



**ZOOM
EAST
2019**



Youth Work
Erasmus+ Youth
European Solidarity Corps
Eastern Europe and the Caucasus



Editorial introduction

Dear reader!

We are very happy to present the second issue of Zoom East. This magazine is published by the SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus Resource Centre in cooperation with its network of Info Centres for Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps. The first issue of Zoom East with its focus on presenting European youth programme developments in the region was well received. We hope this second issue is equally successful.

Every year hundreds of organisations and thousands of young people are involved in many different European youth projects in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. Naturally Zoom East does not and cannot pretend to cover all the programmes in the region in detail. Instead our aim is to showcase studies and diverse examples of youth work activities related to European educational programmes for young people.

The network of Info Centres, that contribute to the content of this magazine, was created in 2017 with the aim of promoting European youth programmes. In each of the

7 countries in the region there is one Info Centre. You will find information about their work in this issue of Zoom East.

Each country in the region has its own section in this magazine with articles published in English as well as in the local language. We would like the materials in local languages not just be translations of English versions. They are full fledged articles, presenting unique projects or youth field work, adopted to local readers. The last section is devoted to SALTO EECA materials. Again, with the same approach – we do not plan to report all our activities, but more to highlight examples of our work and its direction.

We hope Zoom East will become a significant resource in European educational programmes for youth. It should help to promote the programmes in the region and to build their recognition among stakeholders, from young people to youth policy makers. The magazine will hopefully also add to the attractiveness of Eastern Partnership countries and Russia and will highlight the quality of youth projects implemented in the east.

Enjoy reading! If you have any feedback for us, do not hesitate to let us know! You will find our contact details at the end of the magazine.

Your SALTO EECA team.



What is the SALTO-YOUTH Resource Centres network?

SALTO-YOUTH stands for Support, Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities for Youth. It is part of the Erasmus+ Youth programme, the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport as well as the European Solidarity Corps volunteering programme.

SALTO-YOUTH is a network of seven Resource Centres working on European priority areas within the youth field. As part of the European Commission's Training Strategy, SALTO-YOUTH provides non-formal learning resources for youth workers and youth leaders and organises training and contact-making activities to support organisations and National Agencies within the framework of the European Union's Erasmus+ Youth, European Solidarity Corps programmes and beyond.

The seven resource centres each focus on a specific topic or region. They are all based at a different Erasmus+ National Agency. The resource centres are:

- SALTO Inclusion & Diversity (Belgium-Flanders)
- SALTO Participation & Information (Estonia)
- SALTO Training and Cooperation (Germany)

- SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus (Poland)
- SALTO EuroMed (France)
- SALTO South-East Europe (Slovenia)
- European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre (Austria)

In addition to their specific priorities, the SALTO-YOUTH Resource Centres have a number of joint tasks such as developing training resources, researching the field of European youth work and producing regular newsletters about European youth work priorities. The network offers useful tools:

- The European Training Calendar is where you'll find trainings and seminars run by SALTO, National Agencies and organisations active in the youth field.
- The Toolbox for Training contains hundreds of tools and activity ideas for youth work.
- Otlas Partner Finding puts you in touch with thousands of youth projects, so you can build strong partnerships for future cooperation.
- Trainers Online for Youth is a directory of over 500 trainers, who can deliver international training activities.
- HOP online learning offers a growing number of online courses targeting different aspects of European youth work.

Find more at:
www.salto-youth.net



A new Corporate Visual Identity (CVI) for SALTO

Finally!

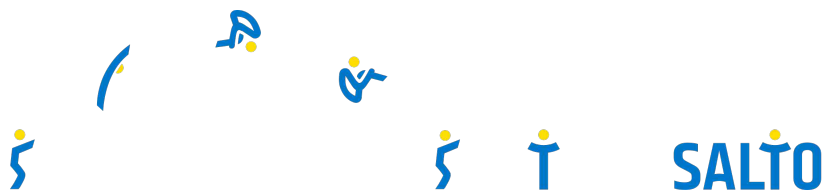
As part of our efforts for continuous improvement we recently spent many months reflecting on the role we perform as a SALTO Resource Centres, how are we perceived, and how we want to be seen. As a result we have produced a new CVI. It was developed by BrandNew from Estonia. As the SALTO network is made of over 30 officers with different opinions and tastes, it was not easy. However, finally we managed to compromise and we are very proud of our new outlook. It is modern and professional, and we already know... people like it!

Soon you can expect many of our online and printed resources to be rebranded. The SALTO-YOUTH portal as well as our social media and common newsletter should gain a new look. Our printed materials,

new leaflet and gadgets will be branded with new CVI as well.

The new CVI will allow us to position ourselves even more clearly in the heart of the European youth programmes as a network of professional Resource Centres in the field of youth. Our offer should be even more interesting and... good looking from now on.

Hopefully you will like it!



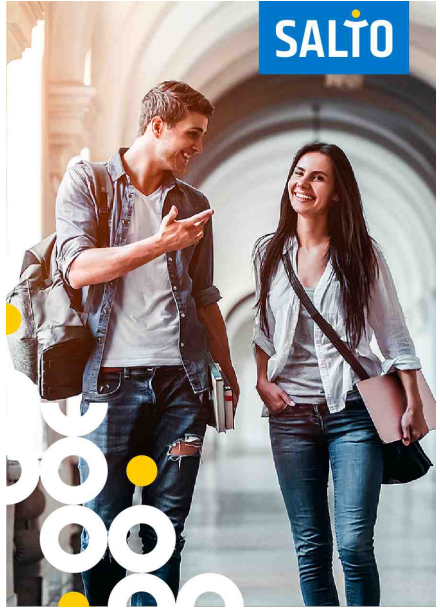




TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARMENIA	1
AZERBAIJAN	7
BELARUS	13
GEORGIA	19
MOLDOVA	25
RUSSIA	31
UKRAINE	37
SALTO EECA	43



ARMENIA

Հայաստան



European Youth programmes are closer to Armenian youngsters

The Erasmus+ Youth info session in Yerevan formed part of the volunteering coordinators annual meeting. In February 2018 representatives of the Info Centre in Armenia in cooperation with SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus organized an info session in Yerevan during the volunteering coordinators' annual meeting. During the meeting the main aims and the activities of the Info Centre were presented to the 28 representatives of the organisations actively involved in the European Voluntary Service / European Solidarity Corps.

Afterwards the representative of SALTO EECA held an info session describing the changes in the Erasmus+ programme as well as provided information on Erasmus+ capacity building within the Eastern Partnership Youth window. Those who couldn't be present at the info session had the opportunity to follow it on-line and address their questions to the expert.

www.facebook.com/EP.Armenia

Training course on volunteering mentorship

In June 2018 the Gyumri "Youth Initiative Centre", as part of the Info Centre in Armenia, held a one day training course on volunteering mentorship in the Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences. The training course was aimed at improving the quality of volunteering projects by contributing to the development of the potential of hosting organisations. During the training course 12 young people from different cities of Armenia had an opportunity to learn more about European volunteering possibilities as well as to discover the methods and tools available to support and guide the volunteers towards the development of their competences.

Youth Opportunities Fair

In June 2018 the first "Youth Opportunities Fair" took place in Yerevan as part of the European Union funded project "EU for Youth, Skills for the Future". During the Fair more than 30 organisations were represented. The Info Centre in Armenia participated in the Fair, introducing its activities as well as advertising the opportunities provided by European Youth programmes.

Annual Event for ex-volunteers

From the 10th to 12th of August 2018 the Info Centre in Armenia, prior to the International Youth Day in Gyumri, supported an event for



22 ex-volunteers from Armenia and Georgia. As part of the activity, ex-volunteers had the opportunity to reflect on and evaluate their international volunteering experiences and share it with local youngsters.

International Youth Day

On the 11th of August 2018 large-scale public events took place in Gyumri, celebrating International Youth Day. The activities were organised by the Gyumri "Youth Initiative Centre" in cooperation with the UN Population Fund Armenia, the SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus Resource Centre and "ArmEvents" non-formal group.

The Director of the Foundation for the Development of the Education System in Poland and the representatives of the SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus Resource Centre took part in the event. The delegation had a familiarisation and partnership building meeting at the Gyumri municipality with the Mayor Samvel Balasanyan. During the meeting the importance of international youth cooperation and implementation of youth projects in Gyumri was discussed. The Mayor highlighted the importance of coordination of the activities of Info Centre in Armenia by Gyumri "Youth Initiative Centre" and its high role in international youth cooperation and youth work development. He also stated that the Gyumri municipality

is always ready to support the Info Centre in Armenia, especially since it is located in Gyumri city.

The events dedicated to the International Youth Day continued in the Theatrical Square where the Gyumri youth had an opportunity to learn about Erasmus+ Youth opportunities.

Webinar on the European volunteering programme

In October 2018 the Info Centre in Armenia organized a webinar on the recent changes and updates of the European Solidarity Corps programme. During the webinar individuals and the representatives of the organizations had an opportunity to learn about:

- The differences between the former European Voluntary Service (EVS) and the current European Solidarity Corps (ESC) programmes;
- What opportunities it provides and who can participate;
- How an organization can apply for and implement projects.

During the webinar there was also an opportunity for the attendees to get answers to their questions.

International Volunteer Day

From 4th to 5th of December 2018, together with Armenian Caritas, KASA Gumri Centre d'accueil et de formation, Gyumri Technology Center and Enterprise



Incubator Foundation, the Info Centre in Armenia implemented a successive "International Volunteer Day 2018".

