



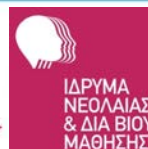
# SOLIDARITY TRACKS

ΜΟΝΟΠΑΤΙΑ ΑΛΛΗΛΕΓΓΥΗΣ




**VOLUNTEERING  
HELPS YOUR  
COMMUNITY**

**2011**



ΔΗΜΟΣ ΑΙΓΙΝΑΣ

# Table of Contents



<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>CHARTER .....</b>	<b>4</b>
:: WHAT IS EURO-MED YOUTH PROGRAMME.....	5
:: WHAT IS EURO-MED YOUTH PROGRAM IV?.....	5
:: WHAT IS EURO-MEDITERRANEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICES?.....	5
:: HOW TO FIND YOUR EUROPEAN PARTNER?.....	6
:: WHAT IS INTERCULTURAL LEARNING IN EURO-MED AREA?.....	6
:: NEEDS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.....	7
:: MONITORING AND EVALUATION.....	10
<b>PARTICIPATED ORGANIZATIONS.....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>TESTIMONIES.....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE.....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>PARTNERS.....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>PARTICIPANTS LIST.....</b>	<b>49</b>



## INTRODUCTION

Positive thinking allows young people to make their ideas a tool for Personal Development and positive change in their region. The positive results achieved by Europeans youngsters through their membership in civic programs; the Greek youngster's that ended dictatorship through their revolution in 1974, the Arabic young people who, this year, started to build their world based on justice, fairness and dignity by overturning dictatorships in their countries with the "Arab spring"; prove that young people are the main actors of change and development.

In order to withstand the challenges that the Euro Med region is currently facing, it is recommended to encourage the commitment of our youth in mobility programs in order to strengthen their citizenship and to participate actively in developing our Euro Med Area with the Euro-Mediterranean Voluntary Service of the Youth in Action Program.

Our experience has proved that European Voluntary Service can offer young volunteers a very interesting experience of solidarity and intercultural learning. It enables them to improve their competences so that they can play the part of catalyst initiators within the hosting community and, later on, in their own countries. The bare facts to our knowledge show clearly that that Euro-Med Voluntary Service tends to

contribute in material way to the local development of the hosting community.

In this context, and in order to involve the young people to develop our Euro Med area; to support voluntarism in Euro-Med communities, to build a positive cooperation between NGOs from Europe and from Meda countries, we organized a training course called "Volunteering Helps your Community", where 24 young people and youth workers from 17 European and Mediterranean countries have worked for eight days in order to put together a strategy of cooperation for youth volunteering.

This textbook was created by participants of the training, which was organized in Lefkas, Greece from 23/9 to 2/10/2011 by Solidarity Tracks, with the support of Youth in Action Program and the Institute for Youth, and by the European volunteers' active in Lefkas. A special attention was put on highlighting the importance of the role the local communities play when organizing volunteering projects. This textbook contains technical and educational tools to facilitate the participation of Meda countries in order to begin voluntary programs in the frame of euro – Mediterranean cooperation and it can be used and adapted by the organization that wishes to organize voluntary projects or to find stable partnership in the Euro Mediterranean framework



## CHARTER

- ✓ **P**ROMOTE YOUTH INFORMATION, INTERCULTURAL AND NON FORMAL LEARNING.
- ✓ **P**ROMOTE VOLUNTEERING SPIRIT BY INCREASING YOUTH PARTICIPATION AT LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.
- ✓ **I**NSTILL POSITIVE ATTITUDES, CREATIVE THINKING AND INTIATIVE SPIRIT.
- ✓ **F**IGHT AGAINST SOCIAL AND ECONOMICAL EXCLUSION BY GIVING OPPORTUNITIES TO YOUNG PEOPLE WITH FEWER OPPORTUNITIES.
- ✓ **E**NCOURAGING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ESTABLISHING PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL INSTITUTIONS/ORGANIZATIONS.
- ✓ **P**ROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTHY LIFE STYLE.
- ✓ **F**IGHT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION, STEREOTYPES AND PREJUDICE AND CREATE THE ATOMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.
- ✓ **R**ECOGINZE AND VALUE THE CULTURAL HERITAGE.



## :: WHAT IS EURO-MED YOUTH PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup>

The Euro-Med Youth Programme is a **regional programme** set up within the framework of the third chapter of the **Barcelona Process** which serves Intercultural dialogue and non-formal educational activities for young people between the ages of 15 and 30 and includes 36 Euro-Mediterranean partners (i.e. 27 Member State of the European Union and 9 Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, and Tunisia). It supplies future generations for closer cooperation at Euro-Mediterranean level, based on mutual respect and tolerance. The aim is to **strengthen the complementarity with the Youth in Action programme and increasing the cooperation between Euro-Med Youth Units and National Agencies**. Euro-Med Youth programme is regarded as a main priority which also falls under other priorities featuring in the **Youth in Action programme**.

