

Open Call for the -Supporting PARTicipation through Knowledge- SPARK- group EVS project

ABOUT CRES

Centrul Regional de Economie Sociala is NGO activating the city of Craiova in South West Oltenia region of Romania. The organisation was borne out of the desire of its members to have a more structured framework through which to be able to implement activities that would lead to community development and promotion of social economy.

The mission of CRES: CRES proposes itself to empower communities regarding self-management and long-term development of social economy and public administration reform to support the EU integration process.

For more info:

- [Our EVS Database Entry](#)
- [Our Facebook Page](#)

Through this **Open Call** the organization Centrul Regional de Economie Sociala **CRES** is looking for **Volunteers** for the **SPARK** project

Type of project: Mobility for youth – **European Voluntary Service**

Venue: City of Craiova, **Dolj county**, South West part of **Romania**

EVS Stage Duration: **01-August-2016– 01-Iune-2017**

How many volunteers: **8 volunteers** in total coming from Italy, Spain and Lithuania.

Profile of the Volunteer we seek:

- Aged between **18 to 30 years**
- Volunteers need to have a **genuine interest** in **Social Work, social inclusion**, and caring for the disabled and be willing to learn and expand their skills on these issues – This will consist the main selection criteria for the project
- **active, open-minded, creative, innovative, responsible and motivated volunteers**
- The volunteers who apply for this project need to **like and be willing to work with DISABLED YOUTH**(various mental disabilities and hearing disabilities) for 10 months.
- The volunteers of this project should, above all else, show willingness to **learn** and see their **EVS experience** as a **learning process**.
- **Basic level of English** (being able to make herself/himself understood by the others – able to communicate).

TL;DR - This is a long read, here is the shortest possible version:

You will be a volunteer and work with disabled children and youth for 9 months in Craiova, Romania.

All expenses are covered by us and you will learn a lot and have lots of fun.

What will I DO in the SPARK project?

The volunteers of the SPARK Project will be directly involved in the planning, organization and **implementation of non-formal activities in educational and social institutions in the city of Craiova**, activities directed towards the achievements of the project objectives.

The project consists of a 10 months EVS group activity that will involve 8 volunteers working in **6 institutions for disabled children** and **4 high schools for regular children** using non-formal methods to support the personal and professional development of **300 disabled children and 240 students from high schools**.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

Decrease the level of social exclusion and increase the social life of children with disabilities using non-formal education programmes that provide personal (self-confidence and self-esteem, independence, adaptability, creativity and ability to innovate, personal expression, sociability) and professional development (teamwork, communication skills, leadership, youth work, knowledge of non-formal methods, planning and evaluation) opportunities for both the volunteers and the target group

The project is structured in 3 main phases:

A1. Preparation, Adaptation and Training programme - 1 month – this is designed to transmit to the volunteer **all the theoretical and practical knowledge** about the project and prepare them for the rest of the project. The PAT has 3 parts:

1. A **5 day training** that will focus and getting to know each other, team building, and familiarizing with project activities, technical details and rules within the organisation
2. **2 weeks** in which, assisted by the mentor, the project staff and resource person from the community, you will **get to know the community, know the youth you will be working with, the institutions** that will help them and generally get an idea of how the working environment is and what are the challenges and opportunities
3. The last part of the a 3 day workshop where we plan the rest of the project and set up the activity calendar in detail

A2. Non-formal social inclusion programme.- 9 months

This phase lasts for the 9 months of the EVS stage involving 8 volunteers in programmes that aim at building social inclusion capacity in 6 social assistance and education institutions in Craiova

In this phase we will be implementing the 6 non-formal programmes in all institutions:

- 1. Intercultural learning self-expression stimulation programme** - approx 40 workshops/presentations/games per institution(400 in total): will make use of the **cultural diversity present** in the volunteer team by presentations, non-formal games and workshops on traditional arts&crafts, traditional dances and music, arts workshops (painting, clay modeling, singing, handicrafts), theatre, Creative play (use familiar materials in a new or unusual ways). This **aims to expand the knowledge** (from social institutions and high schools) increasing their awareness on other cultures while also **stimulating the participants self-expression capacity** and self-esteem.
- 2. Multilingualism programme** - approx 32 language workshops/institution(320): the **formation and coordination of language clubs** that use **non-formal methods**(games, workshops, movies, songs, role-plays etc.) to **complement formal training** and get the participants to develop and consolidate their capacity to speak the volunteers native languages.
- 3. Increasing social integration capacity** approx 2 times/week in Beethoven and mina, 1/week in the other 4 social institutions=28/month, total 224: **specialised workshops that aim to rise the "EQ" (Emotional Intelligence Quotient) of disabled children**, makes use of non-formal games and scenarios to assist the children in learning how to adapt to different social scenarios(meeting strangers, working in a team), stimulate their sociability, assist them in surpassing social anxiety, help them communicate their feeling effectively, learn empathy and other games that help them manage and surpass their disability.
- 4. Social Inclusion Awareness campaign** 1 activity/week, total 32 –On one hand it aims to expand the impact and disseminate positive messages across the city, and on the other hand to bring the **issues of social inclusion into the public spotlight**. It will consist of awareness rising activities - presentations in schools and university, outdoor and online awareness raising events, will reach at least 1000 people from Craiova
- 5. Promotion of lifelong learning opportunities**, 1 activity/week, total 32 – promotion and awareness building on the **importance of personal and professional development** and opportunities for lifelong learning accessible for all. The activity will campaign for **promoting the ERASMUS+ programme** and other opportunities for at least 500 youth in Craiova.
- 6. Uniting people through sports** 1/week/partner institutions, total 320- sports is an effective way to bring people together and teach a variety of skill such as teamwork, self-esteem, confidence. We will organize **different sport activities**.

To support the achievements of the project objective, reach a wider audience with our social inclusion messages and also support skill development we will **organize wide scale events** on certain internationally relevant days such as:

- **International Tolerance Day** (16th November) - used to bring awareness on the topic of tolerance, a topic of special relevance currently in the EU under the migrant crisis
- **International Day of Persons with Disabilities** (3rd of December) - directly linked to our Social Inclusion Awareness campaign

- **Europe Day**(9th of May) - celebrates the EU values that bring us all together
- **Children's Day** (1st of June) - celebrating the rights of youth. Also this will be our end of the project activity

All activities are to be done **inside the partner institutions** using their logistical infrastructure (rooms, equipment, some materials) after formal classes and other activities(such as special rehabilitation procedures for physically disabled) are over.

A3. Evaluation and follow-up phase will be done in the last month aiming at **evaluating the degree of achievement of project objectives** objectives, efficiency and effectiveness, the impact we had on the volunteers and target group, the volunteers and institutions

The above mentioned activities are the general overview but **each volunteer has the opportunity to propose, implement and carry on new types of activities bases on previous experiences, personal preferences, skills and abilities and well as have direct control over the methods used to implement the activities.**

What will I learn in the SPARK project?

Our learning methodology focuses on a combined approach to theoretical/practical knowledge based on “experiential learning cycle”, “learning by doing” and “framework theory “in which volunteers get to have hand on contact with the practical applications of the knowledge to be acquired while having a professional working besides the volunteer and providing feedback.

For the volunteers we aim to contribute to their **Personal&Professional development** targeting the acquisition of the following competences by the volunteers:

Professional development:

- increased skills on beneficiary and **institutional needs analysis** and how to use this analysis in program and activity design on short and long term
- learn about and increase competences related to **social work**, how social institutions work and adapt to the needs of their beneficiaries, how to increase and work towards **social inclusion**
- competences such as **project management, planning and evaluations, strategic development, risk management**, working in the NGO sector, international relationships, fund raising and social communication learned practically by working together with the staff of CRES
- learn how to use **non-formal tools to build competences**
- learn to **use animation** as a method to attract and work with both youngsters, special needs groups
- learn to **speak and understand Romanian Language** but also other foreign languages(of their peer volunteers) - done directly by weekly language tutoring , indirectly by contact with target group, friends etc.