As part of the project the following events took place on the 4th of December:

- Volunteering Fair: with participation of local and international organizations that provide volunteering service and/or give volunteering opportunities.
 - Workshops: presentation of experience, discussions with the participation of voluntary work organizers and service providers, skills development.
 - Volunteer talks: success stories.
 - Award ceremony: "The Best Volunteering Initiative of the Year".
- On December 5, "Volunteering Prospects in Armenia", a forum dedicated to International Volunteer day took place. During the forum the following activities were available:
 - Reporting: the results of volunteering organizations mapping (Armenian Caritas) completed as part of "Promotion of volunteering organizations and volunteering in Eastern Europe countries" project.
 - Parallel working group discussions on:
 - legal frameworks for voluntary work,
 - coordination of voluntary work,
 - motivations and expectations in voluntary work.
 - discussion on further steps and solutions,
 - summary.



Startup Boomerang Expo

In September 2018, as part of the Erasmus+ programme, with the support of the "Future in Our Hands" NGO and the Abovyan municipality, the StartUp Boomerang Expo was held in Abovian. More than ten start-ups of different sectors presented their newly created programmes, advantages and market requirements. Many even allowed visitors to try and evaluate projects through test versions.

The founder of the "Future in Our Hands" NGO, Tigranuhi Aleksanyan, highlighted that the initiative was an opportunity to inform young people living in Abovyan about Erasmus+ programme and its opportunities for non-formal education. The Expo project was used to introduce the Armenian youth to the products and promote them beyond the borders of Armenia.

The participants of the Erasmus+ project introduced a plastic bottles collecting project. Cars labelled "Natural Friends" were used as collection points. People could receive symbolic money by placing their plastic bottles into the car, thereby reducing environmental pollution.

Participants arrived from Montenegro, Spain, Ukraine, the Czech Republic, Holland and worked with Armenian youth for 8 days to develop their ideas, combining professional visits to UWC International School, Tumo, Global AM and more.

Projects in agriculture, health care, IT, tourism, service and education were presented at Abovian and offered more interesting, fast, simple, and distinct solutions to confront different challenges.

ZOOM EAST



Erasmus+ Երիտասարդություն և Եվրոպական Համերաշխության Կորպուս ծրագրերի տեղեկատվական կենտրոն Հայաստանում

Հայաստանում Erasmus+ Youth. Տեղեկատվական կենտրոնի համագործակցությամբ 2018 թվականի ընթացքում իրականացվել են համայնքային կշանակության միջոցառումներ՝ Երիտասարդների միջազգային օրը և «Կամավորների միջազգային օր -2018»-ը:

Կենտրոնը 2019 թվականի ընթացքում նույնպես նախատեսում է մի շարք միջոցառումներ և տեղեկատվական հանդիպումներ:

2018 թվականի ընթացքում Տեղեկատվական կենտրոնը կազմակերպել է հանդիպումներ, բաց դռների օրեր և դեմ առ դեմ հանդիպումներ, որոնց նպատակն էր ներկայացնել Եվրամիության «Երազմուս+ Երիտասարդություն» և «Եվրոպական համերաշխության կորպուս» ծրագրերի կողմից հայ Երիտասարդներին, պետական և հասարակական կազմակերպությունների ներկայացուցիչներին ընձեռվող կրթական ու վերապատրաստման հնարավորությունների մասին:

Տեղեկատվական կենտրոնի գործունեության արդյունքում բազմաթիվ մարդիկ հնարավորություն են ունեցել խորհրդատվություն ստանալ հեռախոսով, Facebook-ով, Viber-ով, փոստով:



AZERBAIJAN AZƏRBAYCAN



European Solidarity Corps opening in Azerbaijan

In December 2018 the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) was officially launched in Azerbaijan by a conference organized by the Common Sense Youth Organization and SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus with the support of Ministry of Youth and Sports. The audience consisted of more than 100 people, including government officials, youth policy makers, representatives of international and local organizations, youth workers, students and other

active young community members. They were informed about a new European Union initiative - European Solidary Corps, its objectives and actions, important features, Quality Label, as well as the eligibility of Azerbaijan in the programme.

In 2019, the Common Sense Youth Organization took over the coordination of the Erasmus+ Info Centre in Azerbaijan and began to actively promote ESC and Erasmus+ programmes.



How the Info Centre serves the community?

The Info Centre in Azerbaijan cooperates with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Azerbaijan Youth Foundation, universities and regional youth houses, local and international organizations, as well as media agencies to promote European Solidarity Corps (ESC) and Erasmus+ programmes, reach out to the target groups and empower them. The Info Centre provides face-to-face consultations to the organizations that would like to be a part of the ESC. More than ten organizations have been directly consulted regarding principles, quality and support measures of ESC projects, the Quality Label procedure, responsibilities of accredited organizations, as well as partnering in ESC volunteering projects.

The Info Centre organizes informative sessions on the objectives of ESC, the registration process, searching and applying volunteering projects for students at universities and youth houses in Baku and the regions. The Info Centre promoted "European Programmes Week" for universities and led informative seminars at various universities in Baku and the regions. Representatives of the Info Centre visited regional youth houses

to reach out and empower youth with fewer opportunities and encourage their participation in these opportunities.

Info Centre actively involves ex-volunteers in its publicity activities. For instance, they contribute to the promotion of ESC volunteering projects, join information sessions to share their experience with participants, as well as write blogs about their volunteering milestones. The Info Centre makes extensive use of online tools to communicate with the young and empower them to consider their self-development possibilities. Accordingly, the Info Centre recorded and shared instructional videos on how to create an account in the ESC portal, find out and apply for ESC volunteering projects. Additionally, webinars and e-consulting hours via the official FB page were designed to reach the target group. The Info Centre frequently shares ESC opportunities, at least 4-5 posts a week, sometimes within a day.

Moreover, the Info Centre actively advertises the official FB page to ensure that the pool of youth workers/leaders, youngsters and other stakeholders are following it. Most of the posts are viewed by 1000-1500 people, educational videos are widely shared. The Info Centre joins exhibitions and conferences for more publicity and networking.





Hicranın Norveçdə könüllülük hekayəsi

Mən inanıram ki, biz gənclər öyrənərək və öyrəndiklərimizi paylaşaraq inkişaf edəcəyik. Könüllülük müddətində öyrəndiyim bilik və bacarıqlar, qurduğum əməkdaşlıq əminəm ki, sonrakı həyatımda öz müsbət təsirini göstərəcək. Məhz buna görə gəncliyimizin inkişafı üçün öz təcrübəmi və hisslərimi sizinlə paylaşmağı, Avropa Könüllülük Xidməti yeni adı ilə Avropa Həmrəylik Korpusunun imkanları barədə maarifləndirməyi və faydalanmağa çağırmağı özümə borc bilirəm.

Təqribən bir il əvvəl olardı ki, Avropa Könüllülük Xidməti ilə maraqlanmağa başladım. Yadımdadır ki, əsasən təbiət və ya incəsənət yönümlü layihələr axtarırdım. Daha sonra hər iki mövzunu özündə birləşdirən 6 aylıq könüllülük layihəsindən qəbul aldım. Sevincimin həddi-hüdudu yox idi! Sağlam Düşüncə Gənclər Təşkilatının dəstəyi ilə bütün sənədləşmə və viza işlərini həll etdikdən sonra Norveçin Sarpsborg şəhərinə yollandım.

Könüllülüyə başlamazdan əvvəl bir çox gözləntilər olur - yeni ölkə, yeni mühit, yeni iş, fərqli dil, fərqli mədəniyyət və s. Lakin nə qədər cəsarətli olsan, o qədər çox şey öyrənərsən. Hətta gözlədiyindən

daha çox inkişaf edərsən. Mən, ümumiyyətlə, öyrənməyi çox sevirəm, əylənərək öyrənməyi isə lap çox sevirəm. Avropa Könüllülük Xidməti layihələri insanı əyləndirərək öyrədir. Ən önəmlisi isə yeni üfüqlər açıq və dünyaya baxışı daha müdrik edir.

İnanın ki, həyatınızın ən faydalı və macəralı aylarını yaşayacaqsınız və Erasmus+ proqramı, o cümlədən Avropa Həmrəylik Korpusu imkanlarından daha tez məlumatlı olmadığınız üçün təəssüflənəcəksiniz. İndi harada olduğunuzdan və bu barədə nə qədər bilməyinizdən asılı olmayaraq, sizə tək sözlə ifadə edilə bilməyəcək hisslərdən danışiram.

