

Deaf Solidarity



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About U.S.B



United Societies of Balkans (U.S.B.) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization based in Thessaloniki, Greece, working in the field of youth mobility, participation and promoting youth awareness of social issues. It was founded in 2008 by the initiative of a group of active young people who wanted to address the social issues which affect the youngsters in the Balkans and Eastern Europe.

Objectives

The goal of the organisation is the promotion of youth mobility, youth involvement and participation, voluntarism and human rights. We make it through:

- Promoting the values of non formal learning, voluntarism, active citizenship and democracy for the creation of a better future for the European youth;
- Involving minorities and immigrants into youth activities;
- Building healthy cooperation bridges between countries in the area of the Balkans and Eastern Europe with the rest of Europe;
- Using New Media and Citizens' Journalism methodologies to encourage youth expression, to raise awareness of Human Rights and to promote intercultural dialogue;
- Utilizing arts as a tool for the cultivation and expression of youth;
- Breaking down prejudices and stereotypes among the European countries and amongst youth.

In order to make more effective all our actions, USB is also member of several networks, such as Anna Lindh Foundation, Thess Diktio, Youth for Exchange and Understanding.

About EKBE



EKBE is a non-profit association which is active in Thessaloniki for the last 50 years. It has experience in supporting the deaf and hearing impaired who are in need as well as their families and aims at improving their living conditions and facilitating their socialisation process. They dedicate particular attention to the youth since it is the most critical period for the self-development of the person. The organisation also has a Youth Department, with young locals organising activities for their socialisation and education. All of EKBE's activities aim to involve youth with special needs and with fewer opportunities. The organisation represents a bridge between the deaf population and society, promoting social inclusion and working to reach equal opportunities for the hearing-impaired youth.

Objectives

- Promoting solidarity and communication links between the members of the deaf community and among the audiovisual workers in the greater Thessaloniki area
- Supporting the members of the Association in the assertion of their rights of all kinds
 - in the professional field of audiovisual creation
- Promotion of the continuous training of the members of the Association, in collaboration with educational institutions (public or private educational or professional, Universities and Technological Institutes, Institutes, Museums etc.)
- Developing solidarity and coordinating the Association's efforts with other labor/trade unions and with workers in Greece and around the world to defend their rights

Thessaloniki



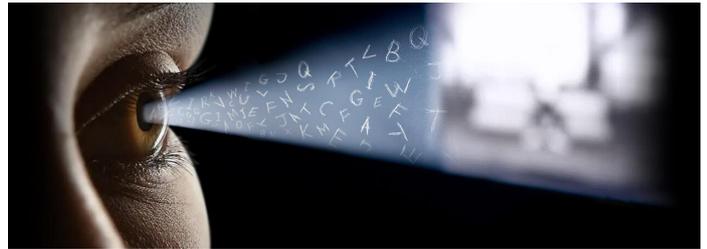
Thessaloniki is the second biggest city in Greece, and it is located in the North-East part of the country. It is a coastal city full of life, with a lots of youngsters and students. In 2014 it has been the European Youth Capital. It is also a city with a long history and tradition. It has always been a crossroad between the West and the East and a trading harbour for many Balkan countries. It embraces many immigrants and cultural groups from many areas of the wider region of the Balkans, which renders it a colourful mosaic of cultures and trends. More information is available on the website of the municipality: www.thessalonikicity.gr



In the vicinity

Interesting cities and places nearby: Meteora's monasteries, Pozar thermal natural baths, Kavala city and lots of other historical and natural places.
Travel to other countries: from Thessaloniki you will have the chance to get easily to the Balkan countries, well connected by plane, train or even bus. You can visit Serbia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Croatia, Bulgaria, Romania, North Macedonia, Turkey, Albania.

The project



Deaf Solidarity involves two participants coming from Lithuania and Cyprus, from 18 to 30 years old. The volunteers will be in Thessaloniki for 215 days + 2 travel days, ideally from the 1st of March to the 2nd of October 2020.

The volunteers will be involved in the daily activities of the organisation and will collaborate in the creation of events and material to support the deaf and hearing-impaired population of Thessaloniki and Northern Greece. For example, they will join the events and seminars organised to raise society's awareness about the deaf and hearing-impaired community and they will promote and help in the organisation of educational trips and cultural activities. .

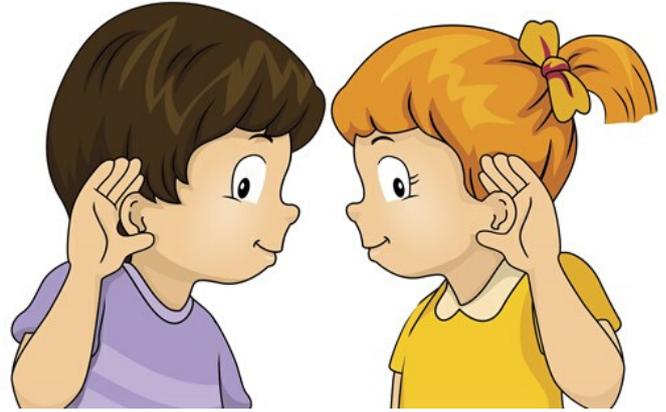
The participants will have a unique occasion to be involved in solidarity activities in another country, counting on a structure that will take care of all their needs and boost their learning outcomes.

