

Open Call for the - Social Work Integrated Followups -SWIF - *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 **SWIF** project

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

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

EVS Stage Duration: **01.05.2018 – 01.03.2019**

How many volunteers:

- **First stage 4 months (01.05.2018 – 31.08.2018) - 8 volunteers** in total coming from Italy and Spain
- **Second stage 3 months (01.09.2018-31.11.2018) - 8 volunteers** in total coming from Italy and Spain
- **Third stage 3 months (01.12.2018 – 01.03.2019) – 8 volunteers** in total coming from Italy and Spain

Profile of the Volunteer we seek:

- Aged between **18 to 30 years**
- **active, open-minded, creative, innovative, responsible and motivated volunteers**
- The volunteers need to be a pro-active and social person who enjoys working with youth and to want to dedicate themselves to 10 month long personal and professional development process.
- 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).

This is a long read, here is the shortest possible version:
*You will be a volunteer and work with youngsters for 10 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 SWIF project?

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

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

Foster the development inter cultural, cross-cultural and transferable new practices and consolidate the methodology of volunteering for social inclusion development. From evaluating past experiences together with our partners we have identified the following needs that we SWIF wishes to address:

- volunteers have different experiences and socio-cultural background that is not always easily adapted/applied to the local environment and methodologies/practices CRES already has - Hence the proposal of developing inter-cultural and cross-cultural practices that are purposely built to be easy to integrate and be picked up by any volunteer team regardless of experiences and cultural background
- current CRES work practices, tools are too specific, significant effort has to be spent to adapt current practices and build new one each time there is a new volunteer team - Hence the solution to build a set of practices that aim specifically towards easy replicability and transferability between volunteer teams, practices that do not rely on specific skills being present or any other specific context while still being effective.

Specific objectives of the project:

1. Create, develop and test out a set of social inclusion facilitating practices (practice belonging to the 4 key areas: language and multiculturalism development; creativity and self expression development; socialization skills development; sports and healthy body) that meet the criteria of transferability, replicability and cross-multiculturalism together with 8 volunteer across 4 months (EVS stage 1)

2. Implement, develop best practice examples and test for replicability and transferability of previously developed practices with the help of 8 volunteers working in 3 social institutions for 3 months.
3. Promote volunteering and transfer social inclusion practices to at least 30 local volunteers from 2 high schools with the help of 8 volunteers within a 3 months time frame.
4. Increase the opportunities for personal and social development of 90 youngsters with disabilities from 3 social institutions in Craiova by implementing non-formal workshops (Approx 68 workshops/institution) on 4 key topics
5. Provide personal growth and development opportunities for 24 volunteers split across 3 EVS stages by involving them in the planning, implementation and evaluation of non-formal workshops for disabled youth

The project will consist of 3 EVS stages as follows:

EVS Stage 1 - 8 volunteers for 4 months. In this stage the volunteers will work in 3 social institutions to develop practices for activities that fall into 4 areas: language and multiculturalism development; creativity and self-expression development; socialization skills development; sports and healthy body. For this stage the volunteers are required to have had previous social work experience as this will be key in development of new practices. Key characteristics of this EVS stage will be innovation, creativity, experimentation, piloting and evaluation. This means that the volunteers are to be involved in brainstorming sessions, a lot of emphasis will be placed on development of new ideas, constant innovation upon work that has been done so far by CRES, trying out new ideas and methods and performing constant needs analysis to assess best direction of change. The goal of this development process will be to create a set of practices that are cross-cultural (meaning that they can work in a variety of cultural contexts and don't rely on a specific cultural background for them to work or be understood), transferable (meaning that they can be easily picked up by other volunteer teams or other organizations or be implemented on other institutions of the same profile) and replicable (meaning that they can be transferred and still produce same results, their results are, to a large degree, not context dependent)

EVS Stage 2 – 8 volunteers for 3 months – in what concerns the beneficiaries the second EVS stage will aim to continue the practices implemented by the volunteers in the first stage. For the project the second EVS stage will be critical to assess the 3 main criteria's that we want our developed practices to have. This EVS stage will allow us to see if the practices can be easily picked up by a new volunteer team and be coherently implemented without the beneficiaries feeling a drop in quality or the overall results to be affected. In this EVS stage the main focus will be on continuing the work of the evs volunteers in stage 1, using the practices developed by them and giving special attention to the evaluation process. The evaluation of the practices will focus in this step on consistency and quality under the premise that if the practices can be implemented by a different volunteering team with the same consistency and quality then they meet the 3 criteria we are looking for.

EVS stage 3 – 8 volunteers for 3 months – in the last EVS stage we want to employ the help of volunteer to assist in the dissemination of developed practices towards other potential volunteers. In this stage we are looking for volunteers who can lead by example, are good at being youth leaders and can teach other youth the practices we have developed. In this EVS stage the volunteers will start working in the 2 partner local high schools where they will promote social volunteering, will encourage students to be volunteer themselves and will organizes activities in the special institutions in which both themselves as well as students from high schools participate. The focus will be to encourage social volunteering in the 2 high schools and transmit to the students the practices developed so far.

