



ZEMGALES NVO
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European
Commission

eurodesk

Eurodesk - Newsletter

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Zemgale NGO Centre and its **EuroDesk newsletter** is a provider in the field of opportunities for young people (13-30 years) in Latvia. EuroDesk is funded by the **European Commission**. Whether you are looking for *volunteering opportunities with Erasmus+, trainings, youth exchanges or traineeships* - our approach is to give you selected information: short, current and useful.

All opportunities mentioned below apply for people whose residence is in **Latvia**.



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What is the European Solidarity Corps?



The **European Solidarity Corps** is the 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.

Participants aged 18-30 can be placed with a project either for volunteering (**E**uropean **V**olunteer **S**ervice) or for a traineeship, an apprenticeship or a job for a period between 2 weeks and 12 months usually located within the European Union Member States, however not limited to only these. Young people can get involved in a broad range of topics such as *education, health, social integration, support for migrants and refugees, environmental protection, and plenty of other exciting and challenging areas.*

The skills that you gained during your volunteer service will be **certificated** with a **YouthPass!**

After completing a simple registration process on the **European Youth Portal**, European Solidarity Corps participants could be *selected and invited* to join a project **or apply** for a specific project themselves.

With this program there is no sending organisation needed, all costs

We gave you a selection of possible placements for your EVS, but to see all available opportunities for **ESC** you have to **register first**. But don't worry, it doesn't take long! :)

Long-term Volunteer Service

(7 - 12 months)

A Step Towards a Fair Future - Social Care, Bulgaria

Duration: 14/09/2020 to 14/09/2021 (12 months)

Project Description: Two projects in the region. 1. St Kiril and St Methodius Centre for Children at Risk in Kuklen 15km from the centre of Plovdiv. The centre organises daily recreational and educational activities and homework support for children, the majority of whom are from Roma families. A separate part of the centre is dedicated to specialised support for children with mental and physical disabilities. Volunteers will organise interactive activities for the children on subjects of their interest, which might include English language, sports, games and art; help staff to organise events and celebrations for different holidays; support the families and help to initiate activities together with the parents of the children. 2. Home Care, Plovdiv. Volunteers will accompany Caritas's nurses and social workers on home visits to elderly people, providing a combination of practical support and also conversation and friendship to these people, who are mostly very isolated due to long term health conditions.

Application deadline: 15.03.2020

Application via: Solidarity Corps Portal

Planet4youth. Work with adults with mental disabilities, Lithuania

Duration: during the period 01/09/2019 to 31/07/2021 (12 months)

Project Description: Group is dedicated to integrate and assist mentally challenged and disabled people and their families. Also there are organized educating and leisure activities. The volunteer participates in all activities with disabled, helps individually, goes together to shop, assists in cooking, helps in a work sessions. After disabled people leave the volunteer has a day evaluation together with worker. Volunteers participate in a city events, retreats, summer camps, work camps, are leading person for disabled when they go to basketball match, concerts, theatres, cafe in the city. All tasks will be discussed with volunteers to find the best way for volunteers and organization. Any initiative of volunteers will be encouraged and supported to help our organization to develop. For more information about project activities please contact project coordinator Akvilė via e-mail evs.matulaicio@gmail.com.

Application Deadline: 31.03.2020

Application via: Solidarity Corps Portal

Volunteering with Peter McVerry Trust, Ireland

Duration: **05/09/2020 to 04/09/2021 (12 months)**

Project description: Peter McVerry Trust (PMVT) offers 12 month ESC placements, where volunteers have the opportunity to work in a number of different adult residential and/or day services in Dublin. Volunteers work a 35 hours week, participating in a range of activities such as aiding with the upkeep of the service and informally shadowing staff. Volunteers' main task is to informally engage with, help and befriend service users (while always maintain professional boundaries), which is particularly important work given the marginalizing nature of homelessness. As well as benefiting our service users, this allows volunteers to gain a greater understanding of homelessness and drug abuse, seeing this important topics from a new perspective. PMVT is also happy to support volunteers in setting up individual projects, where appropriate, to aid their service users, therefore we search for proactive, creative volunteers. PMVT will also to support volunteers in setting up individual projects.