### :: WHAT IS EURO-MED YOUTH PROGRAM IV?

The general objective of the Euro-Med Youth Programme Phase IV:

- Provide support, strengthen participation and contribute to the development of civil society and democracy in Euro-Mediterranean region.
- Stimulate mutual understanding and fight against discrimination and prejudices in Euro-Mediterranean region.
- Promote active citizenship and sense of solidarity among young people.
- Contribute to the development of youth policies in the different partner countries.

### :: WHAT IS EURO-MEDITERRANEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICES?

- Euro-Mediterranean Voluntary Service (E-MVS) is part of the Young in Action program of the European Commission and the Euro-Med Youth Program.
- EVS enables young people to carry out voluntary service for up to 12 months in a country other than their own.
- Each EVS project is based on international partnership between Sending Organization, Hosting Organization and volunteer/s. The Sending Organization and volunteer must come from the same country, while the Hosting Organization must be from a different country.

EVS can be described as “learning opportunity” where the volunteers improve and develop personal, educational and professional competences. It gives young people chance to move, live and experience different country than their own countries. It provides them with possibility to reinforce the importance of solidarity among young people and emphasizes of social responsibility while working and serving different community.

### SPECIAL NOTE

EVS is designed especially for young people with fewer opportunities. The definition of young people with fewer opportunities (according to Youth in Action Program Guide, page 5):

- Young people who are disadvantage compared to their peers.

<sup>1</sup> For further practical details, please visit and consult the practical Guide from SALTO Youth, on Volunteering in a Meda Context:

<http://www.salto-youth.net/rc/euromed/EMlibrary/emeducpub/practicalguides/>



- They face obstacles on accessing formal and non-formal education, transnational mobility and participation.
- They are excluded from society in a broad way: cultural, economic, health, disability or educational obstacles.

### **SPECIAL NOTE**

Young people with fewer opportunities in Euro-Med area cannot all be treated the same!

For most Mediterranean partners possibility to participate in Euro-Med youth Program is often the only option to explore other countries even if in their countries they are not privileged. This is not the case with European partners.

**While building partnership this should be considered.**

### **:: HOW TO FIND YOUR EUROPEAN PARTNER?**

#### **For Organizations from Meda countries:**

Any promoter from a European Country, wishing to send or host EVS volunteers or to coordinate an EVS project must be accredited. Here is the Commission's webpage on all accredited organizations: [http://ec.europa.eu/youth/evs/aod/hei\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/evs/aod/hei_en.cfm)

#### **For European organizations:**

The Meda Countries can participate in EVS projects without accreditation and information on them can be found from the data of Euromed platform: [www.euromedp.org](http://www.euromedp.org)

### **THREE IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER!**

1. IMPORTANCE OF INTERCULTURAL ASPECTS: In order to avoid disappointment for either side (Sending Organization, Hosting Organization or volunteer) you need to be very clear on preparation phase. Respect each other's culture and tradition should be taken into consideration that volunteer (man or women) can feel **safe and comfortable** in the hosting organization.
  2. IMPORTANCE OF detailed example of a weekly schedule for the volunteer in order to find the right balance between learning and service aspects for your organization (if you are HO). Volunteer can be involved in already running projects or new one can be establish.
- .Volunteer is not unpaid staff member**
3. The budget for the project must be realistic and correspond to the actual activities described in the application.

### **:: WHAT IS INTERCULTURAL LEARNING IN EURO-MED AREA?**

Intercultural learning in Euro-Med area means process of getting to know different cultures, their differences and similarities. It's process of learning to negotiate with people from different cultures, living with people

from different cultures, and the prospect of peace between different cultures. Individual is able to learn about other culture than his/her own.

But it's not just learning about another culture it's also learning about one's own culture when contrasted with another one. Respect is taken in consideration.



## :: NEEDS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

### *Europe*

- Distributing information to people with fewer opportunities in order to have a varied group of people getting the opportunity
- Update on facilities, which allow us to avoid facing practical problems when trying to fulfill our mission
- More public attention on the civic sphere to reach out to people despite of their age, education and so on and an umbrella organization for small associations in order not to lose or divide the support
- More support to learn foreign languages
- Support for youth with fewer opportunities from the specialized institutions dealing with them on a national and on an European level
- Inclusion of youth with fewer opportunities in the employment system and in society.
- Information about mobility/volunteering programs at international level
- Opportunities for everyone to participate in non formal education activities
- Enhance the youth life in the universities and its surroundings
- To be present in schools and other public places, providing information on youth programs and support for those with fewer opportunities
- To be an organization that is able to recruit and breed the next generation of active civil members
- To have people with few opportunities supported, satisfied and happy.
- To have access to take part in non formal education activities and develop personal and social skills/competences of our young people.
- To be more active in different EU programs in order to broaden the offers to young people and improve the quality of the projects we are already developing.
- Being more active in volunteering, collect more volunteers and give a wide choice of voluntary work in the city and the countryside
- Being a recognized coordinating NGO in the sector of youth on local and international level
- To have an informed local community about our organization, so we can involve them in future activities.
- Working with volunteers who already have an experience in the fields, and who can be easily integrated in the community and
- Who are not afraid to face practical challenges like working with orphan, poor children, with disabled, etc.
- Who are creative enough to make the most out of the local conditions - who want to feel like they are needed
- Young people who really want to help people in difficulties, who have an idea about the needs the targeted disadvantaged group
- Motivated to support youth work, with good relationship skills and interpersonal communication, initiative, dynamism, creativity, autonomy, maturity, responsibility to undertake different kind of activities,
- Ability to integrate and adapt to a multicultural environment and new challenges.
- Interested in media/communication, outdoor activities, Human Rights Education, who can work with different target groups
- No specialized