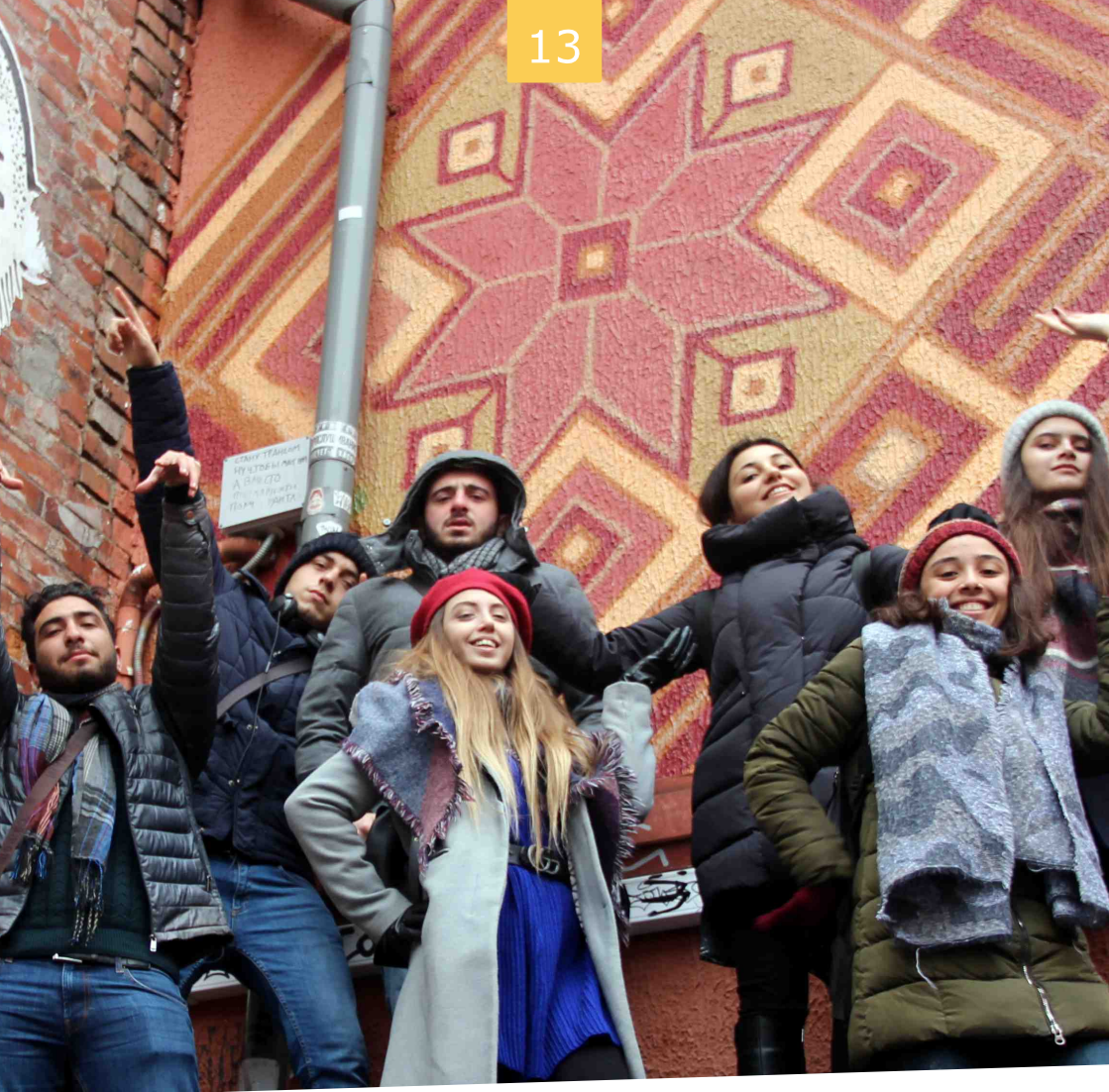
Vətəndən fərqli ölkədə yaşamaq, yeni insanlarla ünsiyyət, əməkdaşlıq və dostluq, fərqli bir dil öyrənmək, qərb mədəniyyətinin içərisində olmaq, sosial fəaliyyətin əhəmiyyətini dərk etmək - bütün bunlar bir könüllülük layihəsinin həyatıma qatdığı rənglərdir.

Bəzən bir xaricinin tanıdığı ilk Azərbaycanlı insan olursan. Öz vətənidən uzaqda, tamamilə başqa insanların əhatəsində olduğun an sən tək bir nəfər deyilsən, Sən bütöv bir Azərbaycansan! Onlar da sənə öyrətdiklərini, eləcə mənim kimi, yadında saxlayıb öz dostları ilə paylaşacaqlar. Sənin məkanını, mədəniyyətini, dilini və dünyanı öyrənəcəklər.

Uğurlar, Sevgilərlə.







BELARUS ***БЕЛАРУСЬ***



Around the European Youth Programmes

The largest event of this year was the ErasmusTalk in Gomel. Representatives from youth organizations and European volunteers presented using a TEDx format. Speakers spoke about the experience of participating in international trainings, youth exchanges and European volunteering projects. Participants also were able to learn about the work of SALTO and the InfoCenter of the Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps in Belarus.

Comment from Hanna Aheyeva, trainer of informal education: *My name is Hanna Aheyeva, I'm from the Youth Education Centre "Fialta". Our centre's specialty is informal education for youth. We also collaborate regularly with the Erasmus+ Youth programme. I was invited to this event because I often visit informal education training events organised by Erasmus+. I wanted to share the experience of preparing an application, to talk about what one can learn and derive from that learning. Visiting such training events acted as an impetus for my professional development, they helped me to connect my job with coaching and informal education, and I really appreciated it. My wish is to share the*

information about this amazing opportunity so that people can meet a lot of other people, get acquainted with informal education techniques and then launch similar workshops and training courses in other regions in order to encourage change. What plays an important role in it is, of course, intercultural communication because at training events there are a lot of people from various countries, and communicating in such environment definitely broadens horizons and changes values. This seems to be the case for me, and that's why I want this to be available to as many people as possible, even if their English is not excellent.

Regional consultations play an important role in the promotion of Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps activities. Through these consultations, young people from rural areas can learn about international opportunities and develop their own projects. At the same time Belarusian NGOs can learn how to attract European volunteers to the organization and how to write projects in the Erasmus+ Youth programme.

During the year the Info Centre in Belarus held 2 regional consultations in Vitebsk and Gomel, at different universities and NGOs. Due to the distance from Minsk, representatives of youth organizations and young people may not always be aware of the existence of the Erasmus+



programme and the European Solidarity Corps. Therefore our Centre plans to increase the number of such visits next year. As a part of its work the Info Centre provides consultations for youth organisations and young leaders in order to motivate them to get involved in European youth programmes.

Comment from Uladzimir Aleksandronets, director of the Innovative Technologies Studio: *We collaborate with Belarusian Info Centre in different wide areas. First and foremost, it is social work with children and youth, development of parliamentarism, maintenance of initiatives in the sphere of media literacy, information security. These projects are certainly important, they are demanded and really interesting because they are held in format of informal education. This is certainly what youth like.*

In order to support activities of the Info Centre and share information about youth projects the Info Centre trains multipliers. Training for multipliers for the Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps was held in November 2018. 17 young people from regional cities (Mogilev, Gomel, Brest, Mozyr) and ex-participants of Erasmus+ projects were trained about the basics of the both European programmes. During the training young people received guidance on how to explain information to youth using non-formal methods of education. As part of the training, multipliers also created a video where they explain in simple language about the Erasmus+ Youth projects and European Solidarity Corps. After the training young people consulted young people in their cities.

ZOOM EAST



European volunteer in Minsk

Ioana from Romania did her two months European volunteering project in the Minsk in Office for Initiative Promotion. She chose this project in order to learn about intercultural cooperation, to develop tools to promote the idea of cultural diversity and to raise awareness about the problems of migrants, minorities and people from socially disadvantaged environments.

At the end of the project Ioana concluded: *this experience changed me as a person in a way that cannot really be described and understood, unless you experience it. Facing the unknown helped me test my adaptability to certain situations, made me develop my empathy and understanding and more than anything, it helped me understand myself better and what I wanted to become. Living in Belarus opened my eyes and mind, showing me another side of Europe, and giving me the opportunity to compare and accept the differences between countries more than before and therefore, to understand how the world works. Over all, the EVS experience showed me another way of education and proved me once more that learning happens everywhere, not only in schools and universities.*



**EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS**



Региональные консультации играют важную роль

В этом году работа ИнфоЦентра программы Erasmus+ и Европейского Корпуса Солидарности была направлена на включение большего количества молодых людей в программу и распространения идей волонтерства. Благодаря проведенным тренингам и консультациям сотни молодых людей из регионов Беларуси узнали о возможностях Европейских молодежных программ.

Крупнейшим мероприятием стало ErasmusTalk в Гомеле. Представители молодежных организаций, экс-волонтеры и волонтеры программы Европейской волонтерской службы выступили в формате TEDx. Спикеры рассказали об опыте участия в международных тренингах, молодежных обменах и европейской волонтерской службе. Участники также смогли узнать о работе SALTO и ИнфоЦентра программы Erasmus+ Молодежь и Европейского Корпуса Солидарности в Беларуси.

Комментарий от Анны Агеевой, тренера по неформальному образованию: *Меня зовут Аня Агеева, я из образовательного центра Фиальта. Мы занимаемся неформальным образованием молодежи, также очень много работаем с программой Erasmus+. И на это мероприятие меня пригласили, потому что я часто бываю на тренингах неформального образования от Erasmus+ и хотелось бы просто поделиться вот этим опытом того, как заполняется заявка, чему можно научиться и как потом эти знания можно будет использовать вообще. Просто для меня само посещение этих тренингов дало большой толчок развития профессионально, во многом мне помогло потом мою профессию связать с тренерством и неформальным образованием, и я за это очень благодарна.*

И хочется просто рассказывать про эту возможность, чтобы больше людей могли знакомиться с другими людьми, знакомиться с методиками неформального образования и потом уже где-то в регионах применять и проводить самостоятельно воркшопы или тренинги, чтобы что-то менять.

И тут очень большое значение имеет, конечно, межкультурная коммуникация, потому что на тренингах происходит очень много знакомств и общения с другими людьми из разных стран, что очень сильно расширяет кругозор и мировоззрение, и очень ценности меняет - и вот это, мне



кажется, очень важно и хочется, чтобы у как можно большего количества людей был доступ к этому, чтобы не боялись подаваться на тренинги, даже, возможно, не супер-здорово зная английский.

