

# Our organisation's experience with EVS and European Solidarity Corps projects

As someone who has been involved with volunteering for a long time, I should first note that I started gaining my volunteering experience at the age of 17. ADP-Zid is the contact point for EVS (now for European Solidarity Corps) for Montenegro and as such we have had great many EVS volunteers from different countries, such as Turkey, Spain, Italy, Lithuania, Estonia, Germany and elsewhere.

The direct beneficiaries of this program are young people up to 30 years of age who are willing to spend their time volunteering in a European country, regardless of their national, religious or social background. Young people can apply for this program only for projects in EU countries.

## What are the requirements for applying?

From my point of view, the only condition for people between 18 and 30 years of age is to have the will and desire to volunteer in an EU country. All lodging, food, travel and visa costs are covered and there is some pocket money paid out on a monthly basis in an amount varying from country to country.

This is also a great opportunity for volunteers to improve their knowledge of foreign languages, because in addition to English, which is usually the working language, they can develop their local language skills while working on the project.

## What are the possible activities?

The volunteers' jobs usually do not involve hard labour. Volunteers in Zid on EVS have usually been engaged in activities related to youth education, office support, kindergartens, schools, organization and promotion of certain prevention and protection programs, implementation of programs of the organization in which they reside, etc. The important thing is that every volunteer has an opportunity to choose preferred activities, as each project provides a detailed description of his/her responsibilities.

With the arrival of EVS volunteers, we made a work plan and program. The volunteers spent up to 6 hours a day in the office and were involved in activities that the project required and that the volunteers found interesting. Prior to their arrival, the EVS Coordinator at the ADP-Wall talked to each volunteer over Skype and had a brief conference call with all of them.

The transition from EVS to European Solidarity Corps has, obviously, brought us some limitations, but I hope that volunteers will still find our projects interesting and will share their experience with potential future candidates in the best possible way.

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