

Actors of Change II

Arad, Romania



OBJECTIVES and ACTIVITIES

Romania has the highest rate of bullying in the EU: over 30% of students have been assaulted by a colleague and over 60% admit that they have been involved in such activities.

Analyzing the phenomenon in the last two EVS projects, we discovered that at Arad level:

- Between 15 and 35% of school pupils we have worked with have declared they are victims of aggression;
- In over 80% of cases, the cause is that the victims are "different" from their colleagues (eg they are of another ethnicity or religion, they look different: they are fatter, they are thinner, they wear glasses, they have a poor financial situation, have a different sexual orientation etc);
- Intolerance reaches alarming numbers (> 50%) when it comes to some vulnerable groups like: people of another religion, Roma minority, disabled persons or people of other sexual orientation.

More seriously, although intolerance is the main cause of the phenomenon, we have found that schools have a limited capacity to intervene, given the lack of human resources and know-how. Under these conditions, education for diversity is quasi-nonexistent in the school institutions in Arad.

Our proposed solution is continuing and expanding diversity education activities that have proven to be effective in combating discrimination, racism, harassment and violence

Moreover, in order to ensure the sustainability of the above, we want to support as many young people as possible to become actors in this process, educating them on the spirit of initiative, helping them become social entrepreneurs and developing their capacity to initiate activities that combat intolerance.

Therefore, the objectives of Actors of Change II are:

O1. Increase partners' capacity to coordinate and facilitate education activities for diversity and anti-discrimination and bullying in schools with 20 specialized youth workers (4/country);



O2. Reduce attitudes of intolerance, discrimination and bullying in at least 5 schools, amongst a minimum of 200 students in Arad, focusing primarily on the following vulnerable groups: refugees and Muslims, people belonging to the Roma minority, those with disabilities or a other sexual orientation;

The project will unfold between 01.09.2018-31.08.2020.

1st flow: from 07-01-2019 to 07-07-2019, for the school year 2018/2019

2nd flow: from 01-08-2019 to 01-03-2020, for the school year 2019/2020

For each stage, 5 volunteers, 1 from each of the partner countries: Latvia, Greece, Spain, Italy and the Netherlands

Activities and working methods for each stage:

* Introductory training: discovering the local community/ discovering the project/ mastering the non-formal programmes for diversity and anti-discrimination education: Bookmarks, A World of Difference, Peace Jam and Peers For Inclusion/ learning how to administrate the project blog and/or website/ communication/ tools for assessing the impact of the educational programmes.

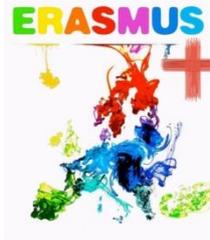
* Specific educational activities for combating exclusion of vulnerable groups and bullying in schools:

- Peer education workshops for reducing bullying and promoting diversity;
- Activities for counteracting hate speech;
- Advocacy and social activism campaigns for promoting diversity;
- Peer education workshops for inclusion of persons with disabilities;
- Volunteering for NGOs in Arad and Timisoara that are working in the field of social inclusion.

* Closing the activities, reporting, Youthpass, evaluation.

Volunteers will be working most often in teams of two, and will be assigned to different schools or organisations working with youth and vulnerable groups. They will be empowered to plan and implement the activities, using non-formal anti-discrimination methods, inspired by the 4 programmes, but also methods that they will identify themselves. The project will rely on their autonomy in the implementation of the activities.

Overall, the project will promote social inclusion and solidarity in the local community, opening it to diversity.



ERASMUS + PROGRAM:

The new program consists of three different 'key actions':

1) Learning Mobility of Individuals, including:

- Youth exchanges;
- European Voluntary Service;
- Training and Networking of youth workers.

2) Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of good practices, including:

- Strategic partnerships in the field of education, training and youth;
- Capacity-building in the field of youth (cooperation with partner countries from outside Europe).

3) Support for policy reform, meaning:

- Structured Dialogue.

European Voluntary Service:

- Only for organizations from program countries and neighboring countries;
- Minimum age: 17;
- Travel costs are now funded based on the travel distance of the volunteers;
- Volunteers can get 'online linguistic support' (assessment and learning) from a European Commission online platform.

PROFILE OF THE VOLUNTEER:

- Shows a direct interest in working with young people, in education, in general and in education for diversity, in particular. Priority will be given to volunteers for whom this experience will be framed in a long-term vision of their professional future;
- Feels comfortable working with groups of young people, speaking in public and facilitating non-formal education, or is willing to leave his/her comfort zone to develop in this respect;
- Is quite open and unbiased to work for the benefit of various vulnerable groups and to support their cause, or is open to changing his/her attitude in this respect;
- Shows critical thinking;



- Has a basic English level (or other language spoken by students in Arad: French, Spanish, German, Hungarian) or is willing to develop between the selection and the first month of stage, given that many of activities involve direct communication with students;
- Is between 18-30 years old;
- Is a resident of the sending country.

LOCAL COMMUNITY:

Arad



Arad is situated on the West part of Romania, 50 km far from Hungarian border, being the 13th biggest city of Romania, with around 200.000 citizens. In the past Arad was called “little Vienna” because the architecture from the center of the 2 cities were quite similar. The river that runs through the city is called Mureş.



IMPORTANT ASPECTS:

Accommodation – rented apartments, 2 persons/room, with access to bathroom (common), kitchen (common) and other utilities.

Meal – you will receive a monthly food allowance so you can arrange your own meals. The total allowance received/month/volunteer is 180 euro.

Local Transportation – you will receive a monthly tram ticket valid on all tram lines.

Internet – you will have access to internet at the accommodation place.



LUGGAGE – WHAT TO BRING:

It's not necessary to take a big luggage, because you will have the possibility to wash your clothes. Take whatever you consider necessary. Bring your own:

- Towels;
- Hair-dryer;
- Clothes Iron;
- Laptop (if you have one);
- Medicine (if you are on a specific treatment).



HOW TO GET TO ARAD:

Your destination is the city of ARAD and you have several possibilities to get here:

1. TIMIȘOARA AIRPORT

- Situated 60 km from Arad;
- In case you arrive here a member of the association will be in the airport waiting for you and will take you to your accommodation place.

2. BUDAPEST AIRPORT

- Situated 260 km from Arad;
- In case you arrive here, a driver will wait for you and take you to Arad, to your accommodation place where one of the members of the association will wait for you. The driver is from a company specialized with airport transfers, so they are professionals.

3. ARAD TRAIN STATION

- You also have the possibility to arrive to Arad by train from Budapest or other Romanian cities.

4. ARAD BUS STATION

- You can come to Arad by bus if you are traveling from countries such as: Spain, Italy, France, Germany etc.

SEE YOU SOON!