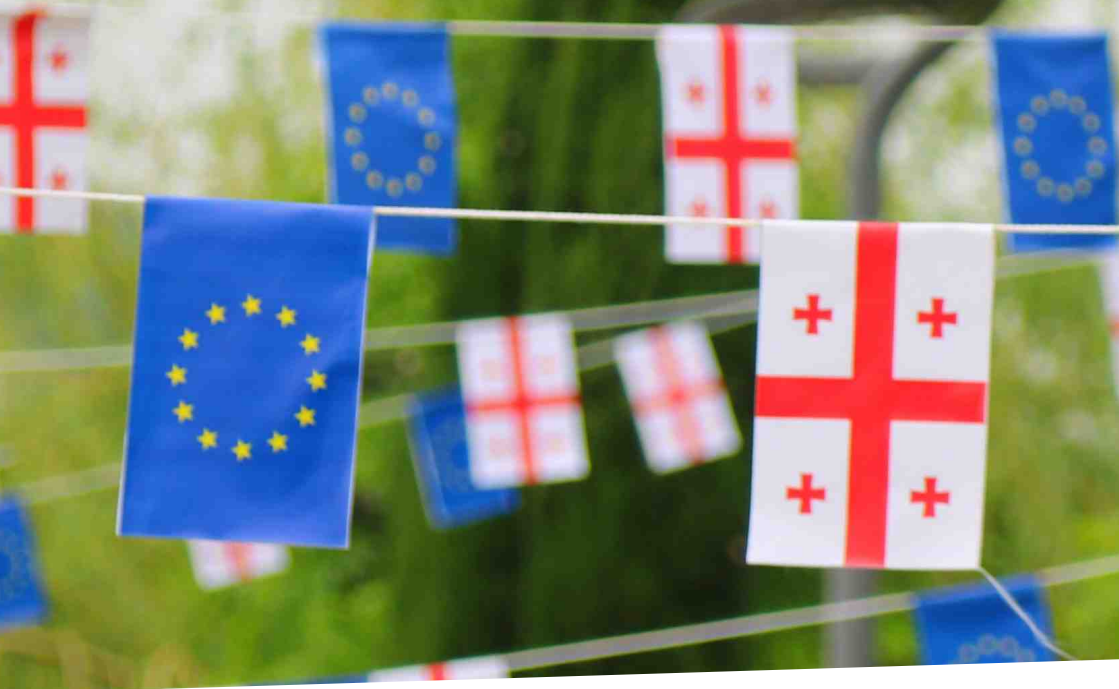
Региональные консультации играют важную роль в продвижении деятельности программы Erasmus+ Молодежь и Европейского Корпуса Солидарности. Благодаря этим консультациям молодые люди из регионов могут узнать о международных возможностях, разработать свои собственные проекты. В то же время белорусские некоммерческие организации могут узнать о заявках на получение аккредитации для привлечения международных волонтеров в организацию и о том, как писать проекты в рамках молодежной программы Erasmus+.

В течение года ИнфоЦентр в Беларуси провел 2 региональные консультации в Витебске и Гомеле. В этих городах находятся различные университеты и некоммерческие молодежные организации, заинтересованные в получении международного опыта. Однако из-за удаленности от Минска представители молодежных организаций и молодежь не всегда могут знать о существовании программы Erasmus+ и Европейского корпуса солидарности. Поэтому наш Центр

планирует увеличить количество таких посещений в следующем году.

Комментарий Владимира Александронца, директора учреждения Innovative Technologies Studio: *Сегодняшнее мероприятие, я надеюсь, что оно станет отправной точкой для того, чтобы в Гомеле появилась вот та самая принимающая/отправляющая организация и, в целом, сформировалось это поколение волонтеров, которые знают, что реально волонтерство это нужно, это интересно и это способствует развитию, развитию как самого волонтера, так и местных сообществ.*





GEORGIA

საქართველო



Infocentre's highlights

In May 2018, the Info Centre was involved in organization of Europe Days 2018 in Tbilisi, Georgia. The Info Centre gathered former EVS volunteers who had been beneficiaries of Erasmus+ Youth mobility schemes to help plan, prepare, and run the Europe Days. Each event had a booth where visitors had a chance to receive information on European youth programmes, and the opportunities for participation of Georgian youth. Staff of the Info Centre and former beneficiaries of the programme provided information on how to participate, the benefits of the programme, and shared their personal stories with young people. Europe Day 2018 was a large scale event held over an entire day, and was visited by many people from Tbilisi.

Tbilisi Youth Forum is an annual event organized by the city of Tbilisi, which brings together 800 representatives of local organizations and young people from Tbilisi. In June 2018, the Info Centre presented its work and Erasmus+ opportunities for organizations, institutions and individuals. Representation of the Info Centre at the event was significant, greatly increasing the visibility of its work.

The Info Centre conducts monthly meetings for mixed groups of organizations and individuals interested in Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps programmes. The meetings are held during the last week of each month. Additionally, the InfoCentre conducts individual consultations for interested parties twice per week, every Monday and Thursday. Soon we will conduct field visits and meetings for the organizations and youth in all administrative regions of Georgia, and will focus on reaching out to regional organizations.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How can I participate in Erasmus+ youth projects?

So far, this is most frequently asked question by Georgian youth and youth organizations. In order to participate in European youth programmes as a young participant, you need to find a local organization which is involved in different projects under Erasmus+ and/or European Solidarity Corps. We suggest you visit the Otlas platform operated by SALTO. We also advise that you contact local organizations, find out what topics they are working on, what ongoing projects they have, what are the conditions to join the projects, etc. It is also good just to exchange ideas, so maybe you can initiate a common



project with such an organisation. If you want to join as a group or initiate your own project, the first step would be to gather a group of young people and establish an initiative group or a youth organization, if you are already not a part of one. Then register your initiative youth group or organization on the European Participants' platform, get a PIC code. Search for the open calls, and offer and establish partnerships with other European organizations, in cases where you are interested in specific projects. Using the Otlas platform, search for the partners in programme countries, offer a partnership, share your ideas on projects, and if they are interested in cooperation, develop a project together. Remember, young people should be involved from the very early stage!

Q: I want to study for a masters degree at a European university, could you help me with this?

Our Info Centre is only able to offer advice on the Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps programmes. For enquiries related to higher education please contact the Erasmus+ national office in Georgia.

Q. Do you plan to visit the regions? When will you visit us?

The Info Centre will announce a call for regional organizations. The only condition is to gather enough organization per region in order to make the visit viable. The minimum number of organizations from the same region should be at least 7. Based on the result of the call, the Info Centre will schedule a visit.



European Solidarity Corps volunteers' testimonies

In the Julian Alps

The volunteering experience went really well. It brought new perspectives to my life. I've been working on different projects for two months in Zavod Manipura. We had games, workshops, informal activities with teenagers, children and disabled people on a regular basis. Sharing with them our knowledge of Georgian arts and culture. I also participated in the activities which were planned beforehand in the village. We were responsible for our living space. We were cutting the wood, painting the walls, recycling old objects and making the living space more beautiful and youthful. It was one of the best two months in my life.



Cutting the bottles

Nika, whose volunteering objective was to raise awareness of recycling, reusing and best ecological practice is working on a project that will transform old glass bottles into street lights and other general installations. The project was held in Madeira, Portugal. After collecting and washing hundreds of bottles, Nika and his team have been spending a month cutting the bottles into new shapes. The bottle cutting process requires a lot of patience to ensure the bottles do not become damaged (which would then make them unusable).



სანტა კლაუსის სამშობლოში

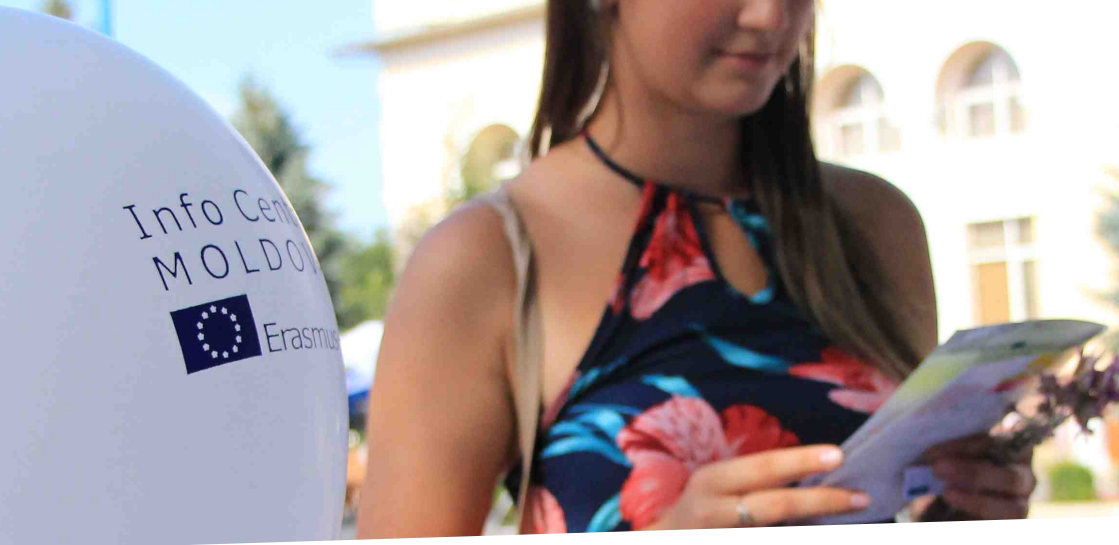
რა ვიცი თუ ფინეთის შესახებ როცა პირველად გავიგე რომ პროუტზე დამამტკიცეს და მივდივარ? არც არაფერი, გარდა იმისა, რომ ევროპული ქვეყანაა, დედაქალაქი ჰელსინკი, მეზობელი ქვეყანა რუსეთი და შვედეთი, ცივა და სანტა კლაუსის ლავლანდიამი ცხოვრობს. ეს იყო ჩემი მწირი ცოდნა ფინეთის შესახებ. გამგზავრებამდე საკმაოდ დრო მქონდა მოსაზრებებლად და ამიტომ ყველაფერი ცოტა უფრო მორეულად და ზღაპრულად იყო, როცა ვიზა მივიღე და ბილეთებიც ნაყიდი იყო მაშინ გავანალიზე რომ ნამდვილად მომიწევს ერთი წელი უცხო ქვეყანაში, უცნობ ხალხთან ყოფნა, კიდევ უფრო ძლიერად ეს ყველაფერი უკვე აეროპორტში გამოვცადე, ოჯახთან დამშვიდობების შემდეგ, როცა ზიხარ და ელოდები როდის აგიშვებენ ბორტზე და როდის გაფრინდები სრულიად უცხო ადგილას. ერთადერთი, რისიც მემინოდა, იყო ხალხი, როგორი ხალხი დამხვდება ახალ ადგილას? მეყოლება მეგობრები? ყველა ვინც იგებდა რომ ფინეთში ვიცხოვრებ დიდი შემფოთებით მუშებნობდა „ აუ ებენი მაგარი ცივები არიან“ ან „ უი, საწყალო, ერთი წელი მეგობრების გარეშე იქ მარტო როგორ უნდა იყო? გამიგია, ფინელი ხალხი ძალიან რთული ხასიათისაა“ და ასე სტერეოტიპებით გაყენებული ჩამოვდი ჩელსინკში და შემდეგ ტურკუში, ცოტა შემინებული და დამაფრთხალი, სიცივის და სიბნელის მოლოდინით, თუმცა, ყველაფერი ისე არ არის როგორც

