

YOUTH FOR A LIVEABLE COUNTRYSIDE

New EVS project from Creative Space

2012 Hollókő Hungary

with the professional support of Egyesek Youth Association

Application deadline: 1st of November 2011

Project starts: March 2011

Project ends: September or October 2011

Deadline to apply to this project: 23rd of October 2011.

We kindly invite you to join to our brand new EVS project in the part of the World Heritage and a busy international youth community place called Creative Space. Since this is the first time we organize this EVS project we insist to fulfill the following requirements.

We only start the project if:

- At least 4 volunteers will take part during the whole project. Maximum 6;
- At least 2 of them can speak Hungarian;
- At least 1 of them has a driving licence;
- The volunteers have relevant motivation, skills, knowledge and experience.

Organisations which are connected to Hungarian speaking youth with not (only) Hungarian legal residency have the priority to join to our project!

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ABOUT CREATIVE SPACE

Creative Space is a social enterprise officially established in 2010 in Nógrád county which is one of the most disadvantaged regions of Hungary. Before our start in 2010, we had already been present in the region for 10 years, actively organizing different kind of national and international activities like trainings, courses, voluntary camps, information days, community development actions. According to our 5 years experience these kind of presence in this area is unique and necessary – Creative Space was established to have a base for our activity in the region.

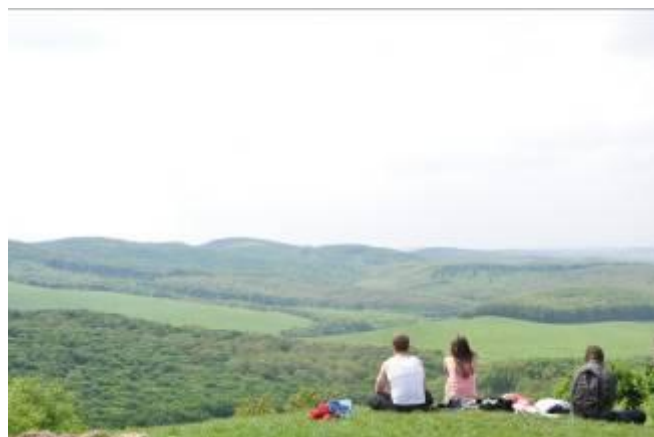
Our goals are to create a social community centre based on Creative Space and make rural community development happen. We rely on the professional help of the Egyesek Youth Association and the active involvement of the local youth, NGOs, authorities. We deliver information about the opportunities in Hungary as well as abroad which can be possible only through social inclusion. This inclusion is happening during our activities.

Our target group is mainly the local children and youth with multiply challenges. First we want to involve them in local voluntary actions and then the active youngsters will be invited to our intercultural/international activities in order to enable them to take responsibility in their life and initiative in their communities. We believe with this outreach youth work we create real development in the quality of their lives. Creative Space is run by volunteers, 1 permanent employee and from 2011 in the summer we have international campsite volunteers who help in doing the household work .

Network: We started to build up our connections in Hollókő and now we are already known in the surrounding villages. We have organized playsessions for children in four villages, voluntary actions in the nearby cities (Szécsény, Pásztó) together with the high school students, we have strong relationships with the active NGOs in the regions (Cserhát Natúrpark, Gyerekesély Program) we have good cooperation with the local authorities.

The purpose of our EVS project is doing quality outreach youth work in order to make rural community development happen in Nógrád county. We want to increase European awareness, mobility, solidarity and employability through our activities for everyone who participates in it. The presence of the EVS-ers also serves as an example to local youth, to inspire them by their personal example to take the opportunities available by European mobility. They will increase the mobility of the local youth by being the connection between Nógrád and the EU. Through the youth work the EVSers will carry out, they will inspire youth by giving good examples of being European citizens and ready to take initiative not just at home but in Hungary as well. Their presence will bring intercultural context in the rural social life.

The approach what we use is called learning by doing so we will carry out this idea throughout the whole EVS project.



THE VENUE

Creative Space is located in a village called Hollókő which is part of the UNESCO World Heritage and has preserved its authentic atmosphere, so it is a busy place for tourism. The nature around the village is beautiful, relaxing and has a lot of opportunities for biking, hiking, camping and different kind of outdoor activities. In the village there are 400 inhabitants and you can find one shop, post office, an ATM, a catholic church, museums and a café. Budapest is about 100 km, there are 2 direct buses / day and some more with an interchange.



