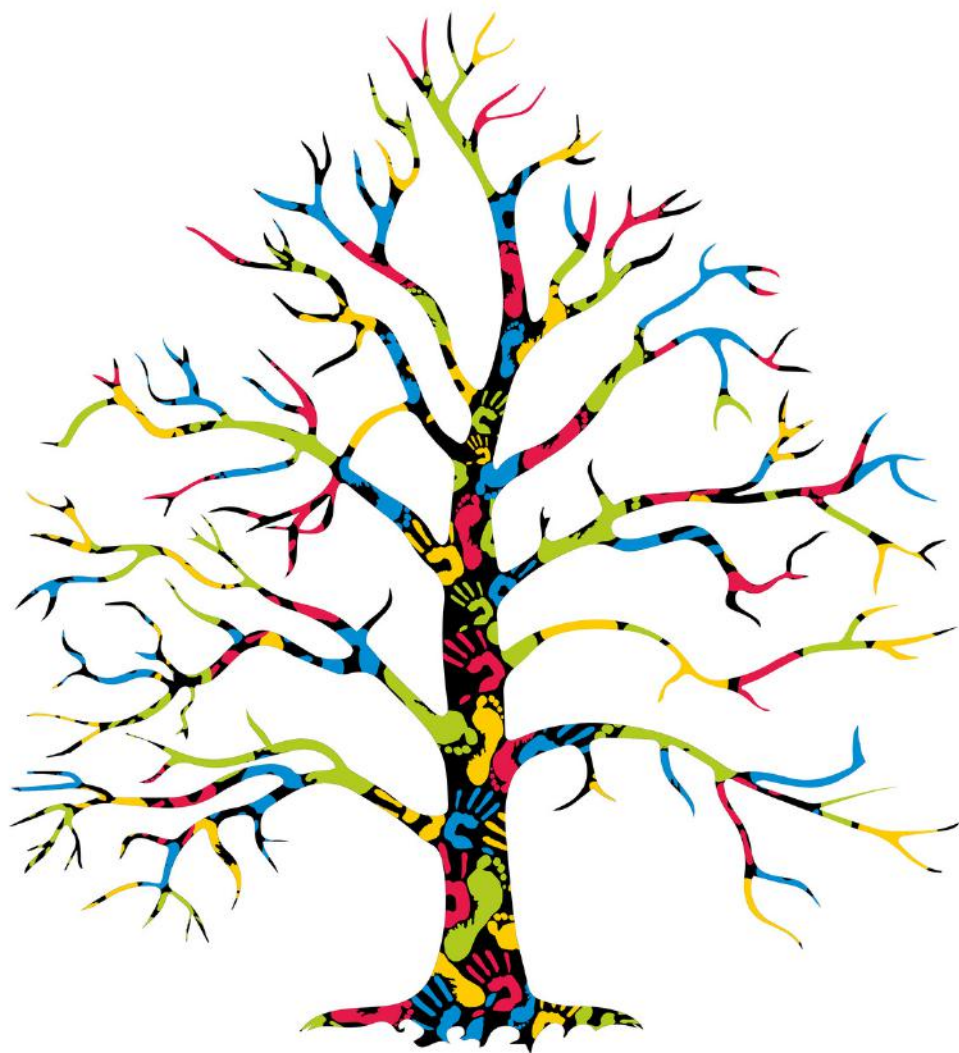


BYSC 2



Curba de Cultura



15TH JUNE 2016 - 14TH MARCH 2017

Building Youth Supportive Communities 2



In nowadays society we should focus more on youth and on their personal development because the future of our society depends on them mostly. This also represents our motivation to run the Youth Centre. It is of a great importance to provide leisure time activities for the youngsters in our area and not any kind of leisure time activities but

especially the ones which relate to and interfere with their personal development and to community development. For over four years since Curba de Cultură is operating in rural areas it became very clear that parents have a very significant influence in young people's decisions. At the same time the parents are, as well, influenced by the

peers in the local community. This led to a belief that non-formal learning is not a "proper" way of learning. Also this project it is a continuation of BYSC a project already in implementation. This means there is already a basis in the community; so through this project we will move one step forward on the path to development in rural areas.