გეუბნებიან. ორგანიზაცია, სადაც მე ვმუშაობ ქალაქ ტურკუს ეუოთენის, საკმაოდ დიდი ორგანიზაციაა, აქვთ უამრავი ახალგაზრდული ცენტრი და დაწესებულება, სადაც მოზარდებს და თინეიჯერებს შეუძლიათ თავისუფალი დროის გატარება, საკუთარი ჰობის და ინტერესების განვითარება, პირადად მე ჩემი ინტერესებიდან გამომდინარე, ვმუშაობ ადგილას სადაც არის სხვადასხვა ტიპის სახელოსნოები, მაგალითად, კერამიკის ვორქშოპი, სადაც ყველას შეუძლია მოვიდეს და გააკეთოს ის, რაც უნდა, ჩვენ კი ვეხმარებით ვაჩვენოთ სხვადასხვა ხერხები და ტექნიკები საბოლოო შედეგის მისაღებად. ფინელი ხალხი ძალიან ყურადღებიანია, თუ დახმარება გჭირდება, გაჭირვებაში არავინ დაგტოვებს, შეიძლება ემოციების გამოხატვის გზები განსხვავებულია და ჩვენთვის, ქართველებისთვის ჩვეული გადაჭარბებული აღტკინება და ემოცია ვერ დაინახო, თუმცა მათ ზრუნვას ნამდვილად იგრძნობ, ფაქტობრივად, უფრო მეტად, ვიდრე საქართველოში, უბრალოდ სიტყვებით. ამჟამად, ოთხი თვეა რაც აქ ვარ, მეგობრებიც გავიჩინე და მათგან ზრუნვას და სითბოსაც ისევე გამოვკეთილად ვგრძნობ, როგორც სახლში. რა შემიძლია ვთქვა ქალაქზე, ტურკუ ძალიან ლამაზი, ჰატარა ქალაქია, ბევრი საინტერესო ხალხით და ადგილით, რომელსაც თავისი ისტორია და წარსული აქვს. ტურკუში სამი უნივერსიტეტია, ამიტომ ახალგაზრდობის ნაკლებობას ნამდვილად ვერ იგრძნობ, ინგლისური ენა ყველამ იცის. თუ ფინელი ამბობს რომ ცუდად საუბრობს ინგლისურად, არ დაუჯერო, სავარაუდოდ, მენზე უფრო გამართულ ინგლისურს ფლობს, თუმცა, ფინური პერფექციონიზმის გამო მორცხვობს.

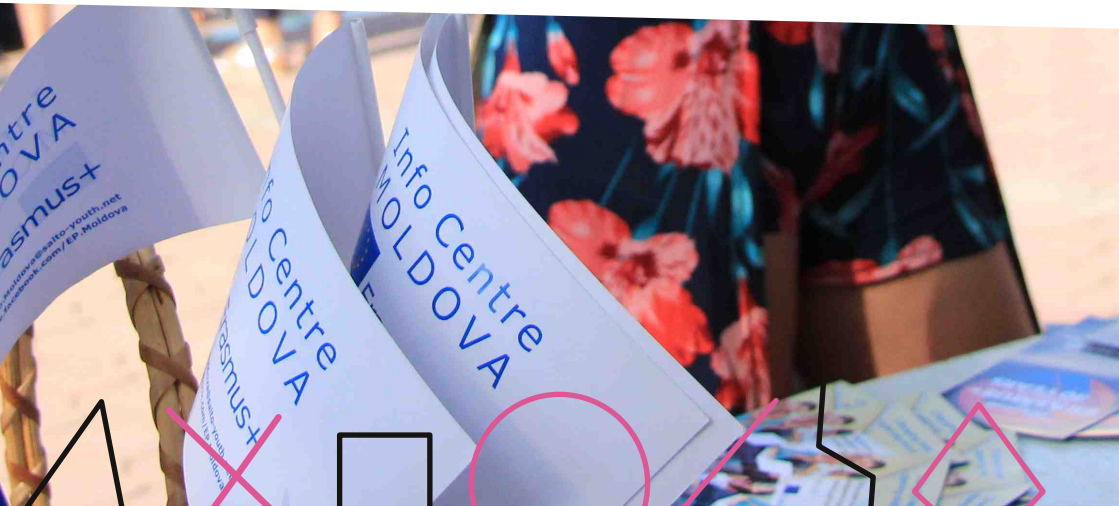


შესაჯამებლად შემიძლია ვთქვა, რომ არ ენდოთ სტერეოტიპებს და ინტერნეტში ამოკითხულ მშრალ ფაქტებს. ამ პროექტში მონაწილეობამ იმაზე უფრო მეტი ცოდნა და გამოცდილება მომიტანა, ვიდრე ჩემმა მთელმა ცხოვრებამ ერთად, ზუსტად ვიცი, თინეთში გამგზავრება და პროექტში მონაწილეობა ის ნაბიჯია, რასაც არასდროს ვინანებ და მანსი რომ იყოს კიდევ ერთხელ, დაუფიქრებლად წავიდოდი მსგავს პროექტზე.





MOLDOVA



Promoting both European youth programmes

The Info Centre activities in 2018 focused on spreading information to young people and youth organizations about the opportunities of Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps and to promote the programmes visibility. During the year several information activities were developed.

The Discover Erasmus bus with Erasmus+

From February to April 2018 more than 500 young people from more than 10 different places in the Republic of Moldova (Călărași, Sîpoteni, Comrat, Singerei, Soroca, Edineț, Basarabasca, Leova, Bălți and suburban area of Chisinau) were informed about the opportunities of two European youth programmes and how to involve.

Erasmus+ Information Day

We continue our collaboration with the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova organizing the information campaign. Together we visited Chisinau, Comrat, Balti and Cahul, where we met with students and informed them about the

opportunities in Erasmus+, not only regarding the academic mobilities, but also projects for youth. Young people at these locations were also informed about the European Solidarity Corps programme and how they could participate.

Sessions for English teachers

Information sessions for English teachers from the Republic of Moldova, who had discovered Erasmus+ Youth programme and the value of non-formal education.

European Days

Our Info Centre was actively involved in European Days in Moldova. Activities took place at three locations: Cahul, Chisinau and Tiraspol. We had the great pleasure to inform youth about opportunities and benefits of European youth programmes

We also participated at different events organized for NGO's from Moldova like: the Youth Festival, the Career Fair, the Youth Organizations Fair, Donors Forum, International Youth Day and the National Conference of Youth, etc. We took every opportunity to inform non-governmental organizations about the activities of our Info Centre and the opportunities available through Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps.



For youth and youth workers who already have experience of participating in European youth programmes, our Info Centre organised a photo contest “What is the plus in Erasmus+ Youth Mobility Experience” and an Erasmus+ Quiz. Through it we wanted to show the impact of the programmes on youth in Republic of Moldova. Ex-participants of Erasmus+ projects submitted photos of the activities they had taken part in and described the experience and benefits participants had gained from their projects. The winners of the contest enjoyed the awards, and their photos were included in the 2019 Calendar.

In the spring of 2018, we organized a training course for newcomers to the Erasmus+ Youth programme called “Welcome”. It gathered representatives of youth organizations who wanted to begin their involvement in the programme. During the training, participants learned about mobility projects for youth and youths workers, also how organizations from Moldova can participate. The training as well as the previously mentioned photo contest allowed connections to be created between ex-participants of Erasmus+ Youth projects and to initiate a collaboration among them that will lead to better promotion of European youth programmes opportunities.

From 12th to 13th October 2018, our Info Centre organised “Erasmus Days and Non-Formal Education Days in Moldova” to help spread information about European youth programmes and raise the understanding of non-formal education opportunities. Over these two days we organized activities such as:

- An information seminar on “Personal Development”;
- An information seminar on Erasmus+ Youth and non-formal education;
- A workshop on graphic facilitation skills;
- Social games as a tool for non-formal education;
- A movie evening.

At the end of the year we ran, for the first time in the Republic of Moldova, a conference to guide the national efforts in youth work area and non-formal education and to discuss progress in European youth programmes of Moldavian organisations. The conference was also used to promote the newly launched European Solidarity Corps. The Corps are intended to promote solidarity in general, through volunteering, and increase the number of young people and organizations involved in solidarity projects.

From July 2017, the “Millenium” Training and Development Institute have been managing Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps Info Centre in Moldova.





Activitatea Info Centrului în Moldova

În anul 2018, activitatea Info Centrului în Moldova a fost axată pe informarea tinerilor și a organizațiilor de tineret despre oportunitățile programelor Erasmus+ Tineret și Corpul European de Solidaritate (ESC) cât și promovarea vizibilității acestor programe.

