INFO PACK

Project title: **Volunteering 4 Social Empowerment**

Venue: Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria

Duration: October 2018 – October 2019

Hosting organization: Association EUni Partners

Number of volunteers: 4

Euni Partners is a non-governmental organization, with main fields of activity – education and training, networking and sustainable development. We provide trainings for people from all ages, starting from children in kindergarten level, to school and university students and adults. We work to encourage and expand the cooperation among the academia, business, institutions and educational organizations in order to foster the development of policies and practices, based on the expertise and needs of all involved. Association Euni Partners has over 80 members from different professional backgrounds, including academia; education and training; media and new technologies; business; NGOs, etc.

Euni Partners extensively works with young people from and outside educational institutions, as well as with people from geographically distant/ rural areas and people with learning difficulties and disabilities, who are usually facing major difficulties in taking part in qualification courses and trainings, career orientation workshops and other initiatives that will make them more competitive on the labour market. The Association is aiming to improve the quality of education and training in accordance with the needs of the labour market. Therefore, we offer career–orientation support and professional training to school and university students. We organize training courses in the fields of entrepreneurship and employability; critical thinking and media literacy; tourism; international project management; food and beverage; ICT, graphic and web design, accounting etc.

As a meeting point of all stakeholders in the sector, Euni Partners works as an intermediary organization, providing for the linking and good communication among the different actors, and thus provides assistance and consulting to educational institutions and enterprises to better match and meet the ever-changing standards and demand.

**Aim of the project:**

The aim of the project is to empower young people with skills and competences, which will help them to strengthen their sense of citizenship, responsibility and initiative; improve their media literacy and critical thinking; digital and organizational skills; their career possibilities on labour market, give a chance to gain international experience, develop their tolerance and sense of solidarity and widen their horizons. Volunteers will gain experience in youth work, non-formal training activities, as well as methods for inclusion and integration.

The project supports the personal development of the volunteers in order to help them in developing crucial skills and competences for becoming active citizens of Europe, with sense of initiative, respect for diversity and the fundamental social values. A major focus will be the development of critical thinking and media literacy skills of the volunteers on one side, and of the local community on the other.

**Participants’ profile:**

Participants should be aged between 20-30 years, willing to take a challenge and get out from their comfort zone. We are looking mainly for young people with fewer of opportunities, particularly with geographical or economic obstacles or cultural differences, who are interested in NGO field, education, culture and social initiatives, who are open-minded, tolerant and respectful of others, with strong desire to learn new things. They should have good level of English language, be motivated, communicative, creative and resourceful people, ready to work in team and help to each other. The project will involve 4 volunteers from EU member countries.

**Volunteers’ tasks:**

Tasks connected with office work:

- development and implementation of projects, thus gaining project management skills, knowledge on EU and funding

- producing of Euni Partners Info Pack/Booklet

- writing blog, articles and newsletters

- design/managing of their own logo and website

- managing Euni Partners website

- working on activities promoting European Union Opportunities - Erasmus+ Programme and its actions, European Solidarity Corps, Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs- (creating presentations, leaflets, brochures, videos, infographics)

- preparing English lessons and Handbook

During school months, volunteers will lead interactive English speaking lessons and Civic education workshops. Through non-formal education, taking part in conversations, encouraging students to use English in daily situations, like shopping, going to a restaurant, hospital, buying a bus ticket, exercising their rights and learning their duties, involvement, problem-solving, etc. To make those lessons more interactive, they will be involved in different games, in which they can learn in a fun and interesting way. In addition, all materials (e.g. examples of the lessons, activities and games) will be collected and summarized by volunteers in a Handbook, which will be online and available for public.

For month May, it is planned to join European Youth Week Campaign for promoting Erasmus+ opportunities and European Solidarity Corps.

Volunteers will be involved in organising of “Summer Challenge” -training on critical thinking and media/ information literacy.

In cooperation with Blagoevgrad's regional library, we will organize Summer reading club for youth connected with different activities like discussions, games, theatre or art, in order to awake the interest of kids in reading and improve their literacy and language skills.

Volunteers will be also involved in youth club - Chat Club, initiative of our former volunteers. They will prepare 4 events, where they will present their country, traditions, habits, food and culture. Depending on volunteers' interest, besides Intercultural nights, they will be supported to organise events also on other topics of interest.

Euni Partners will use its network to provide the volunteers with opportunities to participate in different activities. They will have an opportunity to join different charity initiatives like making martenichki in Red Cross, join the Christmas campaign Teddy Bear, helping in dog shelter. They will have a chance to volunteer in Balkan Youth Festival taking place in September in Sandanski.

**Practical arrangements:**

Volunteers will live in shared apartment in single or double rooms in close distance to the office and centre of the city. Bills for the heating, electricity, water and internet are covered.

Monthly allowance is 225 EUR, except months January and February, when it is 209 EUR, due to higher electricity consumption.