Add Action in Art

EVS Project

Thessaloniki

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United Societies of Balkans (U.S.B.) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization based in Thessaloniki, Greece, working in the field of youth mobility, participation and promoting youth awareness of social issues. It was founded in 2008 by the initiative of a group of active young people who wanted to address the social issues which affect the youngsters in the Balkans and Eastern Europe.

**Objectives**

The goal of the organisation is the promotion of youth mobility, youth involvement and participation, voluntarism and human rights. We make it through:

- Promoting the values of non formal learning, voluntarism, active citizenship and democracy for the creation of a better future for the European youth;
- Involving minorities and immigrants into youth activities;
- Building healthy cooperation bridges between countries in the area of the Balkans and Eastern Europe with the rest of Europe;
- Using New Media and Citizens’ Journalism methodologies to encourage youth expression, to raise awareness of Human Rights and to promote intercultural dialogue;
- Utilizing arts as a tool for the cultivation and expression of youth;
- Breaking down prejudices and stereotypes among the European countries and amongst youth.

In order to make more effective all our actions, USB is also member of several networks, such as Anna Lindh Foundation, Thess Diktio, Youth for Exchange and Understanding.
**Action Art**, is a nonprofit organization founded in 2009. Its main task is to provide specialized knowledge and skills for the personal and professional development of people working in the field of visual education, or in related spaces, through training seminars and various self-evolving activities.

The purpose of the organization is to promote visual arts, to promote the artistic process not only as a consumer but also as a way of action, feedback and communication, providing a framework for individual and collective expression, creation through different forms of art, including narration and storytelling.
Thessaloniki is the second biggest city in Greece, and it is located in the North-East part of the country. It is a coastal city full of life, with lots of youngsters and students. In 2014 it has been the European Youth Capital. It is also a city with a long history and tradition. It has always been a crossroad between the West and the East and a trading harbour for many Balkan countries. It embraces many immigrants and cultural groups from many areas of the wider region of the Balkans, which renders it a colourful mosaic of cultures and trends. More information is available on the website of the municipality: www.thessalonikicity.gr

Interesting cities and places nearby: Meteora's monasteries, Pozar thermal natural baths, Kavala city and lots of other historical and natural places.

Travel to other countries: from Thessaloniki you will have the chance to get easily to the Balkan countries, well connected by plane, train or even bus. You can visit Serbia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Croatia, Bulgaria, Romania, FYROM, Turkey, Albania.
Add Action in Art is a 10 months Project for 2 volunteers between 18-30 years old coming from France.

The project is focused in visual arts and the volunteers will have the chance to come up with innovative and creative ideas on how to use Art for a social cause. The volunteers will be working 4 hours per day between Monday and Friday.

The volunteers in general will have to take part in the activities organized by Action Art and support the organization.

Volunteers will take part in artistic and other activities like, intercultural and educational activities as well as they will take part in artistic activities focused in minorities (Roma, refugees, migrants).

Moreover the volunteers will have the chance to take part in storytelling performances as part of the multilingual team.

Very often the volunteers will visit together with the staff of the organization, schools, public places, libraries, conferences and other type of events in order to perform workshops, storytelling performances etc.

For all the above activities the volunteers should be ready to support the organization on the preparation of the activities as well as during and after the activities. Volunteers will be asked also manage tasks such as photocoverage and video coverage of the event.
The project is open to any young person between 18-30 years old who are motivated to live a new experience, be flexible, outgoing and are willing to spend 10 months in Greece.

We are looking for people who have a background and love Art. Action Art needs young people with creative minds who are willing to work and be ready for some action.

The volunteers should be prepared and open to work under pressure wherever is needed.

For the needs of the project the volunteers should have some basic hard skills such as using computer, shooting pictures or/and video.