- Widen the cultural life of the city
  - Cheap or free cultural and sport activities
  - Mobility, intercultural experience, employability
  - Developing an information and management center for different social issues such as immigrants, birth control, forest fires, environmental issues, etc
  - Preparing young people for life, and reduce youth unemployment
  - Protection of our environment and developing sustainable tourism
  - Inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities
- act like "public relations officers" of the organization.
- Making the community interested and involved in social and cultural projects.
  - Mobility between regions to help and share with local community in their knowledge.
  - We want our organization to continue to support young people and to contribute more for the development of our region
  - We want to help the citizens of our region to have peace, living without stress or anxiety for the future, and to contribute in the development of their city.
  - We want our city to be clean, secure and to provide basic services for its citizens
- requirements, only the ability to fit into multi-ethnic regions;
- Volunteers who are ready to speak English and are open to learn or understand the local language on a basic level
  - Motivated to be a active citizen, promoting healthy values and to have a strong will to make volunteering

**Meda**





- More opportunities for our youth to take part in Euro-Med youth projects and in youth mobility programs.
- More support to encourage the people in my organization about the importance of volunteering and learning to learn and to acquire more practical skills.
- Stability and security in a healthy environment without discrimination, racism, xenophobia, judgments, verbal / physical aggression
- Financial and educational support to promote social and economic areas and both in cities and villages
- Assistance, mentoring, practical training, to be able to achieve project success, target youth in their life, family, education and social context
- Providing activities and services of sports and cultural activities of young people in places frequented by youth, such as schools, youth clubs, etc
- Training youth leaders and developing materials and training tools such for fundraising / leadership / language courses / stress management ... for example
- Fight against the marginalization of young people and reduce youth unemployment.
- To be more active and to have more financial resources to develop more projects in our region not just participate in projects developed in other countries.
- To become and act as a bridge of communication between my country and the rest of the Euro-Med countries.
- Having the ability to use information technology and communication
- Promoting skills and self administration.
- Promoting skills in communication and public speaking to raise awareness and ensure the specific training needs and their managers.
- Having equal access to information, regardless of social background
- Enabling the socio-cultural environment of the local youth.
- Ensuring effective participation of young people in culture and sports.
- Strengthen cooperation with European organizations, in order to exchange good practices on youth policy and youth initiatives; and to encourage entrepreneurship among Euro-Mediterranean youth
- Active and motivated volunteers that will promote volunteering in our region and will encourage our youth to volunteer too and to raise the awareness of an active citizenship among our youth.
- Voluntary spirit
- Honest
- Sociable
- Responsible
- Independent
- Dynamic
- Curious
- Always wanting to learn
- Adaptable
- Loving the competition
- Imaginative



## **::MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

Evaluation goes hand by hand with monitoring. Both processes are continuous and both organizations should do it by the first day when the project start. The aim is to build effective learning process and learn from what works and what can be done better.

### **WHAT NEEDS TO BE EVALUATED?**

- Cooperation between HO and SO,
- Quality of preparation for the project.
- Performance of the volunteer in his/her tasks.
- Personal learning outcomes.
- Impact of the project on HO and community.
- Quality of the arrangements made by the HO.

In the re-integration process SO is playing the most important role. When the volunteer return to his local community, SO should Be beneficial for future community development.

### **YOUTH PASS**

Every EVS volunteer is entitled to a certificate called YOUTHPASS where learning experiences, skills gained during

Through continuous monitoring and volunteer's participation on Mid-term Evaluation meeting both sides can avoid difficulties or misunderstandings. It's the responsibility of the SO that volunteer attends the Final Evaluation meeting. Both organizations (SO-HO) and the volunteer prepare the final report although the process should be initiated and coordinated by the HO.

help him make use of energy and skills that he/she gained during volunteering projects. This ideas and volunteer's participation can

volunteering and their participation can be noted. Volunteers doing their service in Mediterranean partner country can obtain a certificate from their organization and from the EuroMed Youth Unit in the country of service.

Below is a tool, which we recommend to be used for the evaluation and monitoring of the volunteers learning process, and for the preparation of the Youthpass.