Application Deadline: 01.03. 2020

Application via: Solidarity Corps Portal

Offering guidance for youth in closed institutions, Belgium

Duration: during the period of **01/06/2020 to 31/05/2021 (12 months)**

Project description: De Zande is a juvenile detention center for boys and girls between 12 and 18 years old. The youngsters are placed here by the juvenile court, because of a living situation that is unbearable, or because they committed a crime. The boys and girls go through a pedagogical and didactic-educational program. We provide tailored guidance for every youngster who enters our facility. The result we have in mind is to facilitate the learning opportunities for the young people in our institutions and on the other hand for the volunteers. We want our young people to get the chance to learn from the volunteers by talking, exchanging experiences and by being able to see an example of taking part in the society in a positive way. The volunteer will be an example for the youngster in everyday activities.

Application Deadline: 02.03.2020

Application via: Solidarity Corps Portal

Project "Sustainability Rules", Finland

Duration: during the period **09/03/2020 to 31/12/2020 (10 months)**

Project description: The objective of the association is to vivify the country side, promote holistic ecological lifestyle and global sustainable development, as well as to encourage communality, be open for surroundings and cooperate local, national and international ways. We want to develop our role as an international cooperator and create good and active partnerships with our supporting organisations. Everyone gets easily a lot of information about how bad the situation is in this planet. People often feel alone, hopeless and stuck, don't know what to do. We believe that all small things can make a big difference. We do our best to live more sustainably, build up communality, be open for new ideas and make our baby steps for better, safer future. Volunteers from different countries bring our organisation their ideas, worries, solutions for us to improve our work. And the aim is that they will learn many new things here, they will have trust for themselves and future and increase their capacity to act.

Application Deadline: None

Application via: Solidarity Corps Portal

Working with the Deaf Community, Greece

Duration: **01/03/2020 to 02/10/2020 (8 months)**

Project description: The volunteers will be involved in the daily activities of the organisation and will collaborate in the creation of events and material to support the deaf and hearing-impaired population of Thessaloniki and Northern Greece. For example, they will join the events and seminars organised to raise society's awareness about the deaf and hearing-impaired community and they will promote and help in the organisation of educational trips and cultural activities. . The participants will have a unique occasion to be involved in solidarity activities in another country, counting on a structure that will take care of all their needs and boost their learning outcomes.

Application Deadline: 20.02.2020

Application via: Solidarity Corps Portal

Baobab Waldorf Kindergarden, Spain

Duration: **01/05/2020 to 30/04/2021 (12 months)**

Project description: "La Casa del Baobab" (www.lacasadelbaobab.org) is a kindergarden based on Waldorf Pedagogy which watches over children education in liberty. Our organization receives daily children from one to six years old, educating according to Rudolf Steiner's Waldorf pedagogy. In regards to this aim the teachers work very closely with the parents, and with other initiatives who undertake similar projects, and prepare the proper environment and activities. The volunteer will have the opportunity to participate creatively supporting the teacher (without responsibility regarding the children care): he/she will collaborate creating toys, furniture, or different material for children. She will participate in annual parties that we celebrate, she will support the teacher taking care of our vegetable garden and garden, where she will be able to learn the skills necessary for taking care of them. The volunteer will have a room in a flat shared with young people, in Madrid City. In this sense the volunteer will have total independence. Our headquarters is located in Torreldones, a town located 29 km Northwest from Madrid's downtown. We are surrounded by peace and nature, which is something that really helps us in the practice of our pedagogy.

Application deadline: 01.03.2020

Application via: Solidarity Corps Portal

"Mutual Aide 2" EVS in Youth Development Centre, Bulgaria



Duration: during the period **01/01/2020 to 28/02/2021 (10 months)**

Project description: DCMA ORG/ МЦР-Взаимопомощ is searching for 4 EVS volunteers to join activities for: Working on the website theyouth.info - creating the content (articles, videos), publishing and promoting on social media; Learning more about historical places in Bulgaria; Promoting cultural and historical heritage of Bulgaria through the website theyouth.info and social media; Promoting non-formal education and volunteering through online media and active engagement of local youth in such activities; Organizing events for the local community; Organizing events in the local library as language events, art workshops, animations; Raising ecological awareness; Work with a daily care center and elderly house. The project has a flexible date of start. The volunteers are supposed to start at the beginning of 2020.

