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CALL for VOLUNTEERS EVS long term Project “Networking for European Citizenship”

Youngsters without Borders Association Romania, a Non governmental organization with over 5 years experience in bi, tri and multilateral EVS projects, is launching another Call for Volunteers for a Group EVS project that shall be submitted with 1st of JUNE 2007.

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE HOSTING ORGANIZATION:

The Association “**Youngsters without Borders**” was established in **26 of June 1997**. It caters to youths between 15 and 35, regardless of race, language, and religion, with a special emphasis on youth living in rural areas.

Mission: To actively contribute to community development in the Gorj county.

Objectives

- Promote activities for developing creative values
- Implementing youth programs, taking into account educational dimensions and some aspects connected with social life, culture, health etc.
- Training youngsters to be monitors and animators so that they can prepare, organize and develop educational programs with educative values.
- Establishing transnational contacts with similar organizations that are willing to develop projects in cooperation.
- Identifying partners amongst the youngsters in order to have them involved in civic life.

Services

- Organizing Youth Exchanges, Seminars, Conferences, Trainings, Contact making seminars, mainly within the Youth Programme framework
- European Voluntary Service (Sending and receiving volunteers from Europe through Youth programme)
- Edit a news paper – Euro Sat – the newspaper is edited twice per year and addresses issues from the local community and young people. It’s distributed for free in the rural region.
- Animation activities
- Community Development – Euro House Networking. The network involves 10 localities from Gorj county.



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- Supporting Youth Initiatives – any youngster or group of youngsters that have a good idea and wish to implement it can benefit from the support of the Association in effectively planning, initiating, running and evaluating the programme, applying for funding, making the financial reports , etc.
- Information campaigns – Info Days, Youth Caravan, 9th May – European Day

Experience with EVS projects

“Youngsters without Borders” Association has a long history of experience and expertise in implementing EVS projects. We started working with EVS in 2003 and since then we have developed the following projects:

1. “Express Yourself” 2003 – RO – 21

Starting in 2003, YWB has hosted 8 young volunteers coming from all over Europe (Belgium, Germany, France, Spain, Sweden, UK) for a period that ranged in between 6 and 12 months.

2.”Experience and Learn” Multilateral EVS Project with Third Countries

Partners: Serbia Montenegro, Macedonia, Romania and France and Nederland
YWB acted both as Coordinating as well as a sending organization.

3. Networking for European Citizenship - 2005-RO-2

Hosted one volunteer for 12 months period, since October 2005.

4. “Me and the Society” – 2005 – RO-6

24.05.2005 – 24.08.2005 – Hosting 4 young volunteers with special needs. The 4 youngsters come from a Folk High School in Denmark dealing with young people with special needs

5. Networking for European Citizenship

Centralized EVS project coordinated by Youngsters without Borders.

Partners: Albania, Macedonia, Serbia, Denmark, Portugal and Romania

Besides being the coordinator, Youngsters without Borders is also hosting 4 volunteers for a period of 12 months: 15th August 2006 – 15th August 2007.

Expertise

The monitoring and evaluation process of the EVS projects is being provided by the **Regional Association for Rural Development**. www.ardr.ro

The EVS program is monitored through a variety of instruments, including monthly surveys, weekly narrative reports, and group / individual interviews.



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II. EVS PROJECT

Title: Networking for European Citizenship

HEI ref: 2005 – RO -2

Project Type: Group EVS

Hosting Period: September 2007 – May 2008 - 9 months

Hosting Placement – Small urban and rural communities from Gorj County. Romania

Coordinating organization: Youngsters without Borders. Romania. www.tff.ro

Free places: 20 volunteers (2 volunteers/ partner country)

Sending Partners: Organizations from Programme Countries (EU member states, EFTA and EEA) and Neighboring Partner Countries (South East Europe and Eastern Europe and Caucasus)

Application submitted on 1st June 2007 by Youngsters without Borders

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

Summary

The project will host for a period of 9 months young volunteers from all over Europe (both Programme and Partner Countries), which shall be placed in several small urban communities and even villages situated in a beautiful county of Romania, called Gorj and situated in the South West of the country.

The project aims to use the volunteers as promoters and multipliers in order to spur European awareness and establish bridges of communication in between sites in their home country and the areas they are established. The young volunteers undertake to participate voluntarily in an active citizenship and informal intercultural education experience.