The Timeline of the Project

15 june	- Building Youth Supportive Communities 2 started
June- July	- the selection of the volunteers
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Anna and Alessio arrived- Anna and Alessio took part in the On Arrival Training Training- summer workshops in the Youth Centre: handcrafts, English speaking meetings, drawing, woodcraft
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Eleny arrived- nonformal learning methods and communication training- Beginning of the School Year- Intercultural Event
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Eleny took part in the On Arrival Training- workshops in schools- intercultural learning lessons in schools
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- workshops in schools- intercultural learning lessons in schools- Anna and Alessio took part in the Mid Term Evaluation meeting
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Human Library Event for the International Volunteers Day- winter holidays workshops- Christmas Intercultural Party
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- goodbye lessons- evaluation of the mobility
February- March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- closing the project- dissemination of results- final report





Anna – eager to make changes and to influence the World. She is coming from Czech Republic she is 26 years old. Anna has experience in the volunteering field.

Alessio – is Italian, he is 30 and very passionate in underground art, he is vegan and a human rights and animal rights activist.



Eleny – likes to sing, to do hikes and to shoot arrows with the bow. She is 24, from Estonia and she considers EVS as an extraordinary chance to learn.

Who are the volunteers?

Volunteers' stories:

My arrival

Alessio



Monday morning!

Ready, with my Japa Mala at neck, airplane ticket in my hand and a big smile on my face I left Italy with humble hopes to learn the best and grow up in this country that I will call soon "Home", again on trip, destination Romania, ready to make my soul free! I arrived in Bucharest airport, Sorin was waiting for me, and with him a ginger girl, Anna. At first I've thought that she was part of the staff of Curba de Cultura, but no, Anna is a Czech volunteer, we share the same project, and for she I've

tried immediately affection; her sincerity and kindness are two characteristics that is impossible to not see. Immediately I felt happy to share with her this chapter of my life, which just started! Along the road to Izvoarele I watched the landscape and I have felt already home, happy about this extraordinary start. At home the rest of the international volunteers family was waiting, Margot and Maël, with a simple and delicious dinner and the best and warm "Welcome"! Here I am, at the end of this short story of my arrival, my first

week was really beautiful, I felt happy meeting new people with whom I shared something strong and authentic, with whom I shared the house and the room, with whom I will spend time in the association, also meeting youngsters and kids in the village, local people who respond to my greeting with a smile, because I think that one of the most important things of an EVS project are people and the relationship with them to feel more and more part of the world and widening our horizons!

See you next time,
yours, Alessio!

EVS Photo Gallery



Volunteers' stories:

Me and Romania

Anna

Hi there!

You have already heard about me, I am the one from Czech Republic, the red head one. I am also the one who was a bit surprised, in the best way, by her new live in Romania. We were told we are going to live in a typical rural house. OK. I was prepared for dry toilets somewhere in the end of our yard, mice everywhere, hot water only from stove... sharing my room with all the other volunteers.

Nope. First of all, we have two bathroom inside the house, both. Well... almost inside. So far I have my own room just and only for myself. So far I have discovered the advantage of kitchen placed in yard – you eat when you need to, not when(ever) you have a sweet tooth. And so far I discovered how amazing Romanians are. Not sure when your bus leaves? No problem, somebody stops and takes you even if you are not hitchhiking, just stay in the bus stop and wait for a minute or two. (Well, we already know it does not work if you are French with dreadlocks or dark Italian. But it works if you are a nice person, especially girl. Sorry, boys.)

My first weeks were about discovering local... everything and everyone. I have been introduced to our adopted dog Fifty Shades, chickens, local volunteers (sweet young people with heads full of ideas, jokes and notions), to my/our activities, and, of course, to „my“ organization. Yeap, all of it in the same time. During the week we make interesting and entertaining lessons such as music, languages or handicraft, we play games with local kids, and show a movie. During weekends our programme is up to us, which means I am walking around the neighborhood.

