Library Innovations and EVS

EVS Project Description

Contents

Sending organization	Receiving org.	EVS start	EVS end
Messzelįtó Egyesület, Hungary	Siauliai city library	2018.03.12	2018.12.09
Union Forum, Ukriane	Siauliai city library	2018.03.12	2018.12.09
Volunteers centre Skopje, Macedonia	Siauliai P.Visinskis library	2018.03.12	2018.12.09
Sozialer Friedensdienst Bremen e.V (SFD), Germany	Siauliai P.Visinskis library	2018.03.12	2018.12.09
Intercambia, Spain	Klaipeda city library	2018.03.12	2018.12.09
Union Forum, Ukraine	Klaipeda city library	2018.03.12	2018.12.09
YouNet, Italy	Zarasai Public library	2018.03.12	2018.12.09
A.D.E.L. - Association for Development, Education and Labour, Slovakia	Zarasai Public library	2018.03.12	2018.12.09
SFERA, Russia	Plunge Public Library	2018.03.12	2018.12.09
VIA e.V., Germany	Plunge Public Library	2018.03.12	2018.12.09
Messzelįtó Egyesület, Hungary	Utena Public Library	2018.03.12	2018.12.09
SFERA, Russia	Utena Public Library	2018.03.12	2018.12.09

Description of the project

Over the last decade Lithuanian public libraries have seen a true renaissance in terms of modernization and diversification of the activities they do and the services they provide to the local public. They have in fact become "de facto" cultural/educational centers representing the wider geographical region they are based in. Our public libraries, being modern in terms of new and renovated facilities, have also started offering innovative educational activities to all age groups of their clients. It is fascinating to observe how a library (still often conservatively understood as a place to read books) attracts new audiences to join their robotics clubs, comics drawing workshops, reading with dogs and many other truly innovative initiatives.

Deineta has been closely working with some of the best public libraries in Lithuania and over the course of the last few years we've managed to successfully implement a few EVS projects together. This time we are shifting our common focus towards to the new and innovative services that public libraries provide for the local communities as this is an excellent area for EVS volunteers to help and learn. This is especially true speaking about the needs and skills of the current Tech/Web savvy generation "Y" youth.

With this project we aim to explore and develop the innovative educational activities proposed by the public libraries of Lithuania with the help of contribution of EVS volunteers who acquire interesting learning spaces in return.

Issues addressed:

With this project we also aim to respond to the lack of international/intercultural contact, especially in the smaller towns of Lithuania (project includes partners from Zarasai, Plungė, Utena); insufficient understanding of volunteering in Lithuania, lack of good examples of alternative activities for the local youth, low awareness of various ways to learn (non-formal education through volunteering and active citizenship in general); and the need to increase the overall level of intercultural tolerance.

All receiving organizations add a multiplying effect to solving the issues above by actively involving volunteers in the large scope of events that they hold throughout the year. Based on the experience from past projects, this is a great space for volunteers to present their culture, talk to the local audiences directly, have discussions on intercultural understanding, teaching/learning to accept other cultures, and crystallizing the main challenges that often prevent a broader awareness in the field. Each public appearance/presentation volunteers have given valuable material for further reflection meetings with mentors leading to a quality learning process. This in turn increases the international/intercultural competences of the organizations, as they become more capable to handle intercultural topics in public, as well as part of the mentorship process.

The objectives of the project

General objectives of the project:

* With the help of international volunteers to explore and to showcase the innovations applied by the public libraries in Lithuania

* To lift the satellite initiatives of public libraries to the international/intercultural level

* To introduce added value to the services public libraries provide by introducing international volunteers

Objectives directly linked with the priorities or Erasmus+:

* To support volunteers in the acquiring (improving) of new competences (knowledge, skills and attitudes) - with the background aim to ease their integration into the labor market, formal education or other fields in the future.

* To provide the professionals of the receiving organizations with opportunities to broaden the cope of their work and methods thus facilitating quality and innovative approaches towards the immediate target groups.

* To help volunteers and organizations (staff that is involved) improve their foreign language skills (namely English and Lithuanian)

* To raise awareness of and tolerance to other cultures through linking people from different countries working in the same institution with one mission.

Participants' Profile

Candidates applying to work in the libraries will be able to first of all fulfill their needs of communication, as this the axis of any library operation.

The general background requirements for the candidates: volunteers who would cherish and appreciate the opportunity given to them and regard it as a valuable experience to learn and improve themselves. The volunteers should be able to dedicate their time and effort to the receiving organizations and their communities. The receiving organizations hope that the future volunteers will be active, positive, communicative, ready to help and learn. Nevertheless, project partners are ready to work with volunteers that don't immediate match the "positive and active" style. During the candidate selection attention will be given to how interested future volunteers are in the popular applied IT tools.

