

Project Title: Happy Feet

Project Start Date: 01-02-2016

Project Total Duration: 11 months

Volunteer's Service Duration: 9 months (March – November)

Project End Date: 31-12-2016

Applicant Organisation: Udruga Regionalni info centar za mlade Rijeka UMKI – Regional youth info centar Rijeka YASA (Croatia)

▲ About organisation:

The organization (Regional youth info center Rijeka) develops and implements projects aimed at improving the totality of life for young people with fewer opportunities, ethnic minorities, and people with disabilities linking local authority, institutions, economy and citizen's advocacy at all levels. Furthermore we organize public actions; provide youth information and counseling services, online databases (web portal: ngo-portal.eu; support for the visibility of NGOs in Croatia), and provide technical assistance and resources for youth projects conducted by youth and youth organizations. For example: organizing a football match including Roma people to set an example of tolerance and stop racist prejudice. During the period of 11 years, every year we mark Action week and organize an event to acknowledge that we are fighting against racism in soccer (football) and in any other sport. There are a lot of sport projects and actions, but we also have projects with elementary and high school students against hate speech on internet, raising political awareness.

To achieve objectives of our organization, we organize programs such as: Info Centre for the Youth and Youth Club, various activities like seminars, workshops, publishing activities, concerts, exhibitions and sport events. In general, our target groups are youth, youth workers (professionals who work with youth), decision makers on youth policies and everyone who is working with young people.

▲ About project:

The intention of our project Happy Feet is to enable young people firsthand experience in a multi-layered environment within a complex youth centre that provides various youth services throughout youth project in different fields of youth's interest: Regional Youth Info Centre, Youth Club, annual Youth Conference, discrimination, racism and violence in youth sport and social entrepreneurship. The intention of our project Happy Feet is to give young people firsthand experience in multicultural environment. It is important so young people can develop tolerance for other people with different culture and tradition than their own. Young people will upgrade their knowledge and broaden their perspective.

In all of our activities (Regional Youth Info Center, Youth Club, Discrimination within Sports, Youth policies and Social entrepreneurship) the age of participants will be from **23 till 29**. The reason for this is, because we believe participants are responsible and mature enough to work in a multicultural environment in a foreign country, surrounded with young people from the local community that come to us for help.

▲ Which competences (i.e. knowledge, skills and attitudes/behaviours) are to be acquired/improved by participants in each planned activity of your project?

1. Regional Youth Info Centre: Benefits from working in a regional youth info centre are: gaining experience in youth work, skills in social media, learning how to write articles for web portal, and learning about Eurodesk; on radio show, public speech
2. Youth Club: Benefits from working in Youth club are: learning how to work with computers and other technical equipment (projector, scanner...), how to give technical support to other young people and transmitting knowledge about it. Meeting volunteers and participating in workshops and lectures. Gaining practical experience on how the library works.
3. Discrimination within sports: Benefits from working in this field are: getting familiar with discriminatory symbols; comparison of football supporters in different countries, gathering additional knowledge about prevention of discrimination and racism in sport, becoming a part of a global campaign for football people action week in cooperation with FARE, gaining knowledge of how does an international network such as FARE works across Europe.

4. Youth policies: Benefits from working in the field of youth policies are: participation in the organization of the youth conferences in partnership with local authorities and youth organizations, getting information about needs of young people from our local communities.
5. Social entrepreneurship: Benefits from working in the field of Social entrepreneurship are: inclusion into local community through working with people with disabilities (Multiple Sclerosis). Volunteers will improve their skills in youth work, working with high school students, also learning useful skills about organizing the Futsal league (20 teams, 5 team members each) and similar sports events on larger scale.

▲ Other information:

In our organization, usually we have weekly meetings where we establish which tasks should be done during the week. In addition to that, if necessary we have short daily briefings.

Once volunteers arrive, first three to four weeks it will be almost all introduction and getting to know each other. In this period volunteers will be introduced to all regulations tasks related. We will try to explain how our organization works, what are the main areas, and on which project they can choose to work on. It can be easily arranged that the volunteer explore all the five areas and chooses the one that suits him/her the best.

Volunteers will live together in an apartment. They will share the kitchen and sanitary facilities. Since the apartment is situated in the city centre, and also our organization is in the city centre, there is no need for public transportation. Still if they would insist, organization has a car, which they can use. When it comes to nutrition, volunteers will get money to arrange everything on their own. Also, they will get a monthly allowance.

All EVS volunteers will have travel insurance; sending organization (our partners) should enable that. If volunteers come from the countries from which visa is necessary/required for staying in Croatia, we will ensure that. Regarding travel expenses, they will be reimbursed in accordance with the regulation of the European Commission's Erasmus+ Program Guide. All previously mentioned tasks will be responsibilities of the coordinator.

As soon as they arrive, we will accompany them to the police station and make a registration with full information about their place of stay, job, and period of stay. Regarding health insurance, if they come from the EU member states, they are going to have European Health Insurance Card, which is also valid in Croatia and if something more is necessary we will make sure we help them and connect them to suitable medical care.

Mentor will be there to give volunteers guidance, support and help to adjust to the new environment and also working conditions. The mentor will be our external associate, psychologist, with long experience working with young people, volunteers, social projects and researches. In addition mentor is here to help them in any crisis situations and in problem solving. Mentor is a potential mediator in case of conflict between the volunteers and supervisors. Also, mentor is here to follow them through the whole process of learning and at the end to help them with filling in their Youthpass.

Coordinator is a person who is going to mediate between volunteers and supervisors. Coordinators responsibilities will be: organization of the accommodation for the volunteers, taking care of financial side of the EVS project (taking care of the allowance for the volunteers, paying the rent and utilities, arranging the meals etc.), communication with the partners and all challenges related to the volunteers.

Supervisors are here to support the implementation of the tasks and also to introduce volunteers with the organization (values, current projects, daily schedule, other employees, etc.). One of the main tasks will be establishing a regular monitoring system, evaluation and feedback. Supervisors are going to make sure that work environment and conditions are safe for the volunteers. They will encourage them to learn the language and attend EVS training.