Pe parcursul anului am desfășurat mai multe campanii de informare, precum:

- "Discover Erasmus bus with Erasmus plus" – peste 500 de tineri din mai mult de zece localități a Republicii Moldova au fost informați despre oportunitățile programului Erasmus+ și ESC.
- Am continuat colaborarea fructuoasă cu Oficiul Național Erasmus plus din Moldova, și împreună cu ei a fost organizată campania "Erasmus+ Info Day".
- Sesiune de informare pentru profesorii de limba engleză din Republica Moldova care au descoperit programul Erasmus+ Tineret.

Info Centru în Moldova a fost implicat activ la Zilele Europei în Moldova care s-a desfășurat în trei regiuni a Moldovei (Chișinău, Cahul și Tiraspol) și am avut marea

plăcere să informăm tinerii despre oportunitățile programelor Erasmus+ și ESC, avantajele implicării lor și cum pot beneficia de acestea.

Am participat la diverse evenimente organizate pentru ONG-urile din Moldova, precum Festivalul Tinerilor, Târgul de Carieră, Târgul Organizațiilor de Tineret, Forumul donatorilor, Ziua Internațională a Tineretului, Conferința Națională a Tineretului, etc.

Pentru tinerii și lucrătorii de tineret care deja au experiență de participare la proiecte Erasmus+ Youth, Info Centru a fost organizat Concursul de fotografii "What is + in Erasmus+ Youth Mobility Experience" și Erasmus+ Quiz.

Am organizat un curs de instruire "WELCOME" pentru organizațiile de tineret care doresc să se implice în program, dar nu au experiență în acest domeniu.

Info Centru în Moldova a organizat "ErasmusDays și Zilele Educației Non-Formale în Moldova" pentru a face cunoștință publicului larg cu programul Erasmus+ și ESC și cu Educația Non-Formală.

Deja al doilea an consecutiv am organizat Concurs de fotografii de la proiecte Erasmus+. Câștigătorii concursului s-au bucurat de premii, iar fotografiile lor au fost incluse în Calendarul pentru anul 2019.



Centre de tineret – spații sigure și prietenoase



Republica Moldova are o rețea de Centre de tineret cu spații sigure și prietenoase pentru tineri, oferind oportunități de dezvoltare personală, participare, petrecere a timpului liber și socializare.

Un Centru de tineret oferă:

- Programe / servicii în diverse domenii de interes tinerilor;
- Posibilitatea de a participa în procesul de luare a deciziilor;
- Acces la informație și alte oportunități pentru dezvoltarea personală;
- Spațiu sigur pentru petrecerea timpului liber și socializare;
- Suport în dezvoltarea și realizarea inițiativelor tinerilor.

Ce garantează un Centru de tineret:

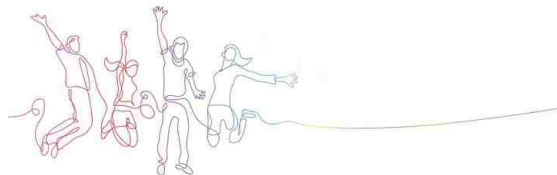
- Servicii atractive și accesibile;
- Confidențialitate;

- Un mediu prietenos;
- Nediscriminare.

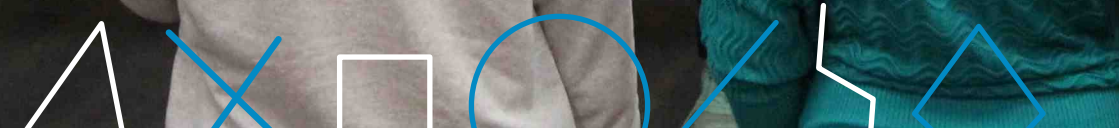
Fiecare tânăr poate contribui la apariția Centrului de tineret în raionul său.

Printr-o solicitare adresată Autorităților Publice Locale de nivelul II (Consiliul raional), tinerii pot beneficia de suportul oferit de Ministerul Educației, Culturii și Cercetării prin intermediul Programului Național de Dezvoltare a Centrelor de Tineret pentru perioada anilor 2017-2022, realizat în parteneriat cu Fondul Națiunilor Unite pentru Populație (UNFA Moldova).

Pentru mai multe detalii despre Centrele de tineret accesați:
www.mecc.gov.md



RUSSIA РОССИЯ



A campaign, forums, seminars and webinars

Two European youth programmes, namely the Erasmus+ Youth and the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) are promoted in Russia by the Info Centre (Контактный Пункт) located in Nizhny Novgorod along with the Sfera NGO. Beside the ongoing work of consulting with interested organisations and young people from all over Russia, the Centre organised several key activities to enhance the promotion of the programmes.

Campaign "Yes, you can!" took place all over Russia in spring and autumn 2018. We cooperated with our ex-volunteers in presenting events in their cities introducing European youth programmes. It was unique cooperation as we would never have managed such a wide geographical scope on our own in such a short time. Presentations were made not only to youth but also to organisations giving them the opportunity to find out how to work with European youth programmes. There were 13 participating cities and 28 speakers in spring and 9 cities and 11 speakers in autumn. All together around 650 youngsters learnt about the Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps programmes.

The "From volunteering to social projects" forum took place in St. Petersburg in October 2018. This was delivered in cooperation with the ITMO university where we prepared our own big independent part with the help of ex-volunteers (within promotional activities during an annual event for ex-volunteers). The forum targeted active volunteers and representatives of NGOs and groups of activists from all over Russia (this was an event of federal size). It consisted of 3 parts: an information table throughout the whole forum, presentation of programmes followed by three inspirational TED-like speeches from ex-volunteers and a workshop on intercultural communication. It was very useful cooperation because thanks to this forum we reached a wider audience including many young people who were already aware of the potential of non-formal education.

Feedback from Ekaterina Gerasimova about the experience of participation:

The event, which took place in St. Petersburg after I had completed a project, was very interesting and useful for me. The atmosphere was one of easy communication with like-minded people - that's what I was missing. The exchange of experiences, thoughts, new ideas and dreams inspired and motivated me to further learn languages, study and work. I am very grateful to the organizers and participants for the work done!.



Webinar series were organised during the whole year. Because of the size of the country it's always difficult to reach all interested youngsters and NGOs, and that is why it was decided to present 7 webinars. Five of them were for young people - about EVS/ESC and youth exchanges, mobility of youth workers, an online marathon of EVS stories, the change of EVS to ESC, and being a EVS mentor. The other two webinars were for organizations interested in starting to work with Erasmus+ Youth and for NGOs and online tools for them. All videos were recorded and uploaded online to YouTube and social media so people from different regions and cities still can watch them and find answers to questions they may have. This is a strong source of information and we often send it to people to watch when we're asked questions about the programme.

A seminar for NGOs about the newly established European Solidarity Corps programme was held in November in St. Petersburg. It was combined with the "Dobroforum". During the seminar, 19 coordinators from all over Russia discussed what changes in European volunteering the new programme brings, shared experience about preparation and implementation of projects, and asked questions about future of the European youth volunteering programme.

Feedback from Dana Diakova, ESC coordinator of the charity organisation "Shag navstrechu":

For me this meeting was very useful. It was an opportunity to ask questions to representatives of the Contact Point, because in the new programme guide there were things that were not completely clear to me. Beside that, with colleagues from other Russian organizations, we discussed actual issues about visas, insurance, partners from EU, etc., and shared relevant information. We don't meet each other personally very often, so such discussions are always effective. This meeting was especially convenient for me because the seminar, as well as "Dobroforum", were held in St. Petersburg.



European volunteer in the Mari El Republic

Elišabet from Estonia undertook her European volunteering in the Mari El Republic of the Russian Federation. She participated in events with children in difficult life situations, and held events in orphanages. The volunteer talked about the possibilities of Erasmus+ Youth for youngsters of our region. She also helped to organise a tent camp that gathered together children from orphanages, from large families and children in conflict with the law.

Moreover, a volunteer on behalf of our organisation presented the project as an entry to a competition being sponsored by a large business company in her country. Our project won, and the volunteer was able to successfully implement this extra project on the territory of our Mari El Republic.

Hosting organisation: Opora,
Yoshkar Ola: opora-russia.ru



Продвижение Европейских Молодежных Программ

Контактный Пункт Erasmus+ Youth и European Solidarity Corps в России был запущен в июле 2017 года и с тех пор успешно реализует информационные мероприятия, а также консультирует молодых людей и организации со всей России о возможностях участия в программах.

В 2018 году мы провели крупную информационную кампанию “Yes, you can!” по всей России. Экс-участники программ рассказывали в своих городах о наших программах не только молодежи, но и заинтересованным некоммерческим организациям. Это был действительно уникальный опыт, поскольку самостоятельно мы бы не смогли посетить столько городов за такой короткий промежуток времени. За весну и осень было проведено 33 встречи в 19 городах России, в них приняли участие 650 человек. Опыт таких встреч мы считаем успешным и планируем его повторить и в 2019 году.

Кроме того, мы провели конкурс “Мой плюс с Erasmus+”, где участники программ делились своими мотивирующими историями

о проектах. Данный фото-конкурс помог привлечь внимание аудитории, и надеемся, что замотивировал их на участие. А трое участников, чьи истории больше всего понравились зрителям, получили от нас призы.

Мы также со-организовали в Санкт-Петербурге форум “От волонтерства к социальному проектированию” совместно с университетом ИТМО. Форум собрал представителей НКО, волонтеров и активистов со всей России. Бывшие участники EVS проектов подготовили 3 части программы: информационный стол, где отвечали на вопросы о программах; презентация программ, сопровождаемая тремя мотивационными речами в формате TED; воркшоп по межкультурной коммуникации.