Each receiving organization has drafted a list of specific requirements, which are made public in the EVS database, are additionally presented to the sending organizations and will be also included in the EVS agreements.

The geographical location of a particular organization is important in candidate selection, as candidates will have to reflect on the prospect of having their project in a relatively small town (the case of Plungė and Zarasai). The principle of rather modest (student-like) living conditions and relatively low amount of allowance (pocket money) will be another point of reflection during interviews with each candidate. Least but not last, the general way of life in Lithuania and our culture will be also a subject of conversation including our weather patterns. All of the above might seem trivial, but based on our experience over the last 16 years of work with EVS volunteers, these are the very things that are underestimated in the first place leading to the overall dissatisfaction with the EVS experience in the long term. Voice interviews will be conducted to get a general feel on the candidates. At least basic communication skills would be very helpful for a volunteer to quicker integrate the organization.

There are no restrictions towards the age of the participants (provided they are in the limit foreseen by the programme itself). Candidates will be evaluated first by the sending organizations and then by the receiving organization (with the help and advice from the coordinating organization). The selection will be done based on how well the candidate fits the general profile of the volunteer above and the specific qualities needed to volunteer in each of the organization groups. A lot will be credited for the motivation of candidates to volunteer.

The project involves volunteers who have geographical and/or economic obstacles to be mobile (distant regions of Ukraine and Russian Federation, as compared to their pairs). The sending organizations who have the task to identify such volunteers will do so during the candidate evaluation process. The chosen volunteers will be given extra attention, and topics such as international travel, budget management, intercultural learning will be given additional focus during the preparation meetings (including those taking place in Lithuania). Mentors and tutors are well aware of the profile of their future volunteers and are prepared to give reinforced guidance/supervision.

Learning Outcomes

The activities foreseen in the project provide a wide array of learning. Each of the receiving organizations offer a number of professional competences to be acquired by volunteers as outlined during the EVS accreditation phase. These expected professional learning outcomes will be presented to the volunteers during the selection stage, outlined in the EVS agreements and later during the first introductory meetings with the mentors and tutors.

The task of the coordinating organization (and other partners) is to also present a bigger learning picture based in the premise that EVS experience in far from being limited just to the volunteer activities in the receiving organizations. Life and volunteering in Lithuania opens so much more to volunteers.

They will be able to learn more speaking about social and civic competences, cultural awareness and expression, communication in foreign languages, learning to learn. Volunteers will face many seemingly small problems, which were taken for granted in their countries. Volunteers will learn to structure and plan their daily lives, apply new ideas and concepts to new life situations. While planning their learning, communicating and reflecting on their learning with mentors, participating in the EVS training cycle, the volunteers will learn to learn. They will be encouraged to see their EVS as a learning and development process with the need to plan, structure, manage, evaluate and adjust. Volunteers will have the opportunity to implement their ideas, or to perform other project-related, but not initially defined tasks.

In this project volunteers will be able to learn or improve at least five specific Youthpass competences:

Communication in foreign languages. Most of their time volunteers will spend communicating in English language. During all the period of this project volunteers will receive information about their daily tasks, common project activities, events, initiatives and trainings in English language. Not only receiving, but also by actively participating in all project activities volunteers will improve their English talking, understanding and writing skills. Volunteers will also receive a Lithuanian language course.

Digital competence. All libraries in this project have abilities to suggest activities, where volunteers could learn or improve their knowledges, abilities and skills in digital competence. In most of the libraries volunteers can make a pictures and videos of various events and to make a video montage for the library. Also almost all libraries has a computer areas, where some customers need a help to use Internet or computer programs. Many of the libraries have modern 3d modeling and printing facilities, graphics design software, robotics learning kits, video making equipment, notepad computers and various other pieces of applied IT. Also all volunteers will be asked to create their individual blog where once per week they will post some information about their project.

Learning to learn. In all period of this project volunteers will receive more tools and information about their learning process and how to improve it. By taking everyday tasks, common project activities, various events and their own initiatives, young people will learn how to find newest information. Every task which will be given to volunteers will teach them better skills to manage their learning process in time. All volunteers will increase their learning skills by having weekly reflection together with their mentors about their learning results. In the beginning of the project volunteers, together with their mentors will make individual learning plans, which will include volunteer's expectations. In the end all

learning results will be supported by coordinating organization and evaluated in the context of all project.

Social and civic competence. Living in another country with a difference language, culture and nature might be challenging. By recognizing various difficulties in personal way for successful integration, implementation of activities and finishing the project volunteers will learn or improve their social skills. During the training the volunteers will be taught to recognize their emotions when in stressful situations and to learn to control the stress, and to act constructively. In this project volunteers will learn the skills of working individually and in a team. The subject of youth unemployment will give the opportunity to learn active citizenship by actualizing problems of the current days and searching for solutions.

