



VOLUNTEERING

OPPORTUNITY



**ofensiva
tinerilor**

INFOPACK

Ofensiva Tinerilor, Romania





OBJECTIVES

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.



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:

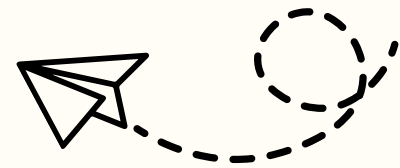
- intolerance reaches alarming levels (> 50%) when it comes to some vulnerable groups such as: persons of another religion, those belonging to the Roma minority, those with disabilities or with another sexual orientation;
- between 15 and 35% of the students of the schools we worked with said they were victims of aggression from their colleagues;
- 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:



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 promote values such as empathy, friendship, respect for diversity and solidarity among children.

3. 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 a "Boardgames Tour" (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.



ACTION!



EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS



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.



Principles:

ESC participants:

- will embrace the values of solidarity, respect for human dignity and human rights, and believe in the promotion of a fair and equal society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality prevail;
- will strive to enhance solidarity between people, while respecting their cultures and their traditions, and aim to build a community of shared responsibilities and mutual support;
- will be willing to make meaningful contributions to society and will show solidarity, cooperation and mutual understanding;

- must not act in any way that could put others or themselves at risk of being harmed;
- must respect the rules, organisational structure and practices that govern the hosting organisation, bearing in mind also that this frame may be necessary to respect the personal health, safety and dignity of individuals involved in the activity.



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.





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;
- Having difficulties in choosing a career or without employment options due to lack of practical experience.

Volunteering activity

15 September 2023 – 15 March 2023 (6 months)

We are searching for volunteers from all EU countries + Turkey, North Macedonia, Jordan, Georgia, Ukraine and Armenia.



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.



✦ ✦ IMPORTANT ASPECTS ✦ ✦

Accommodation – rented apartments, 2 persons/room, with access to bathroom (common), kitchen (common) and other utilities.

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.

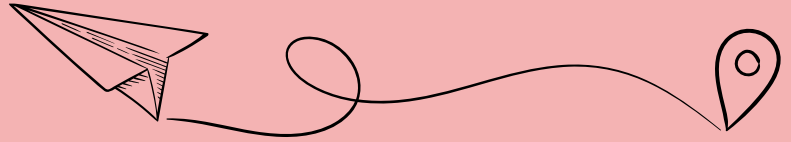
Washing machine and refrigerator – will be found in each apartment.



LUGGAGE – WHAT TO BRING

Take whatever you consider necessary for your 6 months 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).**



HOW TO GET THERE

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;
- In case you arrive here, a driver will wait for you and take you to Arad, to your accommodation place where one of the members of the association will wait for you. The driver is from a company specialized with airport transfers, so they are professionals.

3. ARAD TRAIN STATION

- You also have the possibility to arrive to Arad by train from Budapest or other Romanian cities.

See
you
😊