In terms of structure the project will be structured in 5 phases:

1 Preparation - The first 2 months in which we will prepare the internal and external project team, select the volunteers; coordinate the pre-departure training and volunteer travel plans and work out the operational plan with the local institutions.

2. EVS Stage 1, 8 volunteers for 4 months - in which we will mainly work with the beneficiaries from the 3 social institutions implementing the following development programmes:

1. language and multiculturalism development - aprox 15 workshops/institution - 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.

2. creativity and self expression development - aprox 15 workshops/institution - 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).

3. socialization skills development - aprox 15 workshops/institution - on-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. sports and healthy body - aprox 15 workshops/institution - 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 in the project with the purpose of stimulating the beneficiaries to maintain a healthy body while also providing benefits to their personal development

In addition to those the volunteers will be involved in:

5. practice research and development - weekly meeting in CRES office in which we brainstorm, explore ideas, design practices and plan aut their implementation

EVS Stage 2: 8 volunteers for 3 months, In stage 2 the volunteers will implemented the practices developed out of the workshops done in stage 1. In the second EVS stage we will continue implementing workshops in the 4 main categories but using the practices as standards. We will implement aprox 11 workshops/category/institution while changing the evaluation instruments to look for and assess the consistency and quality of the activities done in the second EVS stage so as to be able to assess if the practices developed in stage 1 present the qualities we are looking for(cross-culturalism, transferability and replicability).

EVS Stage 3: 8 volunteer for 3 months - in stage 3 the volunteers will plan and implement activities in the 3 social institutions with the help of students from the 2 partner high schools. Besides the implementation of activities of the 4 programmes described above the volunteers of stage 3 will be involved in activities of promoting volunteering in the 2 high schools, the organizing groups of local students to participate in the activities done in the social institutions, training them on the practices developed and planning and implementing with them activities in the social insiatutions.

Final phase of the project will be of project overall evaluation and dissemination

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 SWIF project?

The project will consists of 3 EVS stages of 8 volunteers each and the project will have a set of learning outcomes common for all stages and a set of learning outcomes which are specific to the evs stage. General learning outcomes:

- development of current and new skills, knowledge and competencies related to social inclusion, youth work specific to disabled youth and working in social institutions. This will be common to the 3 stages and is achieved through planning, designing and/or implementing activities and programmes with the support of CRES and professional from the host institutions
- develop skills and competencies related to planning, evaluation and monitoring of activities and workshops - developed by working with CRES staff in making weekly/monthly plans, monitoring them and making evaluations.
- get concrete experience in working with youth and youth with disabilities utilizing specific tools, instruments, methods and practices such as group animation and non-formal educational methods
- initiate and contribute to the volunteer's personal development process by helping them design a personal development plan and contributing to personal skills development such as self-confidence, initiative, self-management while living abroad, tolerance, teamwork, working in an professional enviroment and other such skills
- improve their English communication skills and learn the basics Romanian language
- develop cultural awareness both about their culture as well as about Romanian culture

In addition to those listed above there will be the following learning outcomes specific to EVS stage 1:

- Learn how to make institutional needs analysis – developed as part of the process of developing new practices
- Develop the ability to innovate and generate practices based on previous experiences and current identified needs
- Learn how to develop new practices specifically built for transferability, replicability and cross-culturalism while also developing disabled youth
- Increase understanding of the theoretical approaches related to social work and how to utilize concepts such as transferability, replicability and cross-culturalism

Learning outcomes specific to EVS stage 2:

- Increased knowledge and abilities related to social work and working with youth with disabilities using specific tools, instruments, practices and methodologies – the volunteers in stage 2 will be new to the social work and working with disabled children
- Greatly develop the ability for them to monitor and evaluate practices based on outcomes and impact – their stage will be focused on implementing designed practices from stage 1 and evaluating them, special attention will be given by CRES to the evaluation and monitoring process
- Learn and develop skills related to planning and implementation of previously developed practices and methodologies

Learning outcomes specific to EVS stage 3:

- Develop abilities, skills and competencies related to youth animation and mobilization – developed by the fact that their stage will be directly geared towards stimulating new local volunteers
- Rise their level of knowledge about youth work, social work and practices developed for working with disabled youth – developed by having them teach these practices to high schools students
- Develop their leadership abilities by having them provide examples and animate groups of youth from the local high schools to do volunteering in social institutions.

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 projects.

Practical Arrangements & Financial aspects

Travel: CRES will purchase **flight tickets** and together with 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 **4-5 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).

Language support: The volunteers receive Romanian language lessons **1 sessions per week**

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

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

Monthly food allowance: 120 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 - envios@asociacionmundus.com
 - **Associazione Culturale Link** – Italy - link@linkyouth.org
 - **La Vibria Intercultural** – Spain - info@vibria.org
 - **Scambieuropei** – Italy - infosvescambieuropei@gmail.com
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: mihaela.coccea.cres@gmail.com

Phone: 0040 763543404