Sense of initiative and entrepreneurship. As there was mentioned before, all volunteers will create their individual learning plans for this project. In this process we will support the ideas, which could develop into personal initiatives. Volunteers will be supported by coordinating organization to recognize main elements and the results of their personal initiative and how to improve the idea, before implementation.

Practical Arrangements

Volunteers will be provided with suitable accommodation (private rooms in shared flats). Local travel expenses will be covered from the living place to the organization. Any project related national travel will be covered. Volunteers will be covered by the EVS insurance plan. Volunteers' allowance including food allowance will be paid on a monthly basis. Local bank accounts will be recommended. Volunteers in need of visa will receive all the necessary support from the sending and coordinating organizations.

Safety precaution and regulations will be discussed with the volunteers on several occasions: pre-departure meeting with the SO, on-arrival meeting with the CO, the first meeting with the mentor at the receiving organization, on-arrival training by the National agency. To better prepare for the arrival of volunteers the coordinating organization holds local partner meetings prior to every new project and one in the middle of EVS.

Volunteers will have experienced mentors assigned to them who will guide them during the EVS (help with the learning plan, personal support, integration in the organization and the local community, periodic reflections and progress monitoring). The organizations take care about the meaningful and safe free time of the volunteers, seek to make they integration easier and quicker by assigning additional mentors from the local community or local youth NGOs.

Preparation of Participants

The preparation of the volunteers will be managed by all the involved organizations.

The initial selection and preparation of the volunteers will be done by the sending organizations. Prior to their departure volunteers will have physical meetings with their sending organization coordinators to cover the following topics: the principles of volunteering and personal motivation, Erasmus+ and European Voluntary Service (principles, rights and responsibilities), principles of inter-cultural learning and integration, how to deal with challenges during EVS, EVS as a personal learning experience.

On-arrival volunteers will receive deeper training on the topics mentioned above with the inclusion of a more elaborate preparation on the Lithuanian culture and way of life. This will be done during the on-arrival training with the CO and later the receiving organization. The coordinating organization will additionally train volunteers on managing personal finances, give tips for organizing household chores with flat mates, specific examples of crisis situations and how to deal with them. A dedicated session will be given to Youthpass in theory and practice, plus the general flow of project activities in stages common for all the volunteers will be introduced.

Soon afterwards volunteers will be invited to the on-arrival training of the national agency. This training will be conducted following the quality guidelines of EVS training and evaluation cycle and using the expertise of the Lithuanian EVS pool of trainers.

At the receiving organizations volunteers will receive extensive preparation on the specific tasks appointed to them, the internal policies of the organization, safety regulations, as well as a course of Lithuanian language. Language courses will be held either with personal language tutors or at a language college (location dependent).

In the middle of the EVS volunteers will have two common meetings to evaluation the progress and make the second half of EVS better. One meeting will be organized by the coordinating organization, the other by the Lithuanian national agency.

Main Activities

KLAIPĖDA City Municipality Public Library. Teaching 3D modelling/printing; Air drone control, flight scenario creation, aerial photography/filming; programming augmented reality objects; teaching to use e-readers and notepad computers.

General: helping organize events, exhibitions, organize camps (children, youth), teach IT, participate in or organize workshops, seminars, discussions, movie or music evenings, exhibitions, table game tournaments, themed evenings. Volunteers could help organize foreign language clubs for clients, active participation initiatives.

ŠIAULIAI city municipality public library: Comics club activities; Home club in the library (activities for young mothers with babies); photography club for the hairing-impaired; The Seniors' club; Workshops on the original interactive game "Virtual Quiz Labyrinth".

General: assist library staff in daily activities, help organize events, sort out the books, take care of the fund of books, teach computer literacy, run culture clubs for kids or adults; help organize game hours, workshops, mornings of reading aloud, movie reviews. Teach library visitors crafts, paint, glue, will help staff and Internet users in issues of information technology usage.

ŠIAULIAI P.Višinskis Public Library: Activities in a mobile IRT and innovations lab (iPAD computers, 3D printer, laptop computers, robotics kits, 3D goggles and augmented reality software). The lab is mobile and moves to remote village libraries, where educational activities take place for local kids and youth, especially the ones with special educational challenges.

General: Filling the library websites with content; Assistance for preparing a library radio show; Assistance in preparing a non-traditional English language lesson in American Reading room; creating a video-clip about the library' role in the community and services; Work in Readers' Service department: book shelving, communicating with library users, checking out books; Preparing library's events: making posters, post-cards; scenario writing.

ZARASAI Public Library. Educational activities in the media studio with 3D cinema (A1 format printer, A3 format scanner, computer software to work with audio and video material, recording equipment, graphical design software, 3D printer and modelling software, specialized computer games to make the reader more physically active.