The general aim of the project is for the volunteer to acquire social, intercultural and personal leadership skills, enabling them lay the foundation for their own future and at the same contribute to the well being and vivifying youth life in the rural/urban communities, stimulating European citizenship founded on principles of diversity and inclusion.

All the activities will be developed in 3 dimensions: *personal development, development within the host organization and community development*. The working points of the organization stand as the main headquarters for the volunteer.



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The volunteers will be charged with designing, organizing, and implementing, in conjunction with local facilitators and youngsters from their hosting communities, a variety of activities such as: sports events, environmental activities, group games, thematic workshops, walks in the cities, visits to different sights and events, etc. for the youths in order to optimize their free time during regular meetings and the vacation period.

EURO HOUSE Network – short description

Euro House is a **regional network** built between 10 urban and rural communities from Gorj County in order to *enhance the involvement and participation of both the youngsters into the civic life of their local communities and also to build a stronger, more efficient link between Local Public Administration and the youth sector in order to foster active citizenship.*

At present there are 9 municipalities from Gorj County involved in the EHN: Rovinari, Musetesti, Novaci, Crasna, Targu Carbonești, Tismana, Rovinari, Balteni, and Bustuchin with the objective to enlarge the network with 10 additional communities within the next year.

We selected **one young person** from each locality and trained them to become **local facilitator in the youth field**. The training process consisted in providing information sessions, workshops, and study visits in Romania, France and Denmark

All communities got involved in the project by an **official partnership** signed between the Local Public Administration and Youngsters without Borders association. Under the contract, the Local public Administration pledged to support the programme development both financially as well as with other resources.

In each of the communities a **Euro House Centre** was set up. The LPA provided the space for the office while the association equipped some of the Centres with some office equipment. Some of the EH Centers enjoy a good logistical endowment while others are still lagging behind.

The **Euro House Centre** serves as a meeting and working place for the local facilitators, the volunteers and youngsters from each local municipality involved.



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Activities

The **activities** in each municipality are developed by **EVS volunteers** in conjunction with **local facilitators** and the target young people from each locality. The centers are also encouraged to seek the support and participation of the LPA and other community actors.

As each Centre is autonomous, the activities in each centre vary and are adapted to each local environment. Past activities have included competitions, sport activities, environmental activities, theatre workshops, information caravans, school newspapers, and dance/musical expositions.

The **volunteers** have played, and are still playing, a very important and constructive role in spearheading the development and implementation of the activities, as well as facilitating the intercultural learning and bringing a European dimension to the project.

It is the volunteers in collaboration with the facilitators that are expected to develop activities and motivate the local youngsters to get involved and to participate.

Services of the Euro House Network

The Euro House centers offer each youth group the opportunity to develop and implement community projects, gives them information on different possibilities abroad, and cross-cultural interaction with EVS volunteers. The goal is to open up new horizons for the youngsters from the country side in order to prepare them for the challenges of the third millennium. The centres predominately address youths between the ages of 9 – 20 and their main aim is to develop youth interest in community life and to give the youngsters a constructive way to spend their free time.

The activities in this youth centres began the 8th December 2003 and they will continue for an unlimited period.

Local Hosting Community

At this call, the placement where the volunteers are expected to develop their EVS is Gorj County – geographically placed in South- West Region of Oltenia, in the South Western part of Romania.

It is a Region full of historical sites and tourism. Still, since the main income has been earned from the industries based mainly upon the mining sector, the Region lags behind in terms of development, especially when it comes to the youth sectors, which can not meet the expectations and challenges of the foreseeable membership of Romania to the EU

Gorj County: The landscape is composed of mountains, Sub Carpathian Hills and the North of the Getic Plateau and also the river depressions and meadows. The forestry lies for 41.1 % of the county area. The climate is hill temperate- continental with year average temperature 10 degrees. It has a population of 397,676 persons, an unemployment rate of 12.3 %. Industry based mainly on the mining sector. For that reason the county is declared as underdeveloped by governmental decree. Targu Jiu stands as the residence of the county and it is also the town where the



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organization has its main headquarter. http://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jude%C5%A3ul_Gorj ,
<http://gorj.einformatii.ro/> ; <http://www.targujiu.ro/>

At the beginning of their EVS the volunteers will be living for 2 months in Targu Jiu, the municipality and biggest city of Gorj County.

