

ABOUT ACT

Association Communities for Youth is a NGO acting in City of Bailesti South West Oltenia region of Romania. ACT mission is to develop, implement and support youth development programs built around the concepts of lifelong learning, mobility and associativity. ACT works to empower young people to participate actively in society to improve their own lives. The aim of this empowerment is to establish a wide-based community movement which encourages the positive involvement of young people in solving issues which affect them, treating them as resources, not as problems.

- [Our Database Entry](#)

- [Our Facebook Page](#)

Open Call for the SHIFT - ACT - group EVS project

Through this **Open Call** the organization Association Communities for Youth - **ACT** is looking for **Volunteers** for the **SHIFT** project

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

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

EVS Stage Duration: **01/08/2019 – 31/01/2020**

How many volunteers: **8 volunteers** in total.

Profile of the Volunteer we seek:

- Aged between **18 to 30 years**
- The volunteers who apply for this project need to **like and be willing to work with youth** for 6 months.
- **active, open-minded, creative, innovative, responsible and motivated volunteers**
- The volunteers of this project should, above all else, show willingness to **learn** and see their **volunteer experience** as a **learning process**.
- **Basic level of English** (being able to make herself/himself understood by the others – able to communicate).

This is a long read, here is the shortest possible version:

You will be a volunteer and work with youth for 6 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 SHIFT project?

This project starts from the assumption that media literacy is an added value and a factor of the quality of life in the everyday lives of 21st century citizens, as well as a pillar of democracy. As stated in a recent study, “because the media is so omnipresent in modern society, it is no longer simply an advantage to be media literate, but a debilitating disadvantage not to be” {Celot, P. ; Perez-Tornero (2010). Study on Assessment Criteria for Media Literacy Levels. Report produced for the European Commission.}. From an educational and cultural point of view, media literacy is the ongoing result of a pedagogical process that must acquire consistency in school and extends over a lifetime.

According to the European Commission media literacy is "all the technical, cognitive, social, civic and creative capacities that allow us to access and have a critical understanding of and interact with both traditional and new forms of media (...). It is closely related to active engagement in democratic life, to citizenship and the ability to exercise judgment critically and independently as well as to reflect on one's own actions, and can thereby enhance young people's resilience in the face of extremist messages and disinformation" (Council conclusions on developing media literacy and critical thinking through education and training, 30 May 2016.)

Media literacy is related to several key competences: 'digital competence', which requires a critical and reflective attitude towards available information and a responsible use of the interactive media; 'social and civic competences' which include the ability to understand different viewpoints and a readiness to respect the values of others; and 'cultural awareness and expression' which encompasses a sense of identity as the basis for an open attitude towards and respect for diversity.

A media-literate person is able to decipher the purpose and message of media rather than accepting it at face value; make positive media choices; select healthy alternatives to media consumption; develop critical thinking and viewing skills; and understand the political, social, economic and emotional implications of various forms of media.

For defining the scope and area of action of the current project we have run a prospective survey of 120 students in 3 high schools of Craiova with the purpose of assessing their current level of media literacy.

We provide here a couple of the main conclusions of our local research:

1. Youngsters overturn the trust hierarchy: for them Internet is more credible than television;
2. The process of comparing news sources to validate the news content received is very underutilized, when they discover disagreements just a minority verifies the information with third sources;

3. Commercials are considered to be the main aggressor in television;
4. Accidents, politics and crimes – are considered to be presented excessively in TV programs;
5. The youngsters use the Internet as their main media channel and they look primarily for information;
6. The youth are not informed about the mass media influence on its own attitudes and behavior;

The project aims to contribute towards the increasing media literacy of high school students in the spirit of promoting critical thinking and reasoning, tolerance and inclusion. It develops media competences that will allow them a critical reception of the media discourse, as well as a responsible presence in the public sphere, as "online content generators".

The present media education policy in Romania has in focus the computer and information literacy to be integrated into formal and adult education but media literacy competencies are completely absent from the educational landscape.

The project directly contributes to Erasmus+ programme by providing learning outcomes and personal and professional development opportunities for both the beneficiaries as well as the volunteers via non-formal workshops and methods.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: to raise the level of media literacy, especial in the area of digital media, of both the target group and the 8 volunteers while also contributing to their personal and professional development

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1. Raise skills and competences of 8 volunteers on critical understanding of media environment and digital media and in organizing and implementing activities that aim to teach others these skills.
2. Raise awareness on the importance of media literacy of 120 youth in 4 high schools in Craiova
3. Raise the level of media literacy of 60 participants in 4 high schools through implementation of 48 thematic workshops.

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 SHIFT project?

Our methodology of learning by doing or experiential learning places the volunteer at the center of his/her learning process and encourage commitment to it. Each volunteer will have a personalized development plan that targets personal skills as well as professional skills, a mentor to help guide the volunteer and a counterpart to guide him in working with the target group in the working institutions.

In the project we will be employing Learning by doing methodology based on a 4 cyclical stages model:

1. Concrete Experience – going out and engaging with the activity
2. Reflection on that experience on a personal basis – self-reflection and guided reflection assisted by the mentor which aims at derivation of general rules describing the experience, or the application of previous experiences and knowledge to it
3. Abstract Conceptualization – supported by the participatory planning model and dynamic role distribution practiced the management team. In this stage the management helps the volunteer in the of ways of modifying the next occurrence of the experience
4. Active Experimentation – turning the abstract into concrete activities and restarting the cycle at no.1

All throughout the learning process and the project **you will be assisted by the ACT 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: ACT will purchase **flight tickets** while the Sending Organisation will to make sure that the volunteer is well informed, has all documents and gets safely on board.

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

Accommodation: ACT 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 **12 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 ACT.**

Monthly food allowance: 120 euro/month

Pocket money: 90 euro/month

What support will be available during your volunteer service?

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 ACT 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. We will have a **Skype interview** with you
3. 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](#)

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