

Open Call for the
GENERating Social Inclusion Solidarity
-GENESIS-
-group EVS project-

ABOUT CRES

Centrul Regional de Economie Socială is an NGO activating the city of Craiova in the 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 Socială **CRES** is looking for **Volunteers** for the **GENESIS** project

Type of project: European Solidarity Corps – **Individual Volunteering**

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

EVS Stage Duration: **01 August 2021 – 28 January 2022**

How many volunteers: **8 volunteers** (5 from European Country and 3 volunteers Non European Country) for 6 months

Profile of the Volunteer we seek:

- Age 18 to 30
- Medium level of English – sufficient to be able to communicate with the organisation staff
- Genuine interest in working with youth and non-formal activities and social inclusion. The main selection criteria, along with age requirement and being able to communicate with us, will be the willingness of the volunteer to learn about organising youth activities centered around social inclusion.
- Sociable and outgoing nature – a person that can work with a group of young people
- Adaptable – given the facilitation nature of the workload of the volunteer's adaptability to the current situation will certainly be a plus.

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

You will be a volunteer and work with youngsters for 6 months in Craiova, Romania.

Lots of fun

What will I DO in the You GENESIS?

The project, overall, directly contributes to the general objective of the European Solidarity Corps by aiming to promote solidarity as a value, mainly through volunteering, to enhance the engagement of young people and organizations in accessible and high quality solidarity activities as a means to contribute to strengthening cohesion, solidarity, democracy and citizenship in Europe, while also responding to societal challenges and strengthening communities, with particular effort to promote social inclusion.

Additionally, the project directly contributes to the European Solidarity corps specific objective of providing young people, with the support of participating organizations, with easily accessible opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities effecting positive societal change, while improving their skills and competences for personal, educational, social, civic, cultural and professional development, as well as facilitating their active citizenship. First of all the project shall create new opportunities for young people, 8 long term volunteering opportunities for foreign volunteers which will benefit from a very intensive and personalized leaning experiences (as described in other parts of the current application). Secondly, the project creates new opportunities for learning, experience sharing, 90 beneficiaries in Craiova by offering them the opportunity of easily accessible and free non-formal workshops that are currently unavailable.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The GENESIS project comes as a direct continuation both in terms of goals as well as in terms of approaches, stem from lessons learn and best practices developed within the past projects.

The general objective is: To raise the level social inclusion and tolerance towards youth with fewer opportunities and disabilities through non-formal education programmes that rise their level of self-confidence, autonomy, life skills and soft skills while providing a learning environment that contributes to the personal and professional development and life-long learning process of both the target group and the volunteers.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

1. Increase the opportunities for personal and social development of 90 youngsters with disabilities from 4 social institutions in Craiova by implementing non-formal workshops (Aprox 68 workshops/institution)
2. Design and implement together with 8 volunteers 5 non-formal education programs(Cultural awareness programme; Languages and multilingualism programme; Expanding self expression and creativity programme; Building, social integration capacity and autonomy programme; Social Inclusion Awareness campaign) that address personal and professional development needs of 100 youngsters in 2 social assistance institutions and 2 high schools.

3. Formation of 1 social inclusion action group that helps involve at least 40 students in regular high schools in non-formal activities in special education institutions
4. Defining and putting in practice a personal and professional development plan for each volunteer, supporting its learning outcomes by use of an efficient initial and ongoing preparation programme coupled with a hands on learning methodology that deploys specially designed tools to support participatory learning
5. Create, develop and test out a set of social inclusion facilitating practices

The proposal is in line with the objectives ESC by involving 8 volunteers by involving them in the hands on work of planning and implementing the non-formal activities using the non-formal methods which will increase their knowledge, skills and competences in areas such as social work, non-formal methods learning, youth work, planning and evaluation. The project also greatly contributes to the language skills for volunteers and the target group both directly Romanian lessons, and indirectly by daily interaction.

The implementation phase of GENESIS project will be structured in 3 main phases or activities: Preparation, Non-formal education and social inclusion programme and Evaluation

with the main activity being the formal Non-formal education and social inclusion programme

Phase 1: In the first which will take place in the first 2 months of the project in which CRES, organize and prepare the project implementation team, coordinate the pre-departure training; identify and select the volunteers; prepare & training mentors; settle details with local partners

Phase 2. Non-formal education and social inclusion programme.