Application Deadline: 31.03.2020

Application via: theyouthbg@gmail.com, subject "ESC Mutual Aid", Motivation letter + CV

Culture is socially responsible! (KKC), Latvia

Duration: 01/09/2020 to 31/08/2021 (12 months)

Project description: This project will give the volunteers an opportunity to join our fun, creative, and hardworking team at Kanepes Kulturas centrs, where they will be able to perform various tasks based on their skills and interests. Kanepes Kulturas centrs is an independent culture center aimed at providing a diverse range of cultural, entertainment and social events to locals and visitors of Riga, and it offers a wide range of activities and events, such as exhibitions, concerts, public discussions, poetry and prose readings, film screenings, workshops, and different kinds of performances. The volunteers will assist in the daily cultural activities at KKC, disseminate information about the events around Riga, create content for the social media accounts of KKC, etc. Moreover, they will be encouraged to come up with their own ideas and initiatives to enrich the center's cultural programme and to improve any other aspects of our work.

Application Deadline: 15.03.2019

Application via: Solidarity Corps Portal

Volunteering at animal shelter "Lesė" in Vilnius, Lithuania

Duration: 02/01/2020 to 31/07/2020 (9 months)

Project description: Back in 2007, the organisation was founded by volunteer's animal lovers, who started to shelter homeless animals at their homes and advertise them for adoption. In 2008, "Lesė" opened a proper animal shelter and since then has adopted over 6 500 animals. Organizations goals are: • Reducing the number of unwanted pet animals in a humane way; • Finding new homes for homeless animals; • Promoting the society awareness and stopping cruelty against animals; • Establishing an animal shelter meeting EU standards and creating an effective animal rescue system. Main tasks in organization are: 1. Activities in the shelter (taking care of animals, cleaning, and other maintenance work) 2. Additionally, we support volunteers with their initiatives (dissemination, searching for funds, promoting animal right etc.) The foundation of our organization is our volunteers who keep contributing their time, ideas, efforts and resources to Lesė.

Application deadline: 01/03/2020

Application via: Solidarity Corps Portal

Short term Volunteer Service

(2 - 6 months)

Volunteering in a Youth Center in Ibiza, Spain

Duration: 01/03/2020 to 25/07/2020 (5 months)

Project description: The volunteers are expected to participate in the daily work of the Youth centre helping staff members and youth workers to carry out the activities program for children and youngsters. The tasks carried out by volunteers are: - Support for the organization and development of the leisure time activities and workshops for children aged 8-12 years. - Helping in the organization and development of activities and workshops for young people and adults. - Organizing English and Italian workshops for children and young people of the Youth center to practice English. - Feeding social networks and web page of Youth center. - Offering information about European Solidarity Corps volunteering and international mobility opportunities to youngsters. - Participation and support for the organization of the Saturday evening activities program for young people older than 13 years old.

Application Deadline: None

Application via: Solidarity Corps Portal

Solidarity, youth and small towns - work in a library, Poland

Duration: 01/04/2020 to 31/08/2020 (5 months)

Project description: The library (which received a title of the best library in Masovian region in 2019!) serves the inhabitants of Przasnysz town and its neighbourhood. It performs the traditional role of the library and conducts activities in the field of culture and education aimed at different age groups. 2 volunteers will be supporting the staff in preparation and running activities aimed at the readers and inhabitants. They will also have opportunity to realise own initiatives, especially the ones adding intercultural dimension. Examples of tasks: supporting events promoting reading such as excursions, workshops, concerts; organising educational activities such as language cafes, handicraft workshops, STEM workshops; meetings with fairy tales for disabled children; taking photos and creating articles. Own initiatives will depend on volunteers' skills and experiences. In summer the volunteers can run a workcamp.