The volunteers will give their services for a maximum of 30 hours per week, five days per week. They have the right to three free days extra that must be taken under the approval of the coordinator.

A mentor will support them during their staying and ensure their physical and mental well-being.



Volunteer's profile



We are looking for two volunteers, one from Lithuania and one from Cyprus, from 18 to 30 years old.

The selection of the participants is mostly based on their motivation and personal interest in the topics of the project. Nevertheless, we will give priority to youth with special needs and high motivation, especially people with hearing impairments or having a relationship with people with hearing impairments (in their family, friends or working place). This would facilitate the contact with the deaf community.

We need strong motivated participants willing to work with us, flexible and open minded. The volunteers will have a total freedom to develop and propose initiatives having the full support of our organisation and staff.



Language & Youthpass



Since the beginning of 2016, volunteers can take part in the online language courses through the online linguistic support platform created by the Erasmus+ programme: <http://erasmusplusols.eu/> We might provide extra Greek language courses with the help of other organisations. However, we try to encourage volunteers to learn the language through informal and non formal learning, participating in events and activities with Greek people, such as TANDEM meetings, where people from different countries help each other to learn and practise languages. This is an important activity organised with the cooperation of other organisations.



Youthpass

Youthpass is the official recognition tool for non-formal & informal learning in youth projects. Through it participants of Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps projects can describe what they have done and show what they have learnt. Volunteers have to keep a diary of their activities and learning in order to fulfill it properly at the end of their project. The Mentor is the responsible for the Youthpass and will support the volunteers for it.

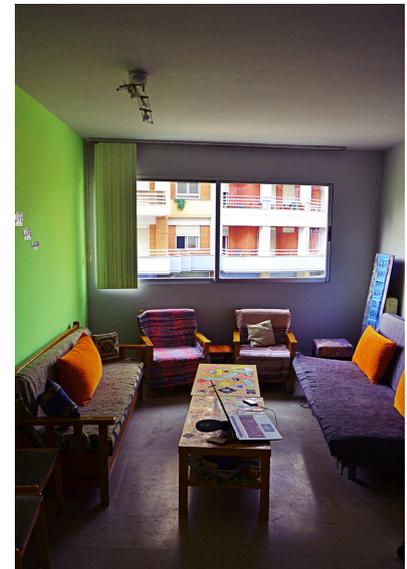
Accommodation



Volunteers are going to be accommodated in a fully equipped building located in the city centre (Anagnostara, 13) near the main bus and train station of the city. It is an autonomous 5 floored building of 150 m2 per floor and a terrace on the 6th floor. There are two living rooms and a big kitchen, showers in the common floors and toilets in every floor.



In the building there are also accommodated the volunteers who participate in other projects in the city coordinated by our organisation. Each volunteer will share their room with up to three more people of the same gender. In the building are living up to 35 volunteers.



Here is a video of the house :
<https://bit.ly/2JaZfmM>

There are also single rooms for people with special needs. Wireless internet is available in the whole building. The House Tender cleans the common spaces every day and the rooms once per month according to the volunteers. The volunteers are responsible for the daily cleaning of their own spaces as well as the common spaces during the weekends.



Food Policy



We provide our volunteers with three meals per day through a catering service that prepares the food according to their preferences and allergies (also if they are vegan or vegetarian). Diamantis Catering (<http://www.catering.gr/>) is one of the biggest catering services in Northern Greece and has received multiple certifications



of quality. In this way the volunteers will have the possibility to get in contact with the Greek cuisine and culture, but at the same time on Saturdays and Sundays they can cook and enjoy their own food. In the weekly days the House Tender will prepare the breakfast .

The kitchen is always available for the volunteers if they want to cook something more or add ingredients to their food.

Insurance and Health

The participants will have a private insurance by CIGNA, which covers all their needs for the whole duration of their project and even after that (for a few months).

The registration to the insurance is made by the Sending organisation. A network of doctors and hospitals is already available in order to meet all their needs, even the most urgent. The Mentor is responsible for all the issues connected with health and insurance.

Budget & responsibility



USB will be responsible of the practical arrangements (accommodation, food, tickets, welcoming) and will collaborate with Positive Voice for the preparation seminars of the volunteers.

Intervolve will be responsible for the activities of the volunteers. The travel costs are covered by the project until a limit based on the distance between Thessaloniki and the hometown of the volunteer.

The participant need to buy their tickets and will get the refund as soon as possible when we receive their tickets.

At the beginning of the mobility period the volunteers will take their individual financial support calculated in the following way: a pocket money, 5 euros per day plus 5 extra euros per day for the weekends, days off and official holidays of Greece (in these day the organisation will not provide meals).

The organisation will provide a monthly pass for the local transportation.