This project activity will be the core of the project and consists of a 6 months volunteering stage for 8 volunteers who will be working on social inclusion in 4 social assistance institutions in Craiova. It will start with the a 3 weeks long Preparation, Adaptation and Training (PAT). Week 1 will focus on games that stimulate the teambuilding process and get to know each other, project understanding (objectives, roles, responsibilities, activities, rules to be followed) non formal education training (animation module), discovering Craiova (paces to shop, cultural landmarks, public transportation). The second week will be dedicated to thematic trainings (Social Inclusion, social work, challenges in working with the beneficiaries, best practice examples, needs analysis) and workplace induction (visiting and understanding the institutions and their missions and activities, getting to know the staff, roundtable discussions, discussing with the target group, needs analysis application), third week will be dedicated to job shadowing (following and observing different staff of the institutions in action, learning by observation while getting adapted to the institution) and developing operational planning (operationalizing the long term objectives, milestones, scheduling, etc.)

The programmes to be implemented will be:

1. Cultural awareness programme: will capitalize on cultural diversity among volunteer will contain activities such as presentations, non-formal workshops on traditional arts & crafts, traditional dances and music
2. Languages and multilingualism programme: under the form of language clubs in the intuitions and schools that use non-formal methods (games, workshops, movies, songs, role-pays etc.) to help the participant learn or strengthen their ability to speak other languages (English, Spanish, Italian, French, Portuguese)
3. Creativity and self-expression stimulation programme: arts workshops (painting, clay modeling, singing, handicrafts), theatre, Creative play (use familiar materials in a new or unusual ways), problem solving (application of knowledge and imagination to a given situation). This also will be used to build self-esteem and self-confidence.

4. Building, social integration capacity, soft skills and autonomy programme: presentation sessions and special workshops that aimed at rising "EQ" (Emotional Intelligence Quotient), teach the youth through non-formal games and scenarios how to act in different social situations.
 5. Social Inclusion Awareness campaign – will consist in awareness actions and activities that aim to bring more visibility towards groups with disabilities and social institutions and to bring the issue of social inclusion on to the public agenda
 6. Life-long learning opportunities for youth – promoting the ESC programme and other opportunities to the youth of Craiova
 7. Sports and outdoor activities programme – used as support to form teamwork skills, tolerance for diversity, self-esteem
- Besides working in the social institutions the volunteers will work in 2 high schools of Craiova with the objective of forming a local action group with students from these 2 high schools that will interact and continue doing activities with the beneficiaries in the social institutions after the project has ended. In this activity we will also be organizing large scale outreach events that aim to increase awareness on the needs of the socially assisted and increase tolerance. These activities will be organized with the occasion of International Tolerance Day, International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Europe Day, Children's Day.
3. Evaluation and follow-up phase will take place in the last month of the project and will be aimed at evaluating the project objectives achievement, the impact of the activities and planning the follow.

The above mentioned activities are the general overview but each volunteer has the opportunity to propose, implement and carry on new types of activities based 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 You GENESIS project?

The learning methodology that we will use is the “experiential learning cycle” that covers 4 cyclical steps. 1. concrete Experience is followed by 2. Reflection on that experience on a personal basis. This may then be followed by the derivation of general rules describing the experience, or the application of known theories to it 3. Abstract conceptualisation), and hence to the construction of ways of modifying the next occurrence of the experience 4. Active Experimentation, leading in turn to the next concrete Experience. This creates a model of learning to be applied to both the target group and the volunteers.

The planning and monitoring methodology of the project support this approach giving ample occasions for active experimentations: each week there is an evaluation and reflection meeting that helps the volunteer identify achievements and shortcomings which is followed by a planning meeting in which we conceptualise the obstacles and plan improvements.

All throughout the learning process and the project you will be assisted by the CRES team and a 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 certificate of skills acquired in EVS projects.

What support will be available during your project?

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**.

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.

Practical Arrangements & Financial aspects

Travel: The volunteers will purchase the flight and CRES will pay **flight tickets** according with distance band apply to each of them when the volunteers will arrive in Romania and present the documents (flight ticket, invoice, bill etc.) Together with the Sending Organization will make sure that the volunteer is well informed, has all documents and gets safely on board. The volunteers have the responsibility to inform CRES regarding their travel (flight ticket, bus ticket, date, hours) and wait for the confirmation before start travel and buy tickets.

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. The volunteer local transportation (when and if available) will be covered 100% for the travels made by the volunteers for the benefit and in direct relation with the EVS project.

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. Usually will be **5-7 hours/day included all types of activity**.

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 hours per week**

Communication: each volunteer will receive a **Romanian SIM card** for mobile phones which will be recharged monthly with 5euro.

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

Monthly food allowance: 150 euro/month

Pocket money: 90 euro/month

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

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

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