

How can the National agency support the beneficiaries in European Voluntary Service (EVS)?

The NA provides ongoing support for the applicants. Apart from the ongoing offer to consult with the representatives of the National agency projects or applications by email, phone or personal visit, representatives of the organisations applying for funding can visit the info days for applicants, the info seminars for beneficiaries and the so-called „Roundtables for sending and receiving organisations of EVS“. In each of the sessions is a concrete programme based on the needs of target group prepared. Info days are focused on getting to know the Erasmus+ programme and the application for funding. Info seminars are focused on successful applicants, e.g. on the project as such, project agreement and the rights and responsibilities of beneficiaries. Roundtables are focused on experienced EVS coordinators, provide space for news in EVS, for the „hot“ topics and themes, partly defined by the organisers and partly by participants before and during the Roundtable. Also, there is usually space for sharing experience and good practice with EVS projects among participants during Roundtables (possibility to get new ideas/ inspiration for improving EVS projects in the NGOs). In each of above-mentioned activities, there is a space dedicated for a personal consultation.

Each of the EVS coordinators is supposed to take part in „Accreditation training for new coming EVS organisations“. During this four-day training the beginning coordinators will get to know all necessary information on EVS: from such technicalities as filling the application for accreditation, getting to know EVS project life cycle and rules/ responsibilities of each actor involved in the project to personal development of the volunteer, building up the educational plan of the volunteer and the intercultural dimension of the project. The goal is to have EVS coordinators ready for their first EVS project.

During the process of the accreditation, usually, two accreditors (internal or external) from the National agency do on-site visit the organisation and provide counselling on building up the project and filling in the application for accreditation in order to ensure its highest possible quality for the volunteer and for the organisation.

In order to ensure the high quality of mentoring, we are working on refreshment of „Mentorna“ – a brochure on mentoring providing all the basic information, practicalities and advice for new mentors of EVS volunteers.

Regarding the change in the organisation of Pre-departure training – the responsibility for providing Pre-departure training moves from NA to Sending organisations – we are preparing a comprehensive methodological brochure on Pre-departure training, which should facilitate organisation of Pre-departure preparation for Sending organisations.

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