Application deadline: None

Application via: send CV and motivation letter to joanna@goinpro.org

Sports for Solidarity!, Romania

Duration: **01/03/2020 to 31/08/2020 (6 months)**

Project description: Role and tasks of volunteers are 1. Producing informative materials regarding promotion of a healthy lifestyle through sports activities and outdoor activities. The activity will take place on two groups, and the volunteers supported by the ASG staff will produce videos and audio materials, flyers, stickers, posters, etc. All these materials created in the first month of the EVS stage will be uploaded to the project web page and will be broadcast in the regional press via VTV and Valcea 1 TV channels, but also promoted in online social media: Facebook. 2. Street activities, promoting sports and outdoor activities. This activity will take the form of a media campaign that will take place for 2 months in Dragasani and Rm.Valcea. During the activity the volunteers will learn how to develop a media campaign using non-formal education methods such as street animation, flash mob, public cafe, debates and workshops with young people from schools and youngsters in Roma communities.

Application Deadline: None

Application via: Solidarity Corps Portal

Working as a tourist angel, Slovakia

Duration: **01/05/2020 to 31/05/2021 (1 month)**

Project Description: This is a 6 months project (April 2020- September 2020). As a Tourist Angels volunteer, you are located in the most visited places of Bratislava, where tourists can easily meet you. You are easily recognizable by your T-shirt. Passing through Bratislava you meet tourists and people who are visiting the city. You are packed with information and you can guide tourists on how to get to the most interesting parts of Bratislava. You can also advise them where they can taste real Slovak cuisine or which places they should not miss when visiting Bratislava. We are looking for someone ready to take up new challenges. You should be enthusiastic about growing your personal and professional skills and prepare for unexpected experiences. Required qualities include: motivated person, flexible and adaptable to changes, communicative and responsible person, able to work in the team, willing to learn and come up with new ideas, interested in volunteering, who wants gain new soft skills for life and is willing to educate himself further, interested in history, culture and customs, and also in meeting new people every day.

Application Deadline: 01.03.2020

Application via: Solidarity Corps Portal

Training Courses

Erasmus+ supports the professional development of **youth workers** through training or networking periods abroad. Periods abroad (up to 2 weeks) can consist of **training courses, study visits, job shadowing or observation periods** at relevant organisations and more.



Before applying, please **contact the National Agency** of your residence country to check if it is involved in this concrete project and committed to cover travel costs. Learn about possible participation fee and other relevant rules.

For more opportunities: www.salto-youth.net

Entrepreneurial Approaches for Youth Workers

20-27 May 2020 | Daugavpils, Latvia

Recent years have seen a burgeoning interest in social entrepreneurship across Europe, strongly driven by a growing recognition of a key role social enterprises can play in tackling societal and environmental challenges and fostering inclusive growth. EU commission has published a report on Entrepreneurial learning in July 2017 (<http://bit.ly/2w1SCYU>). The training “ Entrepreneurial Approaches for Youth Workers - EAYOW ” aims to clarify and promote the concept of social entrepreneurship among NGOs and young people including those with fewer opportunities, to open social enterprises on NGOs’ base and to prepare youth workers, youth trainers and youth leaders to deliver trainings and other educational activities on social entrepreneurship to NGOs and young people including those with fewer opportunities in their home countries and internationally. Participation fee: 20 Euro

Recommended for: Youth workers, Youth leaders, Youth project managers

Application deadline: 01.03.2020

Application via: salto-youth.net

Make it Visible

11-18 May 2020 | Lorca, Spain

This course is being implemented in the framework of the STAR project – Stand Together Against Racism, which is a 3-year collaboration among 4 partners from Spain, Italy, Bulgaria, and Poland, with the aim to counter invisible racism and other forms of intolerance in the everyday lives of young people, including hate speech, through preventive measures, youth work, and non-formal education. Within 2 years of the project, the partner organisations worked with young people on the local level testing and upscaling approaches and tools, and in the last year of the project, we aim to share them with youth work practitioners by implementing this international training course, developing the manual and the MOOC – Massive Open Online Course.

More information about the project you can find here: <https://www.invisible-racism.eu/about>

With this training, we aim to develop participants’ competences in using and adapting tools and approaches developed within STAR project and to enable participants to run the anti-racism activities with their young people.

