provide you with a language course in average once a week.

Other practical things:

You are going to receive pocket money on your Macedonian bank account that you will open when you're already on the place.

It's up to you how to spend it: you can buy food if you don't like the one you'll have at the place where you will live, or you will consider that there is not enough food, you can buy your telephone cards, buy something that you think is missing in your room (some freaky lamp, for example), etc.

I would like just to remind again that it will not be a hotel, where you are going to stay, but at the same time you will be provided with all necessary things. However, if you would feel like changing something - you will be able to do it with your own monthly allowance.

Common activities

In order to make the coordination live, there will be meeting between all of you, sometimes with us, sometimes in small groups. We mixed as much as possible the accommodation places so that to provoke the maximum of mix between yourself.



"I took this photo during one of the activities that I was leading in the organisation. A great day, a nice moment and the overview of the time I spent as a volunteer in France"

Mitre, a volunteer from Macedonia

We will make meetings several times per month, sometimes more often so that to brainstorm about the leisure time activities and about some activities that make EVS visible at local level.

You will together meet local organisations and be European ambassadors! Part of these meetings we will organize, but part of them you will be able to organise soon yourselves.

Use of photos and videos

"Together" organization has a right to use photos and videos taken by and/or with the participation of the volunteers in promotional and communicational aims, such as for the web pages, leaflets, newsletters, posters and so on.

Holidays and volunteering time

You will be volunteering around and maximum 35 hours per week (language lessons are the part of it as well as the on-arrival and mid-term trainings, the last are considered as 8 hours per day). Arrival and departure days do not make the part of volunteering time. Every project will function differently on the interest of the volunteer and also on the interest of the project itself.

You will have an official "rate" of holidays @ 28 days per year. In practice, every hosting organisation deals with the holidays as they wish.

We will make some "calendar", where we will note the important activities planned, so that to organise our time in the best way. The project has to agreed with the period of holidays (no way to be on holidays during a big international activity planned!)

Youthpass

European Volunteer Service is based on the principals of **non-formal education** - that is everything, going out of the frame a formal one. This gives learning opportunities outside schools, universities, and other similar institutions.

Without doubts, you will learn a lot during your project, and sometimes about the things you couldn't expect from the beginning. In order to make your learning as efficient as possible, you have to **take yourselves responsibility** for it, and to put clear **aims**, about what you wish to learn. Before coming for the project, take a pen and paper and reflect about such items like: "What exactly I wish to learn during my project?" (be as precise as possible), "In what period of time I want to learn it?", "Who can help me in that?" and so on.

You will have opportunities to come back to these notes again and again, bringing new ideas and changes. All that you will need afterwards by the end of your EVS project, when you will be analyzing the and evaluating the whole period of time, spent in another country with so many different people and tasks.

And the great news - you can get an **officially recognized certificate, called YOUTHPASS** (www.youthpass.eu), where you can write your personal self-assessment of the things that you learnt. One of the priorities of the supporters of the Programme is to make this certificate recognizable at various levels, and it can be a great added value for you after your EVS, when you will wish to continue your studies, look for a job, etc.

We will come back to this topic when you are on place, but it will be good that you start to find out what "Youthpass", "non-formal education" and "Key Competences" is (hmmm... what could these strange words mean?) already before coming to Macedonia.



Fanni Mezei

A volunteer in a TOGETHER project in France

A REAL EXPERIENCE EVS IN TOGETHER

BY FANNI MEZEI

My name is Fanni, 20 years old, and I was born in Budapest. Since 8 years old, I have been living with my family in Germany. In June 2007 I graduated from high school in Berlin.

Before going to university I wanted to go abroad to try living independently.

When I heard about EVS, I thought that it was the best possibility for me to challenge myself and to have fun on one hand and to engage myself in social work on the other.

Already after having lived only two months in France I can say, that this was the best decision for me in order to become independent and more self-confident. I am sharing my everyday life with people from other cultures, widening my horizons and learning to see Europe as a whole.

My main task in the organisation is to help realizing youth exchanges and trainings. I help with the preparation on place and at the end with many administrative tasks. Me and other volunteers are responsible for the newsletter, in which we report on our actual and future projects. Our task is, of course, also to inform and to involve more and more youngsters into our activities.

In the nearest future another exciting project is being planned: opening a cafeteria at the university of Metz. We will create a place for students, where they can meet, exchange ideas and get information how to participate in the projects supported by the EU. All in all, I can say that it will be a very colourful year, full of interesting tasks and, of course, big challenges.

All available projects:

By Nikola Ivanovski

LONG-TERM AND SHORT-TERM PROJECTS

"TOGETHER MACEDONIA"

Themes: Youth, children and the local community
Short description: Volunteers will be the part of the team from the very beginning of the project. The activities that they will take part in are:

- Promotion of local activities of association (communication, newsletter, interviews, updating the webpage, creating and distributing the flyers, meeting in youth houses, municipality, participating in the fairs, concerts, festivals, etc.)
- Promotion of European awareness and explaining the possibilities of youth in Europe and providing info about Europe
- Assistance with international youth exchanges projects as well as support for trainings and seminars
- Organising and presenting exhibitions, providing and defending European values
- Technical and practical preparation of activities
- regular participation in team meetings, creation of the programme, etc.

