



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY

INFOPACK

Arad, Romania

ofensiva
tinerilor



OUR MISSION IS

The mission of our association is to provide young people with accessible educational opportunities to help them reach their full potential. In this regard, educating young people in Arad to accept diversity and create a pleasant and safe environment for them is of particular interest to us.

In addition, as active members of the European Peer Training Organization, we are seeking to help fulfilling our common mission, to help young people embrace the diversity that surrounds us, but also to promote peer education as a way of social transformation.

OUR MAIN OBJECTIVES ARE:

- to foster an inclusive attitude among at least 500 local youngsters from the Arad county;
- to improve/increase the support that 200 youngsters from vulnerable groups receive (mainly youngsters with disability, from the Roma community, etc.);
- to promote solidarity with persons belonging to vulnerable groups among 24 youngsters from 6 countries through local and international volunteering activities;
- to promote solidarity with persons from vulnerable groups and is set to achieve this through local and international volunteering activities;
- to engage young people and local organisations to create and implement solidarity activities that promote social inclusion;
- to envision the implementation of high quality solidarity activities done in cooperation with relevant local stakeholders, by an experienced hosting organisation, in a partnership that has proven to be effective in other occasions, using good practices tested in other projects;
- to envision the use of quality non-formal learning and peer-education as main tools for social transformation.

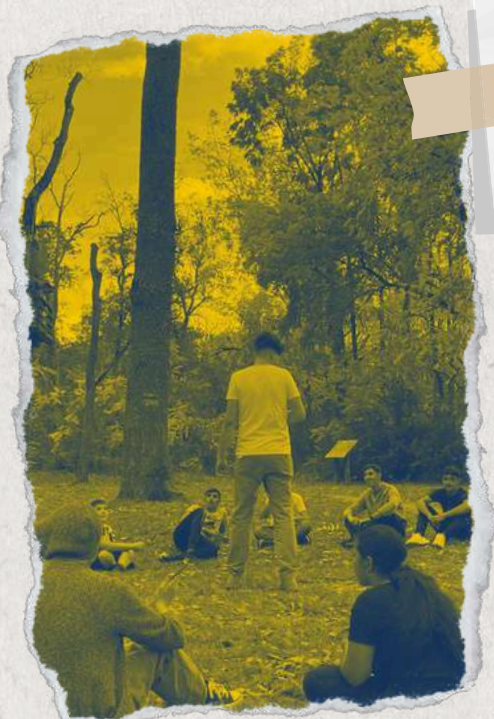
1. EDUCATION

Educating the youngsters to be more tolerant through specific training programmes. This will be achieved by organising weekly anti-discrimination and anti-bullying workshops in different secondary schools from Arad county, and other non-formal activities in partner schools with the aim of promoting European youth programs, the active participation of pupils in them and the stimulation of their own volunteering initiatives with vulnerable groups.



2. INSPIRATION

Having the volunteers become role models for the young people they will be working with.



This will be achieved through educational theatre activities in kindergartens and schools; with the volunteers using educational drama to promotes values such as empathy, friendship, respect for diversity and solidarity among children.

ACTION!

Involving the volunteers and local youngsters in activities that are in favour of vulnerable groups. This will be achieved through involving the volunteers and local youngsters in activities with our partners working with vulnerable groups (Vis de Copil association, CURUCUBEU day centre and other similar institutions from Arad), organising activities (weekly game sessions with young people from privileged and disadvantaged neighbourhoods of the host community) and supporting the volunteers in developing own initiatives aimed at supporting persons and especially children from different socially challenging backgrounds are cared for.



EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS



EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS

THE POWER OF TOGETHER.

The European Solidarity Corps is the new European Union initiative which creates opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in projects in their own country or abroad that benefit communities and people around Europe.



Mission: to bring together young people to build a more inclusive society, supporting vulnerable people and responding to societal challenges. It offers an inspiring and empowering experience for young people who want to help, learn, and develop.

ACTIVITIES

- **Arad has a very high rate of exclusion (and consequently bullying). In the last three international volunteering projects we organised, through more than 2000 dedicated questionnaires applied at local level to youngsters aged 13 – 24, we discovered that:**
- **Intolerance reaches alarming levels (> 50%) when it comes to some vulnerable groups such as: persons of another religion, those belonging to the Roma minority, those with disabilities or with another sexual orientation;**
- **Over 60% of youngsters admit that they were involved in oppressing their peers;**
- **As little as 4% of youngsters with disabilities are participating in activities conducted by a youth organisation and close to 90% of the youth organisations do not provide accessible services to persons with disabilities.**

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED, THE ACTIVITIES WE PROPOSE INCLUDE:

