

European Voluntary Service "Creating Links"

1st March 2018-31th January 2019
Yerevan (Armenia)



Erasmus+



Shokkin Group
International

What is European Volunteer Service?

EVS is a learning experience in non-formal education sphere where young people develop or acquire capacities for their personal, educational and professional development as well as their social integration.

You have the opportunity to contribute to the daily work of organizations which deal with, among other topics, civic participation, social assistance, inclusion of the most disadvantages, the environment, youth policies, development cooperation, etc.

The volunteers develop their activities in a country different than of their residency. This not-paid and non-profit activity, is carried out full time for a specific period of time (from 2-12 months, exceptionally, from 2 weeks to 12 months) for the benefit of the community.

The participants have to be from 18-30 years old.

Who finances this type of activities?

The projects proposed through European Volunteer Service are subsidized by the European Commission through the Erasmus+ program.

During your stay it covers your:

- Accommodation and meals;
- Monthly pocket money for your personal expenses;
- Transport reimbursement to a maximum (according to distance);
- Visa expenses;
- Medical insurance.

What organizations do collaborate in this project?

Ticket2Europe: Coordinating and Sending organization

Ticket2Europe is a non-profit organization founded in 2016. Its main objectives are the dissemination and creation of opportunities for Spanish society, with a clear youth focus, especially youth from 18-35 years old that have suffered the consequences of the recent economic crisis in our country. The main mission of the organization is to open new ways and possibilities for young people, making a great effort to contribute to the construction and development of the European identity and active citizenship.

Yerevan Brusov State University of languages and social sciences: Hosting organization

YBSU of Languages and Social Sciences has been established in 1935, and is considered to be one of the oldest higher education institutions in Armenia with over 3000 students. YSULS has 3 faculties which offer BA, MA and PhD programs in linguistics, teaching foreign languages, international relations, European studies, political science, education management and planning, translation studies. 22 foreign languages are taught at the University (English, German, French, Russian, Italian, Polish, Chinese, Korean, Romanian, Japanese, Arabic, Hindi, Greek, Turkish, Dutch, Bulgarian, Portuguese, Ukrainian, Spanish, Persian, Georgian and Jewish).

12 Language and Culture centers have been founded to promote the development of intercultural communication between the students and professorship of various countries of the world.

YSULS is the only state university in the Caucasus and East Region that implements European Voluntary Service projects, thus combining formal and non-formal education.

Solidarity Mission: Sending organization

Solidarity Mission is a non-profit organization located in Athens, Greece. It is a training, investigation and innovation center for social economy and entrepreneurship and sustainable development. The main objective of our organization is to contribute to the development of social and solidarity economy. Our objective is to improve social awareness, social entrepreneurship and sustainable growth by empowering social entrepreneurs. To reach this goals, we implement personalized support program which aims at the socio-professional development and the professional integration of people who want to create a high-level social impact through social entrepreneurship. Our target group is mostly focused on unemployed young people, including long-term unemployed people. Solidarity Mission aspires to become a trampoline for your future employability, thus exposing a solid foundation for your harmonious integration in the society. Solidarity Mission aims to bring the EVS experience to the members of the organization.

Rota Jovem: Sending organization

Rota Jovem is a youth non-profit organization based in Cascais (Portugal), which promotes the mobility of young people. With 25 years of experience, it has around 1500 members, the majority of which are young people from 16-30 years old. The activities of Rota Jovem are open to its members and also to young people from the community in general, and take place at the local, national and international levels, developing and creating partnerships and networks with other organizations that work with young people, with the objective to make their ideas, dreams come true, and have all the support to do it. The structure of Rota Jovem promotes the voluntary work of the youngest, and its main areas of action are: environment, occupation of free time in the field of sports, active citizenship, adventure and culture.

There are also international activities such as youth exchanges, EVS, Leonardo da Vinci mobility internships and international camps.

We have also been developing trainings for young leaders, Human Rights, participation of local youth. Rota Jovem is a member of the Globa-l-ink network and a member of IYNF and nationally is a member of the FNAJ (National Federation of Youth Associations and Non-HATE Speech Movement).

Description of the project

The European Volunteering project “Creating Links” will be carried out from March 1, 2018 to January 31, 2019, in the capital of Armenia, Yerevan.

Armenia is one of Eastern Partnership countries of the European Union, thus the latter has a great interest in creating and maintaining ties between the 28 Member States and neighboring. The promotion of our language, literature and culture are of special importance.

Taking into consideration that Spain, Portugal and Greece have suffered from the economic crisis of the last decade and the budget to spread our languages and culture has been cut, it's important that programs such as European Volunteer Service, contribute to improving this situation through non-formal education.

Armenia has low level of environmental awareness, which is why a large number of its population is not aware of implementation of basic actions to improve the environment and the country's sustainability. Activities such as waste collection, recycling, etc. are of special relevance in Armenia, where until today, practically no such initiatives exist. The main objective of this project are introducing languages that are seldom taught in the Armenian classrooms, such as Greek or Portuguese, at the same time strengthening the position that maintains Spanish in the international environment. We also seek to create greater ties between the societies of these four partner countries so they can better understand traditions and cultures. We look for ways to develop the lifestyle of the people of Armenia, offering them knowledge and recommendations on sustainable and more respectful life with the environment. Finally, we seek to offer the participating volunteers the possibility to grow and acquire more skills, with the aim to enhance their professional careers.