See you soon!

Anna,
volunteer from Czechia



31 of September was the time to flight to Romania. Before that I was totally struggling because of packing. In my mind entire time there was one question – How do you pack your 5 months things into one bag? Surprise, surprise I managed to do that just before going to sleep in day before leaving. Success

In that night I slept only 3 hours because I had to leave at 4 in the morning already and I didn't have a good sleep. Luckily my mother was so kind that she dropped me off to the airport in the early morning. When we arrived to the airport it was madness over there, because many flights where at the same time and that didn't happen very often when I had flights. Next, I had to drop off my bag, my big heavy bag. I was nervous because I didn't know how much weight it is. Luckily everything was okay and I had the chance to start my trip without any problems.

After security check, after explosions check, after showing my bag I was thinking... well there were my problems and let the adventure begin.

I was flying with Lufthansa and it was really pleasant stay in both flights because I had the same seat on both flights and I got food and drinks. I really recommend having same seats, because it is just easier if you are tired. And of course I had lot of thinking what am I doing right know, how is it possible that I'm going to Romania, why am I doing it. I am just CRAZY!!

At last I arrived to Romania. Firstly I just wanted to receive my bag. It was my first aim in Romania. After long wait I saw my luggage. I have never been so happy to see my big heavy bag. But there I was, exhausted, exited, scared and waiting my new life to start. Helllooo Romania!

Eleny,
volunteer from Estonia



Volunteers' stories:

Bye, bye Estonia

Eleny

Letters from local volunteers to EVS volunteers

Holaaa guys! I will treat this letter for you very seriously! «one moment of silence and seriousness, please»

Ok then, I'm ready now!... Should I start? Hmm «thinking ummmm». By the way, you have to read this letter with the perfect intonation, I will let some indications for you.

First of all this is not a letter for my english class, so I don't have to start with 'first of all!'. «that was a kind of joke, so you have to laugh» «I will want you to laugh»...

Sooo (did you see it? it's a long 'so') so you have to read right) I will really miss you guys! I know that we haven't spoken as much, but you are part of Lucia's family «hug, hug, hug». I really hope that you had a great time here. I don't know what to say... It's one of those moments when you are thinking of what happened and want to say something, but your mind is not working «..»

The thing is that I know exactly what I want to say: I just want to tell you that I'm so glad to know people like you. Your stories inspired me and make me do crazy things (in good way).

"I actually truly care about you guys and i will certainly miss you dearly."

Bianca

Hello my dear EVS friends.

It was great to have you around, even tho' we didn't meet very often, it still was a good experience to meet each of you.

Also, we're «METAL BROTHERS», you are a great person. And... it's been a nice experience having your «love story», it was not as boring as you thought.

Anyway, you are such a friendly humor being.

I am glad to have met each of you. COSMIN

It was great to have you around... it was a good experience to meet each of you."

Cosmin

Thank you for the activities you have deposited and for all your smiles. I know that, probably, was hard for you to accommodate and wasn't easy to be surrounded by people who don't know english.

ok I can do now is to say **THANK YOU!!!**

You will be missed «xoxo»

Oh, I was so emotional «laugh» What is happening to me? «ridiculous question»

Hope that you will want to come back to visit us

Love, Lorena
XOXO

"I just want to tell you that i am so glad to know people like you. Your stories inspires me and make me do crazy things (in a good way)."

Lorena

Dear EVS volunteers or, may I say, friends,

The moment I feared for some time came, you are leaving and that's the reason for writing this, to say goodbye in a special manner, the one that you deserve.

Time, I enjoyed being around you, talking, working and laughing with you. Listening to your story made me realize that if you really want something you can do it, that you should work hard for your dreams and, also, that things may just work out in the end if you let them be.

It gave me hope and actually made me smile like crazy for at least an hour. Keep up the good work!

Anyway, your bubbly personality and amazing smile made being around you so awesome. Although you always gave me good vibes you could always be serious when needed. I like the way you show your affection and you give amazing hugs by the way (even if I end up in the air).

Keep being the cheerful and amazing, lively person you are.