- **Anti-discrimination workshops in schools, with more than 2000 beneficiaries;**
- **Training activities for teachers in the field of inclusion and non-formal education, with over 20 schools involved;**
- **Training activities for youth workers and young volunteers, with more than 200 persons trained who multiplied the programme with more than 2500 young people;**
- **Volunteering activities in favor of vulnerable groups, with more than 100 young people involved.**
- **The intervention model we are proposing, based on the lessons learned in previous projects, includes a three-way approach:**

ACTIVITIES

CURCUBEU CENTRE

- Curcubeu Center in Arad is a social service dedicated to children aged 6 to 12 from disadvantaged families, with the aim of preventing school dropout and the separation of children from their parents. The activities that the volunteers carry out in this center are varied, depending on what is required by the staff in charge.
- Volunteers host both non-formal education sessions—such as educational games—as well as outdoor games and activities. Sometimes, different events are organized around specific themes, like Children's Day, International Roma Day, or other annual celebrations.
- During these events, volunteers participate and offer support whenever needed. Activities at the center typically take place under the supervision of the staff, and volunteers are expected to prepare engaging sessions in advance. The topics for these activities are usually decided together with Ramona, the teacher from Curcubeu.



ACTIVITIES

VLADIMIRESCU CENTRE

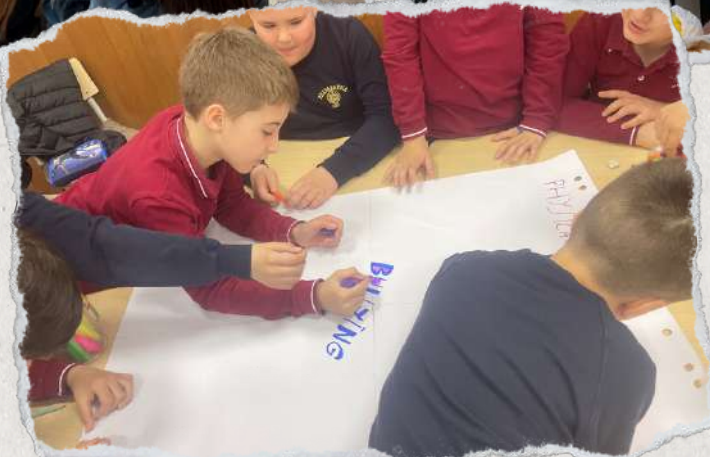
- The Counseling and Support Center for Children and Adults in Vladimirescu commune, Arad county, is a social service under the City Hall, dedicated to supporting people in need.
- The Center provides psychological support, counseling and social assistance for children, families and adults, contributing to social integration and improving the quality of life of beneficiaries in the community. It is about 10 km from Arad, and volunteers usually go to this location using the tram or bus for which they have free transportation. Here at the center in Vladimirescu, they work with children aged between 8 and 12, but some of them with mild disabilities such as concentration problems or ADHD.
- The activities that volunteers carry out here range from non-formal education activities to English classes or even homework help. Usually, in the warm season, the activities are hosted in the courtyard, and most of them are educational games that the volunteers have to prepare for each session.



ACTIVITIES

WORKSHOPS IN SCHOOLS

- The volunteers involved in this project organize educational and interactive workshops in schools and high schools in Arad County, adapted to the age of the students (8-18 years old) and the needs of each institution. The topics covered include bullying, discrimination, social inclusion, environmental protection, intercultural education and combating misinformation and fake news, and many more. These activities are designed by volunteers and are based on non-formal education methods that encourage active participation, critical thinking and free expression of ideas.
- Usually, the initiative to organize the workshops comes from schools and the topics are chosen according to students' interests or local events. The aim of these meetings is to support young people's personal and social development, to promote respect for diversity and responsibility towards the community and the environment in a safe and friendly space.



ACTIVITIES

LOGS –REFUGEE CENTRE

- LOGS (Social Initiatives Group) is an organization in Timisoara that supports vulnerable groups such as migrants and refugees. Founded in 2019, it offers services such as counseling, career guidance and social integration.
- LOGS also offers cultural adaptation courses for migrants and organizes projects promoting mental health and well-being. It actively assists refugees, including those from Ukraine, with humanitarian aid and support.
- Here, our volunteers go to provide help in the activities that LOGS carries out on a daily basis, whether it is non-formal education activities that take place in classrooms such as English classes or homework help, or outdoor activities, hikes, festivals and other events that they organize. Travel to this location is by train or bus, as it is about 50 km from Arad.