**Sending organisation:**

**Hosting Organization:**

**Coordinating Organization:**



# MY YOUTHPASS FOR VOLUNTEERS

This Diary belongs to \_\_\_\_\_

Title of project: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Venue: \_\_\_\_\_







'Youth in Action' Programme

	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5	Objective 6	Objective 7
<b>Relevant</b>							
↑ Learning index ↓							
<b>Irrelevant</b>							

Think about **this month** and identify the key moments of your learning. If you think you have **achieved** some of learning objectives, chose one box from **Relevant** to **Irrelevant** for each objective and **describe with a few keywords** how and what you think you achieved to learn.



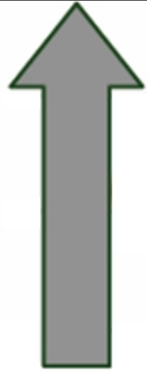
Month ...



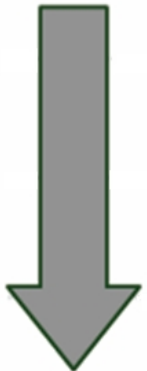
EUROMED

'Youth in Action' Programme

Relevant



Learning index



Irrelevant

	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5	Objective 6	Objective 7

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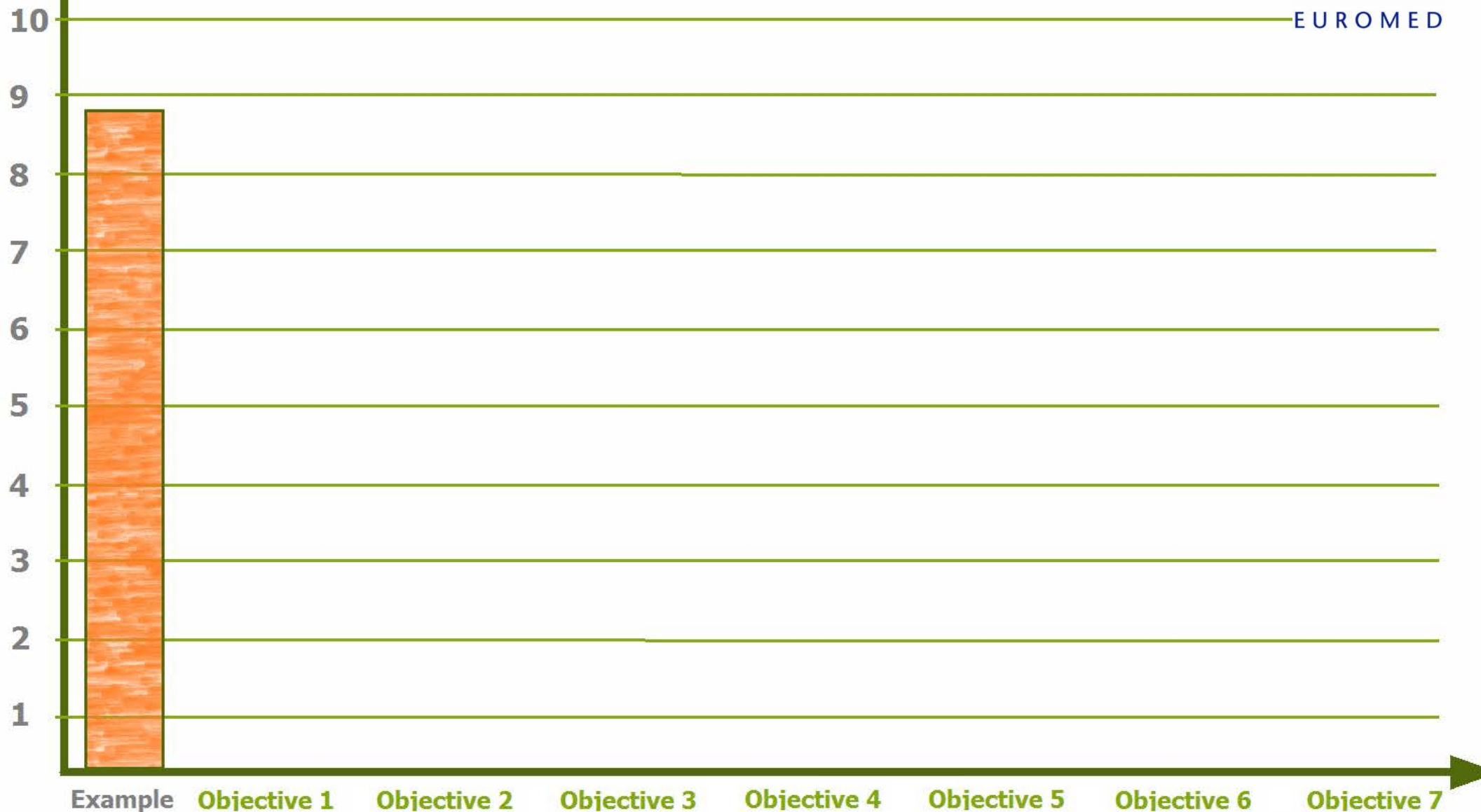


# Past Months Learning **Diagram**



EUROMED

'Youth in Action' Programme



Think about the **past months** and your objectives and **draw a diagram** for each learning objective illustrating how much you think you **achieved** in relation to them in a grading from 1 to 10.