Recommended for: Youth workers, Trainers, Youth leaders

Application deadline: 01.03.20

Application via: salto-youth.net

"Eutopia" Diversity in a Changing Europe - Creative lab for Rethinking Diversity in Youth Work

6-12 May 2020 | Riga, Latvia

The creative lab is designed for critical thinkers, who work with young people and are not afraid of opening controversial questions and questioning concepts.

- Have you ever wondered what diversity actually means?
- Do you work with people who question if diversity has gone too far?
- Living in times when Europe and the world is undergoing major developments, do you ever wonder how to help young people make sense of it all?
- Do you think it is time to reconsider the way we (you) work with young people nowadays?
- Are you curious about the principles and practices of slow youth work in a world that is changing rapidly?
- Would you like to go on an eight months creative journey with a dynamic community of learners?

Recommended for: Youth workers, Trainers, Youth leaders, Youth project managers, Youth coaches

Application deadline: 01.03.2020

Application via: salto-youth.net

Creating Compassionate Cultures - Group work based on empathy, well-being and cooperation

14-22 April 2020 | Modra, Slovak Republic

Creating Compassionate Cultures is a training course, which aims to increase professional competences of youth workers, equip them with new approaches, improve their leadership skills and abilities to make better connections and create inclusive space.

Are you involved in community actions and would you like to get new skills to support compassionate environment within the group you work with?

Do you want to learn new empathy-based and embodied methodologies of working with youth/community groups?

Do you want to gain tools to improve and maintain personal well-being thus contributing to developing resilience in yourself and young people you work with?

Application Deadline: 03.03.2020

Application via: salto-youth.com

International exchanges

International Exchange – MIRAI – Japan

Duration: **March 2020**

Project description: “MIRAI • 2019” is a short-term youth exchange program to invite 165 graduate/undergraduate students and young professionals over 20 years age from Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus, who study Politics, Law, Security Policies, Economics, International Relations, Asian Studies, Japan Studies, Science and Technology or other related fields. The program is entitled as the “MIRAI” with a play on the Japanese word “MIRAI” (未来) (pronounced “me-rye”) which means “Future”. MOFA hopes that the program will offer a great opportunity to

i.Promote mutual-understanding

ii.Promote a global understanding of Japan’s economy,society, history, diverse culture, politics and foreign policy

iii.Disseminate information on Japan’s attractions through communication devices including SNS

Application deadline: 20.01.2020

Application via: [Application form](#)

Traineeships

Traineeship in art association, Poland

Duration: 01/03/2020 - 31/07/2020 (5 months)

The aim of the project is to give young people from the international environments the job opportunities combined with work education, practical activities and help in acquiring new experiences. We want to:

- give young people conditions to take up work which is inspiring and which develops their passions, provides them with new experiences which they can use in their future career and which will make them more valuable employees in the future,
- create conditions so that they can check if their participation in the project by practical actions is the right path in their future career,
- raise their job qualifications, set new targets,
- act against the stereotype of "working for money" with the benefit of work based on solidarity and cooperation.

We also want to draw the attention to the social dimension of work- different from commercial rules- the work which will be focused on cooperation and the common joy of the effects.

As a result, we want to educate young people, give them time to do specific tasks, pass on specific job skills. We also want to show work in relation to social needs so as to show young people the sense, effects and ethos of socially involved work. We want them to see that their work can influence directly the changes of the local community, can integrate it and they can become a part of it.

Application deadline: None

Application via: <http://www.wertepfestival.pl>

Youth Exchanges

Youth exchanges allow groups of **young people (13 - 30 age)** from **different countries** to meet, live together and work on shared projects for short periods. Youth exchanges take place **outside the school environment**. On a youth exchange, you can expect to participate in activities such as *workshops, exercises, debates, role-plays, outdoor activities* and more.



Participants learning experiences are recognised through a **Youthpass**. Youth exchanges happen all around Europe all the time, the best way to be informed about new youth exchanges or any other youth work opportunities is through **Facebook groups** such as "**Youth Exchanges for Europeans**" or "**Erasmus+ Projects**".