Personal development:

- learn about **the European values and principles** by living in an internationalized environment, learning these values by operationalizing and transmitting them to the beneficiaries
- learn more about the **ERASMUS+ programme**
- learn how to **live and work in another culture** and learn about various cultural traditions and customs of Romania and of the countries of the other volunteers
- gain and develop skills such as **team work, leadership, interpersonal communication, planning, goal setting and working with deadlines** by working, planning and evaluating activities in an intercultural, highly interconnected and participatory managed team which will create the proper setting for acquisition of these skills.
- learn how to be more **tolerant, flexible and adaptable** - living and working together with others and also their type of work will require the volunteer to develop such abilities aided by the mentors
- develop soft skills such as **self-confidence, self-reflection and introspection abilities**, increased **personal autonomy**- the participatory planning and evaluation approach, job shadowing opportunities, creative thinking environment and facilitation coupled with the mentors support will directly facilitate the development of these traits.

All throughout the learning process and the project **you will be assisted by the CRES team and a personal mentor** in managing what, when and how you learn all these skills.

At the end you will receive a **Youthpass certificate** which is a **European Instrument for recognition and certification of skills** acquired in EVS

Practical Arrangements & Financial aspects

Travel: CRES will purchase **flight tickets** while the Sending Organisation will make sure that the volunteer is well informed, has all documents and gets safely on board.

Local transport: will be **covered by CRES**, upon arrival they will receive info on how to use public transport, a map of the transit lines etc.

Accommodation: CRES will host the volunteers in **rented apartments** in the **city of Craiova**. Each accommodation will assure **good living conditions** (private beds, equipped kitchen and bathroom, heating system, running cold/ hot water, Wi-Fi).

Working programme: working hours are flexible and adapted to the schedule of the target institutions and is usually **3-4 hours/day in with the youngsters and 1-2 hours/day for preparing the activities**.

Each volunteer is entitled to receiving **2 free days/week** (typically weekends but in case that an activity requires work on the weekend the volunteer will be free in the next days) and a total of **20 days of vacation in the project** that you can use as you want.

Language support: The volunteers receive Romanian language lessons **2 sessions per week for the first 4 months and 1 session per week** for the rest of the project.

Communication: each volunteer will receive a **Romanian SIM cards** for mobile phones which will be recharged monthly

Financial aspects: International travel, local transport, accommodation and utility fees, monthly communication costs, costs related to activities **are covered directly by CRES.**

Monthly food allowance: 100 euro/month

Pocket money: 60 euro/month

What support will be available during your EVS?

The **mentor** will be responsible for **the general personal support of the volunteer**. They are in charge of **solving practical problems** arising being the "first line of support" available. They will be the **volunteer's go-to person for any personal problems** as well as being responsible for **guiding the volunteer** through the **learning process**. The mentor will be there to help you identify **learning needs** and **opportunities**, help you **plan** your learning process and help in the **self-evaluation**.

The **counterparts** (staff from the schools – **teachers/professionals**)-that will be **supporting the volunteers in the actual implementation process of the activities**. They will provide the volunteers with professional support in delivering their activities.

Additional support will be offered by CRES in the form **Preparation, Adaptation and Training programme** which is a programme designed to transmit all the necessary skill and abilities for the project focusing on skills and abilities building programme, providing them with methods, tools and materials that will support and facilitate their activities in the project.

Have we caught your attention? Here`s how to apply!

1. Prepare a **CV**(preferably using the europass model [here](#)) and a **motivation letter**
2. Contact one of our **partner sending organisation** from your corresponding country:
 - **Asociación Mundus - Un Mundo a tus Pies - Spain - *alberto.unmundoatuspies@gmail.com***
 - **Jovenes hacia la solidaridad y el desarrollo - Spain- *boutinaelhadri@jovesolides.org***

- Associazione Culturale Link - Italy - link@linkyouth.org
- Scambieuropei - Italy - redazione@scambieuropei.com
- South Europe Youth Forum - Italy - sandro.accogli@seyf.eu
- Associazione Uniamoci Onlus - Italy - uniamocionluseleonora@hotmail.com
- Vsi Socialiniu inovaciju centras - Lithuania - z.jurgelioniene@socin.lt

3. We will have a **Skype** interview with you

4. We announce if you have been selected and we prepare the paperwork

If you are interested and want more information you can also [CONTACT US AT](#)

Email: serban.nagy.cres@gmail.com

Phone: 0040 766 670 465