



Asociatia Voluntariat Pentru Viata

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EVS Info Pack “Smile To you”

01/11/2018 – 31/05/2019

Marasesti – Focșani, ROMANIA

Project description

It has been found that young people choose violence as a method of solving conflicts, not because they are the best, but because they do not know other alternatives for the situations they face and thus act "with what is easier and more at hand". The project will be targeted at children and young people from Marasesti town, where Roma children in schools have a share of over 70%, from Panciu – "Ioan Slavici" High School, where 65% of pupils come from rural areas, from Focsani – "Gh. Asachi" High School, where over 85% of the pupils are from the villages, Pedagogical High School "Spiru Haret" , where 30% are rural students and children from the villages of Garoafa and Ciușlea.

The aim of the project is to prevent the phenomenon of bullying among children and young people from the Mărășești, Panciu, Garoafa, Ciuslea and Focsani communities through non-formal education activities.

Main objectives:

- To increase the awareness of children and young people in Vrancea County on the phenomenon of bullying and its effects during the 14 months of the project.
- To improve the skills of the 8 volunteers in working in the field of education with disadvantaged groups during the 7-month mobility.
- To increase the motivation of children and youth from participating communities to take responsibility for resolving conflicts in their lives without violence during the 14 months of the project.
- To develop attitudes of non-discrimination, equality, tolerance, respect among the children and young Romanian participants in the project and the European volunteers.

The project will involve 8 EVS volunteers from 8 different countries: Armenia, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Estonia, Italy, Poland and Turkey.

Project activities: 01/11/2018 – 31/05/2019 (7 months) – 212 activity days + 2 travel days. 31 October 2018 and 01 June 2019 are travel days.

Venue: The project takes place in 2 different towns, which are 20 km apart: Mărășești and Focsani.

- 4 volunteers will live in Focsani and will work with children and youngsters (6-18 years) in different schools from Focsani, Garoafa and Ciuslea.
- 4 volunteers will live in Marasesti town and they will work with children and youngsters (6-18 years) from different schools from Marasesti and Panciu.

Project activities will have the form of thematic workshops, organized during the classes of personal development, civic education, physical education, religion, art and craft, psychology, homeroom/advisory classes, in order to have a common component with school planning and not to disturb the schedule.

The aim of the activities in schools and high schools will be to provide a neutral area to the children and young people from Marasesti, Panciu, Focsani, Garoafa and Ciuslea to explore the deep causes of bullying and the possible measures and actions to address them from a constructive perspective. All activities will be based on non-formal education and will be achieved through an interactive approach. Activities with children and young people will be realized through group-work, teamwork, role plays and plenary discussions as well as theoretical contributions of specialists from the Vrancea Police, probation counselors and the intervention of school psychologists who will join the 8 European volunteers and will complete the program of activities to cover all aspects of the bullying phenomenon. We will organize workshops, awareness raising campaigns, art craft exhibitions, sports activities, participatory activities that will have as main themes rules of intercommunity, the importance of the appropriate language, ways of addressing, respect for the other, preservation of the school goods, tolerance, solidarity, in short, a way to behave so that life in community is as pleasant as possible. By implementing the project activities, there will be a contribution to ensuring a safe and pleasant environment for the 8 participating schools, especially for the children and young people who attend them. As a result of participation in the non-formal activities of the project, over 1800 children and young people from the schools and high schools participating in the project will have an increased level of knowledge of the phenomenon of bullying and its effects. Over 60 teachers directly involved in activities will be more responsible for transmitting and reinforcing the anti-aggression message on a regular basis. The participation of the 8 young people for 7 months in voluntary activities will contribute to a better understanding of the concepts of using non-formal education methods in working with disadvantaged children and young people and an increased understanding of the European context on these topics.

Expected learning outcomes:

By the end of the 7 – month stage the volunteers will be able to improve/acquire:

- knowledge and experience in performing non-formal education activities;
- communication skills in English and his/her own mother language; knowledge of basic Romanian language;
- skills to work in an international team;
- skills in managing the relationship with disadvantaged children and youth;
- knowledge of the organization of NGOs, experience in volunteering and interculturalism;

- time management skills, team coordination skills, they will learn what it means to bring a change in the environment where they live and they will also develop the European and intercultural dimension;
- entrepreneurial skills – the volunteers will develop their sense of initiative and entrepreneurship by designing and coordinating project activities;
- coordination skills, teamwork, leadership, partnership management and project management, that serve them in future projects;
- the volunteers will also improve their social and networking skills and will become more motivated to engage in community life as a result of their working with children and youth during the project;
- knowledge about the Romanian culture, traditions, customs, gastronomy.

Other details:

Accommodation: The volunteers will live in flat accommodation in Focșani and Marasesti, in shared bedrooms, individual beds, with common area, shared cooking, washing, laundry and social facilities, free wi-fi included.

Food: Volunteers will receive a monthly food allowance of 120 Euro to buy food products and cook for themselves. They will also receive a monthly allowance of 90 Euro in form of “pocket money”.

Local Transport: The volunteers’ flat apartment is situated near the location of the activities, so the volunteers will walk to the place where the activities take place. For transport to the other schools in villages, volunteers will travel by minibuses, which run daily every half an hour. The bus tickets will be reimbursed.

Holidays: EVS volunteers will work 6 hours per day, 5 days a week, two consecutive days off per week and two days off per month.

National Holidays are also free days.

Travel: The volunteers together with their Sending Organisations will be responsible for arranging their travel. The travel costs will be reimbursed at the end of the project according to the distance band limits imposed by the European Commission.