Also, or should I say dear, thank you for taking care of me (feeding me with the best tomatoes) and teaching me that I should always be me, do what I love and I shouldn't care about unjustified criticism. I hope your plans of coming back work out so we will get the chance to talk again about family, life and the universe.

With that being said, I will end by adding that I actually truly care about you guys and I will certainly miss you dearly.

Love, Bianca 11

January 22nd, 2017
To: Lucian

My Special Little Friends,

Time runs very quickly and - because there are too many so called, important things to do - you sometimes don't spare more time with people who are worth to.

This is what happened to me the last six months. So I must try at least to repair this regrettable mistake. And, because maybe we shall never meet again after your depart, I first must let you know that I'm going to miss you very much.

Then I must say that I admire you for your courage to venture in a foreign, completely unknown country for a noble cause. In the same measure I envy you for your youth and perseverance in working with children in our schools. You must know they appreciate your efforts very much.

And so do I.

So thank you for your help. Thank you for that magnificent treasure hunt. It was very well projected and organized. Thank you, Elena, for teaching me that we sometimes must let children work without interfering in order to let them learn from mistakes. Thank you, Anna and Eleonora, for guiding them through an interesting labyrinth so as to make them learn friendship, sympathy and love for everything.

Thank you for working with the pupils in my class and making them understand the danger of being violent and the importance of teamwork and

partnership.

Thank you for inviting us to the Christmas party. It was very funny and tonic for us.

Thank you for your presence and for your understanding and smiles.

You are very kind, generous and passionate people and, I'm sure, so you'll remain until the end of your lives.

Love,
Lucian Mian

"I am happy to see that there are people who fight for their cause, who want to change the world. I am happy I've met them and I've got a beautiful friendships."

Mihai

Usually, a letter begins with a order and a halver. But what if this time the letter is not for a person, it is for a soul-or many. A soul can't write... and a soul can't read... but it can feel which is the purest way to communicate.

I'm happy to see that there are people who fight for their cause, who want to change the world. I'm happy I've met them and I've got a beautiful friendship.

I'll never forget the things that I've done beside them. I wish you would stay here forever at Carben.

I hope that in our future we will see each other again.

Love, Mihai

My nice friends,

Even though I didn't know you very well, you made me feel like you are some really cool people. You are so open-minded, sensible and cute. You are a rare case because you were strangers and you were so warm and kind to me. You are absolutely fantastic! The activities we built together are memorable. I will gladly remember every minute we spent together.

Never give up on your hopes and dreams!

I wish you the best!

Love,

Maria - Alexandra Murescu

♡

"You were so warm and kind to me. You are absolutely fantastic! The activities we built together are memorable."

Alexandra

"I will miss the Italian <<rock sessions>>, the Estonian girl overloaded with cuteness and the ginger Czech girl who came up with the idea of having some cool English tea parties."

Gabi

Hey guys,

I really hope that you had fun here. I'm feeling bad because you are leaving. It's hard to say but I will miss you.

I will miss the Italian, rock sessions if I can say like this, the Estonian girl overloaded by cuteness and the ginger Czech girl who came up with the idea of having some cool English tea parties.

If you'll come again to Romania you know where to find us and also, if I will come to Italy, Czech Republic or Estonia, well - I hope that I will find you, otherwise I will sleep under a tree.

Also were some great moments. Let's make them happen again!

Lucian Gabai
A Gabi

"I must say that I admire you for your courage to venture in a foreign, completely unknown country for a noble cause. In the same measure I envy you for your youth and perseverance in working with children in our schools. You must know they appreciate your efforts very much. And so do I."

Lucian

Volunteers' stories: EVS from the community's perspective

Alessio

In the moment I was asked to write this article, I could not refuse, so here I am telling you about the impact on community. With the help of Claudiu, our local volunteer, I interviewed some people asking them what they know about us, what opinion they have about us, what do they think about the work we are doing in the community and what more we could do?