The activities will also include:

- documentation of the activities of the association (taking pictures, making films, newsletters, webpage, etc)
- language lessons

realisation of personal ideas and project with assistance of the project coordinator

"MUSEUM"

Themes: Art, culture

Short description: The regular activities of the volunteer during the project will be a help and assistance for the works, taking place in the Institutions. These include:

1. Academic paintings (retouch of icons and frescos)
2. Conservation of mosaics, frescos and icons
3. "Decoding" - reading of inscriptions and texts (e.g. on the monuments, or manuscripts)
4. Architecture works
5. Technical support (preparation of exhibitions, gardeners and other on-going works)
6. Archeological works
7. Helping with applications for cultural grants

However, none of previous knowledge or experience in the above-mentioned fields is required. Nevertheless, interest and motivation are very welcome, as it will help the volunteers to get into the process faster, and to get an amazing learning experience.

There will be also a space and support for the realisation of individual project of the volunteer. We are also open for the volunteers' ideas and ways of doing their tasks. We are convinced that the volunteers will get new interesting experience.

"THEATRE"

Themes: Art, culture

Short description: The volunteer will be the part of the theatre team. During the first month of the project, the volunteer will have a time for integration into the team, and to understand how the theatre is functioning. This will give him/her the time to receive the presentation of the activities, existing in the theatre, to try several of them, and to see which ones are better fitting to his/her personal capacities.

There will be two main options for the volunteer to choose from :

1. he/she will help with the organisation of the theatre plays, help with simple tasks and everyday life of the theatre
2. If he/she shows an initiative the volunteer can be more included in the marketing, promoting the theatre plays in the tourist info office, hotels and other places, where there is traffic of tourists.

All in all, the proposed activities for the volunteers will be the following:

- help with the organisation of the plays, spectacles, performances, concerts
- technical support (lights, props, changing the scenes, etc)
- working on the promotion and marketing of the plays

"KINDERGARDEN"

Themes: Children and the local community

Short description:The balance of the volunteer's tasks will be the following:

- * 50% of the volunteer activity will be direct working with children in the kindergarden. This work includes:
 - Activities for the children - drawing, dance, music, games, theatre, sports activities etc
 - Participation in preparation of the summer-camp for children and work in the camp (organizing various out door and indoor games, some music and theatre activities, artistic moments - drawing, painting, dancing, going for walks - all together with our staff)
 - Help with meals in the kindergarden - assisting in the organisational side, looking after the children.

- * 25% of the volunteer activity will be related to work in the surrounding district. The volunteers will accompany the social worker during the work with the children and their families in the neighbourhood. This work includes:
 - Assistance of the social workers in the kindergarden, including common activities for the people living in the district
 - Decoration of the kindergarden by drawing on the walls together with the children, preparing the decorations for the holidays
 - Involvement of local people into these activities, promotion of the activities among the people living in the district etc

- * 25% of the volunteer activity will be language training, other work-related training and personal support / evaluation activities

"ORPHANAGE"

Themes: Children and social inclusion

Short description: The regular activity of the volunteer will be the following:

- preparing the events together with the children (exhibitions, concerts, fests, etc)
- helping with the hygiene of the children (cleaning them after eating, playing and so on)
- helping with feeding the children
- taking care of their health (they have medicine personal in the institution that take care of the children so volunteer can help in there work with constant help of the employees there)
- playing with them during the day they have there own toys or with games, also helping with new toys that comes like donation few times a year.
- making their own toys through various methods of handicraft.
- Involvement of local people into these activities of the institution (by meetings, press-conferences, and invitation to the organised events)
- tacking care with the correspondence, especially the one that will be in English, or other language that the volunteer would know



WE ARE ALSO SENDING THE VOLUNTEERS!!!

BY MITRE GEORGIEV

A lot of young people from every background look for a voluntary service through the network of partners and organisations. They are integrated into our international activities and are prepared for a long intercultural experience process.

In order to give a better guarantee that EVS will be a great experience both for young people and the hosting organisation, we give a contribution for a visit of the project before its beginning (what is not financed by Youth in Action for long-term volunteers).



How to reach us? What to do to become a volunteer?

By Nikola Ivanovski

In order to become a volunteer, first of all you have to think if it is something you would really like to do.

Then, eventually, you should contact a sending organisation to get to know a bit more about what EVS is.

You can obviously contact us and send us the TOGETHER curriculum vitae carefully filled in. It can be downloaded from our webpage WWW.NETWORK-TOGETHER.EU.

We wish to see the volunteers before the beginning of the project, as we think it is a serious step to spend a year abroad, as it is a serious thing to host young person for one year and we encourage the previous visit of the place.

For the visit we can offer to meet you at the airport, to host and accommodate you for 1 or 2 days in the volunteers' space, so that you could see the project. You can

take the low fare plane that lands in Thessaloniki and it is worth planning the year you will spend abroad.

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