The working language will be primarily in French but a basic knowledges of English will be need so they can communicate in their working and living enviroment.
Since the beginning of 2016, volunteers can take part in the online language courses through the online linguistic support platform created by the Erasmus+ programme: http://erasmusplusols.eu/

We might provide extra Greek language courses with the help of other organisations. However, we try to encourage volunteers to learn the language through informal and non formal learning, participating in events and activities with Greek people, such as TANDEM meetings, where people from different countries help each other to learn and practise languages. This is an important activity organised with the cooperation of other organisations and the person in charge of that is the Network's Coordinator.

Youthpass is the official recognition tool for non-formal & informal learning in youth projects. Through it participants of Erasmus+ projects can describe what they have done and show what they have learnt. Volunteers have to keep a diary of their activities and learning in order to fullfill it properly at the end of their project. The Mentor is the responsible for the Youthpass and will support the volunteers for it.
Volunteers are going to be accommodated in a fully equipped building located in the city centre (Angostara, 13) near the main bus and train station of the city. It is an autonomous 5 floored building of 150 m² per floor and a terrace on the 6th floor. On the first floor there is the working space of the volunteers working in USB’s projects, while on the second floor there are the showers, two bathrooms, the kitchen, the dining room, the living room and two balconies. The bedrooms are located on the other three floors. In the building they are also accommodated the volunteers who participate in other projects in the city coordinated by USB. Each volunteer will share their room with one or three more people of the same gender (we have double and big quadruple rooms). There are also single rooms for people with special needs or for interns. Wireless internet is available in the whole building. The House Tender cleans the common spaces every day and the rooms once per month according to the volunteers. The volunteers are responsible for the daily cleaning of their own spaces as well as the common spaces during the weekends.
We provide our volunteers with three meals per day through a catering service that prepares the food according to their preferences and allergies (also for vegetarian). Diamantis Catering (http://www.catering.gr/) is one of the biggest catering services in Northern Greece and has received multiple certifications of quality. In this way the volunteers will have the possibility to get in contact with the Greek cuisine and culture, but at the same time on Saturdays and Sundays they can cook and enjoy their own food. In the weekly days the House Tender will prepare the breakfast and will be responsible for the service and cleaning for lunch and dinner. Breakfast is served from 9.00 to 10.00, lunch from 13.00 and dinner from 20.00.

Insurance and Health

The participants will have a private insurance by CIGNA, which covers all their needs for the whole duration of their project and even after that (for a few months). The registration to the insurance is made by the Sending organisation. A network of doctors and hospitals is already available in order to meet all their needs, even the most urgent. The Mentor is responsible for all the issues connected with health and insurance.
The travel costs are covered by the association with a limit of **275** euros for participants coming from **France**. The amount covers the travel tickets for the beginning and ending of the project.

At the beginning of each month the volunteers will receive the money for the whole month calculated by **5 euros per day**. In addition will get **5 extra euros** per day for the weekends, days off and official holidays of Greece (in these days the organisation will not provide meals so the volunteers get reimbursed).

Volunteers will be also provided with a transportation card in order to move from the accommodation to the working place and inside city in general.

The volunteers can refer also to the Volunteer Coordinator about what they need to buy for the house. The Volunteer Coordinator delivers the monthly financial needs to the President of the organisation in order to approve them according with the budget availability.
A strong cooperation between the sending, hosting and coordinating organisation is very important for the good progress of the project. The sending organisation has to communicate with the volunteers and keep a report of their educational process and their daily life. The Volunteer Coordinator provides once per month a feedback to the sending organisation about the fullfilled tasks and the Mentor will communicate about personal issues of the volunteer.

United Societies of Balkans is also coordinating other EVS project in the city. The volunteers hosted by other organisations are accomodated at the same building of our volunteers. There might be several activities where the volunteers of the network will participate all together. This network also help the volunteers to know more about what is going on in the city and about other issues faced by the other organisations. The Network's Coordinator support the other coordinators' project and is the responsible for the common activities and events.
Useful Links

**Erasmus+ EVS general description:** https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/opportunities/individuals/young-people/european-voluntary-service_en

**Erasmus+ EVS infokit:** https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/documents/applicants/evs-info-kit_en

**Thessaloniki's info:** www.thessalonikicity.gr