Some people were evasive, some did not want to answer, some told us that they don't have idea about what EVS volunteers do. Finally, some people were also aware of the stuff we did in local schools and aware of what Curba de Cultura does. They told us that our work is very appreciated because we help the youngster in the community to become open minded and we help them to get acquainted with other cultures.

The adults from the community like that each of us is from a different nation, with different backgrounds and cultures, moreover that each of us has different experiences and knowledge to share with youngsters and children.

Furthermore, some said that we are sympathetic and they like that we are saluting in Romanian and interacting with all the community. I can say that I also really like the relationship with the community and I like the kindness of children's parents.

In the end of this day I can say that I've received a nice surprise for these interviews with the community and it was very rewarding to know that we are doing a good job.

This is the greatest of the EVS project!



Volunteers' testimonials

I am so happy I could join EVS and especially the project and people here in Romania. I would never expect so many new experiences, although some of them were harder than I would think in the beginning of my staying here. And I would definitely not expect people taking so awesome care about me and all of us, EVS volunteers. I feel I am leaving not a project, but a new home. I fell in love with local habits, nature and the cute, eastern-European atmosphere. I was enjoying all our activities, even those which were hard and not really working, but they were part of my experience and my learning process. And I am so, so much grateful for all what people from Curba did for us. This EVS would be completely different without their presence, I would not have this great feeling of safety and there would be nobody to be my supporting pillars. I hope all future volunteers will have the same good feelings from Curba's project and that Curba's people will have good experiences with them.

Anna



I have start this experience with all my good attitude and after it start to be a competition between me and myself, and it was better, now I am very happy to be here, in this last time, thinking at all the things that I lived day per day. During my EVS almost anything was a new experience ant it make me grow, I feel different than six months ago, now I have a more clear Idea about myself. And I hope that every other person that are still start an EVS project have the fortune to meet an association fantastic made by amazing people like my hosting organization, it was as a family. Thank you Curba de Cultura!

Alessio

I am really happy that I chose to be here and make the EVS in Romania. I got to know about myself and my skills, what I am good at and what should I work on. Those months were full of happiness, sadness, craziness. Every kind of event, activity, trip was an adventure and there were a lot of them. Thanks to the EVS I got to know what I really would like to do in the future and I hope to make awesome cooperation with my hosting organisation.

Eleny



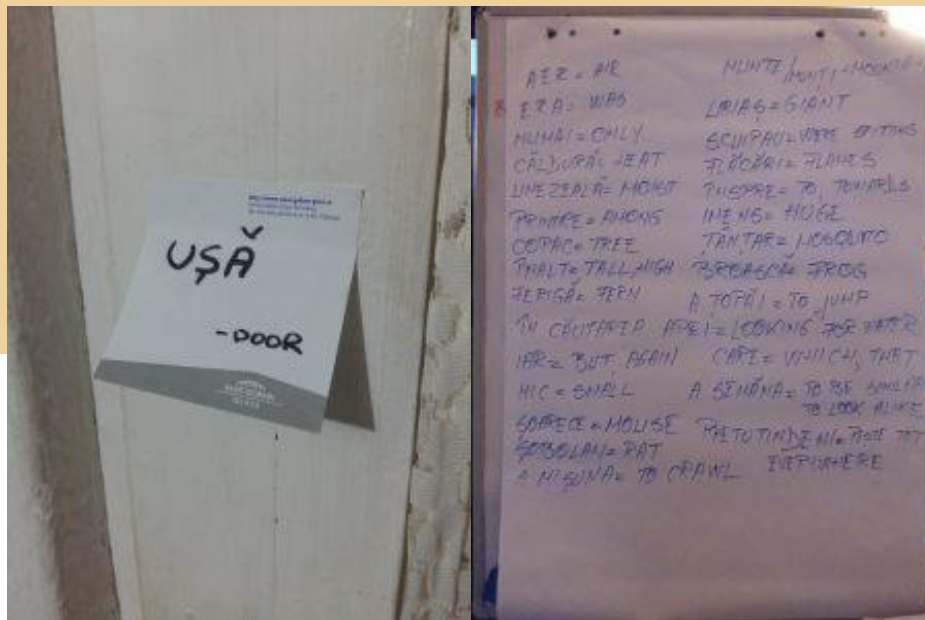
EVS

Photo Gallery

Volunteers' stories:

Sunt voluntar, nu am bani. Gata!