'Youth in Action' Programme



# Acquired Skills and Competences



EUROMED





## Communication in the mother tongue

of communicating, new words, new ways to express yourself, phrases, traditions in your  
c.) did you discover about your native language? Which elements of the project helped  
you in that?

Taking into **consideration** your learning objectives and your experience during the volunteering activity, look at **these 8 learning competences** and if you think you **have acquired skills and competences** in relation to them, answer the questions assigned to them. Try beginning each of your answers using these examples: *I feel more comfortable now... / I found out... / I learned... / I feel confident... / I made progress... / I'm able to... / I know now how... / I developed... / I have a clear view now.*







Education and Culture DG

'Youth in Action' Programme



# Acquired Skills and Competences



EUROMED





f the foreign language did you learn? Which situations in the project helped you in that?

ords and phrase

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'Youth in Action' Programme



# Acquired Skills and Competences



EUROMED







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'Youth in Action' Programme



# Acquired Skills and Competences



EUROMED





computer, telep

...ra, etc.) did you use for preparation, realisation and follow up of the project? What for?

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Education and Culture DG

'Youth in Action' Programme



# Acquired Skills and Competences



EUROMED





## Learning to learn

computer, telep

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'Youth in Action' Programme



# Acquired Skills and Competences



EUROMED





nation How  
al was it  
group? for  
Which you to  
role be a  
did part of  
you your  
take? own  
What  
does it  
mean  
for  
you?

Taking into **consideration** your learning objectives and your experience during the volunteering activity, look at **these 8 learning competences** and if you think you **have acquired skills and competences** in relation to them, answer the questions assigned to them. Try beginning each of your answers using these examples: *I feel more comfortable now... / I found out... / I learned... / I feel confident... / I made progress... / I'm able to... / I know now how... / I developed... / I have a clear view now.*





Education and Culture DG

'Youth in Action' Programme



# Acquired Skills and Competences



EUROMED





In which part (

you express your satisfaction with the interaction during the project? How do you feel about it?

Taking into **consideration** your learning objectives and your experience during the volunteering activity, look at **these 8 learning competences** and if you think you **have acquired skills and competences** in relation to them, answer the questions assigned to them. Try beginning each of your answers using these examples: *I feel more comfortable now... / I found out... / I learned... / I feel confident... / I made progress... / I'm able to... / I know now how... / I developed... / I have a clear view now.*





'Youth in Action' Programme



# Acquired Skills and Competences



EUROMED





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## 'Youth in Action' Programme

**Youthpass** is the European Strategy on the validation and recognition of non-formal learning within the context of Youth in Action

**Strategic aims** – Youthpass should contribute to the following:

- Reflection on **personal non-formal learning**
- **Social recognition** of youth work
- **Employability** of young people and youth workers

In youth work **practice** Youthpass contributes to and is based on the following elements:

- **Learning to learn** is about enabling young people to: become aware of and responsible for their own learning, set up their own learning objectives, organize and manage their own learning, identify learning possibilities and deal with learning obstacles and look for and use others for support
- **Self-assessment** is to create opportunities for young people to reflect on their learning experience and progress enabling them to identify their achievements
- **Dialogue process** refers to the feedback or group sharing as a mutual process of exchange about learning in a safe environment

The Youthpass **process** should start from the planning and preparation phase, should be implemented during the implementation phase and finalised in the evaluation and follow-up phase.

For more information and using Youthpass as a learning reflection tool in EVS visit

<http://www.youthpass.eu/en/youthpass/guide/>

## PARTICIPATED ORGANIZATIONS



1

*Istituto dei Ciechi*  
*Opere Riunite*  
«I. Florio - F. ed. A. Salamone»  
Palermo

**ISTITUTO DEI CIECHI, ITALY IS PRESENTING**



Public association of education, schooling and welfare service for blind people protection in the Sicilian region. For more than a hundred years it gives services for young, old and multiple-handicapped people who have visual problems. The major activities of this center are: daily full-time or part-time boarding school, lodging and transport service.

2

### THE GDR VALLE DEL GUADALHORCE, SPAIN



Is a nonprofit organization that works for sustainable development of the region in areas like agriculture, industry, gender, youth, employment, training and environment. Among its objectives is to promote sustainable development, strengthen local production systems and strengthen the cultural identity of the population.

3

### TOGETHER FRANCE



Together is a pan-European network of youth organizations that includes independent youth organizations in France – Czech Republic – Greece – Estonia – Italy – Slovenia – Luxembourg, as well as Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro. Our philosophy can be expressed in 4 words: participation – citizenship – mobility – volunteering. We use our experience gained throughout numerous international programs and work experience in alike organizations to create a forum facilitating international meetings on different topics, like volunteering in a Meda context

4

### AVENTURA MARÃO CLUBE (AMC), PORTUGAL



Is an association created in 1993 by a group of young people of Amarante and by now it has around 240 members. The main objective is to promote healthy lifestyle among the population (especially Youth). This organization is divided in three sections: Mountain Biking, Canoeing and Fair Trade. Since 1998, we participate in actions of promotion and training at national and international youth programs.