After 2 months of cultural and organizational accommodation, tailored developed training and planning the hosting organization will place the volunteers in one of the Communities of the Euro House Network.

Please acknowledge the fact that those communities are small cities and even villages and the boarding conditions are not as high as in a big city or in the western villages.

However the development level of the future hosting community , the hosting organization will insure a decent accommodation placement - (private room, free access to kitchen and bathroom, current cold water with the possibility of providing hot water at least one hour/day, functioning heating system, clean location.

For a clearer picture in what concerns the placements of the EVS project please access the web site of the Association www.tff.ro

From the main page you will be directed on a page containing more detailed information about each community in turn.

Volunteer Tasks

All the activities will be developed in 3 dimensions: personal development, development within the host organization and community development

The volunteers will develop their activities within different communities (rural and small towns) from Gorj county, communities involved in a regional network called the Euro House.

They will lead and/or assist the day-to-day running of the activities, particularly in the following areas:

- * Arts/Drama and cultural – the association together with its Euro House Centers will develop a number of activities in this area and the volunteers will help the facilitators in running the workshops.
- * Developing personal skills – participate in various activities organized by the organization itself or in partnership (trainings, seminars, animation sessions, CMS, etc)
- * Classes with pupils on different topics – cross-cultural discussions, language, etc.
- * Sports
- * Community interaction – each community (rural or urban) where the Association has its working point or an action being implemented has at least one contact person (facilitator) which works with



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the association and can help the volunteers in organizing various activities in the respective community and actively interact both with the young people as well as with the Local Public Administration and schools. They will be fully involved in community-based development and capacity building programmes like setting up youth action groups and youth local action plans in every area they run activities.

The volunteers will work in towns and more rural areas as well. One of the sub-strata of this EVS programme is that the volunteer becomes the promoters and multipliers for spurring European awareness and establishing bridges of communication in between sites in their home country and placements in the area they are established.

The volunteers will be engaged with organizing in close relation with the staff and other volunteers within the working points of YWB, variety of activities like: sports events, group games, thematic workshops, cultural and ecologic activities, walks in the cities, visits to different sights and events, etc.

Accommodation

The volunteers hosted in one local community from Gorj County, part of the Euro House Network. During the first two months of the EVS project, the volunteers will be staying in the main city of Gorj County – Targu Jiu, accommodated by a Romanian host family or sharing an apartment with other volunteers.

After two months of accommodation in the city the volunteers will choose as an accommodation placement for the following 7 month one of the neighboring rural communities/ small towns from the Euro House Network.

Food

In direct relation with the accommodation placement the volunteer will have the following options:

- in case she/he lives in a rented apartment together with other volunteers or by himself it will be the responsibility of the volunteer to arrange for his/her food: prepare it in the kitchen or eat in various canteens/fast food and restaurants.
- in case the volunteer lives with a host family there is the opportunity to eat together with the host family. The host family will take care of the cooking and provide the volunteer with food
- if the volunteer refuses to eat the already cooked food of the host family he/she will then be given the money to arrange for his/her own food.

The Association will provide a maximum monthly food allowance.

Language Training



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The Romanian language lessons shall be provided by an experienced language teacher. The content and structure of the language courses will be projected together with the volunteers, taking into consideration their learning abilities and needs. The language courses will be provided on a weekly basis for as much time as the volunteer will need.

III. SELECTION:

Profile of the Volunteer

Age: between 18 and 30

Gender is not a criterion

Education: The volunteers shall have at least graduated high school. It gives additional value if the volunteer has previous experience in working /activating in an NGO.

Other requirements: Flexible, Tolerant, Open Minded and ready to live also in rural communities.

Application form

The interested volunteers shall send an application consisting of the following documents:

- *Motivation letter* – clearly explaining the reasons for joining this project, mentioning also your opinion towards the possibility of living in rural areas.
- *A recent picture of yourself*
- *The EVS Profile (see attached)*
- *Support letter from your sending organization*

Deadlines

14th May 2007 – is the Deadline for sending the applications

14th of May 2007 – Youngsters without Borders will select the volunteers and contact them

1st June 2007 – Submitting the application

CONTACT

For further information and sending your application please contact:

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