Eleny



For Estonians, like me, Romanian it's really hard language because there is no similarity with Estonian. Yes, I could know Italian or Spanish languages which are similar, but I know German and Russian and that is not helping me. At all. But there is also some similarity with Estonian and Romanian language... they are both just unbelievably hard to learn.

My first word what I learned in Romania was "gata". That word is just magnificent. Everybody understood that when its "gata" it is "gata". Now I'm just using that word all the time. And you know...

I'm taking that word with me in Estonia and then everybody is getting to know the power of the word "GATA". Other sentence what everybody said that I have to know was "Sunt voluntar, nu am bani". Easy to remember... but in the beginning it was incredibly Chinese for me.

Day by day I started to learn more and more this language, because I had my Romanian lesson each week. Huh... I would say. Now our volunteers house is full on signs which are teaching us words and that's how we learn. Also I'm learning a lot thanks to my mobile applications.

This is really useful and handy for learning that hard Romanian language. So where I'm trying to speak my really bad Romanian — everywhere... but more in the schools, if I'm hitchhiking or in the shop. Basic words and talking with your hands always helps... But people still understand you and they teach you even more Romanian – so I would say talking is good, because you learn a lot.

Sooo... every day is a new day and every day you can learn new word. My last word what I learned was "iepure". But there is sooooo many words I can learn!

Letters from local volunteers to EVS volunteers

Hey guys,

I'm really glad that you came here and I hope you had fun and made friends.

I'm proud that you chose my country to be learned and "discovered" by you.

I'm sorry I haven't talked to you more and I'm sorry that you're leaving.

I'm happy that I met you, actually a little piece of you and I hope you'll come back so we can know each other better if you don't I think I can take a plane to visit you.

love,
Cosmina
Cluj

"I'm really glad that you came here and I hope you had fun and made friends."

Cosmina

"I hope that you enjoyed here in Romania and achieved what you were looking for before you came here."

Ionuț

Hey! I've heard that you are going to leave home? Can't you stay more longer? I liked to meet you, I've had fun with you, I've learned new things, I've improved myself with your help. You are persons that it's a pleasure to stay, persons with you can talk about everything.

I'm sorry that you have to leave, but this how it is, everyone got homesick, misses his family and friends...

I'm so glad that I've met you and I will waiting for you to come back, to visit us.

Dear Anna,

I would like to thank you for all good things you did for the community which is more valuable now. I really hope that you enjoyed here in Romania and achieved what you were looking for before you came here.

I do wish you good luck, especially now is a new beginning for you and I highly recommend that to be as optimistic as you can + do not give up easy and to trust the process. Great things take time and "if you can dream it, you can do it."

Best wishes,
Sonnet

Dear Alex, I do wish you good luck and lot of inspiration in the next journey which will start soon. Sonnet never had such a great mentorship as you are. I think you are on the good way and with the magic recipe which contains hope, luck and patience you will reach where you want. Keep dreaming.

Best regards
Sonnet
Cluj

Dear Elany,

I can't remember when a Sonnet was a girl with lot of magic and happiness. Sonnet was like a person you should continue in the way and add some patience and hope in everything and everything you wish, it will happen just like cars which we you wish. Don't forget to dream and to dream and then to dream. Under happen, maybe :) Good luck and when you need an advice or to something for you, just let me know! A.O.

Best wishes,
Sonnet
Cluj

"Can't you stay more longer? I liked to meet you, I've had fun with you, I've learned new things, I've improved myself with your help."

Laurențiu

"Thank you guys for being my friends and I really hope to meet you again. When I grow up I want to be like you."

Arabela

My dear friends,

After all the activities we built together at Cusba, I end up thinking that you are some really smart and cute guys. You have charisma. You are the definition of originality. One of the most beautiful memory I have with you is the activity "Biblioteca Vie". What a wonderful day!