The centre of Creative Space is located at the edge of the village, next to the forest, 10 minutes walk from the centre. <http://maps.google.hu/maps?hl=hu&tab=w/>

It consists of 1 stone building of 3 levels, which is a group accommodation and a center for youth projects, and 5 wooden bungalows which serve as accommodation for temporary and permanent staff, and a small campsite for campervans and tents. The accommodation is mainly a place for groups – families, groups of youth and NGO projects (exchanges, trainings, camps, workshops). Next to this, with a fundraising purpose, we run the campsite and accommodation as a hostel, when there are no groups in it. Staff consists of a caretaker who works on a daily basis, 2 temporary cooks working during the groups and volunteer youth workers who work 1-2 days to 1-2 weeks, project-based.



For more pictures please look at
http://kreativ-ter.hu/?tart=szoveg&id=6&lang=hu&menu_id=6
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/358344838699/>

LIVING CONDITIONS

The EVS volunteers will live in the bungalows, 2 or 3 volunteers will share 1 bungalow. Each bungalow has 3 beds, basic furniture (shelves, cupboard, table, chairs), its own toilet and shower. The group accommodation can take up to 40 guests. In the building of the group accommodation you can find the kitchen, dining room, common social area and the laundry room, which will be used by the EVS-ers as well. Washing machine, wireless internet, cooking equipments, bikes are provided. The EVSers will cook for themselves, the ingredients and the cooking equipments will be provided by Creative Space. When there is a programme in the house the EVSers eat together with the participants. There will be certain house rules to be kept, which all serve the legal functioning of the buildings and the centre. During the periods when the accommodation is used by groups, access to certain common areas will be limited and the rules will differ from the periods when only the EVS-ers live there.



The closest city (16km) is Szécsény where you can find necessary institutions (banks, schools, hospital, pharmacy etc.), supermarkets, restaurants, community places, library, pubs, sport centre. This is one of the poorest regions in Hungary so there is no good transportation between the villages, the unemployment rate is high and there is no active social life for young people. Most of them is leaving to one of the big cities in Hungary for university and they don't come back after. English language is not well-known in this area so we are planning to host a mixed group of EVS volunteers including Hungarians who live in the neighbouring countries, to make the communication easier between volunteers and the local people.

Creative Space will rent a car or minivan which will be accessible to use also for the EVS-ers, for those who have a drivers' licence and whose driving skills prove to be sufficient. There will be certain schedule and rules on the use of the vehicle and the amount of fuel. For safety reasons, Creative Space will also take special insurance for the use of the vehicle. When the minivan is used for other purposes, volunteers will travel by public buses and biking as well.



PROJECT TIMING:

The project will start in March or April and until the end of May the main focus is to know the circumstances, the closeby high schools and primary schools and the local NGOs. We will organize activities in order to get in touch and create effective relationship with the youngsters in the region. The project the EVS coordinator and the mentor will show the reality and the possibilities of the area for the EVSers, introduce them to key persons in the villages involved, take part in local events together with them, facilitate the first encounters with local young people. During this period we will also organise an on-arrival training for the volunteers.

After this period we will ask the EVS volunteers to choose their areas of interest and plan their own set of activities based on their knowledge, experience and skills. They will set their learning goals, what do they want to reach, how do they want to realize it. The necessary professional support will be provided by the EVS coordinator and the mentor.

After setting the goals, the EVSers will work together as an international group, the tasks and responsibilities will be divided by their personal learning goals and needs. During the summer the EVSers will work on different activity-areas in order to enable the local youngsters to spend their leisure time meaningful.

In September and October, connected to the start of the schoolyear, EVS-ers will visit primary and high schools and all the locatins of their summer activity, to present their results and collect feedback on their activity. This feedback will be considered in the further improvement of the project.

ACTIVITY AREAS FOR THE LONG-TERM EVS-ERS:

1. Promotion - reaching local youth and the communities

- Mobile EU information point, travelling among the villages: Giving informaton about Creative Space, YiA, EVS and other possibilities connected to studies, jobs, volunteering, travelling; Collecting and promoting local social and cultural events;
- Participating in local events (village days, conferences, info days, events in primary and high schools, summer schools, theatre festivals, festivals at Easter, closing of the schoolyear, harvest, 20th August national holiday, wine festival, etc.) with cultural presentations, information tables and providing logistical support.
- Organizing playsessions and sport events for children, families, young parents.
- Create media materials about the activities and promote it on social media platforms (facebook, blogs etc.);
- Widening our informal network by getting in touch with NGOs, local authorities, active youth workers, institutions, through the informal connections created during the above activities.



2. Involving local youth

- Inviting local young people to events (e.g. open days, performances, exhibitions, open craft workshops) organised by participants of youth exchanges, trainings, voluntary actions taking place in Creative Space.
- Involve the local youngsters to the rural development carried out by the EVSers;
- Offer national and international programmes for local young people, supporting their application, supporting their preparation for the international projects and organizing follow-up meetings after the programmes;
- Support the local youngsters to take their ideas into actions by giving information and cooperating with them;
- Organize voluntary actions with the students from the closeby high schools based on their needs and interest (e.g. cleaning the forest, painting tourist signs, painting the walls of the youth club);



3. Supporting other activities of the Cserhát Nature Park

- Activities related to heritage protection: e.g. collecting and scanning old photos, cataloguing book donations to the local libraries, noting down old recepies.
- Activities related to the protection of nature: e.g. cleaning paths and wells, marking paths.



4. Realizing volunteers' own initiatives:

EVS-ers will be encouraged to realise their own activity ideas as long as the activity is relevant, doable, they have the competences to implement it and we are capable to support it. This can be e.g. Workshops in the villages organized by the EVSers. The content will depend on the EVSers' knowledge and expereince. (language lessons, voluntary and environmental actions);

5. Support the daily running the group accomodation:

- Support in reception (e.g. translation, information about places of interest, giving directions for the village);
- Promote the offers of the accomodation (e.g. using social media, updating the website, the blog and the facebook page of the centre)
- Support in household work (cleaning, laundry, cooking, gardening, fixing bikes);
- Small renovations and decorations (e.g. painting, fixing mosquito nets, etc).



It is possible for the volunteers to choose 1 or 2 areas to focus on, as well as to choose a mix of activities from each area. It is also possible to switch activities after 2-3 months. This will be decided together with the volunteers. In any case we will ask them to take part in nr.5., because the accomodation is also their home.

The duration of the project is 6 or 7 months. The volunteers will work from Tuesday till Saturday for 6-7 hours - this depends on the ongoing project. Hungarian language lessons (2hours per week) and mentor meeting (2 hours per two weeks) included. They will get 2 days off extra in every months.

The pocket money will be given in the first working day of every month (95€). They will cook for themselves, ingredients and cooking equipments will be provided. In the accomodation electricity, running drinkable water, internet, cooking and sport equipments, furnitures are provided.

To have an idea of how it may look like, you can look at videos of similar activities we did so far:

<http://vimeo.com/27440439>

<http://vimeo.com/26797536>



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR EVS:

- **cultural awareness and expression:** 21st century rural culture in Hungary, palóc traditions, tolerance, handling cultural, social and generational diversity, English and Hungarian language
- **communication in a foreign language** (English and Hungarian): fluency in conversation, listening, vocabulary, different styles of communication, body language (for Hungarian speakers also communication in mother tongue, especially the palóc dialect)
- **social and civic competences:** volunteering as a means of local participation, taking social responsibility, solving problems by taking action, cooperation, teamwork
- **initiative and entrepreneurship:** the everyday logistics of a group accomodation / a building, the idea of social enterprise and its everyday functioning, scanning reality, planning, organising, creativity in problem solving, adapting to fastly changing circumstances, flexibility, ideas for projects and activities to take home, local networking
- **learning to learn:** identifying and expressing own learning needs, actively planning own learning process, evaluation own learning process with the help of fellow-volunteers and the mentor
- **digital literacy:** using a photo and/or video camera, using social media (facebook, blogs, websites), uploading and downloading material to the internet, printing, photocopying, faxing.



HOW TO BE A SENDING PARTNER

If you are interested please send the filled Part III and the organisation_form.doc and if you already have volunteers to apply please send his/her CV and the application_form_creative_space.doc to evs.creativespace@gmail.com until 23rd of October 2011.