5

### MCD YOUNG CLUB, TURKEY



Is an association for young people working on developing educational and cultural skills. We are providing different language courses, courses on music instruments and courses on writing a project which are free of charge. Our goal is to encourage independent personal development of youth. Our organization has many partnerships.

6

### YOUTH ACTIVITY FOUNDATION ALTERNATIVE, POLAND



Was established in 2002. We began our activity with encouraging youth to be more active. Our aims are: social activity of children and youth; organizing and promoting the participation of young people in trainings; promoting education for young people and access to culture.

7

### UNIVERSI, SLOVENIA



Is a voluntary based organization that aims to bring together young people that believe in international co-operation and intercultural experience. Our main aim is to give youth possibilities for creative development, spreading of European culture in the field of international Youth Exchanges, European Volunteer Service, and promotion of realization of cultural, art and sport projects, spreading information about and for youth.

8

### ASSOCIATION FOR YOUTH AND STUDENTS IN PARTIUM (PIHE), ROMANIA



Was founded in 2006 in Oradea, with the aim to keep a constant level of organization and representation of interests in the youth organizations in the city and its surroundings. The association focuses on voluntarism, training of youth leaders, cultural and leisure events of young people, social activities mainly in orphanages and Youth in Action programs.

9



### **KARPAT-IFJUSAGI EGYESULET, CARPATHIAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION, HUNGARY**

Was founded in 2005 in Budapest by a group of students and friends. From the original focus on youth activities and networking among Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin it is now today an association that is active in various fields such as voluntarism, cultural, charity and leisure activities for European youth (YIA), and social/pedagogical activities in orphanages.



### **«SOLIDARITY TRACKS», GREECE**

Is a non-profit and non-governmental organization, promoting youth exchanges, mobility and intercultural learning on European and worldwide scale. Solidarity Tracks disseminate the value of the human rights and pursue the initiative of responsible and sustainable development. The actions of Solidarity Tracks support individuals' personal development in relation to local development. The ultimate goal of our organization is to understand the links which unite people, inspire us, and support the spirit for equal and mutual development.

11



### **DEVELOPMENT NO BORDERS (DNB), EGYPT**

Is NGO based on young people voluntary work. The main aim is personal development. We have many charity activities which includes clothes fair in poor area and orphan visits. Also we are organizing cultural activities and different visits in Egypt. We are organizing international activities in Egypt like net-working, youth exchanges and cultural events.

12



### **LAND AND HUMAN TO ADVOCATE PROGRESS (LHAP), JORDAN**

Was established in 2000 as non-profit organization, consisted from group of experts of diversified specialties who are devoted to serve the local communities. LHAP targets governorates and countryside through holding projects, activities and training programs to cover different economical, social, political and environmental aspects. During this year, LHAP has implemented (43 projects) funded by (13) donors in partnership with (18) civil society organizations.

13



### **THE PETITS DEBROUILLARDS ASSOCIATION, ALGERIA**

Was established in 1998 by a group of young people who wanted to put their expertise in science and socio-cultural service to their community in general and children in particular through the fun activities and management of free time and this continue ...come and have fun!

14



### **THE CULTURAL CLUB ALI BELHOUANE ART, TUNISIA**

Is a cultural association which works to promote various forms of culture and artistic creativity among young people and children locally, nationally and also internationally, through the organization or participation in various events and meetings held in Tunisia or abroad as part of several programs Arab, Euro-Mediterranean and international.

15



### **ATTADAMOUN FOR DEVELOPMENT & PARTNERSHIP, MOROCCO**

Is a non-profit organization that aims at contributing to the cultural and socio-economic development of the citizens via value added projects in partnership with national and international partners. The main target group is the youth with fewer opportunities (with economic, social and physical disabilities). The philosophy of Attadamoun for Development & Partnership Association is based on volunteering.

16



### **ASSOCIATION OF MEDITERRANEAN YOUTH FOR CULTURAL EXCHANGES (AJMEC), TUNISIA**

Is an autonomous non-governmental organization. The main theme is to open international exchange for young people, youth initiative in improving social work and facilitating the integration of young people into society. AJMEC's activities are always held with a deep concern to integrate the youth in the associative life through entrenching in them the spirit of sociable and responsible citizens.



17



### AL-HAYAT CENTER, JORDAN

Aims to achieve sustainable development through building the capacity of local and regional communities to meet current and future development challenges. We are empowering positive attitudes and ethics that encourage creative thinking, problem solving and decision making, gender awareness, and proper public participation. Community service, intercultural dialogue and gender equality.

18



### ASSCIATION TADAMON POUR LE SOUTIEN DES ENFANTS EN SITUATION DIFFICILE

Was born on the 31 of March 2001 thanks to will of the professionals workers in the socio-educational field. It addresses for children in precarious situations, conducts various activities from different social and educational institutions, both in urban and rural areas.