Guys, I wish you the best! I hope you have some great memories from Romania!

Kisses,
Scriptorina Cristina.

"You are some really smart and cute guys. You have charisma. You are the definition of originality."

Cristina

Don't leave,

It's bad that you're leaving because I got used with you and for sure it won't be the same without you.

I hope your guys will come back soon and if not I will try to visit each of you when I'll have enough money, haha.

I'm glad that I had the chance to have some of your traditional foods (by the way, I'm not a fan of them), but without any jokes (kind of impossible).

I'm feeling proud, let's say, because I had the chance to teach you something and also to learn something from each of you.

Which you the best in your future and send me some goodies from time to time.

With love,
Cozo.

I don't know how to start because I have so much to say about you, guys, and about the time that I spent with you.

Alexis, Elany, Anna, I'm gonna miss you so much, and I hope, actually I'm sure that we're gonna meet again, and we're gonna make new memories.

I regret that I didn't spend more time with you, but I'm proud I have met you and I had the opportunity to be your friend and to have memories with you.

Thank you Alexis for the best coffee made by you and for all the conversation about everything. Thank you Anna for teaching me how to make that paper butterflies and how to walk on the mountains (remember? that's when we first met) and thank you Elany for all the hugs and for all the sweetness that you shared with me.

Thank you guys for being my friends and I really hope to meet you again. When I grow up I want to be like you!

When I drink coffee I'm gonna think about Alexis, when I'm angry I think about Elany and what a good and sweet person she is and when I speak in English, surely I will get to do it like Anna and her great accent!

I don't wanna think about your leaving cause I'm getting it, but instead of that I will think about it like a... memory, vacation until I will see you again.

You are gorgeous and awesome people and I love you so much!

See you, see you soon!
Or friend, Arabela.

"It's bad that you are leaving because I got used with you and for sure it won't be the same without you."

Cozo

Volunteers' stories:

Human Library

Anna



Because Romania, especially its rural parts, does not really know what to understand under the word "volunteer" and it is easily connected with the old communistic picture of it, Curba de Cultură decided that on 5th December (the International Volunteering Day) to organize a Human Library about volunteering. The Books were Romanian volunteers which returned from international projects and us, EVS volunteers. In a local, cozy pub we had Librarians, local young volunteers who introduced the Readers (incoming guests) to the list of books. Reader then chose the one he was the most interested in and they sat down in a more private table, where the Book said its story and Reader could ask questions.

I have to say that it was very nice experience with very nicely organized event. Although we did not have dozens of Readers, those who came got the best service. I told my story twice, first time to a woman for whom were my words translated, which was super interesting – to shorten my story and try to keep its line. The other reader was a young man and my story was suddenly different. No need of translation, different sex, age and questions. The first time it was a life of a girl, me, who had harder childhood, worked on herself, fell in love and ended up with her love. The second time it was a life of a girl, who was trying to cut her family ties so badly, that she was determined to fail every single time.

I saw that life can have any shape or form, depending on who you talk with and what you do (not) want to mention or point out. It means that simply by focusing on the positive things, there is a big probability to change your life in a good way. At least from outside.

In nowadays society we should focus more on youth and their personal development because the future of our society depends on them mostly. This also represents our motivation to run the Youth Centre. It is of a great importance to provide leisure time activities for the youngsters in our area and not any kind of leisure time activities but especially the ones which relate to and interfere with their personal and community development.

VOLUNTEER



LEAVE YOUR PRINT!

The project BYSC 2 provided, for the three international volunteers involved in, a framework for personal development and for improvement of professional skills and for the youngsters from the community a great opportunity for intercultural learning and acquirement of competences and language skills.

CdC team wants to thank to the EVS volunteers for the great job they did and to the local volunteers for their support and warm hearts. Also this project could not have been successfully implemented without our local partners: Școala Generală Traian Săvulescu Izvoarele, Centrul Cultural Izvoarele, Liceul Tehnologic Măneciu și Liceul Tehnologic Agromontan Romeo Constantinescu din Vălenii de Munte.

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