General: work with children – creative workshops, funny readings, basic English lessons, etc.; possibility to work with teenagers – also creative workshops, cinema club, making films, clips, young photographer's club, etc.; possibility to work with adults – , discussion's club; possibility to work with seniors – computers courses in bigger groups or eye-to-eye. Volunteers can test himself/herself in media sphere (journalist, photographer, operator, designer) and help to make articles, photo or video reportages and advertisements to library's website.

PLUNGĖ Public Library. Educational activities in the open creative workshop of the library (Makerspaces in the Library) which involves children, youth and the older generation in common activities (facilitating communication among different generations, sharing experiences, learning IT skills, recycling and re-purposing workshops, graphical design learning, creating computer art, filming and video editing, filmmaking, sound editing, learning to create online exhibitions).

General: volunteer tasks with cover communication with library visitors and guests, the librarians; cultural presentations, maintaining the library funds; visiting other departments; participating in various hobby clubs, initiating new projects with local community, assistance in the daily management of the library.

UTENA Public Library. Activities of UTENA public library where the volunteer can be involved: programs for children; educational workshops, games, creative activities; cultural events for library visitors and local community; organization of projects for youth; work in Europe Direct Information Centre; variety of activities with the elderly (arts, sports, self-expression tasks, etc.); daily library tasks: maintenance of publications fund, client service.

More detailed information can be found in the database of accredited organizations. Activities are constructed to support the project aims and fit the needs of volunteers and organizations.

Volunteers and organizations follow the general flow of EVS broken down into stages applicable to all project activities. Each of the stages introduces the special focus fields of volunteer engagement, time periods, as well as monitoring mechanisms accessible to all project partners. In spite of the activity foci in each stage, volunteers will still perform the activities as per contractual agreements.

STAGE 1 (from the beginning of EVS up to no more than 2 m.): introduction of the organization, observations; volunteer introduces himself/herself; volunteer's working and learning plan adjustment; specialized trainings in the organization; language support; EVS trainings (CO and NA); Youthpass presentation; meeting the local community and institutions; creation and posting on the personal web space (publicaly accessible., at least 1 post per week); introductory tasks at the organization (as per contractual agreements, also see the section above); a written report of stage 1 produced by the volunteer and presented to the hosting, sending and coordinating organization (no later than 2 m. from beginning EVS)

STAGE 2 (starts no later than 2 months from the beginning of EVS and ends no later than 1 m. before the end of EVS): activities in the organization as per contractual agreement; at least 1 free-form public activity produced or contributed to by the volunteer (possibilities to be identified during stage 1); posting on the personal web space (at least 1 post per week); development (creation) of unique and continued volunteer mission in the organization; common initiative with the other volunteers of the

project (from all receiving organizations); Free-form "graduation paper" with the topic "My EVS Footprint that I leave behind".

STAGE 3 (the last month): presentation of the "graduation paper" (to the staff of the RO or/and other stakeholders); preparation of the final volunteer's report; compiling the information and producing the Youthpass (presented for evaluation signing at least two weeks before departure); assembling of project visibility materials and handing over to the CO (to be part of the final project report); activities in the organization as per contractual agreement; attending project final evaluation meeting.

Since these stages have been agreed by all the receiving organizations and will be presented to all the volunteers (prior to arrival and during the on arrival training the CO) we expect a number of challenging EVS management areas will be addressed:

The matching of country pairs:

Plungė public library: 2 volunteers (Russia, Germany)

Siauliai city municipality public library: 2 volunteers (Ukraine, Hungary)

Siauliai P.Visinskis public library: 2 volunteers (Germany, Macedonia)

Zarasai public library: 2 volunteers (Slovakia, Italy)

Klaipeda city municipality public library: 2 volunteers (Ukraine, Spain)

Utena public library: 2 volunteers (Russia, Hungary)

Each receiving organization is planning to host two volunteers from different countries. Although a complete separation of volunteer tasks is not possible, there are many other great benefits of this setup: each volunteer has a colleague and a friend pursuing similar challenges in his/her current life. This is especially important for volunteers staying in remote areas, in smaller towns/villages. Two volunteers can integrate the local community easier, they can also organize common events, publicity actions, help each other by simply sharing the impression of the day, exploring the country etc. The benefits and opportunities are countless in this respect and it has always been a better choice for RO than having just one volunteer at a time.

The dates of EVS are set to 12/03/2018 - 09/12/2018

The EVS activities will rely on methods of non-formal education: education tailored to individual needs, learning by doing (experiential learning), self-reflection and reflection/feedback with a mentor, active involvement of the learner in the management of his/her learning process. Each receiving organization

will further apply methods of tutoring (when it comes to giving specialized information), create spaces for their volunteers to observe, to get direct experience, interact, draw conclusions and eventually learn.