ACTIVITIES

BLIND PEOPLE ASSOCIATION

- The National Association of the Blind in Romania – Arad Branch (ANR Arad) is a non-profit organization that supports and represents individuals with visual impairments. In addition to advocacy, ANR Arad is actively involved in community life, organizing events such as Christmas celebrations for children and hosting national trainings focused on mental health for young people and individuals with disabilities.
- Volunteers regularly coordinate a variety of recreational, educational, and awareness-raising activities designed to foster inclusion and meaningful connections. These include multicultural cooking nights, interactive games, and arts and crafts sessions for both adults and their children, all in a welcoming and supportive environment. The organization also hosts workshops that promote awareness and understanding of visual impairments and disability rights. Special events such as tandem bike rides and creative projects—like building a model of the city of Arad—further encourage creativity, collaboration, and community involvement.



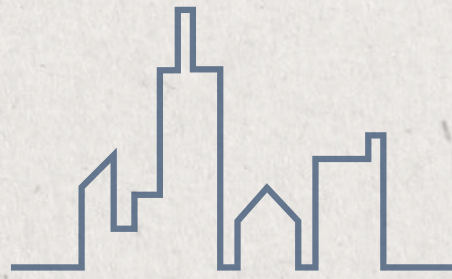


PROFILE OF THE VOLUNTEER:

- Between 18-30 years old;
- Resident of the sending country;
- Open and interested in working with persons from the vulnerable groups that we refer to as target groups;
- Able to place this experience in a long-term perspective of personal and professional development;
- Willing to learn new working methods and develop the necessary skills for organising inclusive activities;
- Ready to adapt to a flexible working programme, but also to follow the responsibilities he/she will be assigned with;
- Being open to leave their comfort zone and integrate into a foreign country, different in terms of customs, traditions, mentality, culture etc;

✨ THE STAGE PERIOD CAN BE 6 – 12 MONTHS ✨





LOCAL COMMUNITY

Arad is situated on the West part of Romania, 50 km far from Hungarian border, being the 13th biggest city of Romania, with around 200.000 citizens. In the past Arad was called "little Vienna" because the architecture from the center of the 2 cities were quite similar. The river that runs through the city is called Mureș.



"Arad – a city with personality"
A few places you can explore in Arad :)

Arad City Guide
About Arad

✨ IMPORTANT ASPECTS ✨

- Accommodation – you will be staying in rented apartments, 2 persons/room (same gender), with access to bathroom (common), kitchen (common) and other utilities. The apartments will house individuals of all genders.
- Meal – you will receive a monthly food allowance so you can arrange your own meals.
- Local Transportation – you will receive a monthly tram ticket valid on all tram lines.
- Internet – you will have access to internet at the accommodation and work place.
- Washing machine and refrigerator – will be found in each apartment.
- When you arrive in Arad, you will be provided with a romanian SIM card (phone number) with credit so you can call and use internet. After 30 days you will have to charge it by yourself.
- You will have a facilitator who will help you with everything concerning the activities (schedule, materials, taking you to activity places etc).
- You will have a mentor with whom you will discuss about your personal life, leisure activities and other problems or situations you might face during your ESC experience.
- You will have a Romanian teacher with whom you will meet every week. The Romanian language classes are mandatory.
- You will need to keep all travel documents and bring them in original to our organization (flight ticket, flight itinerary, boarding pass, invoice for transfer etc)
- Visa costs - the project covers for the visa costs if you need one to come to Romania.

✨ LUGGAGE – WHAT TO BRING ✨

Take whatever you consider necessary for your stay.
Keep in mind winters here can be very cold and summers extremely hot.

Bring your own:

- Towels
- Hair-dryer
- Laptop (if you have one)
- Medicine (if you are on a specific treatment, because here you may not find the exact same thing).



✨ HOW TO GET TO ARAD ✨



Your destination is the city of ARAD and you have several possibilities to get here:

1.TIMIȘOARA AIRPORT

- Situated 40 km from Arad;
- In case you arrive here, a member of the association will be in the airport waiting for you and will take you to your accommodation place.

2.BUDAPEST AIRPORT

- Situated 260 km from Arad;
- Use the train; there are direct routes from Budapest several times each day, from the Keleti train station. The journey takes around 4-5 hours to Arad; here you can find the website for purchasing the tickets online and, on the next page, there is also an example of schedule:

<https://mersultrenurilor.infofer.ro/en-GB/Itineraries>

- In case you arrive here, a member of the association will be in the train station waiting for you and will take you to your accommodation place.

3.ARAD TRAIN STATION

- You also have the possibility to arrive to Arad by train from Budapest or other Romanian cities.
- In case you arrive here, a member of the association will be in the train station waiting for you and will take you to your accommodation place.





CONTACT US IF YOU ARE INTERESTED



If you are interested in this volunteering opportunity you can contact us at volunteering.ofensiva@gmail.com

Joining the European Solidarity Corps must always be the voluntary choice of a young person, and they are free to resign from the initiative. The participation in the European Solidarity Corps does not involve the payment of any fee; at the end of their placement, European Solidarity Corps participants are entitled to receive a European Solidarity Corps certificate, confirming their participation in the activity.