The budget for travel costs is:

Armenia - € 275

Cyprus – € 275

Georgia – € 275

Greece – € 275

Estonia – € 275

Italy – € 275

Poland – € 275

Turkey – € 275

The volunteers need to arrive at Bucharest – Otopeni (Henri Coanda International Airport). From Bucharest to Focsani/Marasesti there are regular buses every day directly from the airport.

Bucharest – Focsani (180 km, ticket price 50 RON = 11 EUR for one way)

Bucharest – Marasesti (200 km, ticket price 70 RON = 15 EUR for one way)

Bus Departures from Bucharest Airport – 10:30, 12:00, 13:30, 15:00, 17:00, 19:00, 21:00, 23:00, 01:30, 03:30.

Training during the project

The volunteers will be accompanied and supported at all times during the activities by the teachers from classes and they will receive training at the beginning of their stage to become familiar with the way the activities will be implemented. They will receive ongoing support from activity coordinators, teachers and staff of our organization.

The volunteers will attend the On-Arrival Training and Mid-Term Evaluation, organized by the Romanian National Agency.

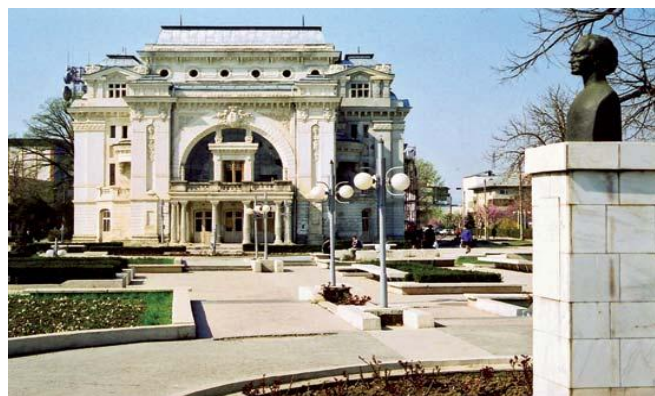
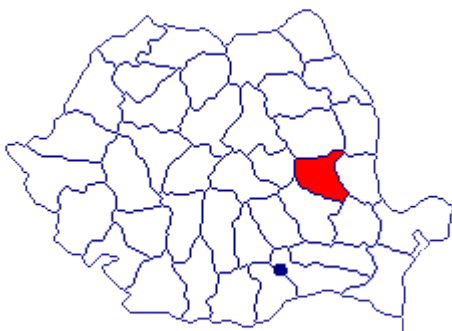
The volunteers will also receive Romanian language training for the first 3 months.

Other recommendations

◆ you should bring your regular clothes and personal hygiene products. Bed clothes, covers and towels are provided by host organisation.

◆ in Romania it is usually very cold in the winter and sometimes there is a lot of snow. During December, January and February the temperatures can go down to -15° below 0° Celsius), so you should also bring some warm clothes with you: a warm hat and gloves, boots, a winter jacket!

Project Environment



Focșani is the capital city of Vrancea county, situated in the east of Romania, in the historical region of Moldavia. The city lies 180 km north-northeast of Bucharest. Focșani is the centre of a wine-making region that has been famous for its vineyards since the 15th century. Focșani is also an industrial city, processing dairy products and manufacturing furniture and clothing.

Mărășești is a small town in Vrancea county, situated in the east of Romania. **Mărășești** is known as a town with a great historical significance because here took place a major battle during the First World War. The Mausoleum of Marasesti, one of the most important memorial sites in Europe, was built in the place where, in the summer of 1917, great battles were fought between Germany and Romania. Nowadays, Mărășești is the poorest town of Vrancea County, with a population of approximately 11,000 inhabitants on the decrease comparing to previous years.

The town is a disadvantaged area, with no economy and most of its inhabitants receive social security benefits or are in extreme poverty. Nevertheless, in this town there are 4 elementary schools attended by 1200 children aged 6-14 years old and one High School attended by 200 students who are facing the absence of positive role models and conscious leaders.



About us

Asociația Voluntariat pentru Viata is an NGO, based in Romania, founded in November 2012 on the initiative of some specialists in the field of education, art, history, social assistance.

The mission of Asociația Voluntariat pentru Viata is to promote volunteering and civic consciousness by developing activities that contribute to increased public awareness of the contribution of volunteers to the local community and to the society in general.

Asociația Voluntariat pentru Viata performs the following duties:

- develops activities based on non-formal education aiming to enhance social functioning, integration and cooperation among young people;
- provides counsel, therapy and specialized assistance in order to prevent social marginalization.

In 2012, Asociatia Voluntariat Pentru Viata started its work in Marasesti town in order to support a sustainable local development. First, the Organization developed and implemented youth projects in the framework of Youth in Action programme (Youth Initiatives promoting cultural heritage and environment). Then, the Organisation started to develop European projects under the Erasmus+ programme.

A large part of the activities that we carry out are focused around supporting the disadvantaged children and their families to have access to education and involving young people, in particular, and community members in volunteering actions.

Asociatia Voluntariat pentru Viata carries out its work in partnership with local and regional schools and local social centers, offering the chance to their target groups to participate in the projects.

Our Organization also initiated an on-going collaboration with the School Centre for Inclusive Education "Elena Doamna" from Focsani, an institution which schools more than 300 students with special educational needs, but also children from families with fewer opportunities who are at risk of marginalization and social exclusion. Our Organization wants to change the view on these children and wants to start working directly with children and young people who are at risk of social marginalization because of their disabilities.