



Erasmus+

EUROPEAN VOLUNTEERING FORUM

Maribor, Slovenia, 10 – 14 October 2016

EUROPEAN
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE

20
YEARS!



CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Are you interested in...

...promoting the impact of transnational volunteering?

...discussing challenges and benefits of transnational volunteering and developing perspectives for the future on the background of the current socio-political and economic climate in Europe?

...celebrating 20 years of the European Voluntary Service programme?

...networking with participants coming from different organisations involved in transnational volunteering?

...doing all of this with participants coming from all over Europe, the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and Caucasus, Russia and the countries south of the Mediterranean?

Then this activity might be for you.



BACKGROUND and OBJECTIVES of the Forum

The current economic, social and political challenges that we are facing today in Europe and its neighbouring partner regions call more than ever for a stronger promotion and recognition of the benefits and impact of transnational volunteering, such as encouraging civic engagement, youth participation, active solidarity, tolerance and acceptance of diversity, intercultural awareness, European citizenship etc.

This year, we are also witnessing the 20th anniversary of the European Voluntary Service. Over the past twenty years, around 100,000 young volunteers have offered their service within an EVS project to an organisation in another country, supported by their sending and receiving organisations in diverse social and cultural environments.

We are also approaching the mid-term evaluation of the Erasmus+ programme (2014 – 2020), and EVS as an important part of it: time to make suggestions and recommendations and develop perspectives for the future of EVS.



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Based on this background, the European Volunteering Forum offers the opportunity to celebrate and promote the impact of long-term transnational volunteering on people, organisations and communities, learn from different examples of practice in the field, identify current challenges, define future perspectives and encourage networking across Europe and beyond.

The specific objectives of the Forum are to:

- Raise the visibility of the relevance of transnational volunteering in Europe and its neighboring regions
- Discuss main benefits and challenges of transnational volunteering
- Share experiences and good examples of practice
- Develop perspectives for the future of transnational volunteering
- Stimulate networking among the participants and encourage new partnerships
- Celebrate 20 years of EVS

PARTICIPANTS

The Forum targets around 50 participants from organisations involved in transnational volunteering - EVS as well as other programmes - coming from all Erasmus+ neighbouring partner regions and programme countries.

Participants should:

- live in a Programme Country or a Neighbouring Partner Country of the Erasmus+ programme (*)
- be actively involved (as coordinators, supervisors, mentors etc.) in transnational volunteering programmes implemented by their organisation or institution (EVS or other)
- have enough experience with transnational volunteering to share and discuss with the other participants
- be motivated and able to stay for the full duration of the forum.
- be able to actively participate in the programme in English.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE, COSTS

For all selected participants, travel costs to the forum will be reimbursed and board and lodging will be provided by the organisers.

The form will last for three full working days. Participants are expected to arrange their travel accordingly and should arrive on Monday, 10th October and depart on Friday, 14th October. An optional "meet EVS projects in Maribor"- city tour might be organised in the afternoon of the 10th October.

ORGANISERS

The Forum is hosted by SALTO SEE and organised jointly with the German, Italian, Slovenian, Spanish and Turkish National Agencies for the Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme and the SALTO EuroMed and Eastern Europe and Caucasus Resource Centres.



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The Forum will be facilitated by three experienced facilitators, Gisele Evrard, Anna Yeghoyan and Amr Arafa.

APPLICATION & RECRUITMENT PROCESS

All candidates must apply by filling in the online application form in the European Training Calendar here: <https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/european-training-calendar/training/european-volunteering-forum.5844/>, at the latest by Sunday, 17th July. (Filling in the application requires registration in MySALTO, which is quick and free). Candidates will be informed about the selection results by 16th August 2016.

For **more information**, please contact:

SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre, MOVIT - Slovenian National Agency of the Erasmus+ programme, youth chapter, Dunajska 5, SI - 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia, Contact person: Sonja Mitter, tel.: +386 1 430 47 47, e-mail: sonja.mitter@mva.si, web: www.salto-youth.net

More information about the European Volunteering Forum:

<https://www.salto-youth.net/about/regionalcooperation/current/volunteeringform/>

(*) Erasmus+ Programme Countries include:

1. Member States of the European Union

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom

2. Non EU Programme Countries

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey

Erasmus+ Partner Countries Neighbouring the EU include:

Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia

Southern Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine**, Syria, Tunisia

Eastern Partnership countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine

Other: Russian Federation

**This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.*

*** This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.*



European Volunteering Forum 10 - 14 October 2016, Maribor, Slovenia

Draft programme

Working schedule: 9:00 – 11:00 / 11:30 – 13:00 / 14:30 – 16:00 / 16:30 – 18:00

Monday, 10 October

Arrivals

Optional: “meet EVS projects in Ljubljana” (afternoon, time to be confirmed)

Tuesday, 11 October

9:00 Opening of the Forum

Rationale, intentions, programme, and methodology

10:00 Exploring who is here, why are we here, and who does what?

The Forum and its support features: introduction to the support material

11:00: Break

11:30- The History of volunteering

- Exploring 100 years of volunteering in Europe – the participants’ timeline: where was I, what happened, what did I do?
- Input on the milestones of volunteering

13:00 Lunch

14:30: Experiences and challenges part 1: Exploring our practices

16:00 Official welcome and launching of the Forum

Panel on volunteering

Reception

20:00 Dinner in town

Wednesday, 12 October

9:00 Stories that inspire...

9:15 The ‘Volunteering Library’: exploring different volunteering programmes and schemes (break included in the Library time)

12:00 ‘When programmes meet’ – talk show on intersections and commonalities, on models and structures



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13:00 *Lunch*

14:30 'What now?' – input on the current situation of volunteering in Europe: where are we now?
What do we need?

16:00 *Break*

16:30 Experiences and challenges part 2: Exploring what needs to be changed to achieve better volunteering programmes, schemes and projects with a focus on a series of themes, such as: learning / competence building, follow-up of volunteering projects, participation (community engagement), inclusion, solidarity, cultural impact (change), employability/entrepreneurship, visibility, recognition, etc.

Elaboration of the 'Present messages to the future'

19:00 *Dinner*

From 20:00 onward: activities organised by EVS volunteers / screening of EVS film festival Winner films

Thursday, 13 October

9:00 Presentations of the messages
Feedback from the group of participants

11:00 *Break*

11:30 Open agenda: focus on issues proposed by participants

13:00 *Lunch*

14:30 Feedback on the messages by the organisers / partners
Next steps

16:00 *Break*

16:30 Evaluation
Closing

19:00 *Dinner*

Evening Let's celebrate 20 years of EVS!

Friday, 14 October

Departures