Отзыв Екатерины Герасимовой об опыте участия:

Мероприятие, которое проходило в Санкт-Петербурге по приезде с проекта, было очень интересным и полезным для меня. Атмосфера непринужденного общения с единомышленниками - вот чего так не хватало после проекта. Обмен опытом, мыслями о том, что мы будем делать дальше, новые идеи и мечты вдохновили и мотивировали меня на дальнейшее изучение языков, учебу и творчество. Очень благодарна организаторам и участникам за проделанную работу!

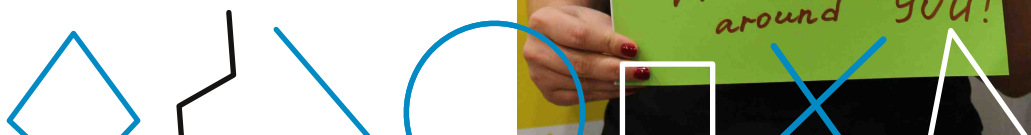


Мы продолжили консультирование молодых людей о возможностях участия в программе. Для них мы также провели 5 вебинаров: о EVS/ESC, молодежных обменах и мобильности для молодежных работников, онлайн марафон EVS историй, об изменении EVS на ESC программу, а также вебинар для EVS менторов. Мы также участвовали в мероприятиях наших партнеров в Москве, Санкт-Петербурге, Нижнем Новгороде, Пятигорске и Томске, чтобы рассказать еще большему количеству молодых людей о программе.

Мы также поддерживаем некоммерческие организации в проведении проектов. За год мы дали 37 консультаций по скайпу, телефону, электронной почте и лично. Для НКО было записано 2 отдельных вебинара: как начать работу с программами и про онлайн-инструменты в работе НКО. Поскольку вебинары остаются в записи, их по-прежнему можно найти и посмотреть всем заинтересованным. Для представительств организаций была также проведена в ноябре в Санкт-Петербурге встреча об изменениях в программе (от EVS к ESC).

Отзыв Даны Дьяковой, координатора ESC проектов в благотворительной организации "Шаг навстречу":

Для меня данная встреча была очень полезной. На ней была возможность задать все вопросы представителям контактного пункта, поскольку в новом гиде по программе были не совсем понятные для меня моменты. Кроме того, с коллегами из других российских организаций мы обсудили актуальные вопросы о визах, страховках, партнерах из ЕС и т.д., поделились актуальной информацией. Мы видимся лично не очень часто, поэтому подобные обсуждения всегда эффективны. Для меня эта встреча была еще особенно удобна тем, что не пришлось куда-то ехать - семинар, а также "Доброфорум" проходили в Петербурге.





UKRAINE
УКРАЇНА



Positive feedback

The Info Centre in Ukraine started its work in June 2017. It was established along with the NGO "Center for Euroinitiatives" in Sumy, but implements activities all over Ukraine and, of course, online. Its mission is to show Ukrainian youth and youth organizations the opportunities for development available to them within European youth programmes and to improve the quality of the projects they organize or participate in.

The Information Centre provides consultations and support to organizations in Ukraine, disseminates best practices and promotes partnerships in the implementation of youth projects within the programme.

Our main activities are:

- Events: presentations, "living libraries", meetings, etc.;
- Webinars;
- Consultations: live, by telephone and through the Internet;
- Facebook page.

In 2018, we organized eight Erasmus+ Youth presentations for young people from Mykolaiv, Sumy, Mariupol, Kramatorsk, Severodonetsk and Kyiv. In total, we managed to bring together about 400 participants - young people, youth workers, civic activists and other stakeholders.

The teacher from the Lysychansk Petrochemical College Lyudmila Bochkaryova commented: *It was very important for us that representatives of the Information Centre came personally. It gave us the opportunity to ask the experts and get the answer instantaneously. It is important and valuable for the people of our region to feel not only supported locally but also to know that our youth, educators and youth workers have equal opportunities with other EU citizens.*

A psychologist and facilitator from Slavyansk, Bogdan Steshenko shared his own experience of participating in local projects and their organization: *We organized many projects for the local community, based on our own experience, but it is interesting to know that this programme gives an opportunity to share our experience and, at the same time, to learn from the best practices of colleagues from other countries.*

We took part as one of the organisers of the Days of Europe in Sumy where we actively promoted Erasmus+ youth opportunities, disseminated information about the Info Centre and strengthened our cooperation locally. Sumy citizens were told about the goals, objectives, priorities of Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps programmes, what types of youth projects are supported, where to look for opportunities for international volunteering and more.



We also joined the National Forum for Youth Workers and took part in the Erasmus+ Individual Opportunities Information Day. We gave an online presentation at a round table on "Non-formal education - a modern trend for European society", and presented the programme on the 7th Civil Society Capacity Development Forum. Our aim was not only to promote the youth component of the program for young people, NGOs, educational and state institutions, but also to find new contacts and set up partnerships.

During the year the Info Centre conducted three "living libraries" - in Lutsk, Dnipro and Kyiv. People were "books" there, and "reading" meant lively communication. About 150 people visited the events. Through live examples, we have been able to promote Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps, to share the experience of ex-participants, to motivate new organizations and youth to take part in the programmes.

Now young people have many educational opportunities abroad. Unfortunately, not everyone knows it. Moreover, often young people think that they do not have enough experience or knowledge to study in another country. That is why I tried to break the barrier between youth and the Erasmus+ project application. I told them where to look for international trainings, how to write a CV and a letter of

motivation - said Oleksandr Reshetnyak, speaker of the "Living Library" in Dnipro.

What is volunteering and the European Solidarity Corps? How to go for a project abroad? How to find relevant opportunities for young people in the EU and partner countries? I tried to give a structured answer to all these questions. However, my main goal was to motivate young people to go for the youth projects abroad - said Iryna Novak, speaker of the "Living Library" in Dnipro.

We also presented Erasmus+ opportunities to representatives of Sumy Regional State Administration. The purpose of the event was to disseminate information at regional level and, more importantly, to strengthen cooperation with local stakeholders.

In 2018, the Info Centre conducted five webinars where we talked about the programmes and key actions. The webinars are open to everyone who is interested. Five webinars reached the audience of 5700 views since their publications. We are planning to deepen the topics and increase our audience in the future. Previous videos and materials are available at:

www.facebook.com/EPlus.Ukraine



Image mapping

Nikolaus Katzberger from Austria, was an EVS volunteer from October 2017 until July 2018 in Pangeya Ultima, Vinnitsa. Together with other volunteers of the organisation he prepared a summer workcamp "Image Mapping 2018" that took place in eco-center in Stina, Ukraine.

The working program was composed partly of the objectives of the Image Mapping while the hefty part of that was dedicated to the infrastructural activities around the territory of the center. Through this

work the participants were introduced to the traditional ways of coating the house, construction of the stone stairs and construction of the wooden toilets and showers. Participants have also created the "live picture" in Stina that now stands out on the steep Stina canyon slope focusing the visitors onto the Castle Hill. Finally the camp's participants and local community enjoyed concert of the French garage rock band "Brok".

Hosting organisation: Pangeya Ultima, Vinnitsa: pangeya.com.ua

The project's website: imagemapping.org



Erasmus+ Youth. Інформаційний центр в Україні

Інформаційний центр в Україні розпочав свою роботу в червні 2017 року на базі громадської організації "Центр євроніціатив". Місія центру - показати українській молоді та молодіжним організаціям доступні для них можливості розвитку, підвищити якість

проектів, які вони організують чи в яких беруть участь.

Інформаційний центр надає консультації та підтримує організації в Україні, поширює найкращі практики та сприяє співпраці у реалізації молодіжних проектів в рамках програми.

У 2018 році Інфоцентр організував вісім презентацій Erasmus+ Youth для молодих людей з Миколаєва, Сум, Маріуполя, Краматорська, Северодонецька, Києва. Загалом, нам вдалося зібрати близько 400 учасників - молодих людей, молодіжних працівників, громадських активістів, стейкхолдерів.

Окрім цього, центр взяв участь в організації Днів Європи в Сумах, під час яких активно просував молодіжні можливості Erasmus+, поширював інформацію про Інфоцентр та зміцнив співпрацю на місцевому рівні. Також Інфоцентр долучився до Національного форуму для молодіжних працівників, Інформаційного Дня про індивідуальні можливості в рамках програми Erasmus+, провів онлайн-презентацію під час круглого столу "Неформальна освіта - сучасна тенденція європейського суспільства" та презентував програму на сьомому Форумі організаційного розвитку громадянського суспільства.



Важливою стала організація "живих бібліотек" в Луцьку, Дніпрі та Києві. Там "книжками" виступали люди, а "читання" означало живе спілкування. Захід відвідали близько 150 людей. За допомогою живих прикладів центру вдалося просунути інформацію про Erasmus+, поширити досвід колишніх учасників, знайти нових, мотивованих організацій та молоді.

У 2018 році Інформаційний центр провів п'ять вебінарів, на яких його представники розповідали про програму та її ключові напрямки. Так, наприклад, були організовані вебінари на тему "Як організувати проект Erasmus+", "Мобільності для молоді", "Eastern Partnership Youth Window" тощо. Вебінари

відкриті для всіх зацікавлених, і центр, звичайно, планує поглиблювати їх тематику та збільшувати аудиторію. Загалом, аудиторія п'яти вебінарів — 5700 переглядів з моменту публікації.

Інформаційний центр надає консультації для всіх, хто цікавиться Європейськими молодіжними програмами. Найсвіжіші новини молодіжного компоненту програми Erasmus+ та Європейського Корпусу Солідарності, оголошення, корисні посилання, поради, історії ви можете знайти на Facebook сторінці Інфоцентру.

Будь ласка, завітайте на www.facebook.com/EPlus.Ukraine





SALTO EECA



**Word seek.
Challenge yourself!**

Find at least 15 words we use
everyday in our work.

The words can go left and right,
up and down or even diagonal.

Good luck!

