

Key Action: Learning Mobility of Individuals
Action Type: Mobility of youth workers

Project Title

"Supporting Volunteers 4 Stepping up Quality"

Project Coordinator

Organisation ARGONAFTES

Address 149 Gregoris Afxentiou Avenue , 2369 NICOSIA , Κύπρος (Kýpros) , CY

Project Information

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Partners SINDESMOS SISTIMA KAI GENIA (EL) , ULUSLARARASI GENCLIK AKTIVITELERI MERKEZİ DERNEGI (TR) , JOVESOLIDES Egypt (EG) , SCAMBIEUROPEI ETS (IT) , Cesta rozvoje, z.s. (CZ) , Fundacja Projektowania Zmiany Edukacyjnej WYOBRAŽNIEJ (PL) , Inspiration (BG) , Propósito Inadiável-Associação para Costumes Futuros (PT) , Visuomeninė organizacija Musninkų kaimo bendruomenė (LT) , Asociación Extremundo (ES) , Association Tunisienne Pour La Jeunesse et La Diffusion de Culture De La Paix (TN)

Topics Development of training courses ; Quality and innovation of youth work ; Key competences development

Project Summary

Objectives

Our project was focused on quality volunteering management exactly on the ESC volunteering program. We implemented the Erasmus+ KA1 training course project between 16-24 September 2023 in Tunisia with 12 partners from 12 countries (Tunisia, Spain, Portugal, Lithuania, Greece, Türkiye, Italy, Egypt, Czech Republic, Poland, Bulgaria, Cyprus). The main goal of the project was to increase the capacity to work with volunteers in the participating organizations. This included conducting international training for current or future coordinators, mentors, and supervisors in volunteering projects, especially those with little or no experience but aspiring to develop their skills in working with volunteers (both national and international) in the future.

Our training course project included very valuable resources and was very rich in content. Regarding volunteer management in different countries; We discovered different perspectives, different methods and experiences. In addition, we determined how volunteers can be supported in a quality way, for example, we created a valuable output by determining the stages of volunteer management in the ESC volunteering process. Our Turkish partner shared 3 very valuable different resources: 1-Handbook on Quality Learning Mobility, 2-Quality Mobility App 3-"Hopscotch to Quality in EVS 2.0". Basically, we reached our main goal.

Throughout the training, the project aimed to develop and improve the competencies of the participants in this field. This involved providing them with an appropriate training system, ultimately leading to higher-quality volunteer activities and projects. These efforts were directed not only under the European Solidarity Corps but also when working with other volunteer programs.

Other goals that were set included:

- *Increasing knowledge related to the history, principles, and philosophy of volunteering, along with exploring opportunities for the implementation of quality and successful volunteer projects at the local, national, and international levels.
- *Familiarizing participants with information and updates relevant to the implementation of volunteer projects. This covered basic documents, the definition of rights, responsibilities, and the role of key stakeholders.
- *Acquiring knowledge about the overall process of volunteer project management, including dealing with conflicting and unpredictable situations in projects.
- *Raising awareness of the roles of key figures in volunteer activities, such as coordinators, mentors, and supervisors.
- *Achieving a better understanding and appreciation of the role of the mentor in the entire process.
- *Presenting and mastering ways to provide additional support for volunteers in disadvantaged situations.
- *Sharing good practices from the participating countries in working with volunteers.
- *Building a long-term partnership between the participating organizations, not only in the field of volunteering but also in youth activities in general.
- *Creating a network between participating organizations, mentors, and supervisors.

Implementation

The project was the implementation of a 7-day training course plus 2 travel days in total 9-days program between 16-24 September 2023 in Sousse in Tunisia. There were 12 partners from 12 countries (Tunisia, Spain, Portugal, Lithuania, Greece, Türkiye, Italy, Egypt, Czech Republic, Poland, Bulgaria, Cyprus).

The participants have with different background and expertise in the field of youth work and projects. They are current or future coordinators, NGO representatives, youth leader, supervisors or mentors of volunteers who would like to be developed themselves in the work with volunteers in the future.

The main activities of the Programe was as following title;

- Official opening, presentation of the training program , Green behavior
- Getting to know each other, setting group rules; participants' expectations/contributions/fears;
- Team building activity
- "Presentation of the organizations - NGO bazaar"
- Evaluation and summary of the day- Everyday
- Overall performance of Youthpass and Erasmus+ good practices/Volunteering and European Solidarity Corps/Volunteering projects"
- Working with volunteers in practice - "Walk and talk"
- World coffee- Working with volunteers in the participating organizations
- Creating quality standards of the Volunteering Management
- Roles in volunteering projects under the European Solidarity Corps - 1 part
- Roles in volunteering projects under the European Solidarity Corps - 2 part
- "Myths and realities about Volunteer projects"
- SUPERMEN (SUPERvisors and MENTors)
- Intercultural evening
- Challenges in volunteering projects
- "Tools for successful work as a mentor/supervisor/coordinator Digital skills and competencies"
- Meeting with local voluntary organizations and volunteers
- Volunteer work with disadvantaged youth and youth from marginalized groups
- Discovering 1- "Hopscotch to Quality in EVS 2.0" 2- " Quality Mobility App" 3- " Handbook on Quality Learning Mobility"
- Tips and Hints - Creating volunteer support systems
- Integrating sustainable practices into volunteering projects.
- Preparation of YOUTHPASS - self-assessment by each participant
- Farewell party and ceremony of receiving the Youthpass certificates
- Follow Up- Common Future Projects
- YouthPass Ceremony
- General Evaluation activities

Achievements

Our project was carried out in the city of Sousse with 37 youth workers from 12 different countries and 3 trainers. In our project, where participants from different countries and a joint organization came together, training course activities were carried out on the theme of volunteering in a multicultural environment.

In this context, partners and participants were influenced by each other on many issues and learned new things during the activity. The non-formal education methods that we will use in our activities are focused on learning and sharing and offer the opportunity to discover new experiences and experience while sharing experiences. Different institutions' perspectives on volunteering, different practices and collaborative working methods, etc. We shared all written and visual materials about our project on social media to increase the impact on target groups. At the same time, the training contents, results and visuals used during our project were shared with the participants and our partners.

Effects on participants;

- To have knowledge about different situations/practices in the field of youth, to learn how they seek solutions to problems and to develop solutions together.
- Increasing positive awareness about different cultures, improving skills in working with people from different religions, languages and cultures
- Improvement in learning/analyzing and cooperating with volunteering activities in different countries
- Information on Volunteer Management, Social inclusion, active citizenship and cultural diversity
- Participants get to know the history and Turkish culture of our country
- Improvement in living and working skills with people from different cultures
- Get more detailed information about the European Solidarity Corps (ESC)
- Learning more detailed information about the Erasmus+ program
- Participants improve themselves in non-formal education techniques
- Improvement in the ability to self-evaluate their own learning processes with the Youthpass certificate
- Developing the competencies of our participants such as digital data use, research, language, leadership skills and teamwork.
- Development of participants in communication, responsibility, empathy and solidarity
- Skill and knowledge development for project development and implementation
- Improvement in gaining the perspective of establishing corporate partnerships.

Impact on participating institutions/organizations:

- Obtain new information about the European Solidarity Corps (ESC)
- Capacity development on Volunteer Management, Volunteer support systems
- Partners improved their institutional capacity
- Contributed to the development of human resources
- Getting to know participating institutions from various countries in Europe and EU neighboring countries
- They will establish new partnerships and develop collaborations
- Improvement in experience and experiences regarding Erasmus+ projects
- Be informed about good practices and examples
- Capacity building in project management

Link to project card: [Show project card](#)