19



### ASSOCIATION DES AMIS DE LA MAISON DES JEUNES ET DE LA CULTURE

Our association was created in 1998 by young volunteers in order to contribute in the local development in the educational, social and environmental life. Our activities are meant to support the activities of the Youth Center in Metline, Tunisia; to develop cultural, artistic, athletic, and scientific skills for young people; to facilitate the integration of youth in society and foremost, to encourage the mobility and volunteering of young people.

### SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL – HELLAS

SCI Hellas is the Greek branch of Service Civil International, a volunteer organisation aiming to promote peace and international understanding and solidarity. SCI Hellas is active in EVS since 1999 and has been hosting, co-ordinating and sending organisation. SCI Hellas is also a member of the Greek International Year of the Volunteer Commission. Finally, we are involved in the Youth and Unemployment Working Group of SCI, a network that works with disadvantaged young people through youth exchanges and EVS ST projects.



21



### THE NON FORMAL GROUP OF THASOS

We were founded in the winter 2010 by a group of young people living on Thasos island. The spark was given by a member of the group who used to be an EVS volunteer and participated to European youth exchanges.

The aims of the group are the briefing of the local youngsters about the Youth In Action programs, their participation in different local actions (cultural, environmental, social) and their sensitization in minorities subjects of our region (Greek Pomaks and Roma communities). In order to achieve our goals we are in cooperation with local schools associations and a minorities' NGO.

22

### JAUNATNE PAR IESAISTISANOS, LATVIA

Is a youth organization working in the fields of non formal education, youth information, lifelong learning, art and culture. We are working with "Youth in Action" program European Voluntary Service sending projects and hosting projects, but, of course, we are always open to new cooperation.

23

### ASSOCIATION A.D.P.A.L.

We were founded in 2002 in order to ensure participation in local development activities of different types: youth mobility, seminars, trainings and so on. We are also a sending and hosting organisation since 2005 We hosted one volunteer for 6 months and we sent volunteers to Greece and Spain. Every year we also organize workshops to renovate fountains and mausoleums, trainings on rural activities as making goat cheese and breeding cows and music festivals on both sides of the Mediterranean.





## TESTIMONIES

### Khalida, hosting and sending organization; Palestine



By participating, living and volunteering in Palestine young people can have unique experience of living in occupied zone. International appearance and participation in social sectors can help people of Palestine by international recognition and development. And it will increase the political awareness for political activism.

ان التطوع والمشاركة في فلسطين سيمنح الشباب فرصة فريدة من نوعها للتواجد والتعايش في منطقة ما زالت خاضعة للاحتلال المباشر كما ان التواجد الدولي في فلسطين سيساعد المجتمع المحلي الفلسطيني وسيساعد على زيادة الوعي حول القضية الفلسطينية على المستوى الدولي كما ان الوعي السياسي سيزداد لدى الناشطين السياسيين

### Sarma, hosting and sending organization; Latvia

Our aim is to contribute to intercultural learning by sending and hosting young people. Participation and personal experience of young people from Latvia in Mediterranean countries will help in the process that fear of cultural differences will disappear. With hosting young people from Mediterranean countries our community will be able to get personal experience and views of other culture.

Mūsu mērķis uzņemt un nosūtīt brīvprātīgos ir veicināt jauniešu starpkultūru izglītību. Baites no kultūras atšķirībām pazudīs, kad jaunieši no Latvijas paši iegūs personīgu pieredzi Vidusjūras reģiona valstīs. Savukārt, uzņemot jauniešus no Vidusjūras valstīm savā zemē, mēs iepazīsim viņu dzīves uzskatus un kultūru.



### Pablo, Spain, young boy, volunteer, journalist



By participating in Mediterranean Islamic countries young people will be able to overcome stereotypes and prejudice about those countries. I believe that this is opportunity for young people to meet with differences and to understand other culture. By having intercultural experiences young person can realize that differences are not something bad.

Al participar en actividades con países islámicos del Mediterráneo, los jóvenes serán capaces de superar los estereotipos y prejuicios sobre esos lugares. Creo que es una gran oportunidad para la gente joven de conocer las diferencias entre los países y entender otras culturas.

Gracias a las experiencias interculturales, los jóvenes comprenderán que las diferencias no son algo malo.

### Shatha, young girl, Jordan, student of Women studies

I believe that participation of young people in our community is "given-taken relationship". Jordan as historical and cultural country in the Middle East can give a lot to young European people. They are welcome to come to our country and share their knowledge and skills in our community and vice versa.

شذى ، شابة أردنية، طالبة في دراسات المرأة.  
" أؤمن ان مشاركة الشباب في مجتمعنا هي علاقة ( إعطاء وأخذ). بإمكان الأردن كبلد تاريخي وثقافي في الشرق الاوسط أن تُعطي الكثير للشباب الأوروبي.إننا نرحب بهؤلاء الشباب في بلدنا لتبادل المعارف والقدرات "



### Fulya, Turkey, Ex-EVS volunteer from Turkey



We always thought that EU is better than us that we need to compare our self with EU. By participating as EVS volunteer in Lithuania I present Turkish culture and realize that we are the same and sometimes better. I was experiencing different gender division as in my own country and it was a bit different for me. But it was interesting experience.