F	B	N	A	W	O	A	G	E	N	C	Y	C	U	S
E	X	C	H	A	N	G	E	A	Y	P	O	S	F	B
E	I	D	V	P	X	U	J	W	G	R	C	N	A	M
N	V	Y	D	R	D	I	T	N	P	O	S	K	F	N
I	Y	E	U	S	A	N	A	S	N	G	Z	A	P	A
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I	A	I	G	R	O	E	G	P	S	B	T	I	J	B
B	E	O	R	E	C	I	F	F	O	M	C	Y	S	K



10 years of the Eastern Partnership

The Eastern Partnership is a joint policy initiative launched in 2009 to deepen relations between the European Union and the six Eastern neighbours: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. The Eastern Partnership is based on shared values, fundamental freedoms, democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law, as well as common commitment to market economy and sustainable development.

2019 marks the 10th anniversary of enhanced cooperation between European Union and the Eastern Partnership countries. The renewed EU Strategy on Youth and the Eastern Partnership 20 Deliverables for 2020, both outline priorities for cooperation in the area of youth policy. With ongoing discussions on EU multiannual financial framework post 2020 a strong emphasis on youth policy in the framework of EU and Eastern Partnership cooperation is expected to continue.

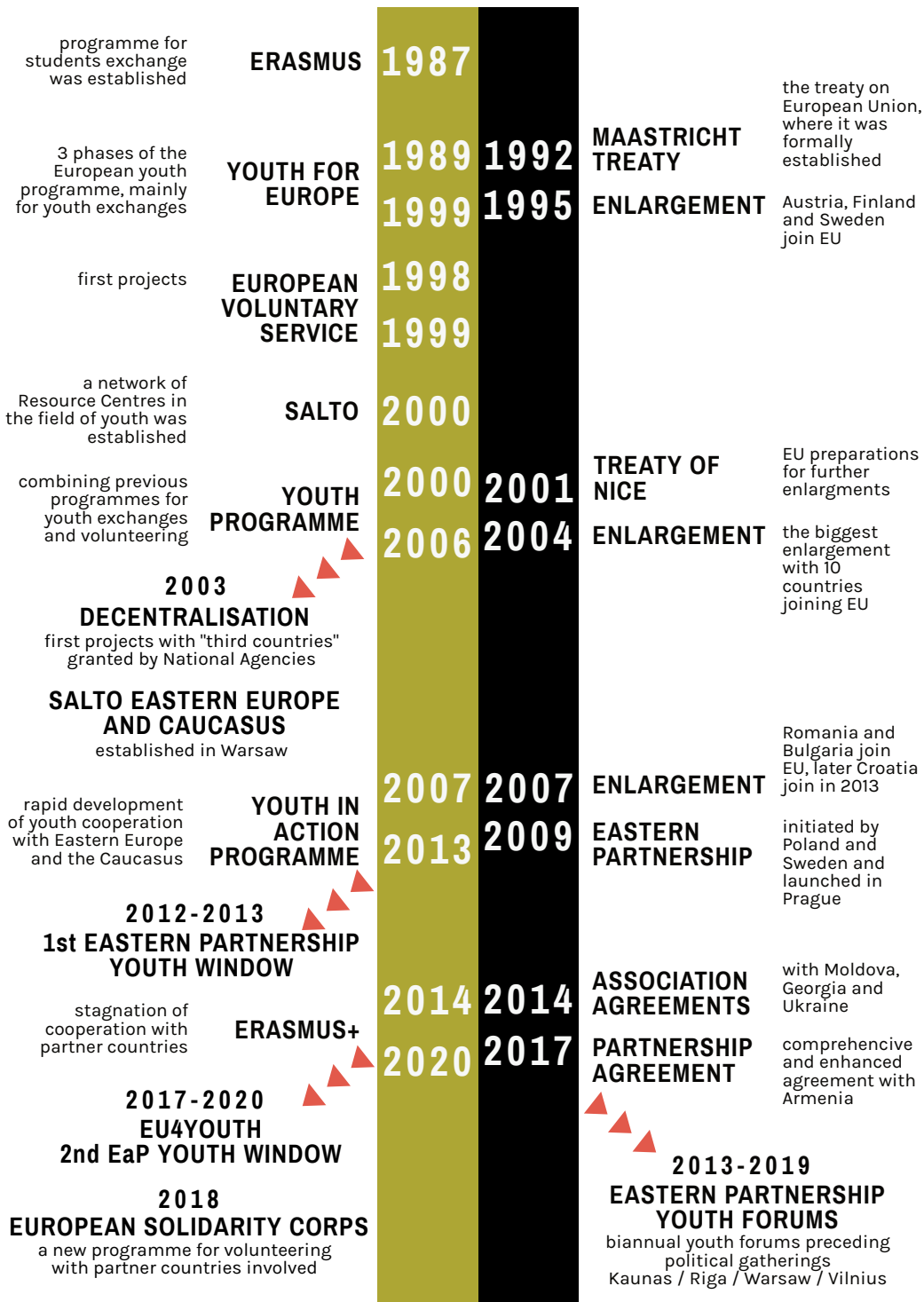
Excerpts from the 4th EaP Youth Forum report. Find out more at: www.salto-youth.net/EaP2019report

4th Eastern Partnership Youth Forum

The 4th Eastern Partnership Youth Forum on *Critical thinking through media literacy and active participation* took place in Vilnius, Lithuania in June 2019. It built on the experiences and outcomes of the previous forums (Kaunas 2013, Riga 2015, Warsaw 2017) and celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) and its role in strengthening the democratic values, processes and institutions in the Partner States.

The Forum brought together 250 people from 24 countries. The participants were a mix of young people, face to face youth workers, grassroots youth work representatives, donor agency representatives, journalists, activists, and those from the field of education, social entrepreneurship, and digital world. There were policy makers and researchers from local to international level, staff from SALTOs and Erasmus+ National Agencies, representatives of international youth organisations, and the Eastern Partnership Youth Ambassadors Network. There were also officials from the Council of Europe, and representatives of different governments, the European Commission and the European External Action Service.





Youth@Work Strategic Partnership

Established in January 2018, the Youth@Work Strategic Partnership on Youth Employability and Entrepreneurship is an institutional alliance of 11 Erasmus+ National Agencies (NAs), 4 SALTO-YOUTH Resource Centres (SALTOS), as well as the Resource Centre for the European Solidarity Corps. Coming together under a joint strategy, supported by the Transnational Cooperation Activities (TCA) budget line of the Erasmus+ programme, means that NAs and SALTOS can follow a common vision, work collaboratively and increase the impact of their work.

The objectives of Youth@Work are to:

- Provide visibility and enhance the role of youth work in the youth employability and entrepreneurship ecosystems.
- Support the contribution of Erasmus+ towards the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy (2019-2027), and other European youth employability and entrepreneurship-related policies.
- Strengthen the cooperation and synergies between local, regional,

national and EU initiatives on youth employability and entrepreneurship, and support peer learning.

- Increase the development of sustainable partnerships, good practice, quality projects and foster innovation.
- Reinforce the contribution of youth work and of Erasmus+, particularly the acquisition of competences and recognition among our target groups.
- Enhance understanding and promote the use of EntreComp, DigComp and other European competence frameworks to be developed by the European Commission, as well as of Youthpass.

For these objectives to be reached, Youth@Work has identified detailed target groups which reflect the broad engagement needed for employability and entrepreneurship themes: non-profit, public and private sectors, as well as young people (with a special focus on those with fewer opportunities and special needs).

SALTO EECA supports people and organisations active in this area in the Eastern Partnership Countries and Russia by providing them with opportunities to take part in the support activities within the Youth@Work Partnership. A Regional Consultative Group was established



in spring 2019, which is functioning as an advisory body for us, with the focus on how the Erasmus+ Programme in the field of youth and European Solidarity Corps can be used as an instrument to foster youth employability and entrepreneurship in the Eastern Partnership Countries and Russia and reinforce networking and exchange of practices in the European level. In the framework of Youth@Work Partnership, of the new EU Youth Strategy (2019-2027) and with the EU Youth Goals, it took place in Tbilisi, Georgia, from the 30th September until the 3th October 2019 a training course under the name YOUTH@WORK: Supporting Women's Entrepreneurship through Youth Work.

The main aim of this TC was "to develop a supportive ecosystem for women's economic participation by overcoming social obstacles through youth work". The TC had the following objectives:

- Raise awareness about the reality of women entrepreneurs and explore best practice and lessons learned (good examples of practice) in supporting women's economic participation;
- Showcase examples of socially responsible private sector organizations supporting women's empowerment;
- Develop competences and provide practical tools to increase effectiveness in women's entrepreneurship programs;

- Inspire participants for a continuous professional and personal growth.

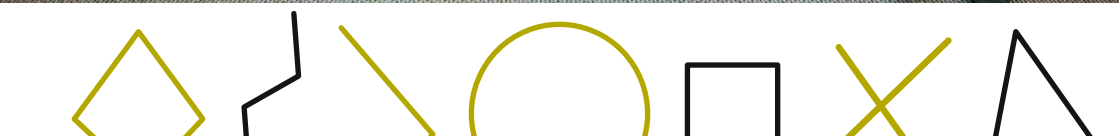
The activity was designed to explore challenges that women face in entrepreneurship, build the capacity of participants to provide entrepreneurial competence development trainings and innovative methods, and inspire participants with inputs from motivational speakers and visits to successful businesses and social entrepreneurs that are led/owned or supporting women leadership. The target group of the training were youth workers, managers of youth programs, leaders of youth organizations, other professionals working with young women and with experience or with an interest in entrepreneurship support.

The ultimate goal of this activity was to advance women's entrepreneurship in the European Union and Eastern Partnership countries by enhancing youth workers' competences to provide support to women in entrepreneurship.

You can learn more about Youth@Work on Facebook: @YouthatWorkPartnership







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