**ESC Infopack**

**Out of the Shell II.**

Through this long-term project (October 2020 – September 2021), we would like to contribute to the personal of ESC participant, to the development of services of Ulita and the strengthening of the local community which is in contact with the participant.

The participant activities are the following:

- preparation and realization of free time activities for children and youths,

- support of the English lecturer for youths,

- involvement in the street activities in Kopčany neighborhood,

- help and support with organization of the Ulita projects based on own preferences and participate in the preparation of new projects,

- improvement of the photo/camera/graphics skills in order to help Ulita with events and activities,

- creation of the own project based on their own preferences in the connection with youth work,

- involvement in the activities based on volunteer strengths.

The project objectives are the following:

1. To contribute to building up a relationship between the organization and clients by providing leisure time activities and motivating clients.

2. To tutor children and youth in school activities and discuss the need for knowledge and skills development.

3. To help Ulita with the organization of various activities and events for clients.

4. To support administration tasks of Ulita.

5. To create her own project connected to the low-threshold topic.

6. To come up with the new ideas about work with children and youths.

7. To support growth, progress and maturity of a client so he/she is able to cope with life problems better as part of the social consultancy in case the participant is a student or graduated in social-helping fields.

The aims of the project are:

- to contribute to the personal development of the ESC participant, give her/him an opportunity to obtain new knowledge, skills, and experience

- to contribute to the development of services of Ulita

- to help Ulita with the organization of various activities for their clients and for public

- to promote volunteering and ESC within secondary school students, inform them about opportunities and this way give them a chance to find out that they can make a difference, what they can learn and how they can help

- to give clients of Ulita the opportunity to meet real foreign volunteer, increase inter-cultural sensitivity, increase curiosity about other countries and cultures, learn about European cooperation and solidarity

- to support direct work with Ulita clients by new points of view from ESC participant his/her culture, history, ideas, creativity

- to improve the English skills of Ulita clients by talking to a foreigner but also improve the Slovak language skills of the participant by talking to children

- to spread our experiences and know-how to other people who are from the field or are interested in our work

Ulita work is based on a low threshold philosophy so it means that the access for their services is very low – all of their services are for every kid, youngster or family and they know and they have experience that this way they can be here also for those people who normally are not able to go and use another type of services. Their services and people – social workers who provide it are open-minded, willing to build relationships, support young people during the very difficult period of their lives – growing up – so with their work they hope they can be “important adults” who can have a good influence on children. Another side of their work is that they don´t provide services FOR clients but they create it WITH them, so participative philosophy of their work is crucial and important – these way kids and young people can learn social skills which can be useful for them also when they will be grown-ups. Also volunteering itself has great potential and we want to share this information with other potential participants. Often when people see that their friends/family/teachers etc. are volunteering, they are more willing to get engaged as well. We believe that during the project implementation we will see some situation like that.

ESC participant can gain unforgettable experience, the opportunity to know a lot of new people, take a part in various informal educational courses and supervisions. Furthermore, we will present them low-threshold programs for children and youth. Work and regular meetings with our clients will help the participant to learn their strengths and weaknesses. Participants are highly valued and respected in our organization thus we always try to provide them with the best conditions for work. Teambuilding events like the weekend in the countryside, experience meeting, group games or breakfast sessions are organized regularly. Our organization is interested in their opinions, personal motivations, and satisfaction. We want all the activities to be organized professionally (either by our volunteers or by clients) so the long-term work is very important for us too. For this reason, Ulita is accepting volunteers only for 12 months.

Participant´s profile:

In this project, we are looking for someone ready to take up new challenges, who likes to work with children and youth. He or she should be enthusiastic about growing their personal and professional skills and prepared for unexpected experiences. Participant must be 18 years old or older. Being a student or graduated in humanitarian discipline is an advantage.

Required qualities include:

- flexibility (work with children requires good adaptability to changes),

- creativity (thinking of new activities for children, careful planning),

- empathy (to be able to understand children´s life situations and feelings),

- self-reliant, responsible (responsibility for assigned tasks),

- respect for the rules and boundaries

- communicative and capable of doing non-stereotypical work,

As this mainly is work with children and youth, the participant should be prepared to work in the afternoon and evening hours in the club but also directly on the street.

The participant should be prepared to help with:

- preparation and realization of free time activities for children and youths,

- support of the English lecturer for youths,

- involvement in the street activities in Kopčany neighborhood,

- help and support with the organization of Ulita projects based on own preferences and participate in the preparation of new projects,

- improvement of the photo/camera/graphics skills in order to help Ulita with events and activities,

- creation of the own project based on their own preferences in the connection with youth work,

- involvement in the activities based on volunteer strengths.

The selection process includes:

- publishing the offer in the database

- research in the European Solidarity Corps database,

- collecting CV and motivation letters

- interview Skype with each candidate

Accommodation:

The participant will be accommodated in the private flat which will be shared with other ESC participants or students.

Food and pocket money:

Participant will be provided monthly amount needed to ensure food and public transport expenses. Pocket money will be given to participant each month, along with money for food, in accordance with the project standards of practice.

Preparation:

Before the arrival participant will get a Participant guide for Bratislava with all information related to the stay. It will consist of materials about Bratislava, sight-seeing/cultural/sport options in Bratislava and Bratislava region, accommodation, suggestions for restaurants and various events schedules for the time of the service. It will also consist of a map of Bratislava and Slovakia, basic Slovak vocabulary, information about the volunteering in Slovakia, the goals and activities of hosting and coordinating organization, and all the relevant contact information (coordinator in BDC, coordinator in OZ Ulita, mentor).

Orientation and inclusion training:

Once participant arrives to Bratislava, he/she will get the orientation and inclusion training in order to integrate them into the OZ Ulita and its activities. BDC coordinator will organize the orientation session that will provide the participant with detailed info about the organization and especially about the project he/she will be involved into.

Participant will be provided by basic slovak language course. The language course will make the participant more open and available to activities that need the knowledge of the local language.

Mentoring and Support:

In addition to take care of participant, there will be a mentor, coordinators and supervisor assigned who will take care of participant, communicate with him/her, and spend time (sometimes even weekends).

For more information:

<https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity/placement/24571_en>

<https://ulita.sk/>

<https://www.dobrovolnictvoba.sk/en/>

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