



Tiny Hands Huge Hearts

ESC VOLUNTEERING IN HUNGARY, NEMESVÁMOS

Supporting / coordinating organization: Európa Ifjúsága Egyesület

Hosting organization: Gyöngy Szemek Alapítvány

The aim of the project is to support and strengthen European identity, acceptance of other cultures, youth initiative and creativity for the staff in the hosting organization, the young people in contact with the organizations, the ESC volunteers, the children and their parents' through informal and nonformal learning. We search for the common and disparate characteristics of different cultures and then how to make them visible. We try to create a pedagogical environment where children can recognize their identity while learning to accept others' as well. The time spent together and the experiences help in the process of the understanding and accepting each other.

Volunteers have the opportunity to develop their key competencies, learn nonformal education methods, learn other cultures, learn new language, and engage in local youth development activities - improving all their future employment prospects - during both in the kindergarten dealing with children and participating in the life of a youth association.

Local youngsters and ESC volunteers are both involved in a nonformal learning process in the project, while children learn the positive attitudes towards other cultures on a daily basis, contributing to their tolerant, accepting personality.

It is outstanding of us to the volunteers feel that they are an active part of the local and European community/society, their opinion is important, and this helps to building a right society in Europe. Our goal is to make children, young people, and those who meet with the project become active participants from a passive surveillance role. Independent opinion creation, sharing ideas, sharing information is part of our project. To achieve this goals we always ask the opinion of the youngsters and partly let them free to organize programs.

As a result of the project, the chances of volunteers' employment increase due to the developed competencies. The vision of the children and their parents expand thanks to the presence of international volunteers.

We encourage those who involved in the project to understand and identify with cultural differences. Their ability to handle with problem of European consciousness and foreign language is improving and their awareness is increasing. Their social awareness increases a lot.

Main Motives:

- Show children the similarities and differences between the characteristics of each country. Colorful, catchy materials provide information about different countries in a way that can be captured by preschool children (visual thinking)
- Displaying the traditional furnishings of different countries and regions in the baby room - these can be changed from time to time, Hungarian folk culture in a given period and than volunteer's nationality colors,

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tools. Creating the objects together with children (eg food, special fruits, paper pulp etc.)- Developing the capacity for cultural tolerance in children

- Supporting mutual knowledge of each other while retaining the uniqueness
- Strengthen the acceptance capacity of the children and their families
- The tradition of the Hungarian holidays and the comparison of volunteer holidays, or the discovery of differences between them
- Simplification of Hungarian and tales of volunteer nationality into simple, their processing with illustrative tools, puppets, dramatization
- Organizing programs for learn and understand language of volunteer and English language: puppet theater, interactive musical program, excursions, creative activities
- Planning the year-ending show together, where the children can show how much they have developed in foreign language learning, also make them feel the success of what they achieve
- Present multicultural diversity
- Mediation of foreign cultures by poems, songs, lyrics, folk games
- On the national celebrations organize national days in the groups with the kids for Hungary, and for the volunteer's nationality. In this case, we present the characteristics of the countries with the help of music, pictures and films, and the children also can get acquainted with typical objects of use

During the service family days organized by the volunteers. At the event, the parents, the children and the volunteers can learn about the foreign cultures. Volunteers offer cakes and other national foods, drinks, show their place of residence, tell about their culture, lifestyles, tales, poems, songs, dance steps, folk games, and folk costumes.

We encourage volunteers to design and implement their own projects. It can be any event, online or offline initiative, meeting.

They make a film about their volunteering. On the one hand, the task of this film is to make the volunteers aware of their own development process and on the other hand it can be used as a multiplier tool as anyone can see it on the internet.

The Európa Ifjúsága Egyesület - Youth of Europe Association give the volunteers the opportunity to meet other volunteers in Hungary and local youth on a weekly basis. We also support the implementation of their own initiatives in the life of the association.

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