Her zaman EU ile kendimizi karşılaştırdığımızda EU'nun bizden daha iyi olduğunu düşünürdük. Avrupa Gönüllü Hizmetinin Litvanya'daki katılımcısı olduğumda Türk kültürünü tanıttım ve farkettim ki aynıyız ve hatta bazen EU'dan daha iyi. Farklı bir kültürün gender divisionu ile karşılaştığımda benim için farklı bir deneyimdi. Fakat çok ilgi çekici

bir deneyimdi.

### Mohamed, young local volunteer from Egypt

I am being volunteer already for 5 years in my local community. During this time I gained a lot of skills which were very useful for my future and also for my professional development. For example: team group working, time management, fund raising experiences etc. I develop my communicational skills. Now I am not afraid to talk in front of the people anymore.



محمد، متطوع شاب من مصر .  
أقوم بأعمال تطوعية منذ خمس سنوات في مجتمعنا المحلي ، مما مكنتني من تطوير العديد من القدرات التي  
ستفيدني في المستقبل وتقدمي المهني . وقد نخص بالذكر : تنظيم الوقت وكيفية تمويل  
المشاريع . لقد طورت قدراتي على التواصل والاتصال وأصبحت لا أتردد في ألقاء الخطاب على الناس

### Ana Luz, current EVS volunteer in Greece, Spain



I feel that by volunteering in small community in Greece maybe I cannot do big changes, but I can feel that I am doing my best. I can see that people from Lefkada are grateful that I am working with their children and that I am volunteering in their city. By living with other EVS volunteers in Lefkada I .learned as well a lot from other cultures. For me this is intercultural experience

Creo que el voluntariado en una pequeña comunidad en Grecia no puede hacer grandes cambios, pero me estoy esforzando para hacer mi trabajo lo mejor posible. Considero que la gente de Lefkada está muy agradecida con mi trabajo con sus niños y con mi trabajo de voluntariado en su ciudad. Al vivir con otros EVS en Lefkada, he aprendido también muchas cosas de otras culturas. Para mí, está siendo una experiencia intercultural.

### Fanis, Greece, young volunteer from local community

I would be willing to help with my professional skills as volunteer in any other country not only my own. I also believe that if international volunteers from Mediterranean Arabic countries are coming to Lefkada and volunteer in our community they will be appreciated and cultural stereotypes could disappear

Θα ήμουν πρόθυμος να βοηθήσω με επαγγελματικές ικανότητες μου ως εθελοντής στην χώρα μου και σε άλλες χώρες. Πιστεύω επίσης ότι αν οι διεθνείς εθελοντές από μεσογειακές αραβικές χώρες έρχονται στην Λευκάδα για να συμμετέχουν σε εθελοντικό πρόγραμμα στην κοινότητά μας, θα εκτιμηθούν, και θα μπορούσαν να εξαφανιστούν τα πολιτισμικά στερεότυπα.



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

As Youth in Action will evolve in 2013 we feel it is important to share some suggestions for the future of the European Voluntary Service and of EUROMED Voluntary Service, suggestions which could be implemented either globally for YiA or just as special exceptions for Euromed:

- The definition of a young person in the Arabic world is not the same as the definition in the Eurozone, in these countries a person is considered young until the age of 35 so making the voluntary service reachable for youth aged 18 – 35.
- Visa arrangements for Euromed countries are sometimes lengthy and in case of 12 month services it may be useful to make the duration of the project more than 24 months, at least 30 months but preferably 36 in this way it is sure that Visa arrangements will not disturb the duration of a volunteers service.
- In the case of countries which do not allow a stay outside the country of origin which is longer than 6 months, it should be allowed to have 2 voluntary services as long as these do not cumulate to more than 12 months in total

## PARTNERS

1- Municipality of Lefkas

[www.lefkada.gr](http://www.lefkada.gr)

2- Eldery Care Center of Lefkas

6 GVarnakioti street, 31100 Lefkas, Greece  
+30264502763

3- Orfeas Lefkas

[www.orfeaslefkadas.blogspot.com](http://www.orfeaslefkadas.blogspot.com)



ΔΗΜΟΣ ΛΕΥΚΑΔΑΣ



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## Further Resources:

The European Commission's Youth Program: [http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.htm)

The Euro Mediterranean Platform: <http://www.euromedp.org>

The Greek National Agency: [www.ify.gr](http://www.ify.gr)

The Anna Lindth Foundation: [www.euromedalex.org](http://www.euromedalex.org)

Practical Guide from SALTO Youth, on Volunteering in a Meda Context: <http://www.salto-youth.net/rc/euromed/EMlibrary/emeducpub/practicalguides/>

Solidarity Tracks: [www.tamonopatia.org](http://www.tamonopatia.org)

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