The project has 3 main pillars: teaching foreign languages, intercultural knowledge and improvement of the environment.

Main activities

The main activities to be carried out, are the following:

- Creation of three language clubs of Spanish, Portuguese and Greek through non-formal education dynamics with which to attract as many young people interested in these three languages as possible.
- Creation of activities related with literature of these three countries, with the aim to introduce the most relevant authors and trends, as well as to motivate young people to read.
- Creation of intercultural workshops concentrating on showing the main cultural elements of the participating countries in this project, through film screenings, international cooking workshops, etc.
- Recycling workshops with which to inculcate the importance of Armenia's environmental improvement.
- Talks about the environment in urban and rural areas of Armenia. We seek to involve the society to take care of the planet.

Working Hours and Holidays

The working hours are 35 hours per week, 5 days a week, plus the Armenian language lessons (2 times per week, each 1.5 hours).

They are also provided with 2 days off/month. The weekends and public holidays are free of work.

Accommodation and living

Volunteers are given food money by the University accountant office at the beginning of each month. The volunteers will be responsible for buying and preparing their own food.

The pocket money will be transferred to the volunteer by the Coordinating Organization.

The provided accommodation is the Dormitory of BRUSOV YSULS which is located in 15 minutes by bus from the working place, in the big city center of Yerevan. The volunteer will share a room with another EVS volunteer of the same gender. The dormitory is properly furnished and has sufficient facilities for cleaning, cooking and washing: washing machine, kitchen utensils, bed-sheets, towels, internet access, etc.

The University is located in the small city center, in the heart of Yerevan. The volunteers are provided with local transportation money, local phone card.

The volunteers' profile

To take part in this project, the volunteer has to meet several basic requirements:

- Be from 18-30 year's old.
- Reside legally in Spain, Portugal or Greece.
- Have an intermediate level of English with the in order to realize the proposed activities independently.
- Be proactive, enthusiastic, eager to learn and propose activities of interest.
- Training or professional experience in the field of environmental science or teaching languages to foreigners is a plus (not excluding requirement).
- Having volunteer and international experience will be an advantage (not excluding requirement).

Transportation

The selected volunteer should buy their round trip ticket from their country of origin (Spain, Portugal or Greece) to Armenia. There also the possibility to fly to Tbilisi (Georgia) and take a bus from there (about 5 hours) to Yerevan. The latter option is usually cheaper.

The coordinating organization must be informed about your proposal BEFORE proceeding with the purchase.

Travel expenses will be 100% reimbursed up to a maximum of:

Spain	4000 - 7999 km	820 euros
Portugal	4000 - 7999 km	820 euros
Greece	500 - 1999 km	275 euros

For this, the volunteer should present the following supporting documents to the coordinating organization, Ticket2Europe:

- Invoices
- Receipts
- Boarding passes (originals)
- Any public transport tickets used for the journey (the paid amount should appear).

*The use of private means of transportation **CAN NOT** be reimbursed.

Personal support

During their stay in Armenia, the volunteer will have the support of their mentor for 11 months.

On the other hand, the project coordinator will maintain constant communication via Skype and e-mail with the volunteers.

Visa

There is no visa needed for Europeans. On arrival, the volunteer will get Residence Permit for the whole stay in Armenia.

Health Insurance

EVS volunteers are insured through the CIGNA insurance scheme. In this website you can check the [European Voluntary Service Insurance Plan](#) and get the detailed information.

What to take to Armenia?

- Taking into account that you will spend three different seasons, you should take different clothes as well, since Armenia can have very warm to hot summers (37 degrees) and winters that might be snowy with up to -20 degrees temperature.
- A laptop and a photo camera are recommendable. The internet connection is usually very good and the majority of the cafes have free WiFi inside and in the outdoor terraces.
- Don't forget to take the necessary documents of your trip (invoices, boarding passes, tickets, etc.).
- Any material that you consider appropriate for carrying out activities is welcome.
- And what is most important...Bring your best "good mood" because we're sure that Armenia will surprise you!!

About Armenia

Armenia, situated along the route of the Great Silk Road, is a landlocked country of rugged mountains and extinct volcanoes, located in the southern Caucasus, between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. Armenia is situated at a cultural, historical, and religious intersection and located at the crossroads between Europe and Asia, in the southern Transcaucasus.

The country spans 29,743 square kilometers (11,490 square miles, about the size of Belgium or Maryland) of mountainous terrain centered around the Ararat Valley. It is the smallest of the former Soviet republics, bounded by Georgia on the north, Azerbaijan on the east, Iran on the south, and Turkey on the west.

Yerevan is the capital and largest city of Armenia, and one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities. Situated along the Hrazdan River, Yerevan is the administrative, cultural, and industrial center of the country.

Armenian currency is AMD - Armenian Dram. 1€= 578 AMD (www.cba.am)

But rather than reading what we tell, check it out yourself!

[Armenia, your next destination!](#)



Send [your